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Justin B.: I am so excited to welcome Marianne Williamson who is running for president. Marianne, thank you so much for joining me. I appreciate it.

Marianne W.: Well thank you so much for having me.

Justin B.: I was talking with some schedulers and I found out some secret information about you and your campaign.

Marianne W.: Really?

Justin B.: Yes. Some very, very secret... Are you living in Iowa?

Marianne W.: Well, when you're running for president you're living in a suitcase. So is my bed here is my couch here? Yes, but it would be lying if I said that I spent any more time here than I've spent in other early primary States.

Justin B.: Because someone was saying that you have little camps set-up here. You've been living here for a while and I wasn't even aware of that. I thought that was interesting.

Marianne W.: Yeah, I was living in New York before the campaign began and then when the lease at my New York apartment came up, and New York is a little bit off the beaten path of a campaign trail. Some of the candidates, in fact, most of the candidates, they have children or they have lives somewhere that they can't just get up and move, but for me it was like, well, I'm going to have my furniture somewhere. It was like that.

Justin B.: Sure. Got it.

Marianne W.: But unfortunately, I've not been able to spend as much time, for instance, in Des Moines as I would like actually.

Justin B.: You have to be all over the place when you're running for president.

Marianne W.: You have to be all over the place.

Justin B.: Were you in Iowa for Thanksgiving then?

Marianne W.: I was yesterday.

Justin B.: Oh, very fun. How was it?

Marianne W.: It was lovely. Thank you. I had thrown on TV and I saw Mike Bloomberg ads every 15 minutes and I thought, "Ooh, this is going to be a whole other situation now."

Justin B.: Yeah, that's crazy. I mean, he just gets into the race and he's already pulling higher than you, which is a bit shocking.

Marianne W.: Wow. Let's not saying much right now. However, he has been over, what is it, something like \$40 million in the first week on TV ads.

Justin B.: He has some money.

Marianne W.: Yeah, he has some money, but it's a very good ad. It's a very good ad.

Justin B.: One of the questions I want to start with is for you is your campaign strategy all about Iowa for now, like doing well in Iowa?

Marianne W.: The word strategy is kind of difficult.

Justin B.: It is.

Marianne W.: My strategy is to tell the truth as I see it and I'm talking about things that are not being discussed on the debate stage, and there's a reason for that. I'm talking about war and peace. I'm talking about the effects of agribusiness on the Iowa farmer. I'm talking about the contamination of the water and the carcinogens in our food and the the toxins in our air. I'm talking about the vulnerabilities and challenges of millions of American children. I'm talking about what I call the corporate aristocracy and it's corrupt hold on the US government. I'm talking about things which everybody I know is talking about, but which are not considered within the box of the current political establishment, even on the democratic side.

Marianne W.: So what's important to me is that the American people, particularly the voters in these primaries, have an option of someone who is getting down, getting real, talking about root causes and not just symptoms. So as long as I can be out there, as long as people go to my website, Marianne 2020 and say, "Yeah, that's a voice we want to hear that someone we might even want to vote for," then I will be here. Because I believe that they prescribed box that the DNC and the rest of the political establishment would like candidates to remain within is not only detrimental to our democracy, but I don't even think that it would defeat Donald Trump.

Justin B.: So here's a question, you've been talking about some things. I'm going to be, well I'm always honest, but when I said, "Oh, I got Marianne Williamson, this is going to be really, really fun." I've told random friends, people that work here, one individual's like, "Oh, that's interesting. Are you going to communicate via telepathy? Now, normally I get statements said like this all the time when I interview candidates, you have the people that love them, the people that hate him, people that hate him say terrible things. This is not really that unusual that you or me, but one of the things I've been noticing about you is some people will say, "Can you believe she said this?" And then I say, "Well, okay, what did

she say?" And then they repeat it and I'm like, "Well, that's accurate though. Do you have a problem with that?"

