

0:00:29.8

Interviewer: Where were your parents born?

Interviewee: My father was born in Juncos Puerto Rico and my mother in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

Interviewer: How many members of your family were born in the same towns as your parents?

Interviewee: My uncles and aunts were born in the same towns. My siblings were born in New York.

Interviewer: Do you think this interview would be better in English or in Spanish?

Interviewee: I'm bilingual.

Interviewer: Bilingual? Both. Okay.

0:00:59.9

How many are in your family in total?

Interviewee: There's my mother. My two brothers and me.

Interviewer: What are their names? My oldest brother's name is Jeremias. My name is Abigail and my younger brother's name is David.

Interviewee: And what are their ages?

Interviewer: My oldest brother is 24. I am 23 and my brother is 19.

Interviewer: And how old are your parents?

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Interviewee: My mother is about 55 years old and my father is like 50.

Interviewer: In what year did your family come here?

Interviewee: I think my mother came in 1952 and my father, as well.

Interviewer: And the rest of the family? You and your other siblings?

Interviewee: We were born here in the United States.

Interviewer: Do you remember more or less what was one of the first jobs that your father had here in the United States?

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Interviewee: I remember that when I was little my father worked in a pencil factory. He always came home full of lead dust.

Interviewer: Do you remember any other place where he worked?

Interviewee: He also worked in a factory where they re-manufactured motors for refrigerators.

Interviewer: What city was that in?

Interviewee: That was in New York. That factory was in Queens.

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Interviewer: So, you came from Puerto Rico to New York?

Interviewee: Yes. My father came from Puerto Rico to the United States and he made arrangements and my mother came and then my brother was born, then me and my other brother.

Interviewer: In what year did you come to Philadelphia?

Interviewee: We came here in 1969.

Interviewer: Do you remember how many jobs your father had in New York?

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Interviewee: Well, I can't tell you because my father worked and then he also worked in farming and he would go to other places in the United States like Jersey and Miami. And he would spend time in Puerto Rico. At one point he had some problems and he spent time in jail. But, I can tell you that I remember my father working in the two factories I mentioned and then he also worked in farming.

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Interviewer: And in Philadelphia, do you remember some of his jobs here in Philadelphia?

Interviewee: My father did not come to Philadelphia with us. I came with my mother and my brother.

Interviewer: So, he is not in Philadelphia now?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: Has your mother ever worked?

Interviewee: My mother worked when she was younger, in Puerto Rico. She worked since she was young. One of the first jobs that she told me about was as a seamstress.

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They sewed gloves and blouses and other things by hand for other factories. It was work from home. It was a small business. Her mother died when she was about nine years old and she was the oldest, so her siblings went off to different homes with their aunts and uncles. My mother wanted to stay with her father, so she stayed with him and he was sick, so she had to start working to support him. She took a job taking care of children.

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In that place, she learned how to cook and then when she grew up and was older, she was a cook.

Interviewer: And here in Philadelphia, has she had a job?

Interviewee: Here she has worked in two or three factories. One was a wedding dress factory and the other was a sweater factory.

Interviewer: What year was that?

Interviewee: My mother stopped working in 1971.

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She also worked at a factory in Vineland and she also worked in (Farm Label).

Interviewer: How many places do you remember that you lived here in the United States?

Interviewee: Here in Philadelphia we've only lived in one place, although my mother moved and I pretty much live with her, so you could say that I live in two places. In New York it's a different story. In New York we moved more often. In New York if we found a house we would move within a year or year and a half.

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We didn't spend much time in one place. That means we moved about eight or nine times during the time we lived in New York.

Interviewer: Do your brothers work?

Interviewee: My older brother works in (drafting), a factory. He left school in 1962 – '72, he got three jobs. He's never satisfied with his jobs. He always switches and the one he's at now, he's also not satisfied, but he's stayed there because he hasn't been able to find anything else.

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My other brother is studying at Westminster College. He started his second year this past September.

Interviewer: When they were younger, did they help out at home?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: Did they have a job outside the home?

Interviewee: My older brother started working in New York when he was about 14 years old.

Interviewer: What kind of work did he do?

