

Where I'm From by Sarah Khan  
Grade 11

I am from silk woven charpais,  
delicately laced with jute and coir.  
I am from the soles of my worn-out chappal,  
the ones that carry my feet  
as if the shaadi festivities are endless.  
I am from the tarnished iron gate,  
standing tall and proud,  
guarding the haveli with every might.  
I am from the nutmeg and saffron,  
the coriander and cinnamon,  
that deliver a spice  
strong enough to send you back to your roots.  
I am from the roar of the rickshaw,  
the one that never ceases to scale  
the rugged, gritty roads of Lahore.  
I am Pakistan,  
the aura and essence,  
the core of a beautiful people.

*Glossary*

*charpai* - traditional woven bed used in the Indian subcontinent, made out of cotton and fiber

*chappal* - open toed slippers

*shaadi* - a South Asian wedding

*haveli* - traditional house

*rickshaw* - a wagon containing passengers that is pulled by a bicycle

*Lahore* - city in Pakistan