

Ozzie, Red Hook Farms, Red Hook, Brooklyn
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Rachel (00:00):

Tell me your name, age, where you're from, where you grew up, where you live now, what you do. Give me kind of your background, who you are.

Ozzie (00:11):

I live now in Bushwick. My name is Ozzie. That's a preferred name that I've chosen from, that it was given to me from my Latinx community. I was raised in the lower east side from immigrant parents. And from there, a lot of what I've done in my youth is, that came from that lived experience, I wanted to better my neighborhood and my community. A lot of who I am today is living for the people that raised me and providing for them and for my community, that's a discourse community and sometimes disenfranchised. That's my background.

Right now I'm 31 years old and I'm currently working at Red Hook Farms and providing healthy foods for the community, helping them grow this food, to provide it for a longer, long term growth for this community. We want the food to be accessed to people of color and anyone who wants to just live a healthy lifestyle, which is something that I feel like is, that I'm an activist for public health. That's a lot of what I'm doing right now. It's pretty much all over the place.

Rachel (01:29):

Sounds pretty consistent actually.

Ozzie (01:33):

I guess so, especially just growing up in the lower east side, which is a lot of urban agriculture's history started from there. I met a lot of great people that just led me to this career of sustainability, urban agriculture, public health, and all of that.

Rachel (01:53):

That's rad. That's so cool.

Ozzie (01:54):

Yeah. That's what I do. A lot of what I do is teach the youth and work as a artist, teaching the youth. Yeah. That's a lot of what I care about.

Rachel (02:09):

Why is this work important and what kind of impact do you feel like it makes?

Ozzie (02:10):

Why is this work important? I think it really is to try to end systemic oppression, especially food injustice, and also that affects a lot of communities of color primarily, and their health. You can see, that the statistics always show that people of color don't live as long as others in other classes and other forms just because of their health issues.

I saw that growing up in my community. People didn't live past a certain age. A lot of times young men of color would die before they'd even reach 30 years old for things like heart attacks. To get a heart attack when, I know someone who got a heart attack when he was 30 years old. I'm like, "I thought that's something that you get when you're really old." 30 is still a very young age, you know?

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Rachel (03:02):

Yeah. You shouldn't be having a heart attack.

Ozzie (03:04):

No, you shouldn't. No. So things like that led me to this path that I am right now, of trying to end systemic racism, food injustice, and climate change issues that are really, really affecting communities of color. It affected me in a lot of ways, growing up like that.

Rachel (03:24):

Specifically, how does farming and agriculture play into that work?

Ozzie (03:30):

It shows sustainability. We have hope to create a sustainable infrastructure or social economic that are sustainable because right now the, we are in dire times and scientists will say that we don't really have that much time left. Climate change is a real thing and it's going to affect us. The cities will be overrun by water and floodings are happening all over.

Rachel (03:58):

I was asking you how agriculture plays into this work. And you're talking about how...

Ozzie (04:05):

It just promotes sustainability and better habits for humans. We need to have better habits because we're the problem of causing climate change and we contribute to a lot of carbon emission. Over here, we try to use zero waste and zero emissions and be more green. That's like a holistic approach. And it's a lot about, we all should embody that type of ideology and be more sustainable and we don't, not in this world, we're just consumers and we live in a capitalistic society that only measures your success on wealth and sometimes the hierarchy that, in your family's existence, sometimes it's not fair. Sometimes people, there's a lot of classism and things like that, that still affect the way we live.

We need more equality. This type of place, giving this healthy food at a affordable price is about equality, because unfortunately, it's easy to eat unhealthy. It's cheaper to eat unhealthy. It's easy to hate, but it's hard to love and it's hard to be healthy. And it's hard to respect the planet earth. That's where we are in our...

Rachel (05:24):

That is so true.

Ozzie (05:25):

Yeah. Because it is easy to, ignorance is bliss. People don't want to hear the truth and the truth is an inconvenience for some. They like, only when that meteorite is five minutes away, people are going to really believe that the world is ending, even though scientists tell you, "Oh, it's going to happen in one year." Only when it's like five minutes from happening, and there'll be people filming it too. They'll be like, and then that's it. You know? So we don't really care about the future. We just care about right now, and sometimes that's okay to care about what's now when you're getting your priorities are straight, but not the way we do it. We're not, it's just unfair. It's kind of crazy.

