



Life After Deportation

By Brian [REDACTED] & Melani [REDACTED]

Authors



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In this story these authors cover the struggle this family faced when their loved one was deported, from their money struggles, and finding it hard to find his querencia.

The Valdez Family....



Source: Esri
MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

In this story "life after deportation" the father of the Valdez family, Rafael, has unfortunately been deported back to Zacatecas, Mexico. Rafael and his family used to go to their hometown on the weekends to find respite in their city, but unfortunately all that has been taken away from him is that he was forced to leave his family behind due to his being deported.

The story & The Issue

The story is rafael is a hard working man who just wants the best for his family, ever since he was deported he has been trying to find a way back to his family, even though rafael has been sent back to his home city, you may seem like its a special place to go back to but in reality he just misses his family and he knows that there are many more opportunities in the states that he is missing out on.



The issue we find about this story is we know Rafael had a DUI that lead to his deportation, but we feel it isn't fair because usually immigrants get deported because of a crime they did like drug dealing or even worse but even though Rafael shouldn't have got a DUI they should've gave him a second chance he's a good person who tries to support his family with everything he has but was all taken away from him. Also Rafael could still get deported because of Rafael had then been in the Seattle area for about 15 years. He and Joy were married, but he could still be deported thanks to a 1996 overhaul of immigration law. The day he's got case got turned down Rafael's wife had to tell their kids daddy is going to stay there.

Questions

- How hard was it to cope with being separated from your family
- Do you wish things would have been different
- What was the process like of being deported

Outcome

outcome of the story is that the Valdez family's kids finally got to get to know their cousins even though they were deported back to Mexico

The Valdez's occupy a compact, two-story house alongside teachers, shop owners and delivery drivers. Rafael helped pay for their house, formerly his mother's, with money he sent from the U.S. while working up to three jobs as a chef, laborer and janitor.

Querencia

Querencia question in this story “life after deportation:” There were many struggles for this family. They have tried for the longest time to move back to the states ever since they’ve been deported. Money has been tight. Even though Mr Valdez was born in Mexico I feel like his Querencia is in the States. He states that he feels more free and that there are simply more opportunities in the States. Rafael also got his family in Mexico doing the same thing: Living in Mexico and working in the states. Rafael also stated that he was ok with going back to Mexico, but not this way.

Quotes from the story that shows The Valdez Family has lost their querencia.

- “There are simply more opportunities in the States.”
- “Deportation has certainly cost them, with the girls struggling to fit in at school, Rafael worrying about how to protect his family against Mexico’s endemic violence
- “I’m not sure where we belong. We’ve been gone for six years.”