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## Papá's Dream made Reality

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## Papá's Dream made Reality

"Hardships often prepare an ordinary person for an extraordinary destiny" -CS Lewis

At peak of young and dumb but full of light, only 16 years of age  
Mi padre, un ejemplo a seguir  
Some would say the toughest decision ever  
The decision to leave la guía de mamá  
Papá's dad, a traveler back and forth from Mexico to the states  
Just to earn bread and water for the day  
Who at the time was in the land of freedom  
Both would be reunited upon arrival  
With more than the average siblings, 9 to be exact  
With the alphabet book, only half read  
With no education  
With only one tongue  
No time to think twice, he was as ready cómo un guerrero  
Listo para lo que sigue  
Carrying his motivation larger than life  
Chasing the grass that is said to be greener  
Money to be exact  
That's the only thing that's green, in the United States  
The never ending walk was cloudy, body aching, and drowning in  
dirt  
*Who would endure that for free?*  
The "wealth, financial security, freedom" was his drive

It made Papá ready to cross that large metal barrier  
That barrier that separates the same humankind  
January  
First Attempt with Nacho:  
Nacho, a good friend of Papá  
Driven to earn bread  
There were harsh winds that induced chapped lips  
Carrying heavy gallons of water on their backs  
Walking from Mercury to Pluto, from sunrise to sunset  
Caught with one foot out the door  
"Get in," the dream crushers said  
Papá and Nacho were placed behind rails overnight  
Devastating, but one try is not enough  
Second Attempt:

Just as the sun peaked  
Nacho and Papá, released from those four walls  
No time to wait  
"Let's try it again," said Nacho and Papá  
No more attempts were needed, they did it!  
*Did they achieve the American Dream?*  
*NO! This is only the beginning*  
Crossed the metal barrier  
Papá saw the vast land of skyscrapers  
Mcdonald's, Walmart, 7-eleven at every block  
For the first time surrounded by lavish modes of transportation  
He had seen nothing like this  
Nothing compared to the screens  
No Beverly Hills nor flashing lights from paparazzi  
Hitchhiking for hours to come  
Strange faces, except one  
*Mi abuelito Federico*  
Abuelito was waiting for Papá at his home  
One room home with one pot and pan  
*Only one room? Yes, but that is how everyone starts off.*  
Located by the never-ending body of water  
Carmel, California  
*Is this the American Dream?*

Papá

Working but not by piggybacking

Independently freelancing for more than 35 years

Purchased his own wheels for work

Now Papá is known for his wheels

Small, green, and always having a ladder up top

Giving hands and feet to his family

Sending "ropa americana, de la buena" back to them in bulk

*Papá gave me the moon and stars, siempre*

*New pair of shoes every August before the first day of school*

*Never went to bed with an empty stomach*

*Orgullosa de ser hija de un señor que trabaja domingo a lunes  
para apoyar a su familia*

*Is this the American Dream? Not yet*

*Papá is still not allowed in the United States*

Not considered flesh and bone in this foreign land

*What's missing?*

In 1986, the head of the palace granted 3 million people amnesty

Papá, now a holder of the mystical pass

The pass that stops muddy talk against Mexican Americans

The pass to become a part of red, white and blue

"51% of Latinos say they have reached the American Dream"

Papá is part of that 51%

*This might not be the Beverly Hills, diamonds, and Ferraris that  
are promised but for papá, he is living the Dream.*

Always said but it's always easier said than done

*Right?*

The United States- a gateway to fast convertible Ferraris and  
roofs built of gold

Free education with transportation by wheels, not on foot

*Too good to be true?*

*A dream?*

The American Dream where "opportunities, good jobs, and  
homeownership"

No more back-breaking jobs

Jobs that give you 2 loaves instead of one

Money at larger values, no longer pesos but dollars

Free of large metal weapons and white powder  
A 2,500 square feet home with the sky peeking through every  
corner  
Can Latinos have it all?  
"74% say achieving it is hard"  
*So, why try?*  
To live the 5-star life, full of Gucci products, food, and Ferraris.  
To prove to those bad apples that Latinos can reach the stars  
El Sueño Americano

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