

Twin Servant of Peace Essay

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As young children; we do not fully understand the differences that make up our society; there is an untainted innocence about children that keeps them from judging or excluding others based on superficial things. It's not until we grow a little older and socialize with people that differences become more apparent. Therefore, it doesn't become a problem until somebody points out a way in which we are different; and uses it in a derogatory way; for me this was my religion. When I was in the 3rd grade, I noticed my House of Faith was different from many others and I didn't dress like anybody else or watch shows on BET. In the summer when the girls wore shorts, I was covered from head to toe. The other kids noticed too and I was alienated more and more as time went on.

I began to resent the fact that I was unique and decided I wanted to be like the other kids. I decided I wanted to wear clothing that would allow me to blend in with the other students. I went through the rest of the day at school being treated like a regular kid. However, I wondered why that day I felt more left out than ever. After time, I realized that the attention I got from pleasing those kids couldn't begin to compensate for the attention and satisfaction I got from pleasing G-D. It may still be difficult sometimes during Ramadan when someone who does not have the knowledge base about diverse religions begins asking me questions about my religion; with a

bias outlook and approach. However, I find comfort in the fact that G-D has chosen and blessed me to rise above these things and be in a position where I can answer their questions with a smile on my face. I will not conform to fit the mold and when I feel myself under the pressure I think of my favorite ayat.

“2:286 (Asad) God does not burden any human being with more than he is well able to bear: in his favour shall be whatever good he does, and against him whatever evil he does.”

I am a servant of peace in my community on an individual and collective basis. I have attended the Sister Clara Muhammad Strong End School in Charlotte North Carolina for the past 8 years excluding this year my Senior year; since I am working on the weekends. As far as community service I have volunteered my services at the beginning of the school year with the Sister Clara Muhammad Strong End School; and have also volunteered with feeding the families at the Salvation Army Women and Children’s Center; with the Health and Wellness Committee at Masjid Ash Shaheed; who prepares and serves lunches the fourth Saturday of every month. This committee has been doing this for more than 17 years; I am blessed to be able to join them occasionally.

Interfaith is also a big area of concern, I realize and respect various faith traditions; which make it easier for me to apply wisdom and share dawah with my peers of various faith traditions. For two consecutive years, I participated in the “In Our Own Back Yard Summer Camp”, a program through Mecklenburg Ministries; that brings high school students together from various parts of the county to learn more about each other’s faith traditions and do several community service activities with various organizations, such as Crisis Assistance Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, and visit various houses of worship. Each year they come to our Masjid as well and have halal food and join us for Jumu’ah. I love this because I get to help the young ladies wrap their hair with our beautiful headwraps; and they really enjoy coming back every year.

As an extension of their community outreach; I participated in Resist Racism workshops offered through Mecklenburg Ministries and their Youth Council Meeting as often as I can.

One of the most meaningful applications of what I learned about diversity and interfaith experiences was in school when I took a course in Debate and could provide an open-minded approach to racism with an intelligent and respectful approach based Islamic Principles, the information learned at the

Resist Racism workshops and other learnings experiences. I am looking forward to College with assertiveness and faith in knowing that “Whatever A Muslim Seeks; They Seek to Perfect It! Prophet Muhammad (SAW).