

Raymond, Phoenix Community Garden, Ocean Hill, Brooklyn
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Raymond (00:00):

That's what I'm saying then. But a mic is a mic. Okay.

Rachel (00:03):

Okay. So Raymond, will you tell me who you are, where you grew up and where you live now, how old you are, what you do, give me just some background on who you are.

Raymond (00:17):

Okay. So basically I was born in Trinidad, which is a twin island, Trinidad and Tobago. And I grew up in, I should say the city area pretty much. And yet still, it is tropical. So everybody have plants. You grew into a family with your parents. I have a family of nine kids, siblings, and like most people in the Caribbean, you learn how to plant by virtue of your parents showing you how to do plants and stuff. And coming up here as a young man, to this country for the last 40 years and working, getting older, gaining more knowledge I will say you realize that things, you look back and you see some things, how things have changed. Whether it's economically, financially as an individual or the climate, which we hitting on. And the big question is, is it global warming?

And that's why I approached you back when you asked me that question. Is it that we are under the assumption it's global warming, as much as people pressing that point? And I had taken some engineering class, which would do with the atmosphere and the ozone. So, breaking that down from an atmospheric point of view. Starting to say, look, if the ozone level is damaged, it could cause changes. Meaning that the radiation, the heating up and all those things. So, these are stuff that I am aware of could be part and part the whole change. So the big question is it's about the changes right now and that we are not talking financially. We are talking on a global scale as far as is it the earth warming up? I would say yes. I would say yes. Is it right with to it as give it a name as global warming. I don't know. What do you think? I'm asking you a question now.

Rachel (02:54):

Oh my God. You're turning the interview back around on me.

Raymond (02:56):

Yeah. I mean, you've said very little as far as your global warming. Your approach with the question it was straightforward before, but you haven't really asked the question. The plants I had seen so much changes in plant within the last three years in this garden is phenomenal.

Rachel (03:20):

Wow.

Raymond (03:21):

And the thing about it, part of it is, I blame it on the genetically alteration and whatever it is they are doing to the plants that cause-

Rachel (03:33):

Like the seeds that you're getting in?

Raymond (03:35):

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Yeah. Yeah. I always say, I use the word mutate, right? And I think when I monitor this plant, they're going through a phase where it might be a genetically altered seed. And through the years you take that same tree and plant it back. And to my knowledge, that seed that plant continue going through a phase, trying to get back to his natural state. That is my assumption. I look at plants, truly, every time you buy plants from these big facilities, you realize that one year the plant is good. The next year it is not good. I mean, politically, these are terms that are farmer wouldn't want to hear.

Rachel (04:20):

Why?

Raymond (04:24):

I talk from a political point of view and it's bad because it's not good for the economy.

Rachel (04:32):

Yeah.

Raymond (04:33):

When I talk about food, I will hit on the farmer side real bad because the farmer of the self, to me, in a position where they have to feed, put food on the table and they make a lot of money, of course. And by rights, that's their business. But to me, the food is really altered to a point where it's bad. And if you use global warming as the main reason why things are what they are, I'm not sure.

Rachel (05:13):

Oh, I understand what you're saying. And I do agree with you. And I think that there's a lot of different systems that play that are all interrelated. Exactly. Like sort of big agribusiness altering seeds. I'm totally with you on this. Can you talk to me about the specific changes that you've noticed even over the past three years that you talked about?

Raymond (05:43):

Of course, the weather pattern change. And again, if we think about it from just a historical point of view, [inaudible 00:05:52] somehow believed that through the ages, the earth go through changes, and it's hard for us currently presently to stretch our imagination. Or like we said, go back in time and actually prove it. None of us can. But when you leave the inner city and you go out in the wilderness, I will say, and you see certain structure of the Earth. You ask yourself how this thing managed to be shaped this way? What it was back there, what happened back there? And you asked me, again, try to stretch your imagination. Was it a time when the earth go through changes with heating up? But the word global warming for us in this current time is scary. We actually actualize it, view it as being like eventually the Earth going to burn up, not so. When we stretch our imagination with the global warming, it's like everything going to burn up.

Rachel (06:57):

Yeah. My question that I always ask is when you think about global warming, what do you think about and how do you feel? So when you think about global warming, you think about the earth burning up, and how do you feel about that?

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Raymond (07:12):

It is scary. It is scary. I mean, I think for the most part, adults who really think, who have innovative mind, we do have some form of what we call... What kind of conspiracy it is again? I forget.

Rachel (07:34):

Like a conspiracy theory.

