Digital Commons @ LMU and LLS

First-Gen Voices: Creative and Critical Narratives on the First-Generation College Experience

Volume 1
Issue 1 *Pioneers! O Pioneers!*

Article 15

April 2014

#LifeofaMuslimFeminist

Nadia Kelifa
Loyola Marymount University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/fgv

Part of the Poetry Commons

Recommended Citation
Kelifa, Nadia (2014) "#LifeofaMuslimFeminist," *First-Gen Voices: Creative and Critical Narratives on the First-Generation College Experience*: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 15.
Available at: http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/fgv/vol1/iss1/15

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Academic Resource Center at Digital Commons at Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in First-Gen Voices: Creative and Critical Narratives on the First-Generation College Experience by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

A day in the life…

[of] a Muslim Feminist?

A trending topic;

Oh, what a trendy topic.

A Muslim feminist—

Isn't that a contradiction?

Oh, what a trendy topic.

Hopefully, the convo doesn't end in a crucifixion!

Isn't that a contradiction?

Aren't women in Islam oppressed?

Hopefully, *this* convo doesn't end in a crucifixion,

or even just a lot of [unresolved] stress.

Aren't women in Islam oppressed?

With scarves on their heads (*that even cover their chests*),

Goodness—how modest their dress!

How could such people know anything but regress?

With scarves on their heads—that even cover their chests,

and long, *flow-y* muslin that veils the rest…

Again, I ask, how could such people know anything but regress?

Does anyone even know where I can find a long dress?

In this post-9/11 era,

A day in the life…

Oh, what a trendy topic.

One that causes much strife—

to people like me:

you know,

those who don't wear a "headwrap"

but are still clothed with the dignity of the Hijab;

Those of us who,

like you, were only ten, too,

when *those terrorists* killed innocent Americans,

others like me and you—

because contrary to popular belief,

I am American too.

Gender inequity,

sexism, and fear of walking alone at night.

How long will it take some of you to see

that we're all fighting the same fight?

Not all of us are Arab;

not all of you White.

As for those of us who are Black?

Well, lucky us, we get the *three strikes*.

I will not simply stay at home;

I will forever learn how to read and write.

So, eternally, I may

combat your *ignant* spite.

So, to answer your question,

no it is not

a contradiction to be Muslim,

and have all these thoughts.

This is a day in the life of a Muslim Feminist,

one who tends to have endless thoughts

on how it is she can contribute to the cause…

of dismantling the imperialist white supremacist capitalist patriarchy that gives many of us such pause.