

Transcript of Interview with Daniel Cates

Conducted by Noah Stephens-Davidowitz & Vanessa Selbst

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Vanessa Selbst (VS): First we wanted to start with asking you a very open ended question. What is your characterization of everything that's happened? What is the story of Jose Macedo, and what role do you and Haseeb play in that story?

Daniel Cates (DC): Um, let me think. When I first met him – well, I never really met him – I was introduced to him through Haseeb. Haseeb referred him to me for coaching. I never really ended up coaching him.

VS: Do you remember when that was?

DC: That was, like, a long time ago. That was before anyone knew about the Portuguese Prodigy or whatever.

[discussion that VS's microphone was breaking up]

VS: That was before the "Looking for Prodigy" post on 2+2?

DC: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I think so at least. I wasn't really paying attention to the "Looking for Prodigy" post or any of the poker prodigy posts in general. I just...as far as me hyping him, that was, I mean it was recommended, I believe, by either him or Haseeb. Otherwise, I just didn't really care, frankly.

VS: So did you write – I'm going to jump around a little – that post where you said he's a burgeoning high stakes player and you should watch out for him, did you write that post?

DC: I think what happened for that was they said ok, you should say he's good or whatever. And I'm like, ok, what do you want me to write? Just write he's a burgeoning high stakes player. That's my best guess as to why I used the word "burgeoning" even though it's not a word I usually say.

Noah Stephens-Davidowitz (NSD): Wait, who – you said "they" told you to say that. Who told you to say that?

DC: I think it was either – I think it was Haseeb who told me to say that.

NSD: Did Haseeb say why he wanted you to say that?

DC: Maybe...I don't...well, to build up Jose's career because Haseeb was trying to help build up his career. And, again, I'm not sure. I think that's probably what happened, but I'm not sure that's what happened. I didn't really think too much of it. I was like whatever, I'll do it because, why not?

NSD: Did you agree with the words that you wrote?

DC: I thought it was true. I mean, I thought he was, you know, good. Other people told me he was good. I think Haseeb told me he was good.

VS: What were the details that led you to those conclusions? Did you see any graphs or did you see any hands or stats or anything like that?

DC: Well, I, like, glanced at his stats. And Haseeb told me he's pretty good, he's like crushed Euro sites for huge amounts, something like that. And, let's see...

VS: Ok.

DC: Well, I just didn't think about it that much. I had no incentive to think about it.

NSD: Yeah. When you said you saw a lot of potential in him, did you think that was true?

DC: Well, that was an exaggeration. That was definitely an exaggeration, but based on, you know, if Haseeb thinks someone is pretty smart, and I think Haseeb's really smart so I respect what he says. And, I mean, from the few times I did talk strategy with him – I talked with not Haseeb but Jose – it seemed like he did have a clue what's going on. There was one time when Jose was sweating me and then he talked to Haseeb about it and was like I'm going to learn so much from this. I learned X, X, and Y. And it seemed like from that that Jose was pretty smart about poker strategy or whatever. And, I mean, again...

VS: When these things happened - you said you talked to Jose – was that via video or voice chat or was that...

DC: No.

VS: That was based on?

DC: In this case, it was like, what's the word? I don't know how to describe what this is, what this type of communication is. In the example I gave, I didn't really talk to Jose, like it wasn't me talking to him. This was me talking to Haseeb. Haseeb telling me, yeah Jose really liked watching you play or whatever and Jose said he learned a lot, and this is what Jose said he learned about. He said he learned something about bluffing and ranges or something like that, and it was pretty smart.

NSD: But that's coming from Haseeb. Did you talk to Jose much yourself?

DC: No, I didn't talk to him that much.

VS: How many times would you say that you talked to Jose yourself?

DC: On Skype, maybe 2 or 3. Maybe more than that, I don't know. It was definitely less than 10. And nothing super long.

VS: Right. Would you be willing, if requested – I'm just going to be completely honest with you here. A lot of the allegations and things that are surfacing make it seem like Haseeb was bending the truth, to put it mildly, to a lot of different people about Jose.

[5:00 minute mark]

VS continued: Would you be willing to share the logs of the conversations that you had with him, with Jose?

DC: Um, I mean, I don't even know if I can get those. Because, I mean, I used various different computers. And right now my computer, like my main computer hasn't been set up for awhile.

NSD: I could help you.

DC: It would be really difficult to get all of the logs.

NSD: But would you be willing to if I helped you do it and it wasn't hard for you?

DC: Let me think. I think so. It depends on how I'd be, it depends on... I mean, how would you be able to do that?

NSD: Skype has recovery and stuff. I guess the question is, suppose it took you 2 clicks to do this, would you send them or do you have privacy concerns or whatever?

DC: I mean, I have some privacy concerns. I'm not sure what I've told Jose or whatever. I don't know. I don't want all of the information I ever said coming out because, I mean, everyone has secrets.

VS: We could redact the personal, irrelevant things if that ever happened. So would you be willing to send logs that didn't have personal information in them? Or private, personal information that we would clear?

DC: Possibly.

VS: Ok.

DC: We could try to recover everything.

NSD: Let's move on from that.

VS: Yeah, that's a small point.

NSD: Just to be very blunt, do you see what we're suggesting here? What all your answers to these questions suggest? That you were hyping up Jose a lot...

DC: A lot?

NSD: Well, ok, I shouldn't have said a lot.

DC: I did hype him up a bit but never thought...

NSD: But everything you heard about Jose seems to have come from Haseeb. Or almost everything, at least. And it turns out that everything about Jose – or a lot of stuff about Jose – was a lie. You know, he made up the “I am searching for the poker prodigy” stuff, and a lot of people suspect that Haseeb was part of that lie. So do you think that there’s a chance that Haseeb was lying to you about Jose?

DC: I don’t think he was lying to me about Jose with intention of manipulating me, as in trying to get something out of me really. I think honestly Haseeb’s intentions were mostly good. I really don’t think he was trying to scam anyone. But, yeah, he did stretch the truth when it came to Jose. And perhaps put too much faith in him. But, what you said, in retrospect, a lot of my perceptions of Jose were based on what Haseeb and other people were telling me. I could have sworn someone else told me something about him. Maybe Sauce or something. But don’t take my word for that because I don’t really know if that’s true or not.

VS: Your word would be that you believe that might be the case, but you don’t specifically remember, but there might have been someone else at some point. We’re not going to say that...We’re just going to post...

NSD: We’re just going to post what you said.

DC: I mean, people hype each other up all the time. People hyped me up on twitter constantly.

VS: Yeah, for sure.

DC: It just seems like something so harmless that it’s like, why not do it?

VS: Right. Usually it is, except in this case it happens to not have been since it was all a lie. That’s why we’re trying to figure out what the intentions and motivations were. So that’s what these questions are intended to get to. Moving back, a little bit about your relationship with Haseeb. How close were you with him? And how long had you lived with him? And how much time had you spent with him in the last few months?

DC: Me and him are pretty close. We made an agreement where he’d help me with – and I’d rather not go into that too much because it’s pretty private – but we made an agreement for him to help me negotiate and things like that. Things that I’m not good at and I know I’m not good like. I’m not super good at negotiating and I know people have all of these bad deals that they think are good or whatever. And he’s helping me deal with all that and a variety of other things as well. He’s been pretty much a good friend to me. We’ve been traveling around for awhile, and I would say he’s one of my closer friends.

VS: Ok. Who proposed that relationship whereby he would live with you and theoretically exchange poker advice or whatever for life advice and coaching in terms of strategy of negotiating and things like that. Who proposed that arrangement?

DC: The formal arrangement would be him, although before that he was kind of helping with stuff anyways.

VS: So how did you come to know him?

