

Who: Shetal

From: Fiji

When: 1990



Who: Anita

From: Fiji

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I'm Shetal and I am 10 years old and I am from Nelson. In my family there is Mum, Dad, Kimal, Shivnal, my brother and sister, and me. My Dad works at South Pine and my Mum stays at home. We live up on a hill.

My family came from Fiji before the coup ..like when they don't like the government

At home we have Indian clothing and sweets and photos from Fiji. We have a huge box. It's for doing prayer. It is shaped like a 3 with a line through it. It's got two stickers on it. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday we pray.

My name is Anita. I'm Shetal's Mum. My husband was the first to come here from Fiji. He came in 1987. He got a job in New Zealand but in 1990 he came back to Fiji.

In Fiji he was visiting his family. I was the neighbour. His sister knew us pretty well. She told him about me. It was an arranged marriage, but it was up to me if I want to marry. My parents allowed me that.

Our traditional dress is a sari. It is a sign of marriage and we have a necklace too. Shetal doesn't have one at the moment. If she marries an Indian she will wear one.

My Mum. I miss her very much. I wish to go and see her every second year but now I am not working it is very hard. It has been six or seven years now. My Mum came here and visited. She finds peace and quiet over here. In Fiji it is pretty noisy.

In Fiji we get out and talk to the neighbours. We used to go round the houses and collect flowers to make a big garland for our prayers. Over here you hardly see the neighbours out in the garden and you don't know if they are home or not, the curtains are drawn

The box Shetal described. Its like a temple..sort of. We put it separate in one room. We have photos of our God in that temple. We have garlands of flowers and we have fruits. After the prayer we sit down and eat the fruits.