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Rachel (06:08):

Let me ask you, you kind of answered the question, but I'm going to ask you this question anyway because I ask everybody. When you think about global warming, and the climate crisis, what do you think about and how do you feel?

Ozzie (06:18):

The first thing I think about is the people who are going to be affected by it first. And when you think about Hurricane Katrina, which was a product of climate change, what people didn't see was that, what got destroyed was oil rigs that destroyed the ocean and polluted the environment, and it was our consequences for not being prepared for those type of events happening. The people who got affected by it were only, it was in the wards and in the most underdeveloped places in New Orleans.

That's what I think about when I think about climate. I think about me, I think about my people because they're the ones that are going to be affected by it the most. If we don't do something about it, then we're just going to get left here and everyone's going to go to the moon or Mars, wherever they want to go. They're just going to leave us here. This is, all we have is one planet and we got to take care of it.

Rachel (07:18):

How do you feel?

Ozzie (07:18):

How do I feel about that? I wouldn't want to say, I'm always optimistic about the future. That's how I just live. And obviously there's days that I'm sad or whatever. Now that's just a human emotion. But when it comes to feelings, I don't let them become me because it's okay to feel sad one day. It's okay to feel jealous one day, but don't become a jealous person. Don't become a hateful person. You should become someone who loves, who's loving, and the good emotions out of it. That's where I'm at right now, just loving and very optimistic for the future, because I know that I'm trying to do the right thing. And if it didn't work out, at least I tried.

Rachel (07:51):

It also sounds like you are involved really directly in a lot of work around this issue.

Ozzie (08:00):

Yeah. That's all I've been doing my whole life.

Rachel (08:01):

And you're involved in a lot of positive, community based work around this issue of climate crisis.

Ozzie (08:08):

That's literally all I've been doing for like, God knows how long.

Rachel (08:12):

Do you think that, that, do you feel like that is part of what fuels your optimism?

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Ozzie (08:17):

I think so. Yeah. I think that's what, you really, yeah. That might be true. Yeah. And also just having hope. That's one of the most great things, one of the most beautiful things that you could have is having hope because it gives you ambition and it gives you curiosity and you want to go out and try to do things that could be helpful, even if you don't know the what's going to be the outcome.

Rachel (08:40):

What is hope? What does hope mean for you?

Ozzie (08:44):

Yeah. Hope is that you have freedom. We have freedom, that we're always going to have freedom. That's hope, that freedom is not that far away because we are not free as people yet. We might, we're still modern day slaves. We're still attached to our devices, attached to money, attached to physical things that don't actually help us and don't actually improve our lives because you got to learn how to love yourself because you won't be able to love anyone else if you don't do that. You have to learn how to have respect for your environment. That all comes together because you have to respect your home. This is your home. Everywhere around you is your home, everywhere. If you don't respect that, how do you love yourself? How can you love anyone else? It's kind of like...

Rachel (09:39):

So you've lived in New York for your whole life.

Ozzie (09:39):

All my life.

Rachel (09:41):

And that's 30 years. I'm really interested in, and you've been working with the earth and with growing food for a long time. Talk to me about changes that you've noticed in the weather, in the seasons and what you're able to grow through your lifetime.

Ozzie (10:05):

Hmm. You know what? It does change a lot. I'm seeing, not only that, you can just tell by the environment and the things like the insects and the bees. Now they will get confused by the weather. It gets warmer quicker so they think that they need to, they think spring is arriving although the frost is actually coming and they'll freeze. I've seen things like that actually. The animals actually tell me more than the food first because they hear everything and things like just the depletion of sharks in the seas and how they're approaching the shores more because there's no food left in the seas. Those things are the clear indications to me of what is coming because they are the ones who are protecting our planet, the animals, and they're dying.

