

Dowon Lee: Hello my name is Dowon Lee and I'm 14. Today I am going to interview my mom at my room. Hi Mom.

Jungwook Shin: Hi Dowon, I'm glad to interview with you today. I hope this interview is a good chance to understand with each other

DL: I think so too. First I think you should introduce yourself, so I'll ask you some questions about your growing up. First, can you tell me your name, age and the date.

JS: My name is Jungwook Shin, my age is 43 years old and I have been here about seven months. I'm a newcomer.

DL: When and where were you born?

JS: I was born in January 1, 1965 in Okcheon, Korea.

DL: Where did you grow up?

JS: I grew up at Okcheon until 14 years old after then I moved to Seoul. Seoul is capital of Korea, it's a big city and I had lived in Seoul before I came to Canada. Seoul is smaller than Toronto at the meaning of territory but the population is riser than Toronto.

DL: Who were your parents and what were your parents like?

JS: My parents were ordinary and devoted people. My father was an educator so he was very strict and stiff even stubborn. My mother was a housewife and ran a stationery store at the same time. So she always had supported her family. They had devoted their life to their children. I am very influenced by them so I love and respect them. Likewise, I have also have devoted my life to my children, that's why I came to Canada.

DL: How was your relationship with your parents?

JS: The relationships between my parents and me were intimate and close. Even if there was a real generation gap or difference. Like the relationships between you and me. At the time Korean parents wanted their children to obey them and my parents also wanted me to obey them. Fortunately, I was obedient to my parents so we didn't have any trouble or difficulties.

DL: Do you have any siblings? If yes, what were they like growing up?

JS: I have three brothers, I have no sisters – it's my unfortune I think. I had been friendly with them while we were growing up but as they got married and settled down to married life the relationships between them and me became estranged. But I think its natural because a man has a family responsibility.

DL: Did you get into trouble? If yes, what was the worst thing you did?

JS: You mean in my school life? Or just in my whole life?

DL: In your whole life...

JS: Whole life...Frankly speaking as I grew up I almost didn't get into trouble. I have an optimistic character so I always accept most situations formatively. In school, at the time I think, just studying is the only ways to come true my dream so I didn't get in erably, nowadays I got into trouble as my children were growing up, I'm always worrying about them, especially how to bring them up well...

DL: Did you have a nickname, if yes, how did you get it?

JS: Of course, actually I have a nickname – and so, I love it. My nickname was [...] – the pronunciation is very cute. Maybe Canadians feel awkward, but she who was named [...] was a Korean [...] She insisted that she should talk with aliens...for example, Venus & Mars. She might be psycho [psychic?] but she was considered as a comic and optimistic person. I'm a cheerful and humorous person so my friends called me by nickname [...] and still my children my still call me by [...] I love it.

DL: Who were your best friends, what were they like?

JS: I've had a lot of best friends, my best friends were mainly schoolmates. One of them passed away 20 years old. I really liked her, her death was a great shock to me. Nevertheless I have gotten acquainted with a lot of people easily. Now, I have a best friend in Canada. I'm always happy I have someone who are willing to come to me whenever I have some trouble.

DL: This is the last question for your growing up...how would you describe yourself as a child. Were you happy?

JS: I was a rational and calm child rather than emotional. On the other hand, I was very shy so I acted passively. But I did my best, so I was happy.

DL: From now on, I'll ask you some questions about your family. What is your ethnic background?

JS: I'm Korean, exactly, South Korean. Koreans are a s ace which means that Korean dad's family and Korean mom's family are the same. But, unfortunately, Korea divided in two countries, North & South, it's Korean peoples fortune I think.

DL: What traditions have been passed down in your family?

JS: We have a lot of traditions but especially I'd love to mention about something. We always perform a religious service for our ancestors several times a year. We have thanked our ancestors and our late parents for their spiritual care.

DL: Who were your favourite relatives?

JS: My favourite relatives are the family of my husband and the family of my maiden. In older times, Korean women should obey their husband and their family so the family of the husband was more important than those of maiden. However, nowadays, both families are important impartially, I think it's fair.

DL: Do you remember any of the stories they used to tell you?

JS: My parents were busy so my maternal grandmother had brought me up. She knew a lot of older stories and told me a lot of stories but I can't remember because of many stories a long time ago. Sorry I became to have a memory like a sieve as I am getting older and older.

