

“Almancı olmaktan bıktım”

Who tells us that we aren't Turkish enough just because we weren't born in Türkiye? The Turkish people who live in Türkiye or the German people who never had to struggle to find “Home”.

To find out which country you belong to.

All my life I cared about what other people had to say about me but how do they define who I am?

Since when can people tell you what you are and what not.

All these years I was ashamed of saying I'm Turkish.

To this day I'm scared to say I'm Muslim. What if they think I'm a terrorist just because of my religion? What if they start attacking me?

Why do we need to hide ourselves just because people feel like judging too quickly and believing in stereotypes?

People assuming every Turkish person is Muslim even though Türkiye is not even a Muslim country.

Everyone believing just because you're Muslim that you can't sin, you HAVE to wear a hijab, you can't do this and that, judging to quickly without knowing why you're doing this.

All my life I had to deal with this.

But I learned.

I learned how to accept who I am.

Who my parents are.

Where I am from.

And I can proudly say I'm Turkish. My parents are from Türkiye.

It took me a long time realizing that even though I might not be Turkish enough that I'm still from Türkiye.

I grew up speaking Turkish,

learning Turkish traditional,

Turkish foods,

going to Türkiye every year but there are still people out there saying I'm not Turkish.

“Almancı” olarak bana seslendikleri halda,

ruhum memleketimin hilalini,

damarlarım askerlerinin kanını

ve umudum yıldızlar gibi parlıyor.



Azelya Leyla Arıöz and her brother Batuhan Arıöz
in their Living room in Germany around 2010/11.