

# Breaking Generational Curses

*by* Fatoumata Cisse

---

**Submission date:** 05-Apr-2021 05:57PM (UTC-0400)

**Submission ID:** 1551313220

**File name:** Untitled\_document-9.docx (1,013.14K)

**Word count:** 3448

**Character count:** 14909



## Fatoumata Cisse

was born in Guinea Conakry and is currently living in New York City with her family. Fatoumata is a very outgoing person, fun, adventurous, ambitious, cultured and values her traditions as well as others. I have known Fatoumata since she was living in Guinea with her mom. Even at a young age I knew she would be a great person once she grows up, she was smart, curious, caring and a fashionista. We used to call her “la miss” which means the model she had passion for modeling every end of year in school. Fatoumata used to model for her school and she was really good at modeling and also dressing to stand out. Fatoumata grew up to be different from family from the way she talks, thinks, to the way she dresses. She has really broken a lot of generational curses from her family and I am proud of her.

Written by: Aicha Conde

# Breaking Generational Curses

By: Fatoumata Cisse



## Breaking Generational Curses

In this book I will be giving an insight of how I broke generational curses through my dressing, thinking and life experiences. You will have a clear understanding of my title. How I lived in two different continents and how it affected my way of dressing and thinking. My name is Fatoumata Cisse, I was born and raised in Guinea Conakry. I came to the U.S. when I was 12 years old. I am the author of Breaking General Curses. I am inviting you to read my book and I hope you will find this reading interesting and you will learn one or two things about my experiences.

2 Contents

Article Error (ETS)

Chapter 1.....5-6

Chapter 2.....7-8

Chapter 3.....9-10

Chapter 4.....11-12

Chapter 5.....13-14

Chapter 6.....15-16

Chapter 7.....17-18

Chapter 8.....19-20

Chapter 9.....21-22

Chapter 10.....23-24

Article Error (ETS)

Chapter 1



## First marriage topic I had with my mother

This is the year 2008, and I was just a 10 years old girl who lived in Guinea Conakry in Matoto to be precise. It was my sister's wedding which took place in petit simbaya, this was also my first ever wedding to attend. Therefore I didn't know what to expect, however I remembered being so excited and energetic because in my culture when your sister is getting married the little sisters will receive a lot of gifts and I was looking forward to those gifts.

After the wedding everyone left one and they took my sister to her husband's house. I got my gifts which were clothes, money and jewelries. 2 days later my sister's husband family came to our house singing and dancing and I was so confused as of what was going on, so I started to ask around and people were telling me that "your sister is a woman" and I asked what they mean by that they said my sister passed the virginity test that is why they are celebrating her. In my culture if you get married people expect you to be a virgin that is the only way you can prove to them that you are a good girl and that is the way to not put your family to shame.

During my sister's wedding I was wearing a beautiful white dress with pearls and bow tie around the waist with my hair braided and some mini heels. I was wearing gold earrings and I was also wearing a white headband. My dress was not an African attire, but a European attire. I know you are probably thinking why wasn't I wearing an african dress at an African wedding. Well to be honest I wasn't so much of a fan of african clothes when I was younger because I never used to know how to tie the wraps so I preferred wearing western dresses for the case of simplicity and comfort. I remembered right after everybody left my mother sat me down a lone and told me "you see how your sister have been celebrated today, I would like you too be celebrated this way when you get married" and I replied back to her "Nene I don't want to get married" she laughed about it and thought I was joking or it is because I was a child that is why I was talking like that, but deep down I knew I was serious about every word I said.

Chapter 2





## First Time learning to cook

I was 11 years old when I first learned how to cook different African dishes, however the first dish I ever cooked was my favorite sauce which was an okra sauce. I was living in Matoto Guinea Conakry when my mother decided it is time to teach me how to teach because as a woman you need to learn how to cook at an early age so that when it is time for you to get married you already know how to do your womanly duty. My mother always used to think that I will get married early because of how quickly I was growing up, but in my mind I knew I wanted more for myself other than just being married, having kids and being a housewife.

When I first started cooking I was wearing a pink dress that stopped on my knees and my hair was braided in big braids with aprons to protect me. I also had a bracelet on my hand. I was dressed simple, but cute. I remembered being excited to learn cooking, especially my favorite sauce which was okra sauce, however everytime everytime my mother would bring up about marriage and how a woman should behave in order to receive a good will just upset me because I was too young to be thinking about getting married. My only focus was getting an education and being a boss and independent woman. My goal was to be a model. I also had the passion to become a lawyer, however because of cultural reasons and religious reasons I changed my goals of becoming a model or a lawyer. Culturally models are not respected because they showed their bodies and my religion wants women to cover their bodies also being a lawyer they viewed it as haram because they believed lawyers are big liars which is forbidden in Islam.