Raymond (07:35):

Yeah. A lot of us do. A lot of us is paranoid by virtue of our understanding of what goes on in a society. But in a nutshell, I think it is healthy to think that way. A person who look at the Earth and try to make sense of it and the surrounding, I think that's the best way to live your life.

Rachel (08:06):

To be skeptical?

Raymond (08:07):

You're not skeptical or you look at something like me. I tell my kids all the time. I tell my wife. Certain things that you focus in on, I can't. Because I always looking at life. It's from a political point of view, I always say, it's so bad when that trailer of food leave that farm. By the time it reaches where you're going, half of it is spoiled. By the time it gets to the store, half of it is spoiled. By the time you buy that food, half of that food is spoiled, but what they're telling us, they have to produce all this food to feed the mass population and as soon as the reason why I say so by the time that trailer leave packed with food, they already got their pocket full of money and they don't care how much of it is used. Tons of food get thrown away every day. You know that too.

Rachel (09:06):

Oh yeah.

Raymond (09:07):

So, it's like food have to waste, but the objective, we are not trying to do nothing more than just benefit for ourself. I mean, if today or tomorrow, I might turn just like them. If I have the opportunity, it's all about making money. And it's really sad, but that's life we living in. And the global warming question is really something that a lot of people turn the other way, because they think it's nonsense so they just believe... I don't need to focus on that. I get a life to live. I got to get some money in my pocket. Who want to talk about global warming? What is global warming? Couple years we went through a series of warm weather, right? For winter. Is that global warming or is it just is a cycle? That's the question?

Rachel (09:57):

What was that like for you?

Raymond (10:01):

It could be scary for this region of the world, the Northern region that we know have a certain temperature at a certain time of the year, snowfall. But again, if you read up on the scientific understanding, it could only make sense, like when I get into college and I understand how something get cool and hot. What cause wind, scientifically, when you somebody explains what cause wind is

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amazing. Different in temperature, right? These are scientifically proved. And if you look at it, you can see that is exactly what happens. So we're all born into this world ignorant and over time, if we really pay attention, we will learn something, so.

Rachel (10:53):

Is there a way that global warming affects you on a daily basis?

Raymond (10:58):

For me?

Rachel (10:58):

Yeah.

Raymond (11:02):

I laugh because it's like saying the only how I will make sense of that's is from a financial point of view.

Rachel (11:11):

Okay. Talk to me about that.

Raymond (11:16):

It's amazing how that global warming sense that we all have and what happening send people in a tail spin or have them in a mindset. The faster I get mine, the faster I'm going be happy. And that's somebody's sense. It happens all around the world right now. I've been in Greece. And that part of Greece is close to, we go on this ferry boat from Italy, I think from Venice to that part of Greece. Where were I? I can't remember now. Military. And again, I observe those people from Greece behavior. It's a kind of greed, everybody rushing. And Italian, you know Italian have a lot of it. I don't know if you are Italian?

Rachel (12:06):

I'm not.

Raymond (12:10):

It's a rush now where everybody believe the need to get something quick. You know [inaudible 00:12:20], putting food in the table is not enough for what you're trying to achieve. You're trying to get more. All right. And as far as that's again, go back to how it affects me. I look at these things and it affects me because some people are not relaxed. Because they're constantly causing turmoil. I have a guy come on my block and the way he was behaving is like, he wanted bad you old block. I had people come a few years ago when they were building up Barclay center about 10 years ago. And they was beaten on your door. And I said, so if I sell you this thing for a few dollars, where I'm going to live? I can't come back and buy nothing.

Rachel (13:07):

Lisa was just talking about this too. About people coming into the neighborhood and trying to buy up the blocks.

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Raymond (13:13):

Just buy up. They're not buying something to live. They just want to gobble everything.

Rachel (13:18):

Yeah.

Raymond (13:19):

So, these are some of the things we need to talk about how global warming affecting me. I think part and part of the whole is that some of these beliefs come from the fact that look, I had to get mine as soon as possible. We know people born into this world at motive, how they been brought up, how they might have, they might inherit, whatever. And you can see people who inherit stuff and they understand a lot. And it is very hard to find those people. You have people so relaxed in this world. They have a lot and they don't fuss, but that didn't have the [inaudible 00:14:01] to have. And they want more. They will chase everything they can. And yeah, the global warming affect to me as an individual is far fetched. If I brought up light in the garden, no. I worried more how man is dealing with the food. Me and my friend were just talking about how this food affect your health.