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Interviewee: He worked with the Police Department. They call it a nice name, I call it a snitch. Because he was only 14 or 15 years old.

Interviewer: Did you work when you were younger?

Interviewee: I've also worked since I was 14 or 13 years old. It was secretarial work, girl Friday. I did everything. It was an after school job. I always went to school, so I worked five, seven, ten hours.

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Every summer when I was off school, I always worked.

Interviewer: When you worked and you lived with your mother, did you help her with the household expenses?

Interviewee: Yes, I always gave her money from my salary.

Interviewer: And your brothers.

Interviewee: Yes, also.

Interviewer: Do you stay in touch with your father even though he's somewhere else?

Interviewee: No.

0:07:29.5

Interviewer: What schools have you been able to go to here in Philadelphia?

Interviewee: When I came here to Philadelphia from New York, I came to Little Flower School. There I finished my upper schooling, ninth, tenth level and twelfth. Then I went to Temple University. I went there for four years.

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Interviewer: In what year did you start at Temple?

Interviewee: In 1972.

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Interviewer: Did you have any problems while you were applying to Temple?

Interviewee: No. I can't say I did.

Interviewer: Have you met anyone who has had problems trying to get into Temple?

Interviewee: Well, when I say I didn't have problems I mean that I was accepted, but I had minor problems. Like many of the other kids I know who went to Temple, they always had a problem with a class, but it was a problem that had a solution, but that required time and caused, you know, headaches.

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Interviewer: During your childhood, did you know, or did you have the intention of getting an education?

Interviewee: I don't know when it was that I decided, especially when I decided to go to college. I imagine that it's because so many people said that I would never go anywhere. And I said to myself that I could do it. So, it was also to prove to my mother that I could do it. I also did it for that reason.

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Interviewer: Did any person in high school help you?

Interviewee: When I went to Little Flower, in the grade that I was in, there were only a few other Puerto Ricans. I can't say that the teachers helped me, that they went above and beyond, nor did the other girls.

Interviewer: And your parents, what kind of education did your parents receive?

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Interviewee: My mother studied up to what's referred to in Puerto Rico as advanced second year which means that by second year they know math, reading and writing. And more or less what's missing that is advanced second year. So, my father studied perhaps up to third or fourth.

Interviewer: In your family, do your brothers and you have aspirations that have been passed down from your parents?

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Interviewee: Aspirations regarding...?

Interviewer: Aspirations in terms of work or of someday buying a home, or someday make a trip?

Interviewee: Well, I can't say that my mother gave them to me. The ideals I have now, even though I can say that the life I spent with my mother made me want different things. My mother showed me other things. She showed me how to work, to be clean, to be respectful to my elders.

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She didn't study, but she wanted me to study, but only to a certain extent. She didn't necessarily push me to go to college. She said that I should get four years and then get a job.

Interviewer: And your father? Do you think that he's had an influence in your lives? Because he didn't live with you all the time. Do you think that most of your influence came from your mother?

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Interviewee: I saw and I met my father, but I can't say that his influence was good. So, I can't say that – I owe my mother a lot.

Interviewer: The reason you live with your mother, was that your decision or your parents' decision?

Interviewee: That wasn't necessarily a decision. In Puerto Rican families, children usually stay with their mother.

Interviewer: With their mother?

Interviewee: Yes.

0:11:32.0

Interviewer: So, when they separated...?

Interviewee: Well, let me tell you about it. My father and mother stopped getting along ever since we were little. My father would always come visit and he would bring whatever we needed and he would take us out to go places. He picked us up pretty much every Sunday and would take us out. And my mother never taught us to hate our father, or that he was a bad person, but rather she let us see it with our own eyes.

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That was when I was little. So, as I grew up, I came to realize that my father was often absent and that my mother had to go through a lot of things because of him. So, that is how I got to know my father.

Interviewer: Who made the decisions in your family when you were going to move?

Interviewee: The State of New York.

Interviewer: How's that?

Interviewee: They always, I don't know if it was a relocation thing, or whatever...

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...but almost always the houses that we moved into were houses that were going to be demolished and they were homes that the government had assigned to us. So, for example, we lived in the place where Lincoln Center is now.