[10:00 minute mark]

DC: I met him. Well, I knew him online for a year and a half or something. I knew him online when I was riding up the stakes at some point, and then at one point I met him in Vegas. It was about, a little bit over a year ago. And from there we planned to live with each other and Ashton in Orlando.

VS: I'm just trying to get the facts straight here. So you knew him online, you met him once in Vegas, and then he proposed that he would come live with you and Ashton?

DC: Well, not Ashton specifically. But he proposed living in a different city with another pro or something. And we tried to get a couple other people to come with us, but they had other plans. Then we thought why not Ashton because we like Ashton too. So that's how the house with me, him and Ashton came to be.

VS: Ok. So how much contact did you have with him? When you say you talked to him online, did you talk to him several hours a day or just occasionally?

DC: Occasionally. Me and him don't really like talking that much online, especially me. There aren't very many people I talk to – in fact, there's no one I really talk to for hours a day at any point. I just, I'm not a small talk person.

VS: Ok. So you lived with him starting when?

DC: Orlando, Florida. In the midst of...since then til now I've been living with him / traveling around and doing things...

VS: I'm sorry. So when did you move in together in Orlando?

DC: Like October last year, something like that.

VS: Ok. Great, thanks. So the last thing about...

DC: It was late last year, whatever. Huh?

VS: The last little thing about this little bit is... So Haseeb lost that \$300K bet with Ashton. Did you pay that off for him as it's been suggested?

DC: Um. Let me think. I gave Ashton money through Full Tilt, and Haseeb was going to give me cash. That was what was supposed to happen. It wasn't exactly \$300K. And Haseeb still owes me part of that money. But he intends on paying it.

VS: Sure. I'm just curious as to what the total debt was that you paid and how much he still owes you.

DC: I don't see how those details are relevant, but...well, okay. He's paid me 150 of it, I think, and he owes me another hundredish, but we're deciding on that because I agreed, basically, to pay him money for helping me with stuff. He was always helping me with things.

NSD: What do you pay him for?

DC: We didn't decide on that.

NSD: So you just have sort of a vague agreement to pay him an unspecified amount of money for unspecified acts?

DC: Uh, that's kind of true. I mean, the acts are somewhat specified, and I don't feel these details are relevant.

[talking over each other]

VS: They're incredibly relevant just because...to know people's motivations in terms of conducting a similar scam and tendencies to repeat kinds of behavior.

DC: Well, he's helping me with my career in a variety of different ways. Basically helping me in negotiations and trying to get deals and stuff. Helping me make good decisions and things like that. And helping me to get [inaudible] with life stuff in general, I guess you could say.

NSD: Ok. Well, I'm just going to come out and be blunt. One thing, I think, when people hear this interview, what they're going to say is it sound like Haseeb was taking advantage of you. Haseeb made a \$300,000 bet with Ashton and then had you pay it.

DC: No, no. I wasn't...We traded money.

NSD: But he hasn't paid you back for that money.

DC: He's going to. He already paid me most of it. And the reason he hasn't paid me the other is because I agreed to give him...

NSD: But how long has that been?

DC: It's been awhile. But I'm pretty sure. I mean, he's given me cash.

NSD: But, like, \$100,000 is a lot of money.

DC: Uh huh.

NSD: So for someone to owe you that for a really long time for sort of vague reasons is kind of a big deal.

DC: You could look at it like that. But also another reason why he hasn't paid me back is because I haven't really requested it.

[15:00 mark]

DC continued: Because the way I look at it is that. It's more valuable to me...I mean, I'm very certain he's going to pay me. But it's more valuable to me to have my money in more than one place, I guess. Like, there was a time when I needed money wired somewhere, and he wired me money because he owes me money so it was convenient for that aspect.

NSD: Does he owe you money for anything else?

DC: No, I don't think so.

VS: Ok. Let's move on from this. Do you want to go on to...so we've already covered a couple of those questions. Do you know when Haseeb – you said that Haseeb sort of brought Jose to you and talked about how good he was and stuff – do you have any idea how Haseeb first met Jose?

DC: Um, I believe...well, the way that it all happened really is the way he described on his blog. I haven't read it all honestly, but I believe that Jose just contacted him out of the blue and said he had these results. Well, no, no, no. I think I did ask him this actually. He said Jose made like \$300K in 6 months or something like that. And that was really impressive. I don't know how that worked its way up to \$1.6 million or whatever, which is really sick if that's true or whatever, actually, come to think of it.

NSD: Do you think that that's true?

DC: I don't know anymore.

NSD: I mean, do you know, for example, that Jose was the person who started that first thread about how there was this celebrity in Portugal who made a ton of money, I think it was \$1.6 million in a short period of time out of 30 Euros. Did you know that it was actually Jose posting on another account?

DC: No. I definitely didn't know, and I'm pretty sure Haseeb didn't know either.

NSD: But I'm asking do you know that now? Did you know that before I just told you?

DC: Oh, yeah, yeah.

NSD: Ok, just wanted to make sure. Because I know you haven't read the whole thread.

DC: I read parts of it.

NSD: Ok. Did you ever pretend to be Jose?

DC: No.

NSD: Did Haseeb, to your knowledge?

DC: No, I don't think so. Well, he did help Jose write posts, but I don't think...there's a possibility he posted on his account, but I don't really think...

NSD: Well, he did, so...

DC: Ok.

NSD: I mean, he did post on his account. I'm just saying. But you never saw Haseeb, for example, sign onto Jose's Skype and talk to other people?

DC: No. I'm really certain that hasn't happened.

NSD: Ok. Did Haseeb ever mention to you anything about earning money off of Jose's coaching or Jose's fame in general?

DC: I don't think off his coaching, but I know that he agreed to help Jose if Jose paid him. I'm pretty sure there's a money transaction involved in this.

NSD: Yeah.

VS: Do you remember any of the specifics of that money transaction?

DC: I heard something about 15% but don't quote me on it because I'm not totally sure.

NSD: That's what he said too. I think he said 15% of coaching, but I could be wrong. I don't have the quote in front of me.

DC: Ok.

NSD: Did you ever make money off of Jose's fame at all?

DC: No. Jose has cost me money so far. Right now, I'd prefer to be one of the victims who actually made money from this. It's really frustrating.

NSD: It bothers you that the victims made money from this?

DC: Well, I don't know. I'm slightly envious of them because right I'm getting...I've definitely lost money and, like, people are giving me lots of shit and I feel like I haven't done anything wrong.

NSD: That's fair. Have you ever played on any of Jose's accounts?

DC: No.

NSD: Ok. So who's the person who played on Jose's account at 25/50 PLO during the challenge? I'm sure you've heard people talk about this before.

DC: I believe Haseeb said he was the person.

VS: But isn't it true that Haseeb has played very little poker for the last 6 months? I know personally when I've been in and out of online poker and poker in general, the first time I quit high stakes and

came back, the thought of playing 25/50 heads up 4-tabling was pretty daunting because things change and it takes a big [inaudible] and things like that.

DC: Well, in Orlando he was trying to get back into it and thought he was playing...I'm not sure how much he was playing since 2011 started. I mean I'm not really sure about his motivations for that.

NSD: Ok. So Jose said...

[20:00 minute mark]

NSD continued: ...someone managed to contact Jose on Skype, and he said it wasn't Haseeb who was playing on Jose's account.

VS: He said it was someone else.

NSD: He said it was someone else. So...

VS: Do you know who that might be?

NSD: First of all, did you see Haseeb play, or did Haseeb just tell you that he played?

DC: I knew that Haseeb played.

NSD: You saw him?

DC: Yeah.

NSD: Ok. So it's definitely...

DC: I was aware that it happened, but it was...I don't know who Girah was playing, but I just sort of assumed it wouldn't matter that much.

VS: Sorry. So did you see Haseeb playing, or did you just know that it happened because somebody told you, because Haseeb told you it happened?