Rachel (14:31):

What were you just talking about exactly?

Raymond (14:33):

Like diabetes.

Rachel (14:35):

Yeah.

Raymond (14:35):

You barely could eat anything that have starch. Shouldn't be like that. But you eat something with starch, and your sugar skyrocket. It shouldn't be. Again, going back to the global warming. How you describe your group for people? What you guys do? How do you guys describe yourself as an organization or?

Rachel (15:07):

I'm just an independent artist. So, this is just me doing this project. And this year I'm partnering with Green Thumb, but I've been doing this on my own for years.

Raymond (15:19):

You see how much movie within the last 30 years that are made to describe the current situation that we in? How we behave, how we think? There's a lot of movies to make. And a lot of it come up from that same thing tank. People who said I'm going to make a movie based on current situation, current way of life, current way of thinking.

Rachel (15:43):

Like what movies?

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Raymond (15:44):

Oh, a lot of them. I'm not talking zombie. I'm talking about just the fact that it might have a mad man believe that if he eliminates two third of the world population, we could start back over. It's not about eliminating everybody because he feel that if man continue going the speed they're going, that that's destroyed earth. You see, that's again, going back to the same word, quote, unquote, global warming. You know, it is a scary word. Very, very scary word. So this is why, when you ask me, I throw back the question to you. Are we taking this from a point of view it is? Or is it something that we assume is happening? You know about the Montreal protocol, you heard that term before.

Rachel (16:42):

Montreal protocol?

Raymond (16:43):

Yeah.

Rachel (16:44):

No.

Raymond (16:45):

That was in the eighties. It's based off for refrigerant.

Rachel (16:51):

Oh, for freon?

Raymond (16:53):

Yes.

Rachel (16:54):

Yes. Yeah.

Raymond (16:55):

Yes, yes. You were probably a little girl then.

Rachel (16:55):

Yeah.

Raymond (16:59):

Yeah. A lot of these things flare up, because man just believe I keep boring hole in the ozone and a lot of things happening and it causes global warming. I said, man gets so greedy I just tell people again, politically I might be politically incorrect, but you know, man gets so greedy. They will kill their parents just to make money. Some of these plant that produce certain product, that detrimental to the environment, but it's billions of dollars worth in investment and it's scary. Again, you go back to the same thing, how we does global warming affect me? Yeah. But it's most time when you look at it, it's

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from an economical and political standpoint. And you as an individual who are the [inaudible 00:17:58] of voice, you can't do nothing more on just stay there and feel hurt.

Rachel (18:02):

So is that true? So that's another question that I have, how much power do we have as individuals? What can we do? What does meaningful change look like? We're living in such paralysis. You've got some very active rats in this garden there...

Raymond (18:22):

It's a waste close by. So, it's very hard to eliminate that.

Rachel (18:25):

Oh my God, it's impossible. Well, they're all over, every garden has them. Those two guys are very active.

Raymond (18:34):

Yeah, yeah, yeah. They're looking for the food. They're looking for to drop something to eat.

Rachel (18:40):

Yeah. But what can we do? What's meaningful change?

Raymond (18:43):

Well, the only way is, voice your opinion. And as a collective group that's one way. And it truly, truly, I wouldn't say centuries, but through the decades we had many groups came up and say voice a opinion and it's very difficult. Again, you're talking about situation where it's no money investing in it. I mean, no money, no income in that. You're struggling for a more natural state of life. And the ones who have to produce for us, as we say, quote unquote, they don't have time for that. Because they have to produce for us. And they got to put food on the table. Who want to hear about global warming? Who want to hear about, look, this engineered food you're doing is not working for the human body. Nobody wants to hear that. I see cabbage ready where you peel back up leaf, and the leaf inside yellow. You ever see that?

Rachel (19:46):

Yeah.

Raymond (19:48):

Just blow your mind, right?

Rachel (19:49):

Yeah.

Raymond (19:51):

Is that global warming?

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Rachel (19:55):

No, but it is part of what you're talking about. This interrelated capitalist system that's destroying our ability to live with nature.

Raymond (20:06):

I don't want to use that word. That's a strong word. I had people wanted to-

Rachel (20:09):

What? Capitalism?

Raymond (20:10):

Yeah. I had people want to take my neck off when I describe it away. Some people don't like that word. Because that's how they feel, they survive. That man have been surviving all the time, but that is not true. I call into history and the hunter and gatherer, back in the early days, when we start domesticating everything, I believe that the state of man, natural instinct and how the world one time was very pure until it started getting corrupt. I used the example of Ford and GM and those other builders, thinkers who would make thing. At one time, man just believe was making a car to last forever. He was making a fridge to last forever, and a washing machine. And it's three or four distinct professions in this world that mean a whole lot to the industry. When you finally get your PhD or whatever, that's the guy with the metal, the physics and the chemists. These are very important people in society. And you want to know why?