DL: From now on I want to give you a question about religion. What is your religion?

JS: I was Christian at the university but I married with my husband. My husband is atheist and he didn't like any religion so I – now I'm also atheist.

DL: Do you believe in the afterlife, if yes, what do you think it will be like?

JS: I'm not sure of the afterlife but I sometimes think some superpower might control the world of models. Anyway, who knows about after life..

DL: From now on I will ask you questions about your working...What do you do for a living?

JS: I was a dentist in Korea but my Korean license is unavailable in Canada so my husband has sent my family money for a living now I'm just studying English to overcome language problem.

DL: Tell me about how you got into your line of work?

JS: In Korea I graduated in Dentistry from Seoul National University of Dental College. I'm proud of my university and after then I opened a local dental clinic for 12 years.

DL: Do you like your job?

JS: Actually the treatment is not easy and simple. But I was satisfied with myself when the result of my dental treatment is good. Generally speaking I liked my job.

DL: What did you want to be when you grew up?

JS: I wanted to be a genetic engineer. My personality was timid and shy but I liked to study so I wanted render great services to science and human society as a member of scientists. But a plan for my future had been changed by realities of life. My parents wanted me to be a doctor or a dentist so I became a dentist.

DL: What lessons has your work life taught you?

JS: My work life has a lot of lessons. Doing my best always bring about a good result – my work life makes me realize that doing my best doesn't always bring about a good result but I believed my heartfelt dental treatment is conveyed to my patient exactly to my patients. Therefore (17:15) I was taught doing my best [...]

DL: If you could do anything now, what would you do and why?

JS: It's very hard for me to start something right now because of language problem. Especially my poor listening and speaking skills. So, first I must study English hard, after then I'd like to go to college here or university. Actually, the current situation is very difficult because I must spend much time and money on studying again. And, I must repeat again the same course in Korea. So, I really wish conditionally, not absolutely, conditionally Canadian government to accept new immigrants professional skills and experience in their own countries. It's very big problem for new immigrants.

DL: Do you have any favourite stories from your work life?

JS: I have some stories, one of them is while I was treating a man for dental disease as a dentist in Korea. A man asked me if I had a wire tapping device installed into his dental prosthesis. I was overwhelmed by his question, after then, I called his parents on the phone and continued to treat him in the presence of his parents. Maybe he had suffered from psychosis, is a special experience from my work life.

DL: From now on I'm gonna question about war... Were you in the military?

JS: I've never been in the military. In Korea, women have no duty for national defence whereas men must join the army by force.

DL: If war broke out what would you do?

JS: I've never thought about war even if I'm South Korean. The current Korean situation may be dangerous as you know Korea divided in two countries. Korea is the only divided country in the world and in the older time Korean people had experienced war for three years. The Korean war broke out on June 25th 1950. Korean older generation had horrors of war and remembered the terrible experience of war. I really wish all kinds of wars would disappear in the world, I don't want my children to suffer from war. Anyway, if war broke out I would do whatever I can do to protect my children.

DL: Finally, I wonder why you changed your dream, would you tell me about it in detail?

JS: Maybe its ethics in science. When I was young my long cherished desire was to be a genetic engineer. I was interested in cloning and genetic modification. However, my dream had been changed by several reasons. The most reason among them was ethics in sci even if I was ethist. It is thought as cloning and genetic modification against the provision of nature. Of course, advances in genetic engineering can be compared to [...] But I think that ethics in science is more important part in science than the others. Human beings desire, of course including me, for getting eternal life can be realized by the excessive advances in genetic engineering [...] If a human being didn't die, the world would be hell, all the natural life cycle of human, for example, birth, growing up, aging, and death should be preserved because it is prior to all others. Therefore, I'm against cloning and genetic modification so that's why I have to become a genetic engineer.

DL: Okay, this is the end of my questions. Thank you for answering all of my questions and what did you feel about today's interview?

JS: Today's interview is very interesting and joyful. I always feel awkward whenever I speak English. Speaking in English is not comfortable for me but I am happy while I am preparing the interview for my daughter. Moreover, the interview was a useful experienc ause it helped me improve my English. Maybe I think I make the best use of my time. I thank someone for giving a chance to interview with my daughter. Thanks

DL: Thank you interviewing my questions, thank you.