DC: No, I basically witnessed it happen. Like, I just assumed it wouldn't really matter. In my opinion, the way multiaccounting is unethical is if there's some sort of information that leads the...It's difficult to explain, but basically if there's some sort of deception involved. Deception involved where, like, some read someone has on a player but if the player is not who they are, the read will be misused. Deception like that. But if that doesn't really happen then multiaccounting, in theory, is harmless. If that makes sense.

NSD: So did you have access to Jose's accounts?

DC: No.

NSD: Not at all? So how did you... Well, just in general, you staked him, correct? You staked him with Haseeb?

DC: Yeah, yeah. I was not really managing the stake. I was just like, yeah, whatever, let's give him money to play with.

VS: So about the stake. We're going to ask you a bunch of questions about the stake. Just answer as much as you know. And then just let us know how you know basically, right? So Haseeb said the stake was split 50/50. Is that true? Was it 50 his money and 50 your money?

DC: Yeah, yeah. We both gave Jose \$50K. That was part of how Haseeb paid me back also. Or part of how he paid part of it because Seeb wired the SamChauhan account money and then he was going to give Jose 100 total, right, and 50 of it would be mine. Money that he owed me.

VS: So the money that Haseeb gave to Jose via the SamChauhan account, the \$50K that belonged to you on your stake, was money that Haseeb was repaying you for part of the prop bet. Is that correct?

DC: Yeah.

NSD: That was included in the \$150K that he's paid you back?

DC: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

NSD: How did he pay you back the other \$100K he paid you back?

DC: He hasn't paid me back yet.

NSD: No, you said he paid you 150...

DC: Oh, I needed cash in Vegas, so he gave me...it was partly for, what's it called, the NBC heads up thing. He paid me cash for that.

NSD: Ok, we don't need all the details. Just wanted to know if he paid you in cash. Do you know the terms of the stake?

DC: Uh. [laughs] I mean, I don't think there's any specific terms. It's [laughing]

NSD: Do you know what percent of the profits you were supposed to get?

DC: I think 50? That I actually don't know.

NSD: So you guys each got 50. When you say 50, you mean 50% of Jose's profits went to you and Haseeb combined?

DC: Yeah.

VS: How many times did you actually talk to Haseeb about this stake?

DC: A few times. Basically, how it was presented to me was like, ok, Jose needs a stake. [background noise] I'm pretty sure it was 50. [inaudible, background noise] The percent really doesn't matter unless Seeb's going to cheat me or something, which I don't think is going to happen. As long as things are

[inaudible] And 50 is probably right. But it was presented to me like, ok, Jose needs a stake because his uncle scammed him and he bought a house for \$800K or whatever. And... [inaudible]

VS: So was it Jose that told you both that he bought the house, or did Haseeb verify any of this information?

DC: Haseeb....Seeb...Jose told me though Haseeb, I believe. He didn't tell me directly. [inaudible] He bought like an \$800K house or something.

[25:00 minute mark]

VS: You know now that that house was never purchased, right?

DC: Why is that?

VS: It's just been confirmed. Jose later said that he never bought the house.

DC: Oh. What the fuck?

NSD: Yeah, Jose lied about everything it looks like. You understand that, right?

DC: Yeah, well...

NSD: I mean he probably didn't have \$800K to buy a house.

DC: Well, I do have reason to believe he has some sort of money.

NSD: What's that?

DC: Because after the scam came out, he asked me if it would be a good idea to try to bribe the guys, like \$500K, and this was really strange to me because, like, how does he have the money to do that? So, I asked him, like, how does he have that? And he's like I have more. So apparently he has something. Hopefully that's true.

NSD: He asked you to bribe the guys \$500K not to come out with the story?

DC: No. He asked me if it was a good idea if he should bribe them.

NSD: Oh, yeah, sorry, that's what I meant to say. That's what he asked you, right?

DC: Yeah.

NSD: And did you think that was a reasonable thing to ask?

DC: I was really shocked by that in general. I mean, I'm not sure how to answer that question. It's definitely unethical.

NSD: I guess what I'm wondering is why did you, why is this just coming out now as a side fact. That's a big deal.

DC: I mean, it's just more evidence against Jose. I thought Jose was already damned.

NSD: So you were still talking to Jose after...

DC: Well, yeah. Because we were like... We were asking why he did it, for example, and then...fact is this is funny because it's like some of the most I really talked to Jose I believe than when he was sweating me. Yeah, we definitely talked to him after the scam because we were trying to figure out what was going on and stuff like that. Why he scammed them.

VS: I don't mean to jump around, but this seems to be a natural place, then we'll get back to the stake. After the scam came to light, were you still planning on going live in Portugal?

DC: No. After the scam came to light, that's when we turned around and said, no, we can't live with him.

NSD: By "came to light," do you mean when it was made public or when you learned that it happened?

DC: When we learned that it happened.

VS: Do you know why Haseeb told the Skype group that you were still planning on going to live in Portugal if the scam never came to the public's attention?

NSD: Well, let's read the quote. So this is what Haseeb said on Skype. "But if it comes out publicly, there is no way we can be around him." Implying that, if it didn't come out publicly, you could be around him.

DC: I think that he...I would like to...how do I say it? Like, that doesn't mean that we're going to go live with him. That only means that clearly the case is that we should not live with him because if we do live with him and the scam comes to light then.... I mean, there's one thing it does suggest that's kind of shitty actually. It suggests...the statement means... I mean if we do live with him, it's a really bad option because there's a non-zero chance the scam comes to light, and we get owned. [talking over each other] Huh?

VS: What do you mean you get owned?

DC: Well, publicly. We look like we're associating with a scumbag.

NSD: Well, what about actually associating with a scumbag, regardless of whether people learn about it?

DC: Yeah, that's bad too, which is why Haseeb is freaking out.

NSD: But Haseeb said...you seem to be...if you thought it wasn't going to come out, were you and Haseeb going to still live with him?

DC: I don't think so. I didn't think so, at least.

NSD: Would you have if Haseeb wanted to?

DC: Uh. I'm not sure, frankly. I don't know the answer to that question. I know that right after we figured out that Jose was scamming people, we booked a ticket for UK and [inaudible] a ticket for Portugal.

VS: It just looks like, from the Skype chats, it really suggests that Haseeb was still planning on going to live with Jose. So did you never talk to Haseeb about that intention?

DC: Well, I will say that based on the one thing that he did say, it seems like that would be the implication. I agree with that. But I don't think we agreed not to move in with him after the scam, I mean after we learned of it. I think that's the case but not 100%. I mean, I...

VS: Doesn't this strike you as something that might be a big deal? Like you might learn about a crazy scam and then wouldn't you...

[30:00 minute mark]

VS continued: I think a lot of people would pretty adamantly say, wow, there's no way I'm going to go live with someone who's cheating people out of...

DC: Well, I'm trying to think about what my reaction was after. Because I'm pretty sure...I mean you guys are suggesting it wasn't the case that we weren't planning to move, but I'm pretty we were like snap making the decision to go to UK afterwards.

VS: No, to go to UK afterwards, but it seems like even in the UK while talking...I don't remember where specifically it took place, but even after the scam, before it came to the public's attention but while Haseeb knew about it, whether or not he was still planning on going immediately to Portugal, it seems like he was still planning on eventually going to Portugal to live with Jose.

DC: Um, I don't know if that's true or not. That might be true.

VS: Ok. Let's go back to the stake.

NSD: Yeah, let's go back to the staking. Did you know what stakes he was supposed to be playing?

DC: I knew they were midstakes mostly. But if he gets a spot at higher stakes, I think it's fine if he plays that.

NSD: Ok. But if you were staking him for mostly midstakes, why did he need \$100,000?

