

Abdullah – Intro

Michael is an ordinary 17-year-old boy from a single-parent family in The Hague. His father died five years ago. Until six months ago, Michael was a top youth player at a premier Dutch football club. Then he heard the devastating news that he had no future in football. Since then he has changed. He is no longer doing his best at school. He is a student at The Hague University of Applied Sciences, where he had been doing well, but now he is skipping classes.

He used to spend many hours each week playing football, but now he spends that time with a few Moroccan and Antillean friends who are Muslims. He focuses all his attention on religion. He had always had periods of fanaticism about one thing or another, but he always lost interest after a while. In early adolescence he was an enthusiastic member of a Pentecostal church.

Six months ago he converted to Islam and now calls himself Abdullah. He is trying to grow a beard, dresses modestly, lives as 'purely' as possible and listens to prayers on his iPhone all day long. He has learned to read Arabic fairly well, which impresses his Muslim friends. A couple of his friends have Muslim marriages. Abdullah is popular with the girls in his Muslim circle.