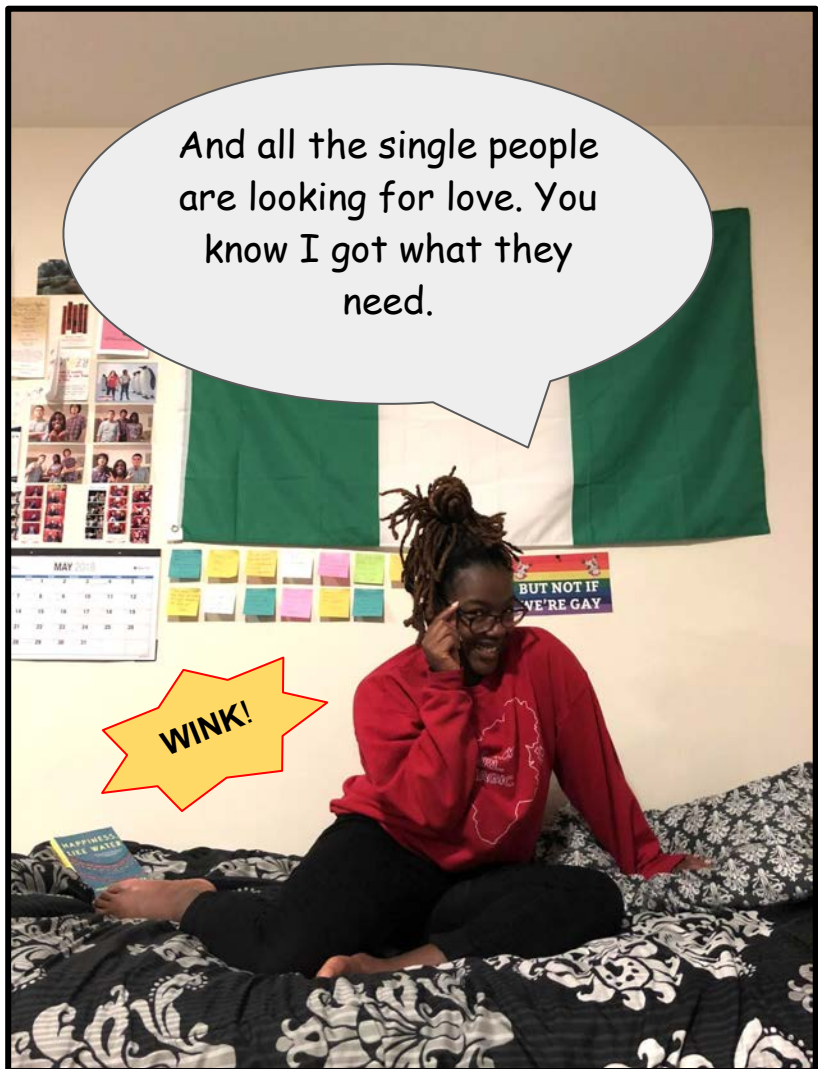




# *“The Price of Love”*

By Nwamaka Amobi and  
Gabrielle Ballard

**On a cool summer evening, two Nigerian-American girls sit in their Boston apartment and discuss