DC: Well, I didn't know the exact stakes, frankly. Seems sort of reasonable.

NSD: \$100,000 for 5/10?

DC: Yeah [laughs]

NSD: I mean, Haseeb staked someone else at midstakes also who contacted me and, it was about the same stakes, and he sent the guy less than \$10,000 as his stake. So why do you think Haseeb sent Jose so much more?

DC: Maybe it was intended for higher stakes. Maybe I was wrong about the midstakes thing.

NSD: Haseeb said it was for 5/10.

VS: Haseeb said Jose's regular game was 2/4 to 5/10.

DC: Well, I think before he got scammed, quote unquote, or whatever, he was playing much higher than that. 25/50, 10/20, etc, for sure, maybe even higher. Or at least that was to my understanding at the time.

VS: Gotcha.

DC: I know that we did let him play higher stakes. As an example, and we believe Jose scammed us in this instance, but Jose...this is what Haseeb told me. Haseeb told me Jose came and asked him if we should take his action versus sauron who's a complete idiot. Seeb said ok. That was at 50/100, I believe. That was one of the more recent examples. I know that we would have allowed Jose to play higher stakes versus people who aren't that good.

NSD: Ok. Were you involved at all when Haseeb tried to figure out how to get money to Jose? Were you involved in that interaction at all?

DC: I was. I knew that he was going to dump the money, but I didn't know about the Bluff challenge.

NSD: Did you wonder why he didn't use a different way to get him the money?

DC: Um, yeah, and that was because transferring was impossible and wiring is a pain. That's why.

NSD: Yeah, but he had to wire the money into his own account, right? He created a new account.

DC: Well, yeah, but I don't know. I don't know the actual details. There was some reason he didn't want to wire Jose the money to his bank account. Maybe because Jose would have to wire again. I really know don't.

NSD: Do you see why that looks bad?

DC: It does look bad, yeah. Maybe it's easier to wire to poker sites from...I really don't know. I just know that transferring was hard.

VS: It actually isn't, you know. Especially from the US. I don't know where Haseeb's bank account is, but it's much easier to transfer person to person than it is to transfer to a gambling site. I don't know how much easier, but...

NSD: I mean, getting a lot of money onto a poker site from the US is hard, and getting money onto a poker site from Portugal is a lot easier.

DC: I didn't really ask him about the details. I can do that, actually, and maybe get his answer at a later point in time. I just understood that it was too difficult to transfer, but I don't know. There's got to be something missing.

NSD: You didn't think there was anything suspicious about this at the time?

DC: No, I just thought...whatever.

VS: Did you know if Haseeb knew about the Bluff challenge? Or the Lock challenge, sorry...or whatever it's called?

DC: Haseeb told me he didn't know when I asked him about that.

NSD: When was this?

DC: Recently, actually, because I realized oh shit, the dumping could have been used for the Bluff challenge.

[35:00 minute mark]

DC: So that was pretty unethical.

NSD: So, here's the story Haseeb told. He says that he put the money onto the SamChauhan account. I apologize if I'm butchering that name. And then he dumped that to Jose, and Jose said afterwards, oh by the way, this is going to count toward the Bluff challenge. And Haseeb got really angry at Jose. Did you know anything about Haseeb getting really angry at Jose for that?

DC: I did not know that.

VS: Did Haseeb ever chat with you online and say, like, holy shit, this guy just...this guy is just screwing me? Because he characterizes himself, in his blog post or interview, he characterizes himself as being very angry and upset about the implications of this coming to light. So with him being very angry and upset, he never once mentioned it to you?

DC: I'm pretty sure he didn't. No. If he did, I forgot. But I don't think I knew until just very recently.

NSD: Would he have normally mentioned something to you if he was really upset with someone that you were staking?

DC: Maybe.

[discussion of microphones being messed up]

NSD: Did you follow Jose's twitter at all?

DC: No.

NSD: Ok, not at all...

DC: I might be following him. Let me check.

NSD: Well, I mean...Ok.

DC: Am I following him? I really don't know.

NSD: Well, let me explain. So Jose posted on twitter right before the heads up match where they dumped that money, Jose posted I'm about to play a big heads up match. He said "About to play 2 table heads up no limit 100/200 match on Lock." Then he advertised for Lock a little bit. Then after he goes, "Match is over. He played well, but I ran good. Happy with the final result." So pretending it was a real match.

DC: Yeah. That's unethical.

NSD: And Haseeb...didn't Haseeb edit all of Jose's tweets and stuff?

VS: Yeah.

DC: I don't know about the tweets, but I know he helped him with his posts.

VS: He's later admitted to helping with his twitter.

NSD: Yeah. So do you think Haseeb might have known about those posts?

DC: Um, yeah, I'm pretty sure. There's a very good chance that he knew about those.

NSD: If he knew about those, even though knew it was chip dumping, now he knows that this is helping him in the Lock Poker challenge. Shouldn't he be really mad at him?

DC: Um. Probably.

NSD and VS: But he never mentioned it to you?

DC: I don't think he did. And, as it happens, I was following Girah.

NSD: But you didn't see these tweets like us?

DC: Yeah. Actually, I might have and was just like ok, whatever, I don't care.

NSD: If you saw those tweets, that's him pretending to, and not just pretending to Merge because they don't want them to lock their accounts or whatever, that's him pretending to his followers and fans and stuff that this was real when it wasn't, right?

DC: Yeah. That is true. You're right. That's clearly pretty shady. I may have seen it, honestly, but I definitely didn't think much of it.

NSD: Now we're going to go back and ask you the same question I asked you before this interview. Now that you've heard all this, now that we've had this discussion, do you still believe Haseeb's story?

DC: I mean, I believe it for the most part. One thing about his story...I guess you could say that the way that he brought up Girah wasn't very ethical. There was a decent amount of deception and a lot of it was implying that Jose was better than he was. And there was a moment in which, when I saw Jose post on his Skype, hey playing anyone one big blind per hundred hands to play me at 200/400, which I read and I was like oh my god, this is such bullshit.

NSD: You were staking him at the time.

DC: Yeah, I knew this wasn't true. Because I knew he's not playing 200/400 or whatever, or 100/200. And I actually messaged him and said hey, you probably just shouldn't say this when you can't back it up. He told me he doesn't get many requests anyway, so...

VS: But do you think...Haseeb has said he was actively involved with his twitter. Do you think there's a chance that these tweets happened with Haseeb's consent?

DC: It's possible, yeah. I wouldn't be that surprised.

VS: Okay.

[40:00 minute mark]

NSD: So after this chip dumping, like awhile after actually, in July, Jose just sort of randomly messaged somebody – marshall28 on 2+2 – and said I wonder how much an account that's down \$100K on PTR is worth.

DC: What does that mean?

NSD: In other words, if you have an account that's down a lot on PTR, people are going to think it's a fish, right, so they're going to give it action and they're going to play it bad or they're going to play it different than they'd play against a good player. So Jose was asking how much you could sell that account for.

DC: Oh.

NSD: And you guys had the SamChauhan account, which was down \$100K, right? Because of the chip dump.

DC: So that's what he was referring to?

NSD: Yeah, probably.

DC: I knew nothing about that.

NSD: Did Haseeb ever mention stuff like that to you?

DC: No, I don't think so. It's actually valuable to him as well.

VS: Do you think it's weird that Jose is inquiring about Haseeb's negative \$100K account, that he would have access to that account?

DC: That is weird. Yeah, that's pretty shady. But I don't think...

NSD: But let's think about the details about the SamChauhan account. Sorry I apologize, I keep butchering that name. Whose name was that in? Do you know?

DC: Haseeb's.

NSD: You believe it's in Haseeb's, but you're not sure though?

DC: Like pretty sure. Like 90% sure that's in Haseeb's.