I remembered feeling out of place in my own family due to the fact that I didn't agree with a lot of their beliefs, I believed I was different. In Guinea when people are cooking they usually wear african wrappers, but I felt more comfortable and relieved when I was wearing a westernise dress and I always get people talking about the way I dress, however I was glad my mother didn't have an issue about me wearing dresses and not african wrappers.

Chapter 3



## Coming to America

In July 2010 I moved to America for a better life and opportunities. I came with my 2 younger brothers and my big sister to come live with our father who was already living in America for about 7 years. I knew from the beginning that this would be a life changing experience for me and for my siblings.

I did my hair in a ponytail afro bun, I wore a 2 piece black shirt and skirt, I had a tshirt under my shirt, I wore a colorful african cardigan, with two black long socks and sneakers, I put on some makeup and wore some glasses as accessories. I was so excited to come to America and see what the future had for me. My mother insisted that I wear African prints at the airport and I remembered telling her "Mom I am coming to America I need to dress nicely to impress the people I am meeting there" however I told her I would wear my african cardigan so that she wouldn't be sad. My mother also wanted me to wear my hijab because I was going to see my dad and my dad is very religious. I managed to convince her to not wear the hijab because my hair was just done beautifully and I didn't want to cover it. My mother was revising all the islamic lectures with me so that when I arrive and my dad asks me anything about islam I know the answer to it, but to be honest I didn't care about anything that she was telling me I was just busy visualizing my life in America.

I knew to be successful in a foreign country I needed to adapt to the environment, lifestyle etc.. which is the reason why I dressed the way I did when I was coming to America. I didn't want to feel out of place. I wanted to belong to the place where I barely wear sneakers. In Africa we usually wear sandals and I always braided my hair in Africa and I had to change those little things just so that I would look cool at the airport and during my arrival.

Chapter 4



## First day of school

In September 2010 I started middle school in New York City, the Bronx to be precise. The name of the school was P.S. 95 Sheila Mencher. I started in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and our school didn't require uniforms. You could wear whatever you wanted to school as long as it is appropriate dressing you will be fine. I was excited about the freedom and opportunity to be wearing whatever you wanted in school until I started getting bullied for the way I was dressing. I didn't understand or speak english when I first started school fulani and french were my native languages, but I could tell when people in school started making fun of me because of the way I was dressing.

During my first day of school, I wore blue jeans with a pink shirt and a pink sweater, I also had black nike air force 1 sneakers, I had a pink and white hat on and a Pink dora book bag. I did my research about the color clothes american girls love to wear the most in school and I found out that girls' favorite color was pink which is the reason why I bought everything pink. I thought it would make me stand out and look cool instead I was the laugh of the school.

Everywhere I passed by I heard students giggle and made me wonder what they were laughing about until I decided to make friends and sat next to a bunch of kids and one of them started laughing and pointed at my bag and started asking questions and laughing. He then grabbed my bag and asked "how much you got this bag for" me looking at him confused because I didn't understand what he was talking about and then he replied "2 dollars" that was when I immediately took my bag from him and when I sat alone.

I went home crying that day and told my father to give me money to buy a new bag. I explained to him that they were making fun of my bag in school. He gave money and I went and bought the most trendy bag which was the cross bag, I got the bag in purple. This was my first time wearing jeans/ pants because in my culture they do not allow women to wear pants. You will either have to wear a long dress or a long skirt top cover your shape. I had a misunderstanding with my dad about wearing jeans outside, but I explained to him that is what everybody is waiting for in this country and I needed to adapt to it. It was a huge shift in my life of dressing. The fact that I was adapting to a new way of dressing, but still not being able to meet the standards and expectations and me being a disappointment to my family for trying on different dressings.

Chapter 5



## 8th Grade Graduation

On June 22, 2012 I graduated middle school. It was a happy moment for me and my family and at this moment I realized that I am coming closer to my goal. I started realizing that I can be successful and I can become the woman that I want to be. I don't need to depend on nobody, but myself. I called my family back home and explained everything that happened at the graduation ceremony. Back home we don't do graduations. You will just move up to the next grade when you pass so this was new to me and my family.

I wore a mini shoulderless dress, the color of the dress was yellow and pink, I wore black heels and put on some makeup and accessories to accessorize my mini dress. I put my hair into a ponytail. Wearing a mini dress outside with my hair out during my graduation was a turning point in my life. The fact that my family was against me wearing my short dress, but I rebelled and made them understand that is the way I wanted to dress for my graduation and it was the choice I made.

Wearing a mini dress for the first time at my graduation made me feel free and in control of my life, it made me realise that I can be in control of my life and I don't have to dress the same way as everyone else. I didn't feel bad for dressing differently, it made me feel unique and I realised that this is my life and I need to take ownership of it.