Rachel (21:28):

Why?

Raymond (21:31):

These people have to make things for perfection. I just say, when these people have an interview for a job, they have to sell the self. You know where I'm going with this?

Rachel (21:31):

No.

Raymond (21:45):

That's just me, belief. You don't have to be right. But they have to sell the self. They have to be able to tell that CEO, that I will make this thing to last two hours and five minutes. That's how deep we get in science. And we could do that.

Rachel (22:02):

Yeah. Oh yeah.

Raymond (22:04):

We could do that. We could actually make a piece of metal to last two hours and five minutes. You see where I'm going with this? So, the fast pace we going, it's something I learn after, as a plumber doing plumbing work. Water heater and washing machine and fridge, go bad daily. No, that's a big-

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Rachel (22:30):

Like they're no longer meant to last?

Raymond (22:32):

Right. So, you just try to stretch imagination where all these big, bulky metal going? In the garbage. Where? You wouldn't believe how much water heater, washing machine. Dryer, fridge go bad and get thrown out every day.

Rachel (22:51):

I do believe that actually. It makes me so upset.

Raymond (22:56):

Yeah. So again, you go back to the global warming question. Is this affecting the Earth atmosphere? Yeah. From a biblical point of view. Remember, you probably don't believe in the Bible, but the scary thing is you look at the Earth from a geological point of view, like region of the Earth and how some of the areas are barren, in a certain state of mine. And one of the reason is a constant heat and temperature. I've been in Kuwait and Afghanistan. And you look at that region of the Earth and you ask itself, was it always like that? You know, you could actually save those questions. Was it always like that? Was it one time lush green? I mean, when you look, you ever been in this places?

Rachel (24:00):

No.

Raymond (24:01):

I think, all the out west is the same thing.

Rachel (24:03):

Yeah. I've been out west.

Raymond (24:06):

Yeah. It's a kind of sun that you ask yourself was this thing like this all the time? So all these questions, you could ask about global warming. So I mean, you and the people who think that way, on the struggle to get the voice out for global warming, what are we trying to change? Are we trying to get back to a natural state or are we trying to curb some of the mind behavior?

Rachel (24:35):

That's a very good question. Now you were also saying from a biblical perspective-

Raymond (24:43):

Hello? Hello. Well, well, good afternoon to you, ma'am. All right. You good? Okay? [inaudible 00:24:53]
Yeah. From a biblical?

Rachel (24:55):

Yeah. You had started saying from a biblical perspective, and then you...

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Raymond (24:59):

Right. Because according to the Bible teaching man went astray. That is, the behavior is not good, basically. It's destructive. You start thinking from a greedy. I mean, I don't want to use that word, but it's that word and that's the only way to describe that word if you really think about it. Right.

Rachel (25:29):

Greedy?

Raymond (25:30):

Yeah.

Rachel (25:30):

Yeah.

Raymond (25:31):

That one word is greedy. You see? And that's what the problem is. And a lot of people don't want to hear that because they got to live. And I am not comfortable with it because all I see it is very destructive. Anyhow you twist it, is destructive. People lose their life, trying to get an extra dollar. Meaning that if the system tell you work, you could work 25 years. And at a certain age, you could get X amount of money. And this system will come and tell you, look, if you work five more years, you will get this much. And people tried and then some people never make it. That's how life is. Look at social security, you know how it works?

Rachel (26:25):

Barely.

Raymond (26:26):

I know, most young folks only say, want it-

Rachel (26:29):

Well, because we're not going to get any of it.

Raymond (26:32):

I know. It's really sad.

Rachel (26:33):

Yeah.

Raymond (26:33):

Yeah. But you have a point where if you could make 70, you get a max. You see, and then you think, you begin to do some calculation. You say, wait, if I leave at 62, I could go ahead and live my life with a small amount. And if you check from 62 to 70, maybe you might accumulate more money anyway. And the system know that, but they throw it in your face. And if you feel that you're capable of making 70, more power to you. Some people by virtue, will just go on working every morning without thinking. And one

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day they wake up, they realize they're 70. Lucky them. They get the max. That happens too, you see. But a person like me now, who look at that from a far. When I got to my job, I go in Leather street. And I got to that job in my late thirties.