NSD: Ok. And Haseeb was the only one with the password to it as far as you know?

DC: Yeah.

NSD: Ok, ok. So Jose was asking about selling an account that it sure sounds like only Haseeb had control over?

DC: It's possible.

VS: Ok. Let's just get back to the end of the staking stuff. We want to know about the makeup figure. You said he never played high – I want to confirm – you said he never played high stakes...or did he ever play high stakes at any time other than the chip dumping?

DC: Yeah, he played high stakes a few times.

NSD: Like how high?

DC: 50/100 and 25/50 and things like that. I'm pretty sure he's played 10/20 too but I don't know all the details of that. I know he's played high stakes though.

VS: Do you remember the results of those sessions? Like what resulted in the stake?

DC: I believe at high stakes he's down and at mid stakes he's winning and doing pretty well. Like, he's winning, right?

NSD: Who tells you all this? Do you just hear this from Haseeb?

DC: Girah told me that one time, I'm pretty sure.

NSD: Ok, but you've never checked all this yourself? Like, you don't have his passwords or look in his account? You don't check on PTR?

DC: No, I don't do that.

VS: So apart from all the scam – imagine the scam never happens. How much does he owe you right now on the stake, or how much do you owe him? What is the result right now, the net of the stake?

DC: Girah is probably in \$60K in makeup or something like that. I know he's, like, not doing that great.

VS: So he's winning at mid stakes...

DC: Wait. I'm also pretty sure he's lost some money also to someone who – to that sauron guy – so I'm pretty sure he scammed us for \$10K so maybe like 50. I'm guessing.

VS: Ok. So he's winning at mid stakes but losing at high stakes?

DC: Yeah. I think in this case that's right. Well, that was only on the stake. He only played a small sample of high stakes.

VS: Do you think that it's weird that...so there's a 50/100 account that he lost money to. I think \$60K or \$70K or something and that account belonged to someone in Portugal.

DC: That is weird. We toyed around with the idea of him scamming us there also, but I don't know if I'm sure or not, especially given the way he acted.

NSD: You toyed around with that idea now, but not before all of these scams came out?

DC: Hmm?

NSD: When you said you toyed around with that idea now but not before...Before Jose's scams came out, you never suspected Jose?

DC: No.

VS: Do you think that Haseeb...so Haseeb was the one that was actively managing the stake, correct?

DC: Yeah, yeah. Haseeb was very much in charge of Jose.

VS: I just want to say, once again, pretty bluntly, if I was managing someone's stake and they were winning, winning, winning at medium stakes and they played a couple sessions at high stakes against someone from their own country and lost a lot of money, I would be pretty suspicious about that.

DC: I mean, we just never thought to question Jose in general.

[45:00 minute mark]

DC continued: And I mean, the sample size was so small and shit happens obviously. I mean, it's poker. [laughs]

NSD: There's also scams that can happen.

DC: Yeah, yeah, that's true. But scams are much less likely. People don't scam each other that often.

NSD: Yeah, they do. This isn't really very interviewy, but I just feel you're being really naïve here. I mean, when I stake people, I have all of their passwords, and I check every day to see how much money is in their account and if they lost money, where it went. Like every day.

VS: We're not suggesting that – once again, not very interviewy – but we're not suggesting that you're the one...that, oh my god, you're the worst person ever for not checking up on it. We're saying that it doesn't make sense for, especially for Haseeb, who has a lot of his net worth probably locked up in this stake, if this stake is actually real, a lot of his net worth would be locked up in it. It seems to be if there was a huge loss in one day to someone in the same country and this huge loss represented a huge chunk of Haseeb's net worth, that he would probably, at the very least, inquire into further details about the situation.

DC: Yeah. In retrospect, that's probably true to do so. Um. I'm not sure what to say in response to that. Just the thought of Jose scamming us did not cross our minds.

VS: Did not cross your mind?

DC: Yeah. Or Haseeb's, for that matter, I'm pretty sure too.

NSD: Or Haseeb didn't say it to you.

DC: That's true.

NSD: See, we're not...Jose scammed you. We know that. The extent to which – how much he scammed you - we're not sure, right? But Jose scams people. But what we're wondering is if Haseeb was in on it. And what's weird is that here Jose is doing some stuff that looks a lot like scamming, and Haseeb is managing this stake that has a lot of his money in it and a lot of your money in it. And he's not looking into it at all.

DC: Mmm hmm. Well...

VS: And everything we know about the stake is coming from Haseeb.

DC: That's true. First of all, I didn't even know the location of the player also. Pretty sure I don't look at that at all.

VS: Besides the Portugal thing, people said high stakes on Merge basically never ran. High stakes heads up, it barely if ever ran. To find the action, have it be a fish, to randomly lose a huge chunk of money. Even if I...we're not trying to draw conclusions for you. We just want to get the facts out.

NSD: Yeah, we'll probably leave this part out of the interview since it's just us saying what we think. So then after this stuff comes out, not publicly, but when you and Haseeb have learned about this stuff, Haseeb is talking on August 5 to the people who have been scammed by Jose. And he has this Skype log that was posted by the people who were scammed, and I can read you the whole thing if you'd like, but I imagine you've read it before, and, basically, he keeps talking about how he doesn't want to be

associated with the scam. How you and he don't want to be associated with the scam. Were you there for that?

DC: I did see part of it.

NSD: Were you standing over his shoulder for part of it?

DC: Yeah.

NSD: Ok. Because he says, he talks about you saying goodbye too and stuff like that. And he says at one point...henrik says, let me start off by saying that neither Dogishead nor Jungleman were involved in this. And Haseeb immediately says, yeah, include Sauce in that too, by the way.

DC: Mmm hmm.

NSD: Did you see him say that?

DC: Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

NSD: Did you think that was ok?

DC: Um. Let me think.

NSD: Do you think it's ok now?

DC: I can't remember what we were thinking at the time.

NSD: Well, it's pretty obvious what he was thinking.

DC: I thought he was trying to muddy his name at first, but I did ask Haseeb about it and Haseeb was like, no I'm trying to clear his name.

NSD: Trying to clear Sauce's name?

DC: Yeah, although it's possible that Seeb rationalizes that that's the case, but in actuality it's not.

NSD: How did he try to rationalize it? Did he explain that to you at all? Did he say I'm trying to clear Sauce's name?

DC: No, no, I'm just following the potential thought processes.

NSD: Oh, he didn't say that to you?

DC: No, he didn't say that. It's just things that happen. People rationalize all the time. Bad people rationalize that they're good people. That happens constantly.

[50:00 minute mark]

DC continued: I mean, I don't think Haseeb's a bad person. But this could be an example of that sort of rationalization.

NSD: Then you guys offered to repay peoples' – to repay Jose's debts for him.

DC: That's because I owed – well, we both owed – Jose some money.

NSD: For what?

DC: He sent, well, I believe, it's from...he sent Sam money, SamChauhan money to play with and SamChauhan lost it.

NSD: The real Sam Chauhan, not the account?

DC: No, no, no, the account.

NSD: And who played on SamChauhan?

DC: Um. Well, I did.

NSD: You said you didn't have access to that account.

DC: For the most part, I didn't. That time, he let me use it.

NSD: Who let you use it?

DC: Haseeb did. He put in the password and stuff.

NSD: So Jose sent, from his account, SamChauhan. How did he send it?

DC: Well, that time...this is a different time period.

NSD: When are we talking about?

DC: This was...let's see...when was it. It was I think when we were in Vegas. I played and lost.

NSD: What time, like what month or whatever?

DC: Let me think. June maybe? Or the one before? One of those three months. I think it's June.

NSD: Ok, so it's after the April chip dumping, but not that much after. How did he send the money?

DC: I'm pretty sure he transferred that time.

