

Tiempos de Berkeley

Ser Inmigrante en los Estados Unidos

POR JOSUÉ REVOLORIO / INSTITUTO MULTICULTURAL

Contrario a lo que piensan muchos com-patriotas que aún viven en nuestros países de origen, para quienes hemos emigrado a vivir a los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica no es sinónimo de riquezas, buena vida y buen trabajo. Vivir en EE.UU es sinónimo de lucha, trabajo duro, sacrificios, soledad, valentía y sobrevivencia; muchas veces significa humillación y desprecio.

También significa renunciar a muchas cosas y sacrificarse por otras, con el fin de llegar a mejorar su vida. ¡Estas reflexiones pueden ser una advertencia para quienes nunca han salido de su tierra y critican a quienes con un poco de valentía, miedo, sueños, fe y esperanzas, se atrevieron a dejar sus tierras y familiares para buscar nuevos horizontes y un futuro mejor!

Sin saber que, eventualmente, pagarían un precio muy alto por el famoso "Sueño Americano" del que tanto se habla como si tal cosa. Y es que para la mayoría de inmigrantes no se trata de ningún sueño, sino de una verdadera pesadilla. Sí, porque la gran mayoría está lejos de sus seres queridos, a quienes muchas veces no tienen oportunidad de volver a ver; ni siquiera poder ir a darles "un último adiós."

Tal la historia de Ramiro (*), jornalero que hace unos 20 años dejó todo. Su plan original: traer, uno a uno, a toda su familia. El destino se lo impidió. La más pequeña

Being an immigrant in the United States

BY JOSUÉ REVOLORIO / MULTICULTURAL INSTITUTE (ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY RENEE REVOLORIO)

Contrary to what many patriots who still live in our countries of origin might think, those of us who have emigrated to live in the United States of North America, it is not synonymous of wealth, good life, and good work. Living in the USA is akin of struggle, hard work, sacrifices, solitude, courage, and survival; often times it means facing ongoing humiliation and disdain. It also means giving up many things and sacrificing oneself for others, in order to improve your life and/or breadth of opportunities. These reflections could be a warning for those who have never left their country of origin and yet criticize those who with a little bit of courage, fear, hope and faith dared to leave their homeland and family in search of new horizons and a better future! Without knowing this, eventually, they would pay a very high price for believing in the famous "American Dream" of which much is spoken as if such thing. And the truth is for most immigrants the "American Dream" is not but a waking nightmare. Yes, because the great majority of us are far from our loved ones and don't have the means, nor the opportunity to go back, to see them again;

Nota del editor: () Ramiro: nombre ficticio para proteger la identidad del personaje que, en confianza, compartió su testimonio. Su caso no es el primero, el único, ni el último; desafortunadamente.*

if only to say "goodbye" one last time. Such is the story of Ramiro (*), a day laborer who about twenty years ago left everything behind. His original plan: to bring, his whole family with him, one by one. Destiny prevented this from happening. His youngest daughter, who was around seven years old, fell gravely ill. A couple of months later she died. Ramiro had no legal documentation, and this hindered from traveling back to his home country to take care of his daughter while she was still alive. He was also unable attend her funeral. That pain will accompany him for the rest of his life, like a dagger embedded in his chest, for having dared to "dream" up a better future for him and his family. This future that he was entitled to, was denied from him in his home country, for its abundant natural resources lead the societal elite to be so consumed with greed that they refused to share in its wealth with their fellow citizens. This future is also denied him in the United States, which put so much importance on achieving the "American Dream" and building towards economic development that it looks down on its people with hatred, as if they were pieces of machinery, cheap labor, exploitable and disposable. Just like these people were disposed of in their home country.

Editor's note: () Ramiro is a fictitious name to protect the day laborer's identity, for whom trust us enough in sharing his story. His case, unfortunately, is not the first one, the only one, nor the last one.*

CAUTION

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N' MELODIES
TOGETHER