

Slam Poem Transcripts

“My name is Zainab and I am not a terrorist”

Hi, nice to meet you,

I'm a... girl.

Let me try that again.

Hi there, nice to meet you, I'm a ... Muslim

Wait- no- that's not right.

Hi, nice to meet you- I'm a terrorist

I'm sorry for Boston and Brussels

For Paris and 9/11

For making you uncomfortable in an airplane.

Sorry for offending your culture by covering

Sorry that my dietary restrictions are a threat to your health

Since apparently eating halal might cause you to catch a disease.

Sorry for the KKK

Oh wait, that wasn't me

Sorry that ninety percent of the terror attacks are from non-Muslims.

Sorry for inventing the toothbrush because who wants good breath?

For the cloths and coffee beans

The camera in which you take your selfies

Founding the first university

The invention of Chemistry and Algebra-

Ok I'm really sorry for that one.

Damn you, Muslims

I'm sorry to all of you.

So I, a terrorist am handing over the palette to you

Do what you please

Paint me over with the brush called discrimination

Color me in with the colors called generalization

And wash me out with the unbelievable concept of Islamophobia

I find it hilarious how people will tell me and assume that because I am a Muslim I can't speak

English

That the fact that my mother wears traditional Islamic clothing

Because that is what liberates her

She is automatically assumed as not knowing the Western tongue.

See I find it funny that I'm told I'm uneducated and probably had a hard time learning English

But y'all will mistake the s and the z when it comes down to labeling me.

I am a Mus-lim not a Muz-lem

My religion is Is-lam, not Iz-lam

Sorry for slamming about my Is-lam

Why is it that I am treated like a guest in my own home?

But heck what do I know?

I'm just a terrorist.

I'm sick of the back-handed compliments and shocked expressions

The ignorant questions like "But don't you get hot in the summer?"

Honey no, I'm hot all the time.

To the girl in my Economics class who told me that I have nice headgear

Girl, do I look like a football player?

Or to my business teacher who taught us a lesson on Islamic culture

And then proceeded to show us a video called the "Islamic State"

Showing us the beheadings and brainwashing

Whilst he himself brainwashed a room full of thirty

My classmates and peers

Sir, let me teach you a lesson of my own

The terrorist group that justifies their indescribable actions with my religion

Even though they've never read a Quran

Is not religion

Religion is not culture

And sir that over there is not my religion.

So dear Donald Trump,

Dear people of the world,

I'm sorry.

I'm sorry for the sufferings and the massacres

The bombings and the bloodshed

The attacks and the hurt

But don't you know I'm hurting too?

Don't you know it hurts too to stand up here and say sorry for something I did not do

I am not a terrorist.

Radical Islam is not a thing

Because by saying that you're still associating the terror with me

The only gun I've ever fired are the ones of the bullets called poetry

The only mind field I've ever created are the ones that explode with kindness and compassion

Instead of dropping bombs I drop mics.

I don't want to come across hateful and full of vengeance

I'm just tired of having to take the blame

Tired of apologizing and having to defend myself when I, too, am a victim

So let's try it again:

Assalamualaikum

Peace be upon you

I am a girl.

I am a Muslim.

My name is Zainab.

And I am not a terrorist.

“Muslim Ban” Amir Safi

To be Muslim,
Is to watch your mosque set on fire,
And not say a word.

Because you do not know yet
If it was the supremacist or the fundamentalist.
Which is to say,
You do not know yet,
Whether you are expected to be outraged or apologized.

Tell me, if a Muslim's body hits the ground,
And no one's there to make a hashtag,
Did it ever even exist?

By that, I mean 200 children were executed by Isis in Syria,
But nobody heard about it-
Because it didn't happen at an Ariana Grande concert.
Besides, Twitter can't fit 200 bodies behind a hashtag.
And the world can't fit its feet into 400 tiny shoes.

Everyone has a proposed solution- including Ted Cruz,
Who says that we should start patrolling Muslim neighborhoods.
The premise of patrolling Muslim neighborhoods is kinda funny to me,
I mean, what are you gonna do?
Patrol *all* areas with good school districts?

Donald Trump says the Muslim ban will only be in effect until we figure things out,
But isn't blaming Muslims for Isis
The *definition* of victim blaming?

We all say the rhetoric is racist, but what race is a Muslim?
And the pundits say that this sort of hate speech should stop,
Because it's bad foreign policy.

And that's where I see it.
How not human you view us.
As if the only way to stop bigotry or xenophobia towards Muslims,
Is to make people afraid of more Muslims becoming terrorists.
As if this is our natural evolution.
Like if you say something mean to us,
We will go hibernate in some cocoon woven from hurt feelings,

And emerge as butterl-isis.
Except for Malala.
Everyone loves Malala.

As if the only way a Muslim can prove they're in fact, *not* a terrorist,
Is by getting shot in the head by one.
Or at least that's what they'd have us believe here in America.

Where the mosque was shot up in my hometown,
Where they want to patrol my neighborhood,
And separate me from my family.
Greatest military in the world,
Terrified of my grandmothers.
And I still don't know if I'm expected to be outraged or apologized.