NSD: So transferring was ok then but not ok before?

DC: Yeah.

NSD: Ok. Why did you play on the SamChauhan account?

DC: Because I was bored and I hadn't...

NSD: Why didn't you play on a different account, like your own account?

DC: I don't have one.

NSD: Why didn't you make one?

VS: It was after Black Friday, right? Oh, wait, you're talking about why not make a Lock account, right.

NSD: Yeah.

DC: You weren't able to transfer.

NSD: The SamChauhan account was a new account. The only thing the SamChauhan account did was deposit \$100K and dump it. It was a lot more suspicious than a new account.

DC: Yeah, that's true. Well, people also thought the SamChauhan account wasn't very good.

NSD: That's why you played on it.

DC: That's one reason, yes. And I believe, honestly, that if you make a new account, it would be hard to transfer.

NSD: Well, let's go back to that first. So we have Jose talking about how much an account that's down \$100K would be worth, and you were saying, oh, why would that be worth money? You said that to me. But now you just said to me...

DC: Did I say that? It is worth money, sure it is.

NSD: Ok. Yeah, I had to explain that to you.

VS: You clearly thought about this beforehand then, Dan, because you just told us that's the reason you played on the account. We know you're not stupid, and we all know an account that's down \$100K is more profitable to play on than a different one.

DC: Sure.

VS: So why did you say that you didn't think about that before?

DC: Didn't think about how much money it's worth? Because I wasn't thinking about selling it.

VS: Ok.

NSD: But you did realize that it was valuable.

DC: Sure, it's valuable, but I wasn't thinking about selling it.

NSD: Ok. Is this the only account you've played on on Merge?

DC: I have another account on Overbet, but it's actually a real pain the ass to transfer between different skins. I'd rather not say my account name on Overbet. I'm actually stuck a decent amount there.

VS: But your account name in your name?

DC: I'm pretty sure. I'd be pretty surprised otherwise. Yeah, I still know the password actually.

VS: But why would you be surprised? Did you create the account or did someone else create it for you?

DC: I created the account. I'm very sure it has my name and password.

VS: Ok. Have you ever played on any other accounts?

DC: No.

VS: On the Merge network.

DC: No.

NSD: I'm going to remind you again, there's a decent chance that this stuff will be looked into by Merge. So if you made up any of this, it's probably going to come out.

DC: Ok. Well, it's pretty...why would I make a lie up that I played on the SamChauhan account?

NSD: Why is this the first time that you've mentioned it?

DC: I guess I just didn't think to. I guess maybe I should have. For the SamChauhan account, I mean, it wasn't really played on much in general as far as I know.

[55:00 minute mark]

NSD: It was played on more than just those 2 times?

DC: I don't think it was honestly.

NSD: Ok, do you see how this kind of implicates you a little bit, right?

DC: How so?

NSD: Well, now you used the account- one of the accounts that's really, really suspicious in all of this – you had access to.

DC: Access is somewhat misleading...

NSD: Well, you used it. You used the account. You played on it.

DC: I used it once. Literally once. I lost...

NSD: And the other thing is that you benefitted from this chip dumping...

DC: I benefitted? The only point of giving the chip dump thing, at least from my perspective at the time, was to give Jose the stake. I didn't benefit from it.

NSD: But then we have Jose talking about how this account is now worth a lot because it's down \$100K, and we have you using the account.

DC: Oh, oh, yeah, yeah. That's true.

VS: Do you remember who you played?

DC: Some German player who was, like, a massive station. And then maybe [inaudible] or someone. I don't know, someone at PLO. I [inaudible] tables, I was really frustrated.

VS: Playing 25/50 PLO?

DC: I'm actually not sure. I know for a fact the time I lost that I played 50/100 NL against this massive station Euro guy. It was really frustrating. He was calling all of these weird spots.

NSD: Did Jose play PLO at all?

DC: I believe he plays some PLO.

NSD: Did you guys stake him for PLO?

DC: I don't think so, but I'm not certain.

NSD: So on May 1, a few days after the chip dumping thing, Jose's account was 4-tabling 25/50 heads up PLO. You play heads up PLO, you know 4-tabling heads up PLO is pretty hard, right? And 25/50 is pretty high stakes for Jose to be playing heads up PLO when he doesn't play PLO that well. He says himself he doesn't play PLO that well. Also, someone contacted him on Skype while he was playing heads up PLO, so he's playing 4 tables of heads up PLO at one time, and he's responding back in these long complete sentences with a couple seconds between all of them.

DC: Did Haseeb admit to playing there?

NSD: No, this is on May 1. This is after the April challenge. This is a different time. Haseeb said that was the only time. So who do you think was playing on the account then?

DC: Well, I believe all those times were the same time.

NSD: This was on May 1.

DC: Yeah, that's what I'm saying. I believe it was all Haseeb.

NSD: Ok, you think it was all Haseeb. But it was never you? You never played on Jose's account?

DC: No.

NSD: Ok. Ok. Sorry, we've jumped around a lot so I'm trying to look for questions we haven't asked you yet. So when this whole thing came out, what made you decide to stay quiet instead of just sort of responding honestly to everyone's questions?

DC: I responded twice.

NSD: That's true, but your publicist said you weren't going to respond. You were going to give an interview to Bluff instead. You responded a lot less than Haseeb did, for example. You responded to a very small fraction of the questions people asked you. Is that a fair characterization?

DC: Let me think. Possibly. It's likely. I mean, that's a reasonable thing to say.

NSD: Do you think that you were remarkably silent?

DC: Not remarkably. I mean, from my experience in these sorts of situations, it seems like responding is not a good idea.

NSD: Why not?

DC: It spills into more questions. Like, oh, what about this and what about this. And this is exactly what's happening.

NSD: Do you see how the questions people are asking have led to things that are quite legitimately suspicious?

DC: Well, yeah, you post [inaudible], and look what happens.

NSD: Well, hang on, hang on. For example, people were really curious about the SamChauhan account, right? And people thought that maybe Jose used that to cheat on Merge. And people kept asking about it – I actually wasn't involved – but people kept asking about it.

[60:00 minute mark]

NSD continued: And eventually it comes out that that's exactly what happened. Right? And not only is that exactly what happened, but actually it was Haseeb who was controlling the account who did it. Right? And then he gives this story that you agree is really suspicious – he gave a lot of stories that you agree yourself were really suspicious. Right? Aren't you, for example, going to ask Haseeb after this, like, hey, did you really not know about the Bluff challenge? Did you really need to give him \$100K for 5/10? How come you didn't ask him about the 50/100? You're going to ask Haseeb those questions now, aren't you?

DC: Well, I asked Haseeb some of those questions. I believe for the \$100K thing, I think that the stake was...I did say it was for mid stakes, but honestly I do not...

NSD: Haseeb said it was for mid stakes. Haseeb said, after all this, it was for mostly 5/10.

DC: I don't know why we gave him \$100K. I think so he could play higher stakes at some point.

NSD: And that was Haseeb's decision?

DC: Yeah, it was.

NSD: You didn't give him that \$100K to let him win the challenge?

DC: Oh, the \$100K was decided way before the SamChauhan thing.

NSD: When was it decided?

DC: Months before, and we were like really, really lazy about giving Jose the money because he played on all networks that we didn't play on. And I think we kept trying to get it settled but never got it settled.

VS: What does that mean? What steps did you take then? You said you kept trying to get it done and then didn't get it done.

DC: To try to organize a cash swap between 3 people or something. I think that was one thing we tried to happen that just didn't go down. Or we pushed it to the side or something. I really don't remember all of the steps frankly.

NSD: Was it Jose who was trying to do this, or was it Haseeb who was trying to do this?

DC: It may have been me. I mean, I see nothing unethical about a 3 person cash trade.

