

Derek Noboa interviewed by Iyanna Wright  
April 15, 2021  
The Bronx, New York City

**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

feel, skinned, land, bronx, black lives matter, compared, black, police, history, pigment, profiled, truth, young man, cop, generational wealth, experience, silence, terminology, crime, poverty

Iyanna Wright -Good Morning my name is Iyanna Wright and I'm here today to interview Derek Noboa. Located in the Bronx on the day of, April 15, 2021.

IW- Derek, do I have your permission to record this for my oral history?

DN- Yes.

IW- Okay. How old are you?

DN- I am 22 years old.

IW- What is your occupation?

DN- My occupation is security, entrepreneurship.

IW- And your neighborhood?

DN - The Bronx.

IW - Your place of origin?

DN - The Bronx, New York.

IW - Your first language?

DN- English.

00:41

IW- What is your racial identity?

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DN - Latin American

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IW - What is your gender identity?

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DN- Male

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IW - What is your sexual orientation?

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DN - My preference is females.

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IW - Tell me a long story of how you and your family ended up in New York City?

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DN - The long story is when my mom came to America when she was 13. And my father was born in another state, but his parents were both immigrants and they just happened to meet each other in high school when years go down the line, and voila, here I am.

01:23

IW - What exactly does a Black Lives Matter movement want?

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DN - They want the injustice to end. They want people of colorism to stop being killed for having fear of the police that overuse and abuse their power and costlly are killing young men and women for minor things such as sneezing or coughing or answering a phone call.

02:04

IW - Do you think that silence is violence?

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DN -I think that silence is powerful, not violence.

IW- What do you mean by that?

DN- The silence has more volume than someone who's screaming and shouting.

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IW - So you think somebody that's more silent can be heard more compared to somebody? that's loud?

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DN - Yes.

IW - Interesting! Why don't Black Lives Matter protesters also address black-on-black crime?

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DN - They don't address black on black crime, because black on black crime was put in by the system by keeping everyone in poverty, and keeping us ignorant and hating each other, instead

of our oppressors and trying to educate each other on how to break the cycle of poverty and generational wealth.

03:02

IW - Why are some light-skinned black people pre-prejudice against darker-skinned people?

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DN - They are prejudice against darker-skinned people because they feel inferior to them because they know their worth.

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IW - So you feel like they don't have equal standards?

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DN - No, I think we're all equals as human beings. But some people feel superior to the next because of the pigment of the skin.

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IW - So you think a light-skinned person looking at black-skinned person less than?

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DN - The base on how society has manipulated them to think, yes.

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IW - That was a good one. What is the correct terminology for a black African; a black African American, or people of color?

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DN - African American.

04:03

IW - I have also seen a lot of people feel like black is a great terminology for darker-skinned people for the Black Lives Matter protests, because I guess they feel as if being called the African American is putting everybody into one position and putting one everybody else in one category. So, to agree with you without one is better, a lot better. Because we see we should see each other as one, you know, not as different from everybody else. What do you think will change with all this protesting going on? Or will it remain the same?

04:41

DN - I don't think anything will change until we change the way we think and we change. We start with the education once we tell the truth on the education system, instead of hiding the facts that Christopher Columbus was a tyrant and he slaughtered the natives of the land and they give him a holiday, then and only then will we start moving forward when we teach you the real history of the land. And what has constantly been done by I wouldn't say Europeans, but invaders the land on all fronts.

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IW - Do you think schools should teach white schools more about black history? Or should it be more about their white history? So

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DN - I think they should teach the truth about their history and not their version of it?

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IW - What do you mean by that? Because that's a good statement right there.

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DN - I mean, simply the truth, the good and the bad.

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IW - so you mean from like slavery, like all taking the lands and people as hostage?

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DN – We can only move forward, and they would feel less of that self-hatred and the self-guilt within themselves for being white on the pigment of their skin and getting away with everything, compared to a colored man that commits the same crimes and he'll be facing 25 to life.

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IW - That's a very good way to put it.

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IW - Okay, is standing for what is the right thing to do, especially if it puts you in harm's way where you potentially lose your life?

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DN: Come again, potentially lose my life?

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IW- Okay, standing for the right thing, let's say protesting for the right thing, like the truth.

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DN- Yes truth will always most likely put you in harm's way because someone doesn't want someone to know, a piece of information hence why conspiracy theories tend to always go missing, or they're silent, and no one ever hears from him again, because these monster corporations want to just make money off of you compared to helping you.

07:10

IW - What is your opinion on police brutality?

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DN - You got to go and retrain every officer that you've had on the field and get them mentally evaluated before by giving them a gun and a badge.

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IW - I can agree with you with that one. What experience of racism have you felt or experienced?

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DN - I was racially profiled from as young as I can remember might be the age of 10 or 12.

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IW - Do you remember your first encounter being?