Justin B.: And so a lot of the things you're saying, I feel come down to core issues and core problems with why Washington D.C. doesn't work. Why aren't people connecting to those ideas? They seem to connect to the real surfacy. We'll just fix this random thing, but they can't connect to the real core problems, which is that people are trying to attack each other and score political points.

Marianne W.: Well, let's look at what happened here. After the second debate. I was talked about in quite a few places. I was Googled the most in 49 States and then a false narrative was created of exactly what you said. Somebody saying, "Are you going to communicate via telepathy?" Nothing I've ever written about in my 35 year career and nothing I've ever talked about has been about crystals or telepathy or any of that stuff. So the kind of new age crystal lady whackjob was a deliberate mischaracterization.

Justin B.: Absolutely.

Marianne W.: It was a deliberate mischaracterization. By the way. I'm the only candidate that's been attacked like that, so I think that I must've really hit some nerves, don't you think Justin? And I've hit nerves in exactly the way you say, I'm getting down and I'm talking about some real things. So because I'm having the most serious conversation, there are those who want to make it appear as though I'm having the most silly conversation.

Justin B.: Because if it becomes a serious conversation, if it becomes a conversation about those core ideas, I think a lot of people in this race come up dry and I'm just speaking generally, but I think a lot of these people in this race come up dry. They need quick solutions and will throw \$1 billion at that and then we'll just call it good. So here's what's interesting. You had that issue at Fox news where they had the mic channel open and you were basically talking about how you've gotten just hammered from the left and the people at Fox news were very, very kind to you. At least some of them were.

Marianne W.: Yeah, they had their own ax to grind with that moment. But yes, the left has often been called a circular firing squad.

Justin B.: I mean Tulsi Gabbard, Andrew Yang, people that you've grown to know through this process. They've also gotten the bad end of that deal as well. They've been mercilessly attacked.

Marianne W.: Well, we're not towing the line. We're not towing the DNC sponsored line. We're not towing the line that the campaign industrial complex has posited as the only thing acceptable for the race.

Justin B.: I agree. I 100% agree. That's why it happens. But why do you all put up with it? That's what I want to know. Why do you guys put up with it? Why don't you say we've had it? They mess with Bernie Sanders last time, they messed with Tulsi Gabbard, they messed with Andrew Yang. Andrew Yang is now actually boycotting MSNBC. So why do you put up with it? Why don't you guys form a band and just say, "You know what, we're done."

Marianne W.: Well, I think being done... Well, wait a minute. First of all, putting up with it would mean, I suppose not mentioning it. I'm here being very honest with you about what's happened and for me to say I'm done is exactly what they want me to do, the message is very clear. Go away now and preferably do not complain while you're leaving. You know that. You don't know who I am. When you're running for president, you're auditioning for a job. If the DNC and Vice and Vanity Fair and Rolling Stone and all these websites saying ridiculous lies about you, if that can shut me up that easily, send me away that easily, make me crumble that easily, and you're supposed to think I have what it takes to take on Vladimir Putin or Kim Jong-un? I got to be tough here. So to say I'm done would be-

Justin B.: No, I'm not saying be done. I wouldn't dare say that. I think you and I think Yang, I think Gabbard have a great voice in this discussion, but I'm at least saying separate from the DNC and say we're doing our own thing now. See you later.

Marianne W.: Well, that's what I'm trying to do here. I have been booted off the debate stage because creating that mischaracterization, so lowered my poll numbers and created this myth about me, much like the things that your friends said, but I'm still running and as long as I have the money to be able to run, as long as people are sending in donations, then I will be here because I think that these conversations are extremely important and I think it's undemocratic and even anti-democratic that the DNC and others in the campaign industrial complex are prescribing what's okay. Like you said, this is what they did last time. It did not work out well. What the DNC and their minion should do is facilitate the process of democracy, not dictate it. The voters in Iowa, New Hampshire, et cetera, should have full access to of the candidates.

Marianne W.: So if it's two nights on the debate stage, make it two nights, all that is, is a reality TV show.

Justin B.: Yeah, I agree.