NSD: Oh, yeah, there's nothing. Remember that most of your knowledge of Jose comes from Haseeb, and we suspect that Haseeb might have been lying. So we want to know what you know directly and what you know from Haseeb.

DC: I know that we intended...the stake was decided way before we gave him the money on the SamChauhan account. And we just never did it until then, which is really stupid, if we knew about the Bluff challenge, really stupid.

NSD: So why did you guys decide to do it then?

DC: Because I didn't know about the Bluff challenge. Seeb might have, but...

VS: Why then? Did you say anything about let's do it today?

DC: Why then? Let me think. I really don't remember.

NSD: Did Haseeb decide, or do you think you guys decided together, or did Jose decide?

DC: Sometimes things happen at random different times.

NSD: But here's the thing. Haseeb even said in his description that he knew...I don't think there's anything that unethical about chip dumping to get someone money, but poker sites have a problem with that.

[discussion of bad microphone]

NSD: So if you guys wanted to not get caught, wouldn't it make sense to send a lot less than \$100K, instead of the whole \$100K?

DC: We didn't care about that because we thought there was nothing wrong with it.

NSD: Haseeb talks about how before he sent the chip dump...I mean, the chip dump, he didn't just raise to \$99,999 and have Jose raise one more button and fold to that.

DC: Well, yeah, exactly. We did that so they wouldn't get suspicious.

NSD: Right. So you guys knew that it might be suspicious. I'm not saying it was unethical, but it might be suspicious to the poker site, so you guys wanted to hide that.

DC: Yeah.

NSD: So, when you're hiding that, why didn't anybody think, hey, he's only going to be playing 5/10 right now, let's just give him \$10K.

DC: That's a good question. [discussion of bad microphone] And I did not think about that. I guess I figured he might play higher stakes than 5/10. I mean, there was some reason why we gave him \$100K. It's possible that we wanted him to play high stakes at some point. I don't know. I just really have not been thinking about this detailed stuff much, but you're right. Many of them don't make that much sense.

[65:00 minute mark]

VS: Are you still sticking to the fact that no one – neither you nor Haseeb – intended to play on Jose's account?

DC: Mmm hmm.

NSD: Or SamChauhan?

DC: Sam Chauhan is not involved.

NSD: No, sorry, the SamChauhan account.

DC: Well, that's Haseeb's account.

NSD: Right. So Haseeb dumped \$100K from that account, which would make that account... in a fairly, a famous match almost. Because it was the end of the Bluff challenge, and Jose was tweeting about it on twitter and stuff, so everyone was watching. And Haseeb dumped, so I guess he probably played pretty fishy, right?

DC: Oh, yeah, yeah, I'm sure.

NSD: So Haseeb's account ends up looking really good. But you're still sticking to the story that...you still believe Haseeb's story that the only reason he did this is because it was the most convenient way, or the way that he thought of, to move the money? You still think that's true?

DC: I think that's the primary reason. I think we realized at some point the account is really valuable on some level because it looks really fishy. But I'm really sure that the main reason for that account was to give Jose the money.

VS: Is it possible that the conversation went something like, hey, we could kill a couple of birds with one stone. Mostly it would be much easier to get him money for the stake, also it would be cool to have access to this account that is going to look really bad.

DC: That's not how the conversation went. I'm pretty sure.

NSD: So you said you guys did talk at some point about the fact that the account was down and that was valuable. Was that when you guys were thinking about doing this, or when you guys were doing this, or was that after?

DC: I don't remember. I know that it was at least after.

VS: Dan, you're saying that you're pretty sure that wasn't how the conversation went, but if it's even possible that's how the conversation went, that sort of suggests that you were thinking about that as one of the motivations – maybe not the primary motivation – but as one of the motivations for the chip dump at the time.

DC: It's possible. I mean, it's possible that I was thinking about that, although I don't think that I was. I know for a fact that the primary reason to give him the chips was that...

NSD: You know because Haseeb told you that?

DC: Yeah. It was something like, we can't really transfer him the chips so we're going to have to dump them.

NSD: Did you have any say in this at all? Or was it just sort of Haseeb said this is the idea?

DC: I mean, I'm ok with that idea. So I don't care to argue.

NSD: Ok. [discussion of what's left to ask, how much time left, etc.] Just to get it on the record, do you know any of Jose's other screen names besides just that one?

DC: I actually don't think I do. [laughs] I can't think of any. I know Girah's one. I think Girah is his Full Tilt account, right? And Girah is his whatchamacallit account, his Merge account. I don't know any of the other ones.

NSD: Do you think you were sort of naïve in all of this?

DC: Probably.

NSD: Do you think you were naïve just in the way you dealt with Jose or do you also think you were naïve in the way that you dealt with Haseeb?

DC: In the way that I dealt with Jose. With Haseeb, there's lots of reasons for me to trust him. I mean, he's been a good friend to me. He's a really smart guy. He's so much smarter than me in some ways.

VS: So do you still trust him after everything we've talked about, after this conversation, after everything that's happened?

DC: Um. I mean, with dealing with me, yeah, I trust him. Maybe not with portraying things to the media or something. From your perspective, I understand that you guys don't trust him, but with me, he's been really straight up.

NSD: A lot of things that we're suspecting him of doing, that you've sort of admitted look a little fishy, aren't just him lying to the public, they are also him lying to you.

DC: Well, some things are possibilities that he was lying to me. Well, what's an example?

NSD: The \$100K chip dump. That he didn't know about the Bluff challenge.

DC: Yeah, but I think that it's true that he didn't know.

VS: The entire stake. Him not looking into the really suspicious loss when it represents a lot of his net worth.

[70:00 minute mark]

NSD: Even if Haseeb didn't know about Jose scamming, if I were in your shoes, I'd be asking Haseeb, even if I totally trusted him that he wasn't involved in the scam directly, I'd be asking Haseeb why were you so lax about managing this stake? When he loses money to someone at 50/100, when 50/100 never runs on Merge, when he doesn't normally play 50/100, why didn't you look at the guy's location? Why didn't you ask Jose about it? Why didn't you tell me something suspicious happened?

DC: I mean, I think it's not as suspicious as you think. Have you had experience staking people before?

NSD: Yeah, I have.

DC: I think he...well, maybe he did play higher stakes bad. I guess it's slightly conspicuous that he's playing higher stakes and losing. But shit happens in poker. People take shots and they lose.

NSD: I understand. I'm not saying that it's guaranteed a scam. I'm saying people should look into when something that looks a lot like a scam happens.

DC: It doesn't look a lot like a scam. It looks unfortunate.

VS: When something unfortunate happens, that's an uncharacteristic unfortunate thing, you look into it. That's what people do.

DC: But, honestly, if you guys were us, would you really have checked his location?

NSD: Yes.

VS: I would have checked a whole lot more than that. I would have asked for an audit of his playing account. I would have asked for a lot of stuff.

NSD: I would take his account away from him temporarily.

VS: Anyway, let's just move on. For the record, after everything we've talked about today, Dan, do you feel that you've done anything personally wrong?

DC: Well, wrong is, like, a strong statement. I mean, I feel like I could have handled situations better certainly. I feel like it may have crossed the line a couple times.

NSD: Crossed what line? An ethical line?

DC: Yeah, but kind of in my own minor ways. But anyone accusing me of a scam or says I'm a scumbag can go fuck themselves. Because that's not true.

NSD: Do you understand why people think that, though?

DC: Um. Why do they think that?

NSD: Because Jose was a scammer, and you were very heavily involved with him.

DC: Very heavily?

NSD: Well, yeah.

DC: How the fuck should I know that one guy that I'm associated with has scammed someone?

NSD: I'm not saying you actually did. I'm just wondering if you empathize with the people you think this way?

DC: Fuck, no. If they think I'm a scumbag or something...

