

TRANSCRIPT

Pig's heart and personal choices

ETHAN:

I don't think I can do it.

AMIR:

A diagram, it's not like I'm touching it.

ETHAN:

I don't know.

MARYAM:

OK, that's fair. But, also, if we're getting hands-on-- this is a hands-on experience. This is good.

AMIR:

I don't know if I want to do this. Isn't it haram?

MARYAM:

My mum says I should do it. It'll help me get into medical school.

ETHAN:

It's disrespectful, though, isn't it? Disrespecting god's creation.

FAITH:

Who believes in god anyway?

AMIR:

Me.

TEACHER:

Your dissecting tools are on the tables and you'll have one heart per group. So make sure that everyone has a turn, OK?

AMIR:

No, Miss, I don't want to do it.

INSTRUCTOR:

What do I do now?

AMIR:

No, Miss, I don't want to do it.

TEACHER:

You have to do it, Amir. It's on the syllabus. I'm bringing the hearts around now.

AMIR:

I'm really not doing it. You can have my turn as well.

ETHAN:

She is well disrespectful. She can't make you touch it.

AMIR: No, Miss, I don't want to do it.

TEACHER:

Why not, Amir? Are you going to tell me it's against your religion or something?

AMIR:

Yes, Miss.

TEACHER:

Well, that's going to hold you back in life. How come it's against your religion and not hers as well?

AMIR:

I don't know, Miss. My dad says touching anything to do with a pig is haram.

TEACHER:

And are you going to let that medieval idea stop you getting a job? What if you're working on the till in Tesco and in someone's buying pork sausages?

MARYAM:

My big brothers on the till at Sainsbury's on Saturdays and he doesn't sell alcohol, even though he's old enough. The manager comes and does it for him.

TEACHER:

But you're going to touch the pig heart.

MARYAM:

Life is complicated, Miss.

AMIR:

I'm not going to do it.

ETHAN:

He shouldn't have to do it, Miss.

TEACHER:

You're all wasting your time with all this religious nonsense and now you're wasting my time and everyone else's.

FAITH:

I'm not religious at all.

TEACHER:

Well, thank god for that!

AMIR:

No, Miss, I don't want to do it.

TEACHER:

OK, Amir, why is that?

AMIR:

It's against my religion.

TEACHER:

For now, could you sit at the side and copy the diagram?

AMIR:

Yes, Miss.

ETHAN:

Can we talk about it later?

TEACHER:

Yes, we'll do that. I like to do this experiment with my classes because it really helps people understand the structure of the heart. I know it's hard for some students. Now, I want to give you some time to share how you felt and understand each other's perspectives better to get some religious literacy.

ETHAN:

It's OK for Christians to touch pigs, but it felt really horrible to be cutting up an animal's heart.

FAITH:

It's not that bad, Ethan. Grow up.

TEACHER:

He can feel however he feels, Faith.

AMIR:

I'm glad you let me sit it out.

MARYAM:

I'm glad my mum let me do it. It's not that Islam doesn't matter to me, but I think I can be both a believer and a scientist. I learned a lot about hearts today.

FAITH:

I learned a lot by you all.