And when I got to that job, some people try to point, some of the workers trying to point out a particular person behavior to me. Oh, this person, this and that. And when I got there, I looked at the person. I went to work with them in a certain spot.

They tell me, go and meet these two guys. And when I go to them and I looked at the guy, I said, this guy is not my problem. He is not my problem. It's 25 years, I got to do. That's how conscious I was about it. Some people are not conscious of this thing, but I am and I can't help it. That just me. And I just feel that I got to do 25 years of this thing. It's like all of a sudden, you end up in prison for 25 years and you are not going to accept it. You know what I mean? You try how you understand how a person end up in prison and you're telling you 25 years to life. You're not going to accept that mentally. For the first few years you're not going to accept it. It's not-

Rachel (26:33):

Absolutely.

Raymond (28:48):

There's no way I could accept this thing. That the conscious thing that hit you, when you went up in jail. So.

Rachel (28:59):

So I asked you about how global warming affects you on a daily basis. Is there a way that affect how you plan for your future?

Raymond (29:09):

Yeah. Yes, it do. How to make sense of this? From a health, from a physical and health point of view, it affects my thinking a lot. Of course, we don't feel it on a daily basis, but this kind of current environment and way how man do things and the type of food it affects everybody, not just mentally, but one of the big parts is health. And the reason why I'm saying all that is just to see that it make me make right here and then decision, how far I want to go? Like my wife will tell me, maybe we could go on Florida or maybe we could build a house or do this and do that. And I tell her, no. I'm up in age. I'm not doing nothing no more. You see, I make my decision here and there that's it. So it is not like, everything is going along fine. For some reason, you're thinking in your mind, you're going to live 200 years, no. You're not thinking that away. You're thinking at any given second you could collapse. So you make here and their decision.

Rachel (30:36):

What could collapse? You could collapse.

Raymond (30:38):

Yeah.

Rachel (30:39):

Yeah.

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Raymond (30:39):

So is it affects me? Yes. You know, how much of this I wanted to take part, do I want, like, I would say go on a suicide mission or as the expression go grow some balls and get a picket and go out there and go at the governor, go and say, global warming, I need to stop now. Have the industry stop what they're doing? Maybe I do that, maybe my work-

Rachel (31:11):

Why not do that?

Raymond (31:14):

But who you stopping? Who you stopping? Are you stopping the plant that creating some kind of metal, or some kind of chemical that pretty much of help you eventually? When you look at some of these product, when produce, you ask yourself how man can make that like a needle as such a needle, look at a needle, it looks simple, but there's a lot of creativity put into that. A needle is fascinating. And what they're sticking with, there's a fascinating object. These are little finding things in life that you cannot dismiss. These are things in life that you cannot dismiss. How we approach the fact that what we are doing is damaging into the earth. Every day we create, Silicon valley. All this chemical. I mean-

Rachel (32:17):

So damaging.

Raymond (32:18):

I scared. I wanted, I have a dect that have a... What kind of, what should call it material? It's a kind of rubbery material and it's so much effective substance you could use to clean it. But what I did, I have a section number of plants. So all I'm saying is no way I'm going to wash my duct with this chemical, because there's no way I'm going to have these things get into my food. So I have to restrict myself from doing that same thing with the garden. We like mark, mark understand we don't bring, we not obsessing bringing, look at the treat, the wood that is treated. They're not treated wood.

Rachel (33:12):

Yeah.

Raymond (33:12):

Right. It don't Roten that easy. Because what it does, the treated wood, it avoids the termite and the deterioration. They accelerated the deterioration of wood out in the open. That's what that treated substance for. So I'm saying that to say, is that substance good for you?

Rachel (33:36):

Right. Is it getting into the soil of the garden? Yeah.

Raymond (33:40):

Yeah. So it's a little thing that man make for good purposes, but it has a side effect.

Rachel (33:45):

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Right.

Raymond (33:45):

You know, again, we try to wrap our mind around the world, global warming and it's the must plain tape. And one of the big part is the product that we produce. That's a part in this global warming that we experience it. That's the biggest part you don't think so?

Rachel (34:08):

Yeah. I mean, I think it's a huge part of it.

Raymond (34:08):

Yeah.

Rachel (34:08):

I do think so.

Raymond (34:11):

It is what it is, why we struggling with it and it is what it is, why we constantly aggravated about it. But can you tell the big industry to stop that plant?

Rachel (34:24):

I know. I know.