After them, then it's us. Majority of animals are now domesticated. And the ones that are wild are becoming extinct every single day. Every day there's some, a new species on the vulnerable list. It's rare, it's becoming rare to actually see a real living animal in nature. Now humans have overtaken it all. A lot of people think we are impoaching into the environment and going into territories that are protected, like in Africa where gorillas live. You're going to start creating diseases and things like that. This is something that also is really important to me, public health, because coronavirus was the

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demonstration and the consequences of our actions. Mother Earth laid that wrath on us because she had enough of our destruction of this planet.

That's how I feel about that. Coronavirus, that's what I'm seeing. That's also climate change. It really is. People might not want to believe it, but it's a clear indication of climate change because it's coming, that virus came from nature. It came from the jungle. Why did it come from the jungle and why are we in the jungle? Maybe we shouldn't have been in there. And now we got sick. That's the same thing with a lot of diseases in the past, too. Things like AIDS. You could still, they still don't even know a hundred percent where that disease came from. They probably would never know. You never know. That's climate change. A climate is your environment. It also has to do with public health, also has to do with food. It's a huge spectrum.

People just think about climate change as something just being, "Oh, look up. It's hot." It's more than that. It's the whole entire biology, ecology, soil of our environment. It's all interconnected. You start seeing that everywhere. You just see it. And when you're traveling, when I went to Africa, they literally said that there's no more wild lions anymore. There's more lions in Florida and in Texas that were poached and captured by, than there are in actual, in the Sahara and in nature.

I found that insane. I'm like, "So what is anything anymore?" What is real? We've overtaken it all. We're the apex predators of this world. We're not doing our right to protect the other people that live here and the animals and the food that we grow. We're not doing that justice. And we're just polluting and increasing havoc into the environment day by day.

Rachel ([14:04](#)):

When you talk to me about the lions and how there's no more wild lions anymore, that makes my chest hurt.

Ozzie ([14:11](#)):

It's literally disturbing.

Rachel ([14:13](#)):

I feel so much grief and anxiety, and I don't know where to put it or what to do with it.

Ozzie ([14:21](#)):

Why are there's more Africans in Texas? Why?

Rachel ([14:23](#)):

Talk to me about how you feel about when you see the bees coming out in a warm February. That's fascinating that you're noticing that. Talk to me about what it feels like. Do the seasons resemble the seasons of your childhood?

Ozzie ([14:43](#)):

Oh no, no. I remember my winters, let's say when I was about five or six, about 25 years ago, once it hit October, it was already negative, it was already 25 degrees. You had to walk backwards because the wind will cut your face it was so cold. Now it's 50 degrees, 60 degrees in October, November. All the way into January, it stays 50, 60. I've never seen that before. That is, the winters are getting warmer. And I wouldn't be surprised if in winter, it just doesn't even snow anymore. It's not even going to snow anymore.

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Rachel (15:21):

What does that feel like when you're experiencing, I don't even know if I should call it unseasonable anymore, just differently seasoned. What does that feel like? What does it feel like to sort of lose the seasonal rhythms that you grew up with?

Ozzie (15:35):

It's sad because I really love my snowy Christmases. I love to play in the snow. I love snowboarding even. Now it's gotten so bad that majority of people who want to go snowboarding have to do it on artificial snow, because it doesn't even really snow anymore. That's a whole lucrative business, "We'll make snow for you."

Rachel (15:56):

Isn't that crazy?

Ozzie (15:57):

That is crazy.

Rachel (15:58):

That we're pretending like we live in a world with snow, but there's no snow anymore.

Ozzie (16:02):

Right. We live in a snow globe. It's fake. It's a fake snow.

Rachel (16:06):

One of the things that I'm trying to do in this project is like...

Ozzie (16:09):

I love your face.

Rachel (16:14):

... Figure out how we actually respond to change and how do we get ourselves to live in the world that we're living in instead of the world that we pretend like we're still living in?

Ozzie (16:30):

Oh my God.

Rachel (16:31):

Tell me about, is that something you think about and what are the solutions for that?

Ozzie (16:39):

It's a political, a lot of it stems through our politics. That's what makes, that's what I think about and how they are just ignorant toward the facts and want to just spend our efforts and our energy into war, into things that are just going to destroy the planet, complete polar opposite of what you're supposed to be doing. That's what I think about. I think about how it is just backwards. Even our education system, it

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has to start from all of that, at home. At home, we don't teach this at home. We don't care about our planet at home. We don't, some people don't even care about their homes.

