

My Parents' Caring Too Much About Reputation

Most of you guys know that I am Muslim and I decided to take my hijab off a few years ago. I first started wearing the hijab around freshman year. When I first wore it my parents just told me to wear the hijab without telling me the reason why. Boom. That's when they messed up in my opinion. I think that if I knew the reason why I had to wear it I would have a different view or opinion on wearing it. Me taking off the hijab has been a big part of my life so far. Mostly it affected me in a negative way.

My parents have a strong belief in protecting their reputation. There are many Arab families in this city which honestly sucks. My parents always care about how the other Arabs view them. When my mom first found out that I took my hijab off freshman year she went off. Like I was in so much trouble. The first thing I remember her telling me was, "Did any other Arabs see you?". That's when it clicked in my head that my parents cared about their reputation more than how I felt.

I tried putting the hijab back on because my parents made me feel as if I was being selfish because she said, "You are going to be the reason your dad's head is going to be down." When she says keeping your dad's head down she means that he will have a bad reputation and all the Arabs are going to talk about my actions and say that he didn't know how to raise me. I just couldn't put the hijab back on. I got in trouble so many times that they just got over it, but were still against it.

When I'm wearing the hijab I honestly don't feel like myself. It's not that I'm ashamed of my religion it's just not for me. In the hijab arabs expect you to dress a little too conservative, have your voice at a low pitch, not talk to guys and all these rules. Without the hijab I feel like myself. I feel like Sarah. I have gotten so much hate from my parents, arab families and others for my decision. It honestly hurts when people tell me, "Just put it back on" because it's more than just the hijab. It's a whole identity that I don't identify as. Therefore, I am proud to say that I am a great Muslim that doesn't wear the scarf.

Yes, I've gotten a lot of hate, but I also got some support. Some arabic girls would tell them that they wish they had the guts to take it off because they fear their parents reaction. It makes me feel really good because I feel as if i'm really strong. I did this for me. Period.