“Islamophobia”- Rudy Fransisco

On June 17, 2015 Dylann Roof walked into a midweek Bible study
He sat and prayed with the church members before pulling out his gun
Killing most, and allowing one to live.

After the incident he was found and arrested- peacefully.
When Dylann Roof killed nine innocent Black people
We did not question his God.
He wore flags of apartheid Africa,
We did not question his allegiance.
He committed the crime alone,
We did not question his people.

When Adam Lanza shot a classroom full of first graders at Sandy Hook
Elementary
We did not ask him to leave the country.
When Timothy McVeigh killed 168 people in Oklahoma,
We did not call this a crime against every American.
When the KKK killed thousands of Black people,
While swank to hold Christian morality,
We did not ask them to remove their robes,
We do not call all Christians bigots.

Do you see it?
How we don't label all white men based on the sins of the few?
Do you see it?
How we don't have to condemn a whole class of people based on the actions of some.
Do you see it?
How all the names are different, how all the faces are different, how all the people are different?
Therefore we should not condemn all the Muslims for the radicalism of the group.
If you want to persecute ISIS go ahead, but to persecute ISIS is to persecute those that gave
them power, to persecute those that gave them power is to prosecute the US Government.
Do your research.

Islam is not synonymous with terror
It is literally submission
It is devotion
It is peace
And terrorism actually is forbidden
and Jihad does not mean Holy war,
it means struggle,

it means survival,
it means standing face-to-face with everything that wants to put you on the ground and choosing
to be alive.
Do your research.

Stop listening to CNN,
stop sharing humanity for hypocrisy,
stop staring at Muslims at the airport,
stop letting your fear drive you into ignorance,
stop supporting Billionaire Republicans who want to scare you into murdering the innocent
And start supporting leaders who speak peace in their native tongue.

Instead of burning down the mosque,
Burn down the walls around the pulsating muscles in your chest,
And realize that we all have one.
And lastly,

As the customary greeting goes.
As'salaamualaikum –
Peace be upon you
Waliakum As'salaam-
and upon you be peace

Do you see it?

“America: A Brief History of Parking Disputes”- A Tribe Called West

Our fire’s burnin’
They’re trying to put us out
Will we see justice in this lifetime?

Last month, three students at UNC Chapel Hill
Deah Barakat, 23 years old
Yuser Abu Salah, 21
Razan Abu Salah, 19
Were executed by their neighbor
Craig Hicks, a 46-year-old white male

CNN tells us that they were killed over a parking dispute.
Police found fourteen guns in his apartment,
But his wife told all the reporters “he’s a good man,”
He saved puppies!
The press reported nothing of his Facebook page filled with anti-religion posts
He supports same-sex marriage, man.
All three of his victims were Muslim.
He won an award from the grocery store!
This is a hate crime.
And he is being humanized in the media
If Craig Hicks and his family were gunned down by a Muslim,
How many mosques would be vandalized?
How many headscarves would be pulled?
How many hashtags “je suis Charlie” than we’ve ever had hashtag “Chapel Hill Shooting”

Since the media wants to call this hate crime a parking dispute
What else is a parking dispute?

Can’t breathe?
Parking dispute.
Hands up don’t shoot,
Parking dispute.
Playing with a toy gun,
Parking dispute.
Being Mexican in Arizona,
Parking dispute.
Wearing a hoodie or hijab,
Parking dispute.
Will the American flag ever fly at half-mast for these parking disputes?
If I were gunned down by Craig Hicks

How would my death be spun by the media?

I am Pakistani,
But they'll only ever see me as a terrorist.
They'll ignore all my volunteer work,
And look for a Homeland Security record instead.
They'll find the Quran on my iPod
And that will be all they need to link me to ISIS.

My family came here to avoid persecution for being Jewish
They will search my academic history,
List my accomplishments,
Call me a gymnastics star,
But my whiteness will never be mentioned.

15 years ago my parents came here to escape the Muslim genocide of the Bosnian war
But all they'll ever see is my headscarf and someone to be afraid of

My grandparents are refugees from Castro's Cuba
When I tell people I'm also Costa Rican,
They ask me how's Puerto Rico?
The media only sees me as a brown-skinned wetback.

Until people stop asking me where I'm *really* from,
Until the color of my skin does not determine the length of my life,
Until we're all seen as Americans-
America's history of parking disputes will continue.

The Trail of Tears is a parking dispute-
Shutting down fifty Chicago Public Schools in neighborhoods was a parking dispute
The internment of Japanese-Americans was a parking dispute.
The US occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan was a parking dispute.
The US-Mexico border was a parking dispute.
Jim Crow was a parking dispute.
And it still is.

We refuse to stay within the yellow lines
We refuse to sink to our designated roles in the margins of this country

Deah Barakat, 23 years old
Yuser Abu Salah, 21
Razan Abu Salah, 19
Are six feet under

But no amount of dirt can bury this injustice

Our fire's burnin'

They're trying to put us out

Will we see justice in this lifetime?

Our fire's burnin'

They're trying to put us out

We will seek justice in this lifetime.