Rachel (17:14):

I think a lot of people do care about the planet. I actually think a lot more people do care about the planet. A lot more people are concerned about climate change, but they continue to live in a world as if it doesn't exist.

Ozzie (17:28):

That's what it is. You bring that question up that a lot of the climate change has become so political and we are a nation divided. When you look at the people who vote and things like that, who are, let's say on the left, on the right, a lot of people on the right are not going to believe in climate change. And that's a large number. And a lot of people, even some people on the left don't, but it's a good, it is becoming much more popular now, not for the wrong reason. Now it's becoming, we're much more socially conscious of our impact and that's why you're seeing things like new initiatives are coming through and now people are much more aware because it's a real thing. You can't be hiding behind the veil anymore, in the mirror because you're starting to see it every single day so now it is.

But before it wasn't like that. Climate change was a joke 10 years ago.

Rachel (18:16):

When did you first learn about climate change?

Ozzie (18:19):

That's what I'm saying. It wasn't taught in our books. It wasn't taught in my book.

Rachel (18:23):

When did you learn about it?

Ozzie (18:24):

I would say once I got into college and I had the option to learn what I wanted to learn because when I was in the education system, me growing up in elementary, high school was whitewashed and it didn't teach about my discourses community. It didn't talk about, it taught you completely archaic ideologies that would not help you at all. And things about Greek mythologies that are like completely patriarchal.

I remember one quote, when I was reading a Plato book, it said, "And do you know that all men are the best and women are less and there are the," I'm like, "You gave me this book to read and I'm supposed to accept this, this book?" It all starts from there. That's our ignorance. You're going to give kids that. And then you want to complain about why there's male misogyny and why there's a boy club. It's because you're feeding them that stuff. You're telling them that we are supposed to listen to Socrates and not Martha Luther King. And we're supposed to teach them that Christopher Columbus founded this country and they didn't tell, it's completely being whitewashed. And that also has to contribute to climate change because we don't care about environment. It's all relative.

Rachel (19:42):

And then, so when did you learn about climate change?

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Ozzie (19:44):

Right when I went to college, it was around that age. I was being much more proactive. I wanted to go out and become an activist. It was like around that age.

Rachel (19:55):

So you sought it out.

Ozzie (19:57):

I sought it out. It did not look for me. I had to look for it.

Rachel (19:59):

And the way that you under, oh, go ahead. I interrupted you.

Ozzie (20:03):

And there's a lot of people who are going to be lost about climate change and not be educated about it if they don't go out and look for it.

Rachel (20:09):

Even now?

Ozzie (20:10):

Even now.

Rachel (20:11):

When the weather is so crazy?

Ozzie (20:12):

I'm telling you. It is going to, I'm telling you, it's only affecting the low income communities. I'll talk to them right now. They won't even believe it. "Climate change. What? I got to, I have to walk around with a bag? I still use plastic bags." Do you understand how bad plastic bags are to the environment, that they won't degrade for millions of years, thousands of years. Those little conscious steps. You have to take those efforts to help the planet. A lot of people don't do that. A lot of people don't walk around with bags. A lot of people don't care. They use their cars every day. You know how bad it is to use their car? Even if they believe in climate change, they'll still use their car, still use their bags. You know why? Because our social economics is all based on destroying the planet and every, all the products that we consume hurt the planet.

It's all relative. They need to take this out when, the day that I see that people really care is the day that I walk into a store and everything's degradable. Everything is biodegradable. Everything's sustainable. The day I see, the day I believe that people actually really care in climate change is the day I walk outside and I don't see no cars polluting the air.

The day I see people believe in climate change is when they make free education a reality, and people can be educated about these issues so that they can help their families and lead on a better generation. That's not like that for everyone. In Detroit, there's not even no public school systems. Half the kids are illiterate there. Half the youth in Detroit are illiterate, and all of them are people of color.