their life plans:**



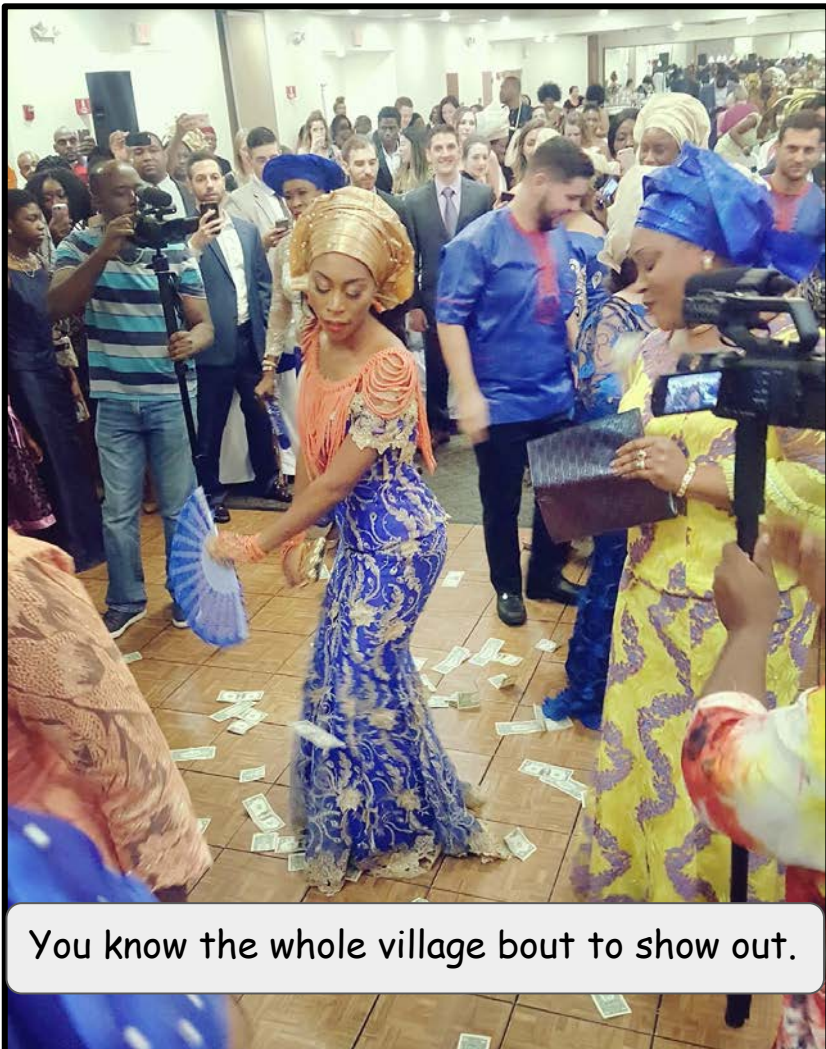
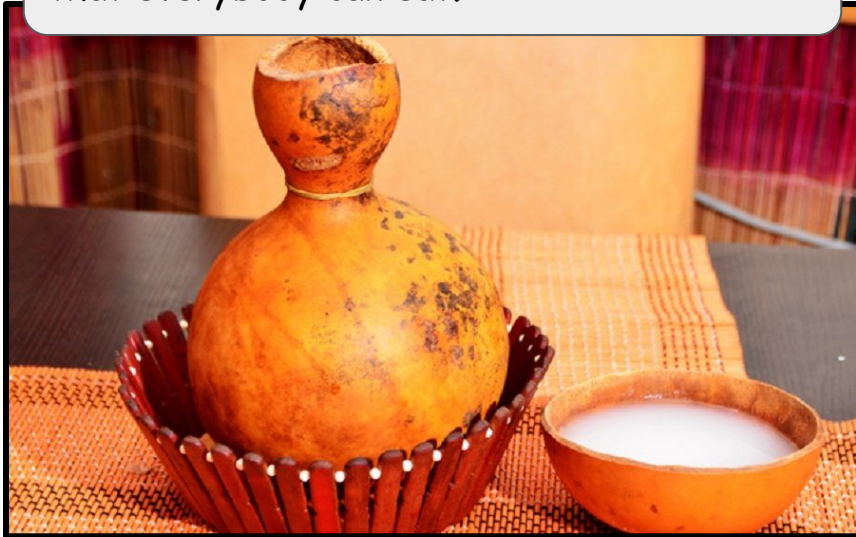
Girl, I wasn't serious. Weddings are entirely too much work. First of all, they cost too much money.