Marianne W.: It's a campaign industrial complex. That's all it is to make money and get all the mainstream media channels that make money from it. This is our democracy we're talking about, those institutions should do everything possible to facilitate the deepest conversation possible about what is happening in our country at this time.

Justin B.: I completely agree. And one of the things you have a lot of signature proposals that you're working on. And one of the things is kids and specifically you want to form a cabinet level position for US Department of Children and Youth to address the chronic trauma that millions of kids suffer from. Now, honestly, I'm a Kiwanian. I'm not sure how familiar you are with the Kiwanis organization, but we're non-profit focused on kids, so this is something that I'm like, "I'll be darned. All these a cabinet level positions and there's not one devoted to children, which makes a lot of sense. I think it's a brilliant idea." So briefly, what would that do though?

Marianne W.: Well, right now what we have, we have a department of education and we have agencies for families and children within the health and human services. Both of those are completely overwhelmed by the extraordinary plethora of vulnerabilities and challenges that the American child faces today. We have 13 million hungry children. We have 100,000 homeless children. We have millions of kids who go to school in classrooms that don't even have the adequate school supplies with which to teach a child to read, and if a child cannot learn to read by the age of eight, the chances of high school graduation are drastically decreased and the chances of incarceration have drastically increased. We have millions of children who psychologists say are experiencing because of not only the domestic war zones where some of them live, but also all these school shootings are now experiencing clinically diagnosed PTSD that is no less severe than the PTSD of a returning veteran or Afghanistan.

Justin B.: Yeah, I saw that in your website.

Marianne W.: 40%. I read an article recently in the Chicago newspaper that it is now thought that 40% of all of the girls at the public school system of Chicago are experiencing PTSD. So we need community wraparound services. We need trauma informed education. We need social and emotional learning. We need restorative justice, we need conflict resolution, we need anti-bullying, we need violence prevention. We need mindfulness in the schools and we have everywhere, everywhere I go we have the teachers, the educators, the experts in childhood education, the social workers, the mental health counselors. We have everything we need. You have them and I was a perfect example as is every state of both the problem as well as the answer, but we don't fund, we don't resource the kinds of people and best practice that actually address the problem and so everywhere I go, including here, I'm told that the number of kids who need these kinds of services who received them tend to be maybe 10 to 15%.

Justin B.: So would this be outside the public school system? These are independent kind of entities that are providing food, providing resources, counseling, that kind of thing.

Marianne W.: oh, no, I think that this certainly includes the secretary of education would certainly be part of this conversation. It should not be separate. A large part of what this would be is coordinative. This isn't coming in from the outside. I mean

there are many people in the US government and this is in the other areas I talk about such as peace who are already doing fantastic work. It's just that the people sometimes providing the greatest solutions are simply not the parts of these agencies that receive the kind of comfort, not just comfort but support and full advocacy by the president that they should receive.

Justin B.: Now, I'm no child psychologist, I'm not an education expert so I'm not going to claim to be any of those things. But from the family members I have and the people and the friends I have that work in public education, one of the biggest problems we have in my opinion is just a lack of parenting. A lack of parents who love their kids. We have single parent families, we have fathers that don't even exist, is that a bigger problem? Can the cabinet position sufficiently teach parents how to parent?

Marianne W.: Well, first of all, obviously when it comes to private issues and public issues, it's a big both and it's not either or. But on one hand, of course it's an issue of parental responsibility. On the other hand, we have to look at how many of those parents are having to work two and three jobs a day just to be able to keep the food on the table. They have no bandwidth and literally have no time to be able to attend those meetings. When I was growing up, mommy would attend the meetings. Daddy was at work. Those days are over. It takes both families. Also, it's reasonable to consider how many of the fathers are in jail, who shouldn't be. So there are no... There's a term they use these days. Intersectionality, everything connects to everything. But basic economic injustice, we have a situation where 1% of Americans own more wealth than the bottom 90%, that has created a situation where 93 million Americans are living near poverty.