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What happens to them? They get treated with the toxic water and all their schools get stripped out. There's only one public school in Detroit and the rest are private. And if you can't afford it, too bad, you're asked out. You have no options, but to rob, steal and do the same exact thing. That's climate change. Climate is your environment. It's not all about weather and hotness. People got to stop thinking that. It's a whole socioeconomic issue that has to do with our environment as a whole, from the colors to the water, to the way things smell, to the food that we taste and to the way we interact socially, that's all climate change.

Rachel (22:35):

In what ways does climate change affect you personally? When did you encounter it?

Ozzie (22:42):

I remember, that's a good question. You know what? I remember when we got flooded from the hurricane.

Rachel (22:42):

Sandy?

Ozzie (22:52):

Sandy. Yeah. That was one of the most up close, real life things, because I was still living in the lower east side at that time. All the developments that we got into got shut down, the power got shut off, and the water raised to the top. In Red Hook over here, all the developments over there got flooded. We were in a desperate situation for a long time there. And we were supposed to be this great powerful city, but we weren't even prepared for something like that. You know?

Rachel (23:23):

How did it affect you?

Ozzie (23:24):

Me? Come on. We were, our whole building was shut down. We had to live with no power for a couple of weeks. That's crazy. I felt like I was in a third world country, back in Dominican Republic.

Rachel (23:39):

What did that feel like emotionally?

Ozzie (23:42):

It's traumatic, but not like, for me, thankfully, I had the mindset to overcome it. We have a family that's really healthy and strong minded. Elderly people, and it's just that affects you in ways that sometimes you can't really put in words, you know? But it is...

Rachel (23:42):

Can you try?

Ozzie (24:01):

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I don't want to say that it's, it's like a mixture of like, because it's not even all negative to me. It was more, in this weird way, empowering for me to do good for the planet. I really don't know how to put it into words because it's overwhelming, is the best thing to say, because it's a mixture of emotions. Sadness, empowered. Like, "I want to stop this shit. What the fuck? This is crazy."

Rachel (24:26):

So living in the moment of crisis also made you feel like you have power to act, to mitigate.

Ozzie (24:36):

Yeah. That's usually how things come to be. When you're in a desperate situation or when you're in a hole, sometimes you come out and you find a new passion for what you want to do. That's a lot of what happened to me. I got trapped in holes, grew up in the ghetto, the projects, but I came out of that to try to help the world.

Rachel (24:58):

Talk to me more about that because I see so much paralysis around this issue. I actually think that, well, I love that you're talking so much about the intersection between climate change and racism and classism.

Ozzie (25:14):

Oh, my God, of course. They're the ones who are going to hurt first.

Rachel (25:17):

Because I feel like for a lot of people who I talk to, it almost seems easier to engage with other issues in a separate way outside of climate change. It feels, not that engaging with racism and white supremacy is easy, but I think for some people it feels like it's more clear, the path to justice, it feels more clear than the path towards climate justice or the path towards climate crisis mitigation because it's such an overwhelming, macro, systems oriented project, issue. My question for you, who's been engaged in this work your whole life, in what ways does this moment ask us to show up? How can people move from feeling powerless to feeling powerful? What are the things that people can do? What are the things that we are responsible for doing at this moment of real urgent crisis?

Ozzie (26:31):

Yeah. There's so many things people do, but we have to get up. We have to protest. We have to vote for the right people that are in office, because they're the ones with the power. Unfortunately we live in this type of world where the ones who are at top have the most control. We have to get at them and let our voices be heard. Now we have to use social media and we have to take the internet back and create a space where everyone can be educated and we can advocate on it and be influencers because we can set the course. We can control our own destinies now, especially with technology. We should, we have to take advantage of that.

And we have to promote these issues constantly every single day. That's the only way we're going to get through it and let our voices be heard before it gets lost. We have to come together with your community, find your community leaders guys, and gather up because the powers that be, they don't care. They're just sitting on top of their penthouse and just looking down at us like where ants and like, "Okay. I'll just take my rocket. When that day comes, I'm just going to leave," and we're just going

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to be left here and all we're going to have is each other, all we have is each other. That's all we're going to have is each other. One day, that's all we're going to have.

Rachel (27:55):

What kinds of conversations about climate change are you having with your friends and your family and your community?