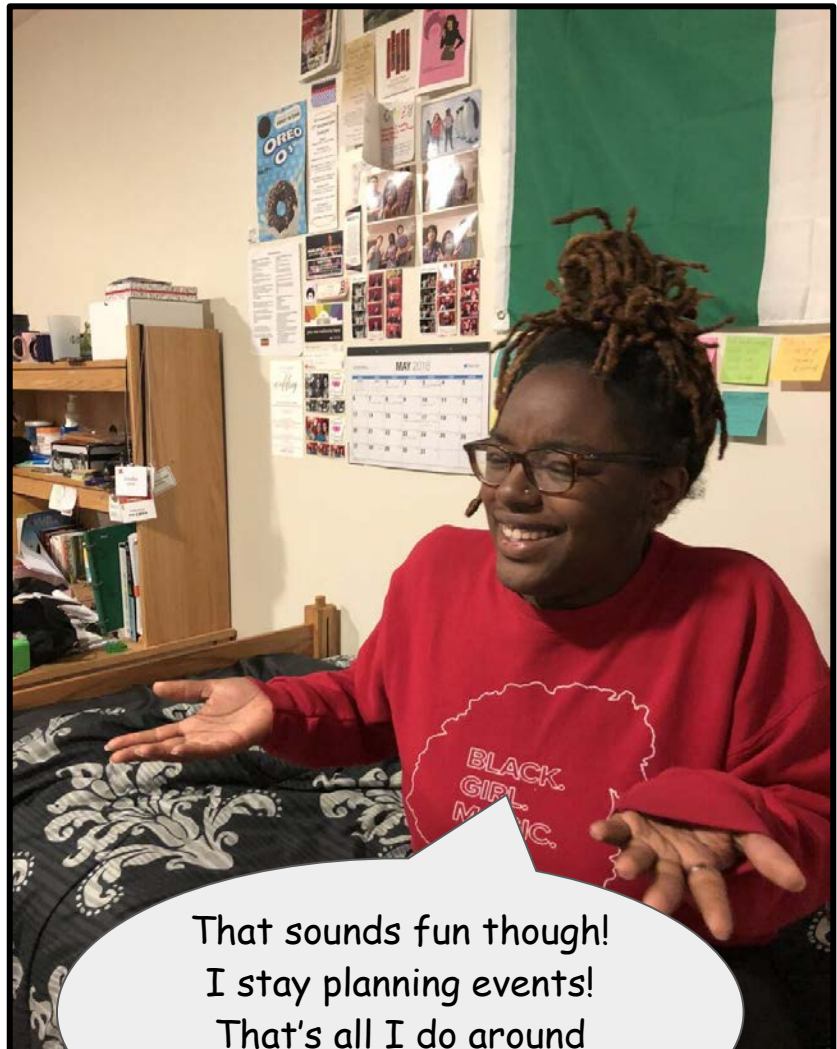
Your family has to pay for all the food, the palm wine, and the kola nut.



And you have to buy everything in excess so that everybody can eat.