Chapter 6





## Welcome to High School

In September, 2012 I started high school in Marble Hill high school for International Studies. This time around I felt comfortable starting school because not only I can speak english, I also knew the trends around me so that I wouldn't feel left out in school. What also made me feel comfortable was because the school was international I saw many students who looked like and acted like me. I felt welcomed and satisfied.

My go to dressing in high school was crop top shirts, jeans, heels, and sneakers. I wasn't a fan of accessories, but I used to change my hair to different styles every week. I had an aunt who does hair she used to do my hair every week into different styles. Freshman year in high school was really good, I was having fun in the way I dress. I started dressing differently than I normally used to. I started hanging out with different people from different cultures and I started learning different things which shaped the way I was dressing. In 10th grade I started becoming rebellious in the way I dress, I started wearing shorts and more crop tops. I even pierced my belly and tongue because all my friends were doing it.

Your surroundings will really shape the way you dress and even act. My way of dressing drastically changed during high school, I was careless, free and didn't care of what others thought of me as long as I was following the trends that's all that mattered to me. It got to the point where my dad wanted to send me back to Africa because according to him I was being a disgrace to the family.

## Chapter 7



The most tragic day of my life

## Breaking Generational Curses

On november 26, 2014 my life completely changed. The unexpected happened to me when I lost my mother back home in Guinea Conakry due to short sickness. I was in school when my father called the school to inform them of the death of my mother. The school principal then immediately dropped me home, however I was still curious as of why I was going home early. When I got home I saw my father and I asked him what happened. He told me to go change and he will tell me what happened. My heart was already beating fast because I never saw my father cry before and that was when I knew someone passed away. Later when I came to the living he told me that my mother passed away. I was in disbelief I kept calling my mother's phone number, but she wasn't peaking up that is when I realized that it was true that she is no more.

I never knew death was real until the day I lost my mother, when I went to Guinea with my father for her sacrifices. I went to her house hoping that I would find her, but she was nowhere to be found and that was when I truly realized that she really passed away. I decided to take my religion seriously, therefore I needed to make a lot of changes with my dressing. I gave away all my clothes and started shopping for modest clothes and hijabs. I realized that this life is short and death is real. I started fully covering my body and wearing the hijab. I also started praying everyday. My love for hijab and modest wear started growing more and more, by the end of my high school year I was a fully covered hijabi.

Wearing the hijab made me powerful and empowered the fact that I wasn't showing my skin to the world really made me feel at ease and peace. My relationship with God and my family started growing. My dad was so happy to see me dress in a islamic way without him having to yell at me and argue with me all the time.

## Chapter 8



Graduating from high school

## Breaking Generational Curses

On June 26, 2016 I graduated high school with honors from Marble hill high school of international studies in the Bronx. I was proud of my accomplishments for being the first person in my family to graduate from high school. I set an example for my younger siblings, nieces and nephews to do the same thing as me and even more.

At my graduation ceremony I wore a black hijab with a black jilbab and a white cap and gown. I had makeup on and black heels. I wanted to represent myself and every hijabi around the world that they too can be a graduate with the hijab and jilbab on so they do not have to change themselves in order to be celebrated or feel smart. They do not have to be housewives, they are better than that. I was getting pressured to get married after I graduated from high school, but I knew what I wanted and stood for myself and I don't want to get married. It brought some tensions between my father and I, but I had to do what was best for me.

My way of dressing modestly made people think I was ready to settle down, but that wasn't the case with me. I was ready to embark on a new adventure which means to have fun, get educated, start a business, explore the world and enjoy life not get married and be miserable.

Chapter 9



Exploring the World

## Breaking Generational Curses

After graduating from high school, I took a year off to explore the world and learn things and cultures. I started solo traveling to different countries which was completely forbidden in my culture for an unmarried woman to travel alone. They see it as a taboo, however, I didn't care if I did it anyways.

Proofread (ETS)

Missing ", " (ETS)

My change of dressing changed during my traveling time, I started wearing pants with blouses, I started wearing hats on top of my hijabs and I also fell in love with makeup and accessories.

Run-on (ETS)

Traveling became a hobby to me. I visited 6 different countries.

## Chapter 10



Starting a Business



## Breaking Generational Curses

In 2020 I decided to launch my online business store which focuses on modest women wear. Based on my experiences and struggles I went through finding modest wear that is affordable with high quality. It inspired me to start my own business and fix the issue of many other modest women that are going through the same experience.

I focused on fashionable modest clothes that are suitable and affordable. I had jilbabs for women who wanted to fully cover their bodies and also dresses that are modest yet fashionable to young ladies. You like to show some shape, but in a modest way. I started this business to become my own own boss, to be successful and to break generational curses of poverty.