Interviewer: Logan Center?

Interviewee: Lincoln Center in New York.

Interviewer: Lincoln Center?

Interviewee: On 64th and 7th Avenue.

Interviewer: And what year was that?

Interviewee: That was in... I was about four or five years old, so it was about 1959.

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Around then. It was a funny thing, because in that area there were a lot of Puerto Ricans. You could say they were poor Puerto Ricans, so in one night they came with twenty trucks, and they moved the entire block. They put us in a house that was also falling down. So, a year later we had to move again. Because they made us move.

Interviewer: And how many times did that happen?

Interviewee: Several. About seven times.

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Interviewer: In New York, that they would come. And at night or did they come and help or something like that?

Interviewee: No, that was one specific time. That happened because of the Lincoln Center that they were going to build there. The other places, they would say, "You're going to move here." And sometimes they would give us a house. They would give us the address and we would find someone to help us move and we would go.

Interviewer: What racial mix was it that lived in the neighborhoods that you lived in in New York?

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Interviewee: There were so many, but I don't remember that there were many whites. They were primarily Puerto Ricans. There were times we lived in neighborhoods that were all Black. Sometimes we lived with all Puerto Ricans and sometimes we lived in mixed areas.

Interviewer: Have you ever lived in an area where the majority of the population is White?

Interviewee: At the beginning when my mother moved to 5th and Luzerne.

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Interviewer: Here in Philadelphia?

Interviewee: Mm-hm. Here in Philadelphia. The majority were White. Now there are a lot more Puerto Ricans there. But in the beginning they were all Whites.

Interviewer: What year was that?

Interviewee: That was around '73.

Interviewer: How did you come to move there? Did you know anything about the area you were moving to or not?

Interviewee: Well, I don't know. My mother had this freaked out idea that she wanted to move to other side of Erie, to the other side of Erie.

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So, we found a house on the other side of Erie. She wanted to live on a big avenue, where it wouldn't be hard to catch the trolley or get places, because that was another thing she found odd when we moved to Philadelphia, that it wasn't easy to get public transportation. So, that's why she moved there.

Interviewer: So, she was thinking about transportation and that kind of thing. Can you tell me in reverse order the places where you have lived here?

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Interviewee: Here?

Interviewer: Yes.

Interviewee: In Philadelphia?

Interviewer: In Philadelphia. Starting with the place where your mother lives now.

Interviewee: My mother lives on 5th and Luzerne. Almost on the corner. And before that we lived on Indiana Street and Leithgow and those are the only two places where we've lived here in Philadelphia.

Interviewer: So where do you live right now with your mother?

Interviewee: No, I live on Indiana and Leithgow. I got married and kept the house and she moved out.

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Interviewer: The area where you live now, what is the racial composition?

Interviewee: I would say it is, in the entire neighborhood, about 30 or 40% Puerto Rican, 10% Black and the majority White, Italian.

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Interviewer: At any point, have you made an effort to not move into a certain area because of the kind of people that live there?

Interviewee: When my mother was going to buy that house on 5th and Luzerne, there was another house in (Sheltonhand), but they had told my mother that Black people lived there and she said she didn't want to move there. And once I was thinking of moving here from Leithgow and Indiana and I thought about moving to (Kensington), and I also changed my mind.

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Interviewer: Why did you decide not to move to Kensington?

Interviewee: Because everyone said it was too far away. That if anything happened to me, I wouldn't find help because there are no Puerto Ricans around there and I wouldn't be able to count on the neighbors and that I was a woman on my own with my daughter and that it wasn't a good idea.

Interviewer: Have you ever been afraid of White neighborhoods?

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Interviewee: No. When I was younger, when I lived in New York, I had this fairytale idea of Whites. We were poor and so Whites lived "beyond, over there". When it was

Halloween, when it was time to trick-or-treat, we always went to the White areas because we always thought they had more money. In terms of being afraid, I tell you that when I walk through Fish Town and Kensington, I am careful.

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I can't say I'm afraid, because I go anyway.

Interviewer: Yes.