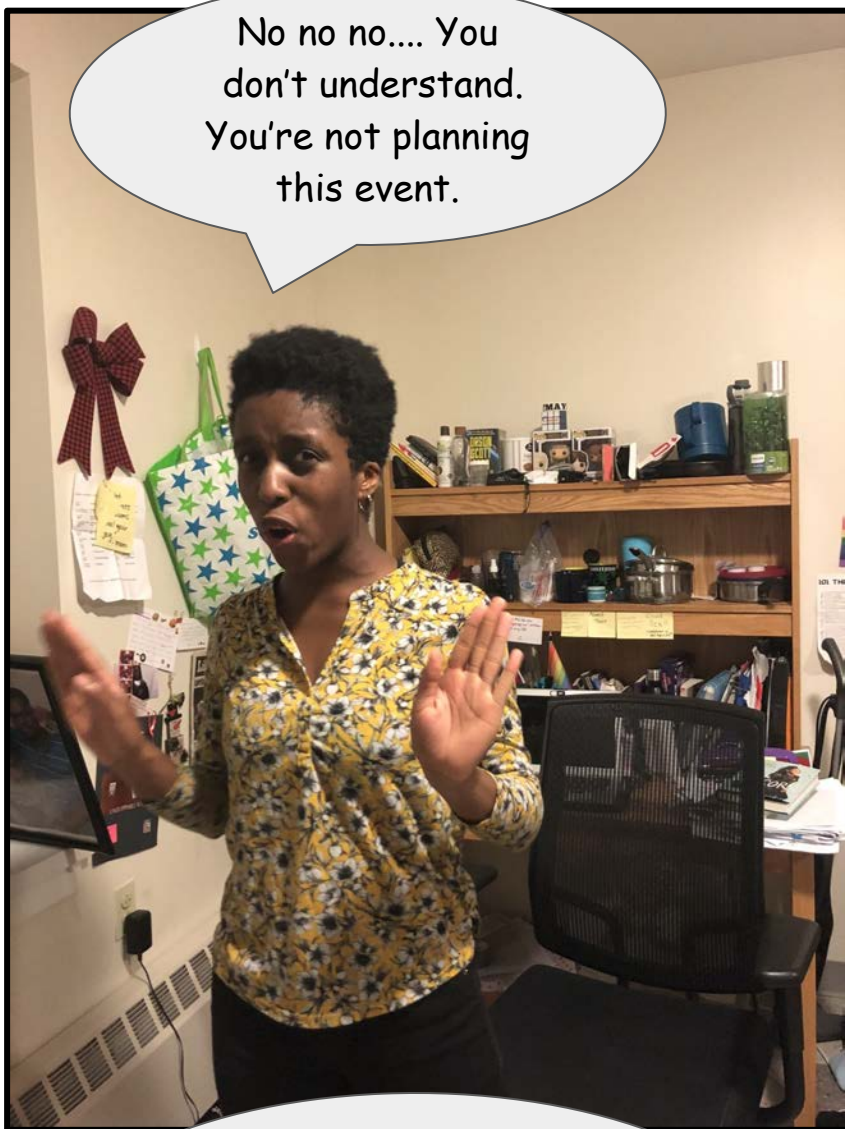


You know the whole village bout to show out.

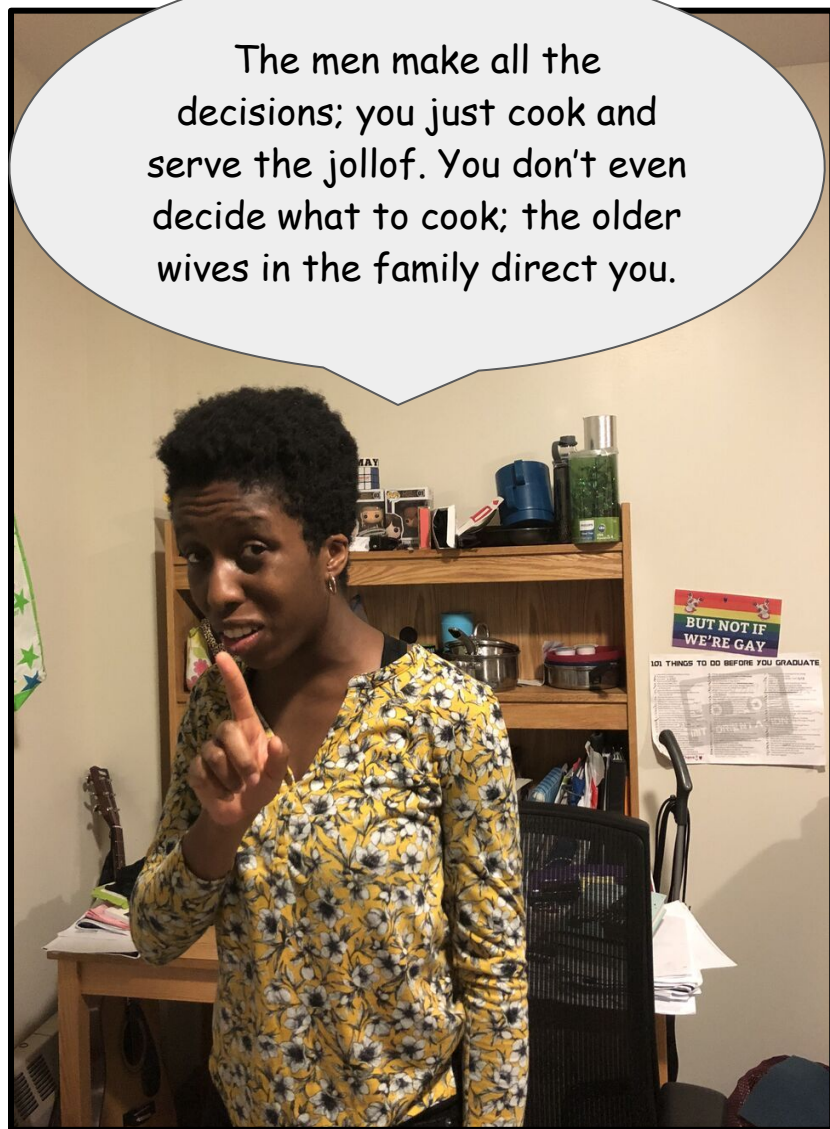


That sounds fun though! I stay planning events! That's all I do around here.