Starting up the business opened up my eyes to understand dressing in different perspectives from different points of view. I realized that everybody has their own way of dressing and styling a garment and I had to understand that in order to sell the right product to the right consumers.

# Breaking Generational Curses

---

## ORIGINALITY REPORT

---

4%

SIMILARITY INDEX

4%

INTERNET SOURCES

0%

PUBLICATIONS

3%

STUDENT PAPERS

---

## PRIMARY SOURCES

---

1

Submitted to Andrews University

Student Paper

2%

2

Submitted to Mont Blanc Palace

Student Paper

1%

3

[www.pressherald.com](http://www.pressherald.com)

Internet Source

1%

4

[www.fcigeneral.com](http://www.fcigeneral.com)

Internet Source

<1%

5

[thisiskatha.com](http://thisiskatha.com)

Internet Source

<1%

---

Exclude quotes Off

Exclude matches Off

Exclude bibliography Off

# Breaking Generational Curses

---

GRADEMARK REPORT

---

FINAL GRADE

GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

200 /250

---

PAGE 1

---



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word. Consider using the article **a**.



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word.



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word.

PAGE 2

---

PAGE 3

---



**Prep.** You may be using the wrong preposition.

PAGE 4

---



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word. Consider using the article **the**.



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word.

PAGE 5

---

PAGE 6

---



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Run-on** This sentence may be a run-on sentence. Proofread it to see if it contains too many independent clauses or contains independent clauses that have been combined without conjunctions or punctuation. Look at the "Writer's Handbook" for advice about correcting run-on sentences.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Run-on** This sentence may be a run-on sentence. Proofread it to see if it contains too many independent clauses or contains independent clauses that have been combined without conjunctions or punctuation. Look at the "Writer's Handbook" for advice about correcting run-on sentences.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Run-on** This sentence may be a run-on sentence. Proofread it to see if it contains too many independent clauses or contains independent clauses that have been combined without conjunctions or punctuation. Look at the "Writer's Handbook" for advice about correcting run-on sentences.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Possessive** You may need to use an apostrophe to show possession.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Article Error** You may need to remove this article.



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Run-on** This sentence may be a run-on sentence. Proofread it to see if it contains too many independent clauses or contains independent clauses that have been combined without conjunctions or punctuation. Look at the "Writer's Handbook" for advice about correcting run-on sentences.

PAGE 7

---

PAGE 8

---



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Run-on** This sentence may be a run-on sentence. Proofread it to see if it contains too many independent clauses or contains independent clauses that have been combined without conjunctions or punctuation. Look at the "Writer's Handbook" for advice about correcting run-on sentences.

PAGE 9

---

PAGE 10

---



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Prep.** You may be using the wrong preposition.



**Dup.** You have typed two **identical words** in a row. You may need to delete one of them.



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word. Consider using the article **a**.



**Hyph.** You may need to add a hyphen between these two words.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Run-on** This sentence may be a run-on sentence. Proofread it to see if it contains too many independent clauses or contains independent clauses that have been combined without conjunctions or punctuation. Look at the "Writer's Handbook" for advice about correcting run-on sentences.



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Sentence Cap.** Remember to capitalize the first word of each sentence.

PAGE 11

---

PAGE 12

---



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word. Consider using the article **the**.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word.



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.

**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Proofread** This part of the sentence contains a grammatical error or misspelled word that makes your meaning unclear.



**Run-on** This sentence may be a run-on sentence. Proofread it to see if it contains too many independent clauses or contains independent clauses that have been combined without conjunctions or punctuation. Look at the "Writer's Handbook" for advice about correcting run-on sentences.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Article Error** You may need to remove this article.

---

PAGE 13

---

PAGE 14



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.

---

PAGE 15

---

PAGE 16



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Proofread** This part of the sentence contains a grammatical error or misspelled word that makes your meaning unclear.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Prep.** You may be using the wrong preposition.



**S/V** This subject and verb may not agree. Proofread the sentence to make sure the subject agrees with the verb.

PAGE 17

---

PAGE 18

---



**Proper Noun** If this word is a proper noun, you need to capitalize it.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Confused** You have used **a** in this sentence. You may need to use **an** instead.

PAGE 19

---

PAGE 20

---



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.

PAGE 21

---

PAGE 22

---



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.





**Proofread** This part of the sentence contains a grammatical error or misspelled word that makes your meaning unclear.



**Run-on** This sentence may be a run-on sentence. Proofread it to see if it contains too many independent clauses or contains independent clauses that have been combined without conjunctions or punctuation. Look at the "Writer's Handbook" for advice about correcting run-on sentences.

PAGE 23

---

PAGE 24

---



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.