Interviewee: But I am careful.

Interviewer: What do you think about the racial attitude that they have specifically against Puerto Ricans?

Interviewee: Speaking of Whites that live primarily in Kensington and Fish Town, I think that because they are as poor as we are, they see that we now have advanced and are getting jobs and buying houses, and they are afraid of that.

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And since they don't know the facts, they feel threatened by the Puerto Ricans.

Interviewer: If you had the opportunity to live in a house that you like in one of their neighborhoods, in a neighborhood of White people, where houses were expensive, would you move? Even knowing that all the people are White.

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Interviewee: No. I wouldn't move to an area of all White people because I wouldn't like it. I would have to stay home and... They are my own prejudices, as well, you know? Not just theirs, but mine, as well. I wouldn't like to live surrounded by only Whites.

Interviewer: What is your attitude regarding Black people?

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In general, what do you think about them? Do you think they are very aggressive people or they are inclined to crime or what are your thoughts?

Interviewee: It's funny, because I think about it and I was raised with African Americans. I don't see them so different, but I still have my own biases. And it's a funny thing, like I said. I have a young daughter, and where I live there are Blacks and of all the people around there, I'm always vigilant of blacks that they not do anything to my daughter.

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I don't know why that's so. And I know it's perhaps a ridiculous idea, but I do think that they will do something bad to my daughter.

Interviewer: In the areas where you've lived, where there have been Black people, have you ever had a problem with them?

Interviewee: Before I moved here to Leithgow and Indiana from New York, I lived in Harlem. On the west side – I was on the East Side, but on the West Side they were all Blacks and in the beginning I didn't get along with them.

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They didn't seem to like me. They didn't want to accept me. I would get it every day and I was little, I was about nine years old, but little by little, I had to get tough like them, too and then they respected me and we got along better.

Interviewer: Do you think there's a difference between the Blacks that are among the Puerto Ricans, or the Blacks that are Puerto Ricans, and the Blacks from the United States?

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Interviewee: Yes. I think that the colored Puerto Rican is colored but is Puerto Rican. And the Black is African American. That's basic difference that I see.

Interviewer: During your years in Philadelphia, have you ever felt prejudice at any institution here in Philadelphia?

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Interviewee: Well, here in Philadelphia, like I said, I have seen more prejudice, but it's a prejudice that's so subtle, that one doesn't notice. I'm very sensitive to that. And I notice. Perhaps I haven't been denied services, but if they look at me wrong... If I get on the trolley and they get repulsed or whatever, it can be racism, and it's subtle, just on the surface, in that they can't say, "No. I'm not going to give you this because you're Puerto Rican, but I can look at you in disdain."

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Interviewer: And have you noticed...?

Interviewee: Yes, I always notice those things.

Interviewer: Do you remember your parents telling you about some prejudice that someone had against them?

Interviewee: When my mother worked here in Philadelphia, she worked around Erie Street on N Street. She had to get on the bus on Erie Street.

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Although most people were laborers, there was a White person, and that she didn't like him because she said they looked at her like a strange animal and that she didn't like that. And at work, she noticed that the Black women would be in one circle and the White ones in another, and there were two or three Puerto Ricans and they stayed together.

Interviewer: Did your mother ever talk about prejudice in any other occasion?

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Walking on the street, that someone would walk over to her and tell her something?

Interviewee: No. I know that my mother is afraid. Perhaps because she's a bit darker than I am. And she's afraid that Whites might think she's African American. But she has noticed that if she speaks in English, they realize she's not African American and then they treat her differently. But she's afraid because she lives next to a bar.

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And she's always afraid that they'll come out – because they have come out from the bar fighting and calling each other names and all that and all that, so she gets scared. But not for her, but for others.

Interviewer: And your family that lives with your mother now, do they have problems in that area?

Interviewee: No. My oldest brother lives with my mother now. He is married and he has two children, but his wife does not live there. She has problems with my mother.

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He lives there with my mother. My younger brother is in college and I live here. So, there it's my mother and my older brother, even though I am always there with my daughter.

Interviewer: What church do you belong to?

Interviewee: St. Veronica's.

