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                                                        Personal Artifact

           Every individual has a personal artifact. A personal artifact is something that is very significant to an individual. It can be something that has been passed down from generation to generation or it can be anything which is meaningful and special to you. It can be a tool, jewelry, clothing, food, etc. What is your personal artifact? For me, my personal artifact is my hijab.

          You may ask, what exactly is a hijab? Hijab is something many Muslim women wear regularly. t's a swath of fabric that wraps around your head. When a woman wears a hijab, she can choose from a variety of fabrics. I wear chiffon hijabs. The fabric is slippery which is why I wear an under cap and pins to keep the hijab in one place. A hijab is worn to maintain modesty and privacy. As you may already know we wear hijab to cover our hair. In Islam, Only your father, brothers, spouse, father-in-law, nephews, and women are permitted to view your hair in Islam. This may seem like it’s something that is hard to keep up with however, once you start wearing it becomes a part of your routine.

       To me, my hijab is very significant. My hijab is part of my identity. It is part of my representation. Wearing this single piece of cloth on my head shows the world that I am Muslim, which I am proud to say. Not a single occasion can lead me to take off my hijab. I believe wearing a hijab has protected me from a lot of evil which I am not aware of. It's astonishing how a piece of clothing can make you feel protected and secure.

      As islamophobia has been drastically increasing there are different reactions to my hijab. There are many out there who see only a piece of clothing on your head, many who support and respect women who wear hijab and there are many who despise it. Many hijabis are harassed on daily basis for wearing a hijab. For example, a few days ago I’ve watched a video where a few male students beat up a few hijabis just because they were wearing a hijab. This happened during school hours. The girls waited for an elder to come help, however, no help was received. It is also known that these few students were harassed before this incident and nothing was done. In addition to this, Hijab has been banned in numerous countries. Some of these countries would be Switzerland, Sri Lanka, China, France, Germany, Belum, and many more. Islamaphobia is spreading and making the world more dangerous for hijabis. The fashion industry has come up with different styles where bodies are covered more saying it’s more modest however when a Muslim women converse herself it's opposition and bothersome to some individuals.

        Hijab is connected to my religion. Many Muslim women wear hijab. It is also something that has been followed in my family for as long as I can remember. In a way, it shows that you have manners. I started to wear hijab in fourth grade for fun. I had no feelings for it. However, as years went by I started to understand the background of it which made me eventually realize how precious a hijab is. It has become part of me and my identity. people on the streets may refer to me as a hijabi rather than a girl/woman they saw. My hijab is not connected to any specific major moment in my life. A hijab secures part of women's beauty. It’s said that hijabs are like crowns, never let them fall. As hijab is connected to my religion, other than wearing a hijab and covering my hair I try my best to cover as much skin as possible. As Muslim women, we are supposed to wear something loose that covers our body and nothing is to be shown other than our eyes. I may not be perfect at doing what I am supposed to do I am trying my best and I can see that others are too. This world is very judgmental and has become so violent which is the reason why many hijabis/Muslim women feel neglected to wear certain cloth.

        Like every other person, my artifact means a lot to me. It has a precious bond with me that can’t be understood by many. Your personal artifact allows you to connect with your family, culture, and in some cases your religion. While writing this paper, I discovered more about my feelings towards my hijab, something I hadn't given much consideration to previously. The things which may look ordinary to others may mean the world to you.