

# The Power in Breaking Tradition

Traditions are constantly changing, yet to change them requires a strength by such powerfully minded individuals, determined to defeat the odds of orthodox rule. When I envision such powerful people, I envision the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment and Phillis Wheatley. Individuals like them lived during a time where being black instantly objectified you. In a world where black individuals were completely stripped of humanity, and, in essence, power, they persevered. Both individuals of the Regiment and Phillis Wheatley were doubted upon for their abilities that seemed too far-fetched for a black person to ever achieve. As discussed on the tour, many colonists did not believe that she, a black slave, would be able to write such eloquent, beautiful poetry. With the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment, many white people during the time, who believed black people to be inferior, could not fathom the fact that they could be such gallant, strong soldiers. Yet with the power of hope and strife, they were able to prove all odds against them wrong and become one of many impactful individuals of history -- so powerful that they have become erected as statues to exist for future generations to look back upon for inspiration, and for their names to never be forgotten. The future generations, too, can be as powerful as their predecessors, and break future traditions which set us back from being the humans we want to be, and the humanity we want to see.

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