Interviewer: Where is that?

Interviewee: On six and Tioga.

Interviewer: Do you attend there regularly?

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Interviewee: No. I've stopped going to church since, I'd say, about a year after I left Catholic school.

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Interviewer: What year was that?

Interviewee: In 1973.

Interviewer: Since then you haven't been to church?

Interviewee: No. I can't say I have. I've been maybe once or twice. But not regularly, no.

Interviewer: What is your attitude in general about religion and what religion does to people?

Interviewee: I can see religion in two ways.

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I can see in terms of my culture, which is a part of me. I've been raised with Father God and the Virgin and pray to God and have faith, and all that. But on the other hand, the politicians, it's what people can stand, but people waiting for God end up with empty hands.

Interviewer: Do you believe that churches can do more for people than what they're doing now?

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Interviewee: I think so. If they made an effort to help the people here, but at least the church I belong to, the Catholic Church, its priority is missionary work. To go and, according to them, turn savages into Christians in other countries, Africa, Asia. And that's where they send their money and place their efforts. Meanwhile, they take the money given here and don't give any benefits, other than providing a place where people can go to pray to God.

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Interviewer: So, do you believe that the Catholic Church, in particular, doesn't benefit the people a lot?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: Do you think they're putting their efforts in other countries?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you know that the Catholic Church doesn't allow divorce, right?

Interviewee: Yes, I know.

Interviewer: How do you feel about that?

Interviewee: Well, since I wasn't married by the church, in their eyes I'm not really married.

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When I went to baptize my daughter, also for the sake of tradition, because everyone told me, "Go baptize that child." I baptized her, but the priest wasn't going to baptize her because he said that I hadn't been married by a priest. I got upset because I remember when I wanted to get married, I went to him and asked him to marry me and he said no. Then when I went to baptize my daughter, they wanted me to get married and by then I'd arrived at a place where I didn't want anything more to do with the church.

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Interviewer: Why didn't they want to marry you?

Interviewee: Well, I went with my then boyfriend, and my mother went to see the priest at 6th and Tioga. And they started to say that we had to go to theology classes and this and that. And besides I was pregnant. But that was not what stopped us. What stopped us was that the priest started saying, "You don't know anything." And, "You are ignorant."

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And he was basically insulting us, so my husband got upset and they started to argue. They exchanged words, had an argument. My husband told the priest that he thought that just because he studied theology that he was God on earth and you know, you can't go up against that and after what the priest said, "Forget it. I'm not marrying you." And here, since it is Philadelphia, one has to go to the church of their neighborhood in order to get services.

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And that meant that I couldn't go to any other church to be married. I had to get married there. At the end of the day I got married through the judge.

Interviewer: What nationality was the priest?

Interviewee: I believe he's Dutch. The name was (O'Riley) or something like that.

Interviewer: Irish?

Interviewee: Irish.

Interviewer: And what church was that?

Interviewee: At St. Veronica's. That was before it became primarily Puerto Rican. Before it was mostly Americans.

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Interviewer: In what year did you baptize your daughter?

Interviewee: My daughter... In '74.

Interviewer: And what was the reason they gave you for not wanting to baptize your daughter?

Interviewee: Because my husband and I had not been married by the church.

Interviewer: Did you want to baptize your daughter?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: For what reason?

Interviewee: I wanted to baptize her perhaps for superstition.

0:29:01.0

Perhaps also because I wanted her to have a godfather and godmother. And because my mother begged me to and her grandmother, as well. My immediate family wanted me to baptize her.

Interviewer: What did they say to you to make you want to baptize her?

Interviewee: They said that it was nothing, that she needed it. They asked me if I didn't know that if she died from here to tomorrow where would she end up and that it was better to do it.

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Interviewer: Were you ever truly afraid then?

Interviewee: About not baptizing her?

Interviewer: Of not baptizing your daughter.

Interviewee: Yes. I thought about doing it...

Interviewer: And your husband, how did he feel about it?

Interviewee: He has always believed in God. He agreed we should baptize her.

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Interviewer: Have all your brother and sisters been baptized?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: And your mother and grandmother?