Ozzie (28:03):

I really want to be someone who's promoting that in my community a lot. People nowadays, especially who you want to call millennials, they're up to the, what I am, I'm considered a millennial, so these people we are, we want to change the world. There's some that, we want to change the world, that's how we act. That's that's our feeling right now.

Rachel (28:30):

And that's the, those are the kinds of conversations you're having?

Ozzie (28:31):

Conversations, yeah. Just we want to change the world. There's no other way to put it.

Rachel (28:36):

Just being down to change.

Ozzie (28:37):

Right? Get up and do it. That's it. Talk is cheap. Less talk, more action.

Rachel (28:43):

It's cheap. Here we are talking, talking, talking.

Ozzie (28:45):

No, that's all right. This is a different type of talk.

Rachel (28:45):

No, I'm kidding.

Ozzie (28:45):

This is a different type.

Rachel (28:51):

How does thinking about climate change then influence the way you plan for your future?

Ozzie (28:56):

Oh, my God. It definitely planned for, from little things like, I don't even think I want to have kids, something like that. I don't want to bring them into this world. It affects things like how I'm going to...

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Rachel (29:08):

You don't want to have kids because of that?

Ozzie (29:10):

Yeah. I'd rather adopt or something.

Rachel (29:11):

Do you think if it weren't for climate change...?

Ozzie (29:14):

I probably would. It really is. Can you believe that? It really, that does, I do think of that. That's why I wouldn't. I'm like, "Why would I want to bring my kid when in 10 years there's a chance that this world could probably end?"

Rachel (29:24):

What does that mean when you say this world could probably end?

Ozzie (29:30):

In some ways it can, another pandemic, another apocalyptic event, something. I'm not trying to scare anyone or believe the four horsemen are going to come down and end the world, that's not what I'm talking about. This world is on a time. We're all on time, on borrowed time. We're all on borrowed time. And we need, we have to understand that there might not be enough time left, I guess. I don't know.

Rachel (30:02):

You must really believe that if you're making a major decision like not having a kid.

Ozzie (30:05):

Not having a kid, no. Or not buying a house in a place where, things like that. It's like, "What's the point of all that even? Why would I want to be in, live in a house when, by myself, when the world is ending?" Things like that. I'm not a selfish person. I'd rather, that's just me personally, I don't know how other people would think about it. That's just me, if you're asking me personally, yeah.

Rachel (30:35):

And at the same time you are really committed to fighting for a future.

Ozzie (30:42):

That's why I'm here at this farm.

Rachel (30:43):

You kind of simultaneously don't fully believe in a future, but are also committed to living...

Ozzie (30:50):

Because it's hope. That's what I have. That's all I have. Nothing else. Nothing but hope and love. That's all I want.

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Rachel (30:58):

But not enough hope to have a kid. Right?

Ozzie (31:01):

Yeah because it's just logic. I don't know. I'm not, you just got to play it smart, and I feel like...

Rachel (31:11):

There's so many contradictions wrapped up in what you've just said.

Ozzie (31:14):

No, it is. I think about it, but it's about being, again, it's just my roots in sustainability. Why have all those things, family and, when there's enough of that? There's enough of that.

Rachel (31:31):

You don't need to contribute more.

Ozzie (31:32):

Yeah. Contribute to that type of stuff. But it's all like that. It ties into that and being conscious, really conscious because I'm not a selfish person. Why would I buy a giant house and have two, three, that's not, the world doesn't need that right now. Even I don't really need that right now. Even though I want it. There's a different things between people wanting something and needing something. There's two completely different things. You can want money. You can want all the things in the world, but that's not what you need. You're going to need healthy water. You're going to need healthy food. You're going to need a community that supports you. That's two different things.

Rachel (32:10):

Do you have energy for three more questions?

Ozzie (32:12):

Yeah, absolutely.

Rachel (32:16):

Cool. You've talked about this a lot in the conversation, but I'd like to come back to the question specifically to answer it. Do you feel like you will be and your community and your family will be impacted differently by climate change because of your race, your class, nationality, sexuality, gender, ability?

