

## To Be Muslim and American

They say  
It's better to have faith and hope  
Then to never have faith at all

Is this true when  
The country you trusted leaves  
you broken  
The promises  
The freedom of religion  
We're all a joke

In time you find  
The truth within yourself  
It awakens your senses  
And opens your heart

The same heart that has been  
broken  
The one that America use  
against you  
Cause you so easily trust

Is it true  
That faith is rare  
That faith can take your pain  
away  
How

When that pain eats you away  
In time you will heal  
Mending the broken pieces of  
yourself  
The one God who has your back

Is it true  
That I have faith  
Even though the country hates  
us  
Even though I gave them my  
loyalty and nationalism  
And they buried it within their  
lies

Muslims are terrorist they say  
Which causes us to stray away  
Can I be Muslim and American  
When the country sees me as a  
threat

But I refuse to be defined  
By their narrow-mindedness and  
hate  
I am both Muslim and American  
And I refuse to let them dictate

My faith is not rare  
It's a part of who I am  
It guides me through the  
darkness  
And helps me to stand

Yes, the pain of prejudice hurts  
But my faith gives me strength  
To rise above their ignorance  
And show them a different  
wavelength

I will not let their lies and hate  
Define me or my faith  
I will continue to strive  
And break down their misguided  
state

So let them say what they will  
About Muslims and America  
For I know who I am  
And my faith will always hold  
strong

I am the only girl amongst eight  
brothers  
In a traditional Somali-Muslim  
household  
Living within two cultures and  
identities  
A delicate balance that can  
sometimes feel bold

I embrace my Somali heritage  
And the Muslim faith that guides  
me  
While also celebrating my  
American identity  
And the opportunities it brings  
to me

I am proud of who I am  
And the journey that has  
brought me here  
For it has made me resilient and  
determined  
To face any challenge without  
fear

And though the road may be  
difficult at times

I know that I am not alone  
For there are others like me,  
living in two worlds  
Striving to find their place and  
their home

A Somali girl with a heart full of  
dreams  
Raised in America, but with  
Muslim beliefs  
I walk a path of two cultures in  
one  
Finding balance between each  
before the end comes

A hijab I wear with pride and  
grace  
A symbol of my religion in this  
foreign place  
My faith is strong as I walk  
along  
This life of righteousness that I  
wish to prolong  
I see no conflict between my  
heart and mind  
Always sympathetic and kind

I study hard in school, and work  
towards my goals  
But always remember the  
teachings of my soul

I value my culture and my  
beliefs blossom  
But also embrace this new land I  
am from

For I am Muslim and American  
Two identities that coexist within  
me  
I am proud of who I am  
And the beauty of my diversity

Yes, there may be challenges and  
obstacles  
But I will face them with  
courage and love  
For my faith and my country  
Are both blessings from above  
I will continue to learn and grow  
And show the world what it  
means

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