Raymond (34:26):

So how are you as an individual as after the day talking to me deal with this thing mentally?

Rachel (34:34):

I don't know, man. That's why I'm doing this project. All my artwork is about this question. How do I deal with it mentally? And that's how I deal with it mentally.

Raymond (34:44):

Yeah. It's a level of grade that man reached to it. It's very hard to reverse.

Rachel (34:49):

Yeah. And it's really hard to wrap your head around. It's very hard to wrap your head around imagining that anything will change, turn around. And we're not even looking for things to like, quote unquote, get better at this point. We're just trying to gate keep a baseline, catastrophe away at this point. But I don't know.

Raymond (35:17):

I have a terry in my head and it's kind of weird. It's hard to share it. It's so much thing that come into play like the hurricane, the... How do you call it?

Rachel (35:34):

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Cyclone? Tornado?

Raymond (35:35):

Yes. The earthquakes.

Rachel (35:39):

Oh yeah.

Raymond (35:42):

I have a Terry and it's kind of weird, but I think we are shift around so much natural elements of the earth. I use the word element. We are chicken and [inaudible 00:35:58] to kind geologically and so much moving around so much. My theory and that how affect the earth. This is my theory, right. You know, a part of Florida is very tropical in the sense that man within the last century make it very tropical. I mean like plants.

Rachel (36:23):

Oh, like Palm trees?

Raymond (36:24):

Not Palm trees. No, no, no Palm trees are job. I'm talking about fruit trees.

Rachel (36:28):

Oh, okay. Yeah.

Raymond (36:30):

Right. The minerals and other type of metal that we move around, we take and move around. I think my theory, this have a tremendous effect on earth.

Rachel (36:51):

Oh, absolutely. I agree with that.

Raymond (36:51):

Man been mining all type of metal from a long time. I know that it's so concentrated in the relocation that I believe a lot of things affect the earth.

Rachel (37:08):

Absolutely. I would agree with that.

Raymond (37:11):

You never thought about that?

Rachel (37:13):

I have, but I wasn't quite sure. You know-

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Raymond (37:16):

You never heard talk about.

Rachel (37:17):

Well, people we'll talk about like increased volcanic activity and increase earthquakes, in relation to oil drilling, which I hadn't really connected, increased volcanic activity.

Raymond (37:37):

The Volcano... Well it seems like the old been from the donor time having earthquakes. I mean volcano activities because of that natural substance is very phenomenal to a lot of people, but-

Rachel (37:54):

But it happens more.

Raymond (37:57):

Yeah. But I was referring more to win on hurricane.

Rachel (38:01):

Oh, interesting.

Raymond (38:04):

Yeah. Because you have a change of certain elementary earth that cause, and science probably know that because remember that so-called invisible magnetic field have a lot to do with all kind of twists and turn of the earth. Because the earth is like a living... It planted like living enough. If something been naturally in this place for a reason and you move it, it'll react. I still, when I think about a bomb, the substance, a bomb make from, when that bomb being, when that bomb is ignited, or as we say detonated, which is ignited that substance, when it boom, that's the element, that is the elements they used to make that bomb, trying to get by natural state. And it happened in a flash. That's a bomb. Think about a bomb. A bomb is this substance to take and [crosstalk 00:39:26] I didn't see you in a while. Everything okay?

Speaker 3 (39:31):

Just pass them through.

Raymond (39:33):

All right. You could always leave up some money for us. We need money.

Speaker 3 (39:33):

You need money?

Raymond (39:36):

Every time. Yeah. You got to join everybody else. You need money.

Speaker 3 (39:40):

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I never met anybody.

Raymond (39:41):

You never did. Now you know.

Speaker 3 (39:41):

So, you just doing interviewed.

Rachel (39:47):

I'm doing an oral history project on the climate crisis, talking to Brooklyn community gardeners.

Raymond (39:55):

We all over the place though.

Speaker 3 (39:56):

You all over the place.

Raymond (39:59):

All over the place topic. Yeah. We're all over the place. Yeah.

Rachel (40:05):

Oh, we've got the general sort of scope and subject matter.

Raymond (40:07):

Subject matter.

Rachel (40:09):

Yeah.

Speaker 3 (40:09):

So will you be here for the music tonight?

Raymond (40:11):

Yeah. I supposed to go and collect couple things and I come back.

Speaker 3 (40:15):

I have to run [inaudible 00:40:16].

Raymond (40:16):

Yes. I got to run [inaudible 00:40:18] Erren too.

Speaker 3 (40:18):

See you later.