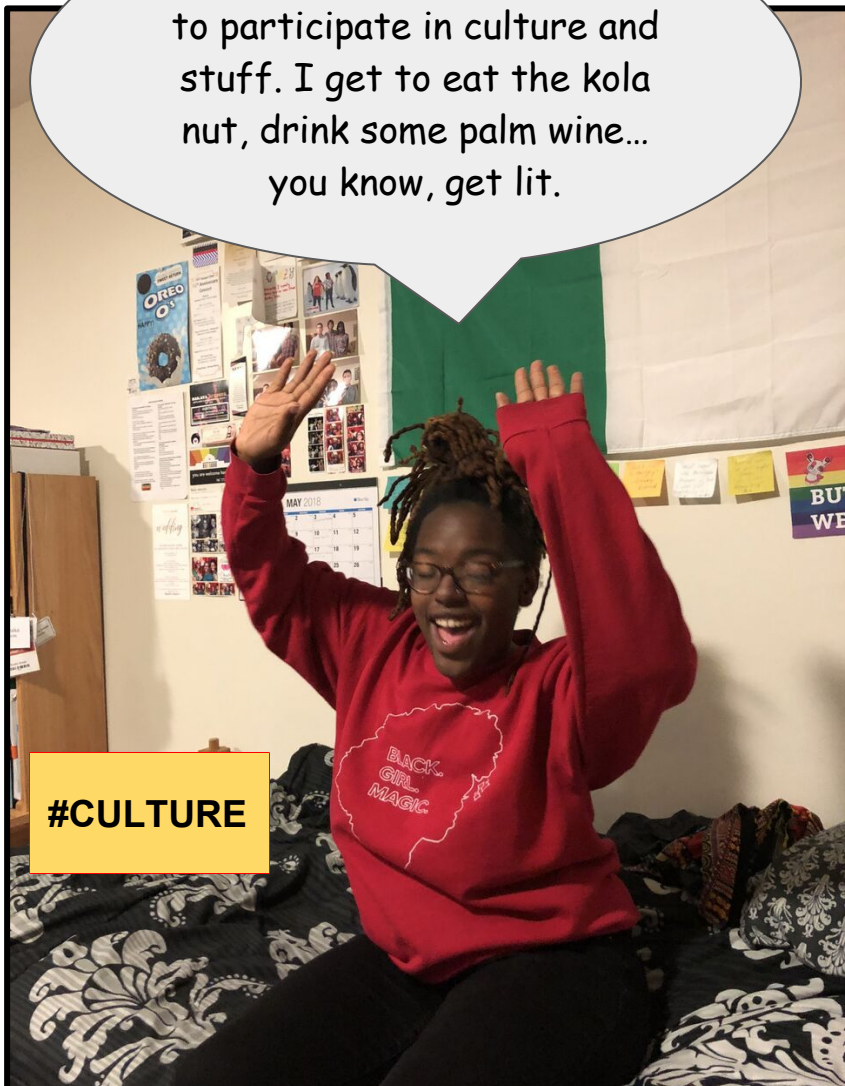
No no no.... You don't understand. You're not planning this event.



The men make all the decisions; you just cook and serve the jollof. You don't even decide what to cook; the older wives in the family direct you.



Well that's okay. I still get to participate in culture and stuff. I get to eat the kola nut, drink some palm wine... you know, get lit.



#CULTURE

Ew.



You thought. You'll be lucky if some kola nut gets to you after the titled men, older men, younger men, titled women, and older women all get some.

And palm wine? Forget it. All you take is a sip and the groom drinks the rest.

