

It was a calm evening when I met Runkang, a shy and introspective young man with short hair and glasses. As we sat down to begin our interview, I could sense a nervous energy emanating from him, but he seemed to quickly compose himself and focus on our conversation.

Before we delved into the specifics of our interview, I asked Runkang to tell me a bit about his personality. He paused for a moment, considering his words carefully before responding.

"I'm a pretty quiet and shy person," he said, his voice soft and measured. Then he added, "I'm a pragmatist. I usually put things that I can't use into the cabinet to make the desktop look tidy".

And I could tell it was true because his surroundings (bedroom) seem to be organized and clean.

As we continued to talk, I noticed that Runkang was a thoughtful and reflective speaker. He chose his words carefully, often pausing mid-sentence to consider the best way to communicate his ideas.

Despite his shyness, Runkang was surprisingly engaging. We were gaining confidence as we spoke. He showed me his bedroom and some personal belongings that were important to him.

"This is my high school id. I was 17 years old." He spoke. Then, with a curious tone, he asked,

"Now tell me about you."

We started to talk about what clothing we mostly use, and he shared his preferences.

"Usually, I like to wear casual clothing such as running shoes, jeans, and a normal t-shirt," he said, while he smiled. Also, I asked about his hair, and he said "Of course, I like short hair. For me, it's more convenient." And we laughed as we shared different hair-related anecdotes.

As we wrapped up our interview, I asked Runkang if there was anything else he wanted to share, he quietly answered “no”, but I made another question about his experience in the U.S. and I shared my experiences to give him time to think. While I described my interaction with the American culture, society, and language he nodded his head showing his agreement after every sentence. “It’s a very complex thing to describe,” he said. I could see he was an honest individual, always answering with concise sentences. And the fact that we have had similar experiences made us feel in a comfort zone.

Reflecting on my conversation with Runkang, I was struck by his thoughtful and introspective nature. Despite his shyness and nervousness, he was a remarkably engaging and insightful speaker. His prudence and humbleness, coupled with his interesting background and culture, made him a unique and fascinating individual. I was grateful for the opportunity to connect with him, and I couldn't help but feel sympathy for his experience and perspective.