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Raymond (40:19):

By enjoying this little tone.

Speaker 3 (40:19):

It's beautiful.

Raymond (40:23):

Yeah. Where was I talking about?

Rachel (40:25):

Bombs.

Raymond (40:26):

Yeah. So all this thing relate when you understand how the element in you be, how it behaves? You could use a bomb example. That's what a bomb is. Is this confined elements, hack. And of course, man get good at it. All in need. Like we said, is three elements to create fire. And all the do it, just think that. This think bursts because it expand and that those elements are rushing to get back in a natural state and it happens in a flash. Enlightening in what fascinating, we have all movies, but it's evidence to show that volcanic activity been around. We could prove it by certain cave and stuff. Lightning, it's pretty strange. Lightning is a strange one. Lightning been happening, but I believe it increased. You know what a ground is for electricity, All building ground, everything pretty much ground. Meaning that you have a wire that going to ground. That's what they call it ground.

Rachel (41:57):

Oh, so that it's not like a live. It's not live.

Raymond (42:01):

It's not live all the time, but it can't be live.

Rachel (42:03):

Yeah.

Raymond (42:03):

There's a reason for that. In case, you have what to call a short now to vote even, just in this country alone, right now it's millions of circuit, shortened circuit right now that you can't see or don't-

Rachel (42:18):

As we speak.

Raymond (42:19):

As you speak, shorten right now to the ground, for whatever reason, some of them are continuous because there's something bad in wiring. And I'm saying that to say that water, when it rains, it's a short and it is explosion right in the cloud. That's what that tendonous is. You know that?

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Rachel (42:43):

Yeah, yeah.

Raymond (42:45):

It's explosion and that's what electricity will do when it's short. It makes a big bang. So I think it increased get more dangerous because through the centuries, man had created electricity where they harvested actually, sorry, not make it harvest electricity. That energy, I should say, not electricity, but energy.

Rachel (43:09):

Yeah. Interesting.

Raymond (43:11):

They're in harvested and now you can find it and you're releasing it in a... I should say in an unprecedented way. So you have a heavy rain and you could have a tremendous short. It's short, right you are building or short to you. You just have to be bad lucky to be in that spot why it short?

Rachel (43:37):

So have you noticed changes in weather and seasons since you've been living here in New York over the years?

Raymond (43:46):

I would say yes. Yeah. I would say yes. I would say yes, I wasn't born here, but my 40 years here tells me from what I seen, it had changes. You ever see while lightning is snow while it snowing?

Rachel (44:05):

No.

Raymond (44:06):

It happens.

Rachel (44:07):

You've seen that?

Raymond (44:08):

It happens.

Rachel (44:08):

That's scary as hell.

Raymond (44:10):

In the eighties that happened. I was so scared. Because it was a heavy snow storm. Outside was dark. And it was some lightning like from hell, I swear to God, the earth was going on destroy.

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Rachel (44:24):

That's insane.

Raymond (44:26):

Yes. Bad, bad, bad lightning. So these things happen, whether it was happening before or not, I had experienced it. I tell people, some people don't know or maybe they wasn't paying attention, but I was outside and I tell myself is something going to, something happened. So, but we know regionally earth have bad lightning, but the strange thing with lightning and I just say not to say, some of the natural occurrence, we only know each of the movies. That's why I distinct, I make a distinction between volcano. Because volcano, you see evidence, but take like lightning and wind and hurricane. We don't have, we nobody erodes situation. You ever been to a big waterfall?

Rachel (45:20):

Yeah.

Raymond (45:21):

Amazing, right?

Rachel (45:22):

Amazing.

Raymond (45:24):

You can't wrap here around that.

Rachel (45:25):

No.

Raymond (45:26):

Hard to wrap in.

Rachel (45:28):

Like the power of it. Yeah.

Raymond (45:32):

Yeah. Trinidad have, I would describe a small one. I considered small to some of around the world and that one I had seen boulders from over there to here. So you look up, I say, when that rock fall, because it fell sometime ago, maybe a million years ago by the rock. And there's a lot of them you can see-

Speaker 4 (45:57):

Is that right or wrong?

Rachel (45:57):

Yeah. You were right, Kelly.

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Raymond (45:59):

And you ask yourself this question and these are natural occurrence and natural, the natural wonder, natural thing of the earth and it's beautiful. You try to wrap your head around it and you can't. You can't get the sense of it. And I always tell people, I always like to hike more than going by water. I like hiking. It's beautiful. But the problem with hiking now, especially in the Caribbean with tropical, you might run into some, somebody plants their puppy or marijuana and you could get killed.

