

My dad was born in Punjab, India and my mum was born in Punjab, Pakistan – previously one nation - before the British mashed it up

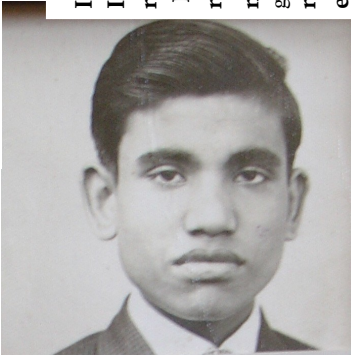


Ο μπαμπάς μου γεννήθηκε στο Punjab, η Ινδία και το mum =travel (Roshan Pai) they come from – some say these care about my parents and family but because of who they are not while

I care in that I feel that people don't know as much as they do about certain things – can make self-conscious and when I dig a little deeper I realize that the person I know much about their

to be honest – the Caucasian asking me about the Taj Mehal and him knowing nothing about stone henge and the 'British Asian' who can't believe that I don't know anything about the latest Bollywood movie they don't know what to say when I ask them about the spiritual joy that Guru Nanak took to Mecca

Some years ago I would have living two different lives make siddi sadi Punjabi guri



I feel regret that I don't speak DAD my mother's language

My granny and my mum are very strong women and they didn't take any shit. They stood on their own two feet. I think the struggles as mud in the head of the person as it is in the new society they enter – if you don't integrate yourself and adapt you remain an outsider and life is harder, can

My mother joined my father after they were engaged to be married by their fathers – me and my father held two photographs of each of them and they presto they were man and wife - joined together forever (try and apply for a visa to the British with that story now and they would laugh you

1982. My dad was forced to join his father when he was a small child in the 1950's – worked in the coal mines from what I remember while his mother remained in India with his younger brother. He was a free spirited child who was told that if his

to know more but do not have the time to people – things are inseparable but for me they are just different. I don't matter

From mixed race parents and I have lived I don't know the facts are I'm British, I'm it could never be the same struggle -

my mother and I speak Hindi, English, my dad

other than my mum harbours a secret desire for me to be a doctor!

My not speaking Mum's Konkani will mean when that my HE

imagine they might have an aptitude for learning languages and I would make sure they do – not Dada's Urdu though – languages that may be important to them in the future – at least one European and one

appreciative of the ability to speak Punjabi – to be able to communicate with Punjabi people all over the world

In the late 60s after she finished convent school in Bombay (with my mother and I speak Hindi, English, my dad good education considering her background), my mother went to join my granny (her mother) who was working as a nanny to Kuwaiti and American families in Beirut. My mother had learnt English as second language and also Hindi and was very modern for an Indian girl of her background. She worked as a secretary for an import export company there and hung out with other young, hip people from all over the world and went to loads of parties. She met my Father in Beirut during the early 70s through mutual friends at a party and they hung out together a lot. She came to the UK with him and they were married here DO I REALLY WANT TO PASS ON THE CONFUSION?

Prouder to be more Asian than British than in my 30's than I was in my 20's but always my definition of Asian is rather different

Working class English bird with brown skin whose parent's come from one spiritual, beautiful, crazy

I wouldn't necessarily call it 'my culture' but if I did they would know where they came from, just as I do they will find their own way

Hell yeah - it's a part of me - for my children (if I have em) I

language, they MARRIED will never have that direct link to that side of my heritage

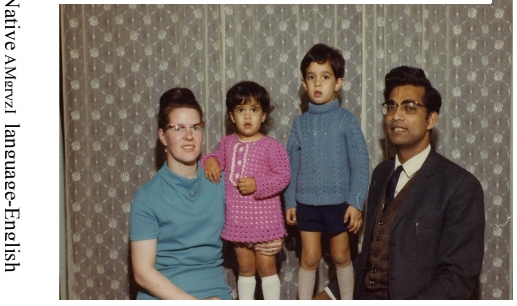
I would say English – but the first language I ever

would want them to understand my whole being - including where my parents came from, why I think and feel the way that I do, how I am shaped the way that I am

The irony – now - ended up being a lawyer - YES MOTHER/AUNT/NEIGHBOUR/SHOWOWNER - A SOLICITOR - doing well in my career and saving up money for a property – God I am probably living the lifestyle that my mother would want!!

Worry they won't know it at all Will do what my parents have done and know that I can embrace it as much or as little as I

Sad about the fact that I cannot read the language – read the thoughts, philosophy and history of India - the way I know my way around that was written by creative, artistic and passionate people – the stored sadi's in the mountains – now what did they write about?



Bangali. Wish I could speak/write/read it better

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British Asian? Forget about it – I weren't born in the valleys chuck - robin hood country me love - England expect? who knows what my mum expected - she probably didn't want her life to turn out the way that it did so 'want' is a better word to use than expect to be able

Not obliged as I want to know about it, I find it fascinating

I last travelled to India when I was a teenager – before I began my own life as an English person

I speak Punjabi fluently and appreciate the language dearly - I do not read or write Punjabi

it's too painful for both of em - stirring up memories of sadness,

One born here, one came to study

I ain't gonna bother them with Shame I wasn't brought up speaking Urdu as well – I think it's important to speak other languages and I am good at learning them but have never learnt Urdu

I will make sure I travel to India with them and that I record granny's and Mum's stories.

I always say I am half Indian, but to honest I feel unrooted. I know I am English in my ways but I am the sum of my parents

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