

Sarah Mohamed-Hamid, age 17

How my Heritage has impacted my life

Women are born to be slaves. That is how we are perceived in my heritage. The minute I came back from school I was roared at and questioned as to why my father had not come to a spotless house and a cooked meal. Aren't I the one that should be taken care of? I'm the child! You had me! I questioned myself daily when these sexist occurrences happened. I was tortured and overworked daily while my brother sat stuffed with contentment because he wasn't expected to scrape every particle in the house and still be standing by the big man or dash to his side when whistled for. I was expected and forced to become accustomed to their culture and religion. I was demanded to cherish, believe, and obey their rules or their idea of what the rules were. They often mixed up religion and their messed up culture. Traditionally, the woman is expected to clean, cook, and take care of while the husband provides for the expenses. These roles were forced to be met for so long that when one didn't follow the expectation it was frowned upon and damned because it would be as if they were disrespecting their religion but really they were putting an end to their society's norms. I was demanded to understand and go by these roles I was meant to complete but I didn't. It was forced down my throat and when my parents in the slightest way felt I was threatening to do something out of the "ordinary" they were quick to try and put me in my place. They not only believed I was threatening their religion but felt as if I was threatening and disrespecting them as well. They drowned me in this water and expected me to float and swim with ease. But I was so far from that. Now I'm the disappointment and the least favorite, but can you blame me? They made me despise "my heritage" and now become so distant with my religion.