VS: So what about the fact that you've now admitted to playing on an account that wasn't yours, one of the motivations of which that the account was down money and looked to be a soft player and taking advantage of that? Do you think that was wrong?

DC: Yeah, yeah, that's one of the things I'm referring to in a way that I crossed the line. I mean, it's not a hugely bad thing, but I agree that it's basically wrong. I don't want to defend myself more than that. Sure, I made mistakes.

NSD: Would you like to apologize for that?

DC: To who? I lost money. [laughs]

NSD: Ok, ok, so I'll take that as a no.

DC: Well, if for my apology I get my money back. I lost \$20K because of it.

NSD: I want to come back to...so when Jose was disqualified from the Bluff challenge, you knew about that, right? I assume you heard about that. Like when it happened, right?

DC: Yeah.

NSD: And did you see the reason why he was disqualified?

DC: Yes, yes, I did.

NSD: Did you think about the \$100K that you dumped to him?

DC: Let me think. I might have.

NSD: This seems like a pretty obvious thing to think about, right? Because Jose didn't win the Bluff challenge. Right? Because he got dumped \$100K from you guys.

DC: Yeah, in retrospect, it's very [inaudible] that he didn't win because he didn't deserve to.

NSD: Right. Then when that happened, and Jose's still taking credit for it, did you see Jose's statement about the challenge?

DC: Yes. Haseeb helped him write that.

NSD: Haseeb helped him write that, right? Haseeb helped him write that statement that said specifically that he would have won, it was just a weird technicality.

DC: Yes, yes, it's very sleazy.

NSD: That's Haseeb and Jose lying. At the time, did you think that was something sleazy?

DC: I probably did.

NSD: You probably did, but you didn't want to say something publicly about it? Or did you get mad at Haseeb or Jose about it?

DC: I think I was mostly apathetic. It's definitely sleazy. I had little to do with it frankly. I don't know.

[75:00 minute mark]

DC continued: I know, in retrospect, that I wouldn't have said something publicly, but maybe a better idea would have been to confront Haseeb and said, hey, we should not be building up this guy in ways that make Jose look like he's Mr. Goody Two-Shoes or make him look like he's really good.

NSD: You yourself gave that explanation, right? You yourself talked about how he would have won the Bluff challenge...I think. I'm sorry, I don't have the quote...

DC: I don't think I did that.

NSD: Alright, I might be mistaken, but I'll look that up.

DC: Please look that up because I don't think I said that.

NSD: I apologize if I was wrong.

DC: If I did that, then I should shut the fuck up.

NSD: Ok. But you knew that they were lying about this...

DC: Yes, yes, I did know that.

NSD: So you make sort of a moral distinction between lying yourself and just sort of letting others...

DC: I definitely agree that it's right. Letting someone lie is, it's clearly not exactly unethical, but it's not the most ethical choice you could make. One thing that really interests me is what exactly is ethical? The more I think about it, I think it's actually kind of a fuzzy concept, which is really interesting to me as well.

NSD: You realize when people are reading that you said that in this interview that they're going to be worried about how ethical you'll treat them, right?

DC: What do you mean?

NSD: So, like, one thing that's really important to poker players is that there are really clear boundaries, right?

DC: There aren't really clear boundaries. That's misleading.

NSD: Ok.

DC: There are some things that are clearly black, and there are some things that are clearly white, but there are not really clear boundaries. There's a whole lot of light gray, there's shades of gray. That's a stupid analogy, but it works. There's so many things like...sharing reads on someone. I mean, that happens all the time, even with people who are quote unquote friends. That's one of those things.

VS: Do you want to talk about anything else that you did that you would characterize as a shade of gray throughout this?

DC: I mean, I'm sure we could bring it up, or think of something maybe. Like you could almost say this is a shade of gray that I let Seeb lie about it and I knew about it. You could say that. I mean, it's a very light shade of gray obviously.

NSD: What is Jose had won the challenge?

DC: I don't think I would have said anything in retrospect, honestly.

NSD: Do you think that you should have, if that had happened?

DC: That I should have come out and publicly said something? Maybe I should have confronted Haseeb, but coming out and saying something publicly is nothing but the most sanctimonious mother fuckers would ever do.

NSD: If Jose had won this challenge, he would have had a cover story...

[inaudible]

DC: Actually, I disagree. Arguably, if I did do that, I'd be betraying Jose in a way, basically screwing him over.

[inaudible]

NSD: What about the guy who got second, right?

DC: Yeah, yeah, yeah, essentially I do him a minor disservice or whatever.

NSD: A minor? You're costing him...

DC: Well, it's clearly not my fault.

NSD: So you're not saying it's a minor thing. You're just saying that your part in it is minor.

DC: Yeah, yeah, it's a very small piece...

VS: If you're the only one that knows information that's really damning, you don't feel you have a responsibility to speak up about it?

DC: Well, that's true. [inaudible] And incentives work in ways like that. Like, in this case, I have very little incentive to say something. For one thing, that implies that I'm not the whitest person ever I guess. And that's true. I value a lot of things...

VS: You value your relationships more than necessarily coming forward with...

DC: Certainly, in a case like this. If it was a more extreme case, then maybe I would come forward and say something. I mean, there are multiple variables at play here, and that's one thing that also interests me about situations like this. But that's another topic.

VS: Do you think that... [inaudible] Let's say there's a hypothetical that came to light where Haseeb had lied to you about multiple things, had been scamming you, potentially, or working with Jose as sort of a scam and profiting off of this.

[80:00 minute mark]

DC: I would not be a part of that.

VS: Ok, so you would come forward with information that you had.

DC: Maybe not come forward, but I would talk to other people about it and ask what I should do. That's probably the route that I would take, and I think that's usually the best route. In cases like this.

NSD: So you take advice from other people a lot, okay.

[discussion of how DC has to go and how much time they have left]

NSD: So is there anything else that you know about, that you did, that's sort of a shade of gray or clearly unethical that you did, or Jose did or that Haseeb did that you want to admit to? And before you answer, I'd like to remind you again that people are pretty obsessed with this story right now, so people are going to look into it and Merge is going to look into it. So if you don't say something, it's going to make you look a lot worse and it comes out than if you say it.

DC: I'm sure we could think of something if we really looked at it.

NSD: There's nothing that comes to mind to you?

DC: Not particularly.

NSD: Ok. When you say something like that, it sounds like, it makes it sound like you're preparing for something to come out, but you don't want to admit to it.

DC: Well, there might be something that we could focus on more that's a shade of gray or whatever.

NSD: What?

DC: I don't know.

NSD: Ok. I thought you were talking about something specific.

VS: It sounds like you're talking about something more specific or thinking about something, but you don't want to say it.

DC: Well, do you have any more questions?

NSD: Well. I just want to ask you two more.

VS: Wait, I'm sorry, I'm confused. Was that your answer to the question?

DC: I thought I answered the question.

VS: It seems like there was something on your mind you want to say, but you're not sure if you should.

NSD: There's the question. Is there something on your mind that you want to say, but you're not sure if you should?

DC: No.

NSD: Ok. So do you think Haseeb owes anyone an apology?

DC: Maybe the general public.

NSD: Ok.

DC: I don't know know exactly what he would apologize for. Well, yeah, yeah, apologize for like kind of twisting the truth about Jose. Something like that. Something along those lines.

NSD: Ok. Vanessa, do you have any more questions?

VS: No. I think we should just know if people have more questions in the future, which they probably will in a few days, would you be willing to do a sort of shorter follow-up interview? In a little bit of time, in a day or two or something like that?

DC: Ok.

NSD: You will?

DC: Maybe. I mean, I really don't want this to be propagated, which is part of the reason for not doing a shitload of interviews. Because why would I want to make this the part of my career that people focus on?