Rachel (46:37):

And that's new [inaudible 00:46:39].

Raymond (46:39):

I been around for a while now. Yeah. Like in the jungle, South Africa, south America. You can't go hiking to see you just happily going and walk in the jungle. You might run into somebody's starch and you most likely going to be killed. That's how scary the earth is with a beautiful thing to just go hiking. I think for the most part, it's still a beautiful place in the world that I wouldn't say untouched but you know, not hampered. It still have a lot. It still have a whole lot, you know? Yeah.

So I don't know how much of a global warming point of view I give you, but we have to understand that we are dealing with a fast paced world. We know the electronics technology is far as full speed ahead and it takes a lot of natural material to make it happen. It's sad that our kids and our kids is a word to use the young folks again, who very sharp with their books, come out with a PhD and whatever. And their goal is to do the utmost best whether it's going to destroy or not, but they're naive with it. And that's the sad thing. That description not give you, but being a chemist for a physicist, or the one, what do you call it? One that deal with metal? Is a name for them. What's a name?

Rachel (48:26):

Like a metallurgist or something?

Raymond (48:32):

I don't know, I don't know how to call it, but it's want to deal with metal. Yeah. Probably important people.

Rachel (48:35):

Let me ask you one more question, Raymond, that I ask everybody, which is just, are there any questions I didn't ask you that you expected me to ask you or that you wish I had asked you? Or are there any questions you're asking self right now?

Raymond (48:51):

Well, I would like to see change for the better and meaning that mine come to a certain understanding that certain things we have to not do, which is very difficult. And again, the currency play out, dictate how we live our life globally, the currency. It's something that everybody want because it makes them a little comfortable. You buy the biggest screen TV. So what question you could ask more and the mind having a mindset and a way of life that you would like to see happen is very scary to talk about, because you talking about being, living in a certain way that nobody want to think about and nobody. A lot of people don't want to think about it. I work with the trains and society develop to a point, you have a civil society. The world is civil and you believe in a civil manner and you part of the whole scheme of things

and how could you stop that? How could you stop that? We in a civil world and we do civil things and we have to maintain it. Right?

The police job is to maintain a civil way of life. The government is to mention that civil life, right? And what you find out, somebody teeth money, or somebody try to relocate money to their own benefit is not fear. If we sit down and we think about it, how the police man get paid, where that currency is generated from, for the police to pay the police and fireman, we use tax for that. Right. But when you understand how it works now is scare. The police department will get charged from the city for using this. They built the other thing, we know that what the police been doing for a while, they have this Sergeant will telling gardein and make a quarter. That's some scary stuff to me. It shouldn't be right. So again, we go back to the world, global warming, how we analyze that, what are we looking for to make change? What exactly could cause the change? And it's changing. Like you said, one mind at a time. What is that? Get rid of greed? What is greed? Question now, what is greed? You know, what is greed?

Rachel (52:02):

Yeah.

Raymond (52:02):

You've been motivated. You've been brought up or slipping with to think a certain way. Your way of life from your family, your generation dictates the society you live, dictate how you feel things are supposed to be. Is it okay to take me and whip me into submission to do what you want so it could make the money. How people had that mindset and slavery was one of them right? Until some thinkers begin to believe that is not fair. People did it. White or black. A lot of people did it. You ever heard about a John Brown?

Rachel (52:02):

Yeah.

Raymond (52:02):

You know the story?

Rachel (52:46):

Yeah.

Raymond (52:46):

It's really sad, right?

Rachel (52:48):

Yeah.

Raymond (52:49):

And Frederick Douglas described this man, and as I see people, some people are just thinkers. They believe that certain things shouldn't be and they kick against it. Whether it cause your life you know? So, if you feel, you want to be that person to look at global warming on that approach. Yeah. It's a type of approach that is very difficult to get a grip on. That's a hell of approach, global warming. I mean, It been going, look how long it been going on. You can tell Mr. Trump about global warming, he believes that

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they're just talking. He laughs at you because he know, you can't get a way. The world, he born into the kind of way he grew up. The global warming is just somebody just not thinking straight. They're not looking at the big pictures. That's all Trump are going to look at. The big pictures you have to survive and you're going to do what got to do to survive.

Rachel (53:59):

Right.

Raymond (54:01):

See what I'm saying?

Rachel (54:02):

Yeah, I do.

Raymond (54:04):

So what was your... you want turned off?

Rachel (54:09):

Sure, sure. Yeah.