

# [The brought home a sword. if you ask](https://assignbuster.com/the-brought-home-a-sword-if-you-ask/)

The film Mulan was made tocombat the stereotypical gender roles in the Chinese culture, however, themovie contains proof of the contrary. China, in Mulan, is shown as a maledominant society in which men and women’s’actions must comply with their cultural roles. In this setting, a man bringshonor to his family by fighting in the war and becoming a high ranked soldier. A woman fulfills her honorable role to the family by marrying a man with statusand wealth.

Towards the beginning of the movie, when Mulan is grooming to gosee a matchmaker all the women sing to her “ Honour us all”. It suggests that, “ a girl can bring her family great honor in oneway, by striking a good match. Men want girls with good taste, calm, obedient, who workfast-paced. With good breeding and a tiny waist” (Mulan 1988.) However, Mulanseems to successfully move away from these traditional roles when she saves allof China and as her achievement she is offered a seat in the council.

Insteadof accepting this stereotype breaker role as a woman, she refuses and decidedto go home like a passive daughter. This portrays that as ‘ a man’ inthe army she was able to work but once the roles are reversed, Mulan yearns togo home which is considered a norm for women. Also, when she returns hergrandmother says, “ Great, she brought home a sword. If you ask meshe should have brought home a man” (Mulan 1998). This goes toshow that despite her efforts, her family’s ideology on culture honorand women roles have not changed.

They would still like to see her a bride. Likeshown in the movie Mulan, a women’s role is to honour herfamily by becoming a bride and in this lie their true happiness. The filmalthough tries to show Mulan as a feminist princess it fails to do as it onlyreinforces the gender roles of both male and female.