

I was born in Saudi Arabia, a country known for its conservative, Islamic, and very traditional culture. I grew up with four beautiful sisters raised by two educated parents where they taught us to respect others' perspectives and different cultures. My relatives, on the other hand, were extremist in their judgments of other people, and they rarely accepted to adapt to others' cultures. However, the eastern culture, where I belong, is controlled by the Islamic regulations and it is not acceptable to divert from it. Growing up without realizing that I am imprisoned in a small bubble would be shocking as soon as the bubble blows.

Saudi Arabia is country based on tribes that are united under one cause, which is ruling under Islamic regulations. Both, Islamic and tribal backgrounds affected the way our culture was built. For example, in Islam, it mandatory for a man to provide food, clothes and other supplies of living to his family and in the tribal traditions, women are expected to be responsible of cooking, cleaning and raising the children. Both two backgrounds made our culture go to the extreme side of the western culture.

When I was ten years old, my father planned a vacation to Greece. It was my first time getting out of the Middle East and being able to interact with different culture. I wasn't expecting to see women without Hijab, Alcoholic drinks everywhere, and men and women would do unacceptable acts in my culture. Greece taught me that earth is full of different bubbles, and I had to get out of mine to understand humanity.

Since then, I was very curious and crucial to know and visit other cultures. So, in 2010, in my seventeenth years breathing, I could travel alone to Australia for three-month English

program. By then, I realized that being a tourist going to tourism attractions is never the same as living in the culture and interacting with the locals. I was pleased to live this period with an Australian family that hosts international students. The English institute also gave me the change to interact with European, Latin and Asian cultures restructuring my understanding of life.

The past five years, travelling to different destinations became one of my major interests. Those different experiences changed the way I was carved by my culture, expanded my knowledge and vanished my prejudice acts toward others. By doing so, I concluded that all cultures are originated from the same root, by accepting it life would get more in peace.

Last June, I graduated from the Engineering School back in Saudi, and offered a scholarship to continue my higher education. Living in another culture for few years would inevitably have great influence in building my personality and knowledge to make change back home. Although my family are back in Saudi, but I found a family here, made of different continents and I am overjoyed by that. I will never stop embedding in other cultures, and learning and respecting their traditions, until I find myself overwhelmed in humanity origin.