

Episode 6: “The Dreams of My Generation” with Marcus Arana

Youspeak Introduction:

Jasper: This is Youspeak radio. With generous support from the Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, an intergenerational project by one institute and the outwards archive on Tongva land.

[MUSIC]

Episode Introduction:

Ameer: Hi, my name is Ameer. I go by he/him pronouns. I am currently studying biochemistry to have a career in forensic pathology, and in today's podcast, I got to have the privilege to talk to Marcus Arana. We managed to talk about the LGBTQ community and our experiences and how it has impacted us personally, spiritually and physically. Above all, I got to know more about him and about his own identity. It was a pleasure talking to him, because it also helped me open up a bigger point of view in my own life.

[MUSIC]

Marcus: Things change. They change over time. I remember a time when I didn't know how to love myself, and now I do. I learned to do it through the eyes of my friends. I looked at every friend I had and I said, "God, if they love me, then there must be something lovable here." It started with that. You have hope, and you have desire to see the greater future that's available in your life. Things are not always going to be hard, and they're not always going to feel daunting. You will find your place. You're going to feel comfortable in your own skin one day.

Ameer: Before I graduated, I had friends who were freshmen, sophomores and juniors, and some of them were queer. Some of them are non-binary. Some were trans men. Some were trans women. Because I was leaving and because I was the only trans person to come out in my grade in my senior year, a lot of people, looked up to me in a way to be like, "Oh okay, if Ameer can do this, I can do it." I try my best to, like, motivate them.

Marcus: You're already being a role model. That's a beautiful thing that you could inspire people to feel confident in themselves, and they can look at you and go, "Damn, if he can do it, I can do it." When you choose to be a trans activist. That's kind of what you do. You give up your anonymity, but you present visibility. You are the dreams of my generation.

[MUSIC]

Interview Begins:

Ameer: Hi. My name is Ameer, and my favorite animal is a hyena.

Marcus: I am Marcus Arana. I'm also called Tio. I'm also called Holy Old Man Bull, and I'm a transmasculine, Two Spirit elder living in Sonoma County on unceded Pomo, Lapo and coastal Miwok land,