

## Untitled

I am made from mud, dirt, and clay.  
Carved with imperfections  
and future tests.  
I am the child of Adam and Eve;  
But my mother and father  
Are Aisha and Kareem.  
My ancestors and predecessors before me  
Did not fight for who I am now.  
But my ancestors and predecessors of who i am now  
Fought for me.  
Nūh, Lōt, Salah.  
Ād, Musa, Ibrahim.  
Ismael, Yunus, Yusuf.  
Muhammad.  
They stared mistreatment and oppression  
In the eyes and said,  
La ilaha ill Allah, Muhammadur Rasulallah  
And their message was passed on  
In a scrambled version of telephone.  
Translations were misinterpreted,  
People strayed.  
But everyone knows that at the end of telephone;  
You learn the phrase.  
And that's what happened.  
I am wrapped in the embrace of their teachings,  
Words that hold meaning,  
filling my empty heart, and watering my eyes.  
I wrap fabric around my head,  
Not because I am oppressed;  
But to protect me.  
The cloth muffling the evil that wants  
To reach my ears.  
I fast,  
Not because I am looking to trim off a few pounds;  
But so I may abstain from wrong and understand that my sufferings are not like others,  
Because; at least I have food on the table.  
Do not say I am being shackled down,  
Poisoned, brainwashed.  
Do not say that I am boring and uptight  
For believing.

Do not even say,  
It's okay to do just one wrong thing,  
No one will know.  
Wrong.  
Because I will feel how I have betrayed myself and my beliefs.  
The guilt will sink and embed itself  
Into my skin until it burns.  
I do not want to burn.

I am made of mud, dirt, and clay.  
I am made of beliefs and a language  
That when I read it, my heart swells with pride.  
I am the child of Adam and Eve,  
But my mother and father are Aisha and Kareem.  
I come from a line of telephone, in which the real phrase was trapped in a tangle of coiled wire  
But then set back on course.  
M-U-S-L-I-M.  
I am a Muslim.  
I am not a mausoleum.  
I do not follow a slug.  
I follow Islam.  
I follow Allah.  
I follow the teachings of the prophets.  
إن شاء الله ، لا أنوي التوقف