Interviewee: Yes. My mother was raised Evangelical and Catholic. So, when we were born, she took us to be blessed, but she didn't baptize us because Evangelicals believe that the child should decide the direction they will take.

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Interviewer: Yes.

Interviewee: So, my mother waited for me to be of age in order for me to decide what I wanted to do. When I was nine or ten years I started to go – actually since I was like five years old, I went to Catholic school. I was in public school, but I would leave once a week and I would take Catholicism. I did this from first grade all the way to fourth or fifth grade, so then I decided to get baptized. And my brother did, as well. My oldest brother never got baptized.

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Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Interviewee: I have one daughter.

Interviewer: And now you are living alone or are you living with your husband?

Interviewee: I live alone with my daughter.

Interviewer: Is it hard to try to raise your daughter on your own and have a job?

Interviewee: I'd say no because I have a very strong support which is my daughter's grandmother who is always there and I've never had an issue getting a baby sitter or any of that so I can work because she's always filled that role of taking care of my daughter.

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You wouldn't say that she's more hers than mine, but she is the first granddaughter and it's as though she were her mother.

Interviewer: Does her grandmother live with you?

Interviewee: My daughter's

Interviewer: Your daughter's, yes. Does she live in the same house with you?

Interviewee: You could say that she does sometimes.

Interviewer: And when she's not living with you, does she live far from you?

Interviewee: No. If I'm not with her there, it's only five minutes away. And I go every day.

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Interviewer: Do you have other relatives in the area where you live?

Interviewee: On Lawrence and Indiana I have a cousin on my mother's side that I say is my aunt. She lives a block away.

Interviewer: And do your brothers or sisters live close by?

Interviewee: My brother does live five minutes away from my house and the other one is now in school and that is far away.

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Interviewer: Do you know a lot of people in your neighborhood?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Would you say you know most people?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: If Americans live in your neighborhood, do you know any of them?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you think that you'd ever move out of that neighborhood?

Interviewee: If I moved, I would not move far from there.

Interviewer: Where would you move to?

Interviewee: To Fifth.

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Interviewer: In what block of Fifth?

Interviewee: Thirty.

Interviewer: Why would you like to live there?

Interviewee: Nowadays there are a lot of houses in that area and there plans to fix them up and they are offering money to do so. So, if I can get money and a house there on 30 of 5th, that reaches all the way to the other block where Orkney is, I think it would be a good investment.

Interviewer: Have you ever thought of buying your own home?

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Interviewee: I own the house where I live now on Leithgow and Indiana. And the house where my mother lives in, I also invested money there. If I find another house, I would buy it, as well.

Interviewer: You'd buy it? And your brothers, do they own homes?

Interviewee: Yes. My brother and I are partners in my mother's house. That's the only place. He rented an apartment in (Bucks County) for a while.

Interviewer: Like what kind of person in your family would you like your daughter to grow up to be?

0:34:02.0

Interviewee: Like my mother.

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: I don't know, it's strange. My daughter, when she was born, she was very white skinned and she has blue eyes and since the moment I saw her I thought, "This child could lose her culture. She could pass off as white." And I thought that I wouldn't like that. I always have her at my mom's house. I speak to her in Spanish.

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I teach her all things from Puerto Rico so that she doesn't forget.

Interviewer: Do you think that is important?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: That she follow her own culture?

Interviewee: Yes, I believe it is important. Because when I was being raised in New York and here in Philadelphia, there were no movements to make one feel proud of being Puerto Rican. You could say that it was the other way around. They wanted you to be American.

0:34:59.2

And, so that creates problems that are not necessarily visible. I'm not sure, but you can't really see them, but I know that they cause problems because one feels that they don't belong to the White world and if Puerto Ricans don't start off life by learning Spanish, you don't belong to that world, either. And one finds him or herself lost.

Interviewer: Do you think that's a problem between us, who are second generation here in the United States?

0:35:29.9

Interviewee: I think that it is, but I can't tell you how the problem is manifested at this time. But I think it is.

Interviewer: Do you know people have tried to pass themselves off as Anglo?

Interviewee: Yes. When I was at Catholic School