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DN - Yeah, simply Where are you going? What are you doing? You know, violating my rights as a young man being done. I'm going to have a lawyer present.

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IW - What experience have you experienced, like a story you mind telling me?

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DN - Profiling. You fit the description of anything they're looking for because you're of color.

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IW - So you've been stopped before? Because?

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DN - On multiple occupations

08:04

IW - Would you be with the family or friends?

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DN - Your family friends can be alone doesn't matter.

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IW - Did you ever feel unsafe with them? When they stop you?

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DN - I was always feeling overwhelmed in the presence of police because I did not feel safe in their presence.

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IW - So you felt as if a cop was to stop you a good cop compared to a bad cop, you would get anxious around the good cop?

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DN - I would get anxious regardless because he's a cop.

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IW - What do you think about the slogan; no justice, no peace?

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DN - I think that it has a meaning but the approach they're going about it is wrong. Until we get colorist people in power to make a change that doesn't become an Uncle Tom brother, then and only then will we change something.

IW - How do you explain the persistence of racism in the United States?

DN - I mean, the persistence of racism has to do with racial profiling, they get a call, they don't properly analyze the situation. And they just go off biased opinions on their narrative on how they perceive a situation and act on it without getting for Intel. They're not trained properly at the Academy. So, you don't see people of color really behind the uniform are genuinely white Caucasians that live in the Upstate or out of the state of New York.

IW - Why do you think NYC became an epicenter of the protests.

DN - became an epicenter of the protests, because its majority made up of minorities, these communities that are being gentrified, everyday bronze being the last one, In this step, slowly, but surely it will be densified and that neighborhood will be safer with one Caucasian man is walking casually down the streets in some sandals and khakis.

IW - How to have your How to have the uprising across the country shifted how you think about your ethnic identity in your place in the US society.

DN - In the US society, I will always be looked at as a minority, regardless of what position in power I put myself in.

IW- Do you have any stories you are willing to share about the encounters you have with racism or the police?

DN - I mean, I can talk about countless times where I violated my rights as a young man, barely the age of even 14 before even getting into high school. That would be profiled by police, and you know, harassed? Hey, where are you going? What are you doing? Where are you coming from? And you know, as a young kid, you think you have to answer these things when you don't?

IW - Where are you active in the protest at all in a digital or in-person? Way over at least? Or last six months,

DN - Yes, I was digital, and maybe one to two protests at the most. But digitally, I was sharing information, you know, passing along the word. And, you know, gathering insight to keep people safe and on the topic the police were doing.

IW - Why did you decide to get involved in the Black Lives Matter protest?

DN - I decided to get involved in the Black Lives Matter protests because it was people of my kin that were constantly being killed. And we were fed up.

IW - Do you have any stories or experiences about being involved in the protest and were impacted and were impacted? You?

DN - I mean, I've watched countless people being hurt by the police and sent to the hospital.

IW - how has Black Lives Matter shifted the culture?

DN - Well, the organizer behind the Black Lives Matter never actually gave any of the money that was donated to the actual families that were decimated by the loved ones being taken, which is exactly how the I would say Caucasian counterparts would manipulate the agenda, and how one bad apple can control the narrative of the rest. As the media would like to portray, how have the past few months changed how you think about police and racism in the US.

IW - I have respect for the police, but very limited respect for what they do for a living because you can't judge the whole by the few bad decisions of some. There are good police officers out there that actually do their job and genuinely care. But all it takes is a few bad apples for the media to tear apart and make the whole thing look bad.

DN - Did you learn more about the history of racism in this country since the protest started?

IW - No, I was pretty well informed before it.

DN - What have you seen your peers doing that inspires you?

DN - Educating each other?

IW - Why do you think there's so much backlash to Black Lives Matter?

DN - There's a lot of backlash to Black Lives Matter because it's just as I said before, all it takes is a few people taking matters into their own hands and changing the narrative of the whole agenda.

IW - How do you explain the looting and destruction of property that took place during the protest?

DN - It was wrong, my way we turn down our communities, instead of going after the stores owned by the Caucasian, but that would be wrong as well. Instead, we should be going after the

injustice and having a peaceful, more Gandhi approach to it.

IW - How do you explain folks who respond to Black Lives Matter with all lives matter?

DN - If that were the case, then half the people wouldn't be dead if all lives mattered.

IW - How would you like to see the movement resolved?

DN - I think I would like to see the movement resolve by removing old white politicians in power that's been in power for over 15 years out of the office and putting people of color back into power. So we can do as we have one done to us.

IW - Do you believe we are any closer than when we were with George Floyd when George Floyd was murdered?

DN - No.

IW - Is there anything else you'd like to say about anti-racist rising, you'd like to share?

DN - No that will be all, thank you for having me today.

IW - Thank you very much for being on my podcast and have a lovely day