

Islam: Misrepresented

There have been many Civil Rights Activists who have made sacrifices far beyond the humanistic norm. Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., and several others have sacrificed time, energy and even resources for a cause they believed in. Without them, we would live in a society in which everyone would be stereotypical of one another without truly getting to know them. This is still a problem in today's society, except it is directed especially at one religion: Muslims. Muslims have been blamed for many of society's problems, including strict air travel regulations, and the condoning of violence. People have started to question Muslims' right of religious freedom, as mosques being planned may not get built as protests and opposing groups come underway. There is only one explanation for the hatred and cruelty directed towards Muslims: The majority of people living in this country and others have the wrong interpretation of Muslims. As a Muslim myself, I would be willing to make many sacrifices, for the benefit of me and the Muslim people.

One of the biggest sacrifices I would be willing to make for such a cause would be time. Time is especially a big deal because individuals' opinions will not change immediately. It is a gradual process, so much time needs to be spent. The negativity toward Muslims has gone on even before the September 11th attacks. There is no telling how much time I would need to spend to change people's opinions. Writing letters to politicians would be pretty common for me, and I would have to organize meeting. This means not only would I take time out of my life, but the lives of others too, who would support me and sacrifice their time as well. Delivering speeches and being interviewed would also be pretty common. Not only would I need time to think about what I am going

to say, but think about what I want to say without offending others. Making time for these and other tasks plus having a career all at once is going to take a big toll on my life, as I will *always* busy. As Chris Rock said “when you have a job, you are always watching the time, but when you have a career, there is never enough time.”

If I am truly committed to changing the way the world looks at Muslims for the better, not only am I going to sacrifice time, I am going to sacrifice money to get resources. Resources, like the media and access to information, are important because my goals and intentions must be known to the public. Without resources, accomplishing such a task would seem more like a dream than a reality. Typically, when job workers get their paychecks, they will spend it on necessities and whatever is left over, it is spent on what they want. However, when I spend my money on resources, I will not get what I want, What I want, is for the world to look at Muslims as nice, peaceful humans just like everyone else. With the aid of resources, I can achieve this task.

In some ways, you can agree I am sacrificing my life when I stand up for what I believe in. I will sacrifice ten to twenty years or possibly more depending on when Muslims are not viewed as the enemy. I also give a big portion of money earned in my lifetime. I will really sacrifice the way people look at me, whether it be positive or negative, when I face criticism. The biggest sacrifice I can make, however, is my life, because I risk being assassinated for what I believe in.

At this point in time, the problem has gotten redundant. In today’s society, Muslims are being questioned over first amendment rights, as mosques all over the country are protested over being built in the first place. At one point in time we heard a

Florida pastor planning "burn-a-quran" day. This cannot go any further. Ever since September 11th, the news media have brainwashed the minds of almost all individuals . These people have let their minds become diluted. The actions of nineteen terrorists does not represent Islam. I can definitely represent Islam for what its literal meaning: Peace.