Marianne W.: These are people who by the time they get home at night, they don't have the bandwidth that people are so in such anxiety. And also, when I talked about the mental health counselors, we have one mental health counselor for every 1500 children in the public schools. We should have mental health counselors, not only for the kids but also for the parents. Now, we have to go further than that. Right now we base our educational funding primarily on property taxes. That is leftover from another century and it is wrong. It is immoral.

Justin B.: So where would you get that money from?

Marianne W.: Well, I want to repeal the 2017 tax cut that gave 83 cents of every dollar to the largest richest corporations and individuals. Although I would put back in the middle class tax cut and I want to stop the corporate subsidies that go to the corporate overlords who are already making billions and billions.

Justin B.: Totally agree. I don't like hand-outs. I agree with that.

Marianne W.: I think the United States government should be able to negotiate for lower drug prices with big pharmaceutical companies. And I think the US military should get

every dollar that it says it needs to secure our safety. And for the hundreds of billions of dollars above that that do not have anything to do with what the military asks for but with what defense contractors say that they want to increase their own short term profits that goes away.

Justin B.: So I want to ask you one more thing in the children thing, and I ask every candidate this because this is something that's near and dear to my heart. One of the things I don't hear you saying is protecting kids. Would we protect the unborn and would you be willing to put some kind of line, Tulsi Gabbart so far is the only one on this show who said, "You know what? I think we should ban federally, third trimester. I think we should ban abortion at that stage because no one can really tell me where that line is of when someone becomes a human."

Marianne W.: It's a false narrative, this whole idea that women are strolling into abortion clinics after the third trimester and saying, "Oh, I don't want the baby after all." That's just not what's happening.

Justin B.: Well, if that's not happening, then are you okay with banning it there?

Marianne W.: This is the issue. Anytime that something like that happens and it is extremely, extremely rare, it has to do with a medical issue. It has to do with saving the life of the mother and so forth. So no, this is what I believe. I believe that abortion is a moral issue. I certainly believe it's a moral issue, but I believe that it's an issue of private rather than public morality and it's a slippery slope to me. I do not want the government telling people how to make their private moral decisions. And I will say that I trust the moral decision making of the American woman. So when it comes to something like those horrible situations that you described, they're medical, they are medical issues and no, I do not believe the government should be in that hospital.

Justin B.: I will, because my listeners expect it, I will push back on the data a little bit that those are medical issues. I will push back on that. The data says it's not, the data just says most those decisions are, I want this decision. That's just what the data says. It's not a medical thing.

Marianne W.: In a third trimester?

Justin B.: The medical is a very much of an exception.

Marianne W.: Oh, okay. In the third trimester?

Justin B.: Let me ask you a better question.

Marianne W.: No, I can go with you on that. I can go with with you [crosstalk 00:17:24] medical.

Justin B.: Let me ask a better question. Outside of a medical issue, because I don't want to put anybody in the position where they have to choose [crosstalk 00:17:30].

Marianne W.: Do I believe that a woman in the third trimester should just be able to end her pregnancy because she's just not in the mood to have a baby? No, I do not think she should be able to.

Justin B.: Okay. I think that's fair. So you'd say, and I don't want to put words in your mouth, so correct me, but you'd say, "You know what, federal ban on third trimester, outside of life of the mother," you'd consider [Crosstalk 00:17:47].

Marianne W.: I wouldn't say life of the mother. I would say outside a medical decision.

Justin B.: Medical emergencies.

Marianne W.: Well, I would say the the doctor. I would say it has to be a medically determined decision.

Justin B.: Okay. All right. I wish I could spend more time with you. I really do.

Marianne W.: Well, let's do it another time.

Justin B.: We absolutely should.

Marianne W.: Thank you.

Justin B.: Marianne Williamson is joining us. Democrat candidate for president. Marianne, please give your website out in case people want to support you.

Marianne W.: Marianne2020.com.

Justin B.: Thank you so much for coming in here. It was a pleasure.

Marianne W.: Thank you!



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