Ozzie (32:39):

I think it is. I spoke to this before, the people who are going to get affected by climate change are going to be the disenfranchised. The low income communities are going to get first because their infrastructures, the socioeconomics are not up to par with what society wants and they just get left behind. I saw from first take, from just growing up in those type of environments.

Rachel (33:04):

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What kinds of things do you see specifically?

Ozzie (33:04):

I saw that we never got the healthiest options for food in our supermarkets. It was always processed food and things that came in packages. But when you go to other communities out there would have farmers' markets and all these things. It wasn't in that.

And just the lack of respect to the environment where there's just so much trash, so much pollution, all over the place. It would take weeks and months for it to get cleaned up. But you would go to Park Ave and the next day everything is clean. It's just like, come on. It's so obvious sometimes that it's too obvious. It's too obvious. It's right in front of your face. Climate change is right in front of your face, everyone's face, but it's up to you if you want to believe in it or not. It is up to you because unfortunately there are some people that don't believe in it. Some people, I don't know how, but some people really don't. It's crazy to me. Are you okay? You all right?

Rachel (34:03):

Yeah. It's just entering my mouth. Do you have a spiritual practice or a value system or sort of an ethic system that helps you contextualize this moment and sort of helps you navigate this moment?

Ozzie (34:19):

Yeah. My religion is mother earth. I look at my carbon footprint and how, that's my religion and how am I impacting the world and how other people can reduce their carbon footprint and how we can have an impact. That's my religion. Sometimes, at one point I lost my religion and I found it again. I created a new religion and now I'm back home, if that even makes sense, whatever.

Rachel (34:51):

You've alluded to this, but can you talk a little bit more specifically in how you, you said you lost your religion, you found it again. What brought you to where you are now? What was the catalyst for you to take this journey of working on sustainability specifically as a way of helping and improving your communities?

Ozzie (35:22):

It's just seeing people get hurt by climate change and seeing that hurtness, seeing people die from it, seeing people struggle from climate change, that just set a fuel off for me that I should, if you're aware of it, make that your passion in life, in your career to be an advocate for it.

Rachel (35:42):

Is there any incident in particular or just kind of generally living where you were living?

Ozzie (35:49):

The collective, it's like a long progression. It's like a everyday thing, from everything that I touched on, it happens every day. I see saw it every single day. It just fueled that passion that I...

Rachel (36:01):

What do you feel hopeful for?

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Ozzie (36:09):

What do I feel hopeful for? I feel hopeful that we're going to make strides and we are going to try to one day help planet earth be what it should be. I feel like we have the mindset and potential to get there. We have that. We can do it, we can do it. I really have hope in that. And that's [inaudible 00:36:30], I really do.

Rachel (36:33):

Ozzie, are there any questions that you thought I'd ask you that I didn't ask you? Or any things that you wish I had asked you?

Ozzie (36:43):

Oh no, you great. Are you kidding? You asked me everything that I needed be asked for. You did a great job. Thank you.

Rachel (36:49):

Are there questions you're asking yourself right now that may or may not have answers?

Ozzie (36:54):

No, not really. I was an open book right now. I felt like I, that she had what she needed to hear. Yeah.

Rachel (37:01):

But I mean in your life, are there questions in your own life?

Ozzie (37:04):

Oh my own life, do I have questions in my own life? I just want to know can we do it? Can we create, I guess, can we create a common, a world where people can live with ease and equality? Can we do that? Is that possible to have a quality in this world? I feel like we haven't gotten there yet. That's the only question I have. Is it possible? I'm asking myself that every time.

Rachel (37:33):

Yeah, me too.

Ozzie (37:34):

Is that possible? Can we get there? That's all I'm asking.

Rachel (37:38):

I know. Me too. Thanks for talking.

Ozzie (37:42):

Anytime.

Rachel (37:42):

This was great. I really, really appreciate you taking the time to talk.

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Ozzie (37:46):

Oh, my God. No, I love it. You should know that, Rachel. I got you.

Rachel (37:53):

Any last thoughts before we...

Ozzie (37:55):

No, keep up. You doing great work, please. We need this. We need to have more people get, speak about this. More people should be aware of climate change, and I'm glad that I got to tell you a little bit about my history and that.

Rachel (38:09):

Awesome. Thanks.