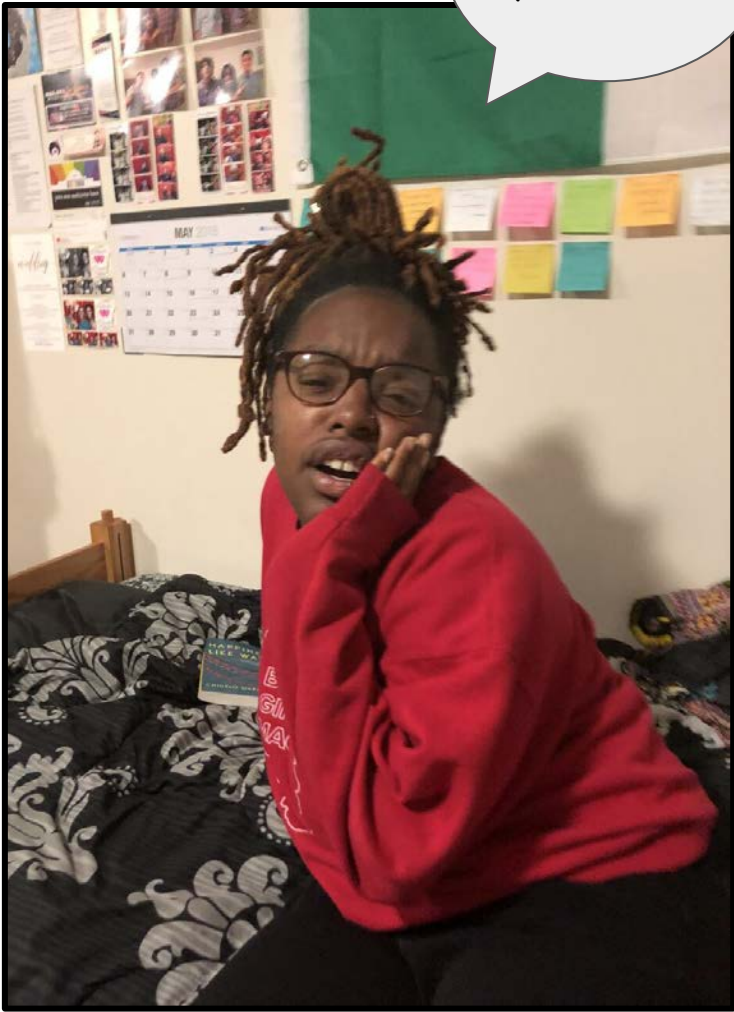
YIKES!

Fine. I hear what you're saying, but I'll just put my own spin on tradition. And do things my way.

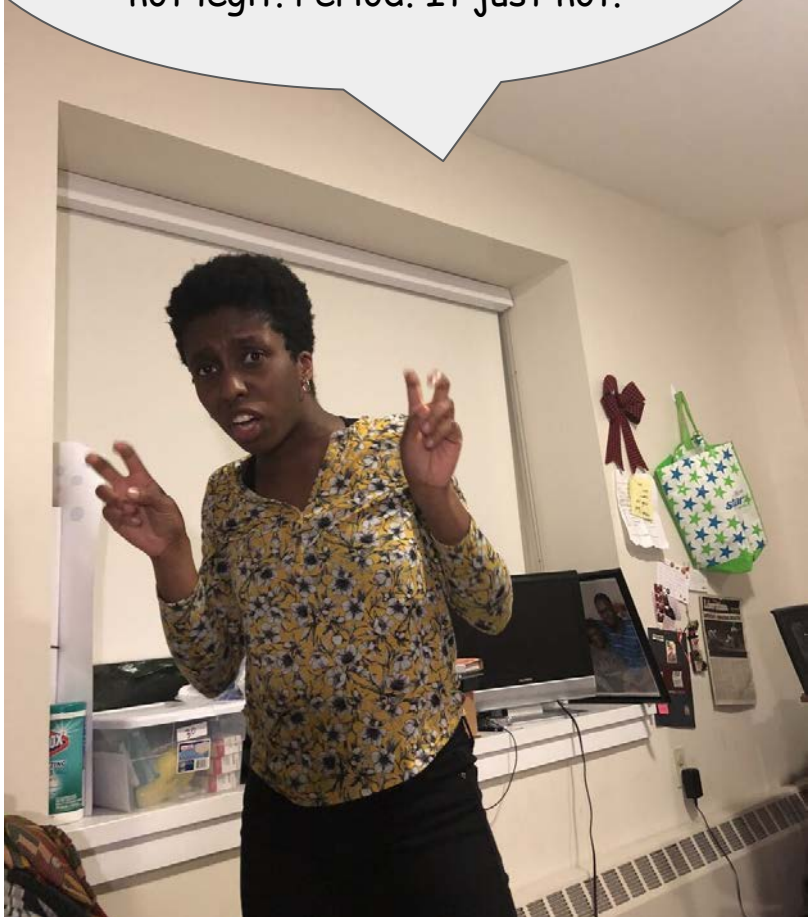
Are you crazy? No one will respect that marriage!




What do you mean?!




You can't just "put your own spin" on tradition. If you don't follow the strict practices, it's not legit. Period. It just not.





What if I can't afford all that stuff you talked about??



Well my auntie said that if you can't pay for it, that's your problem.  
**TRADITION IS NON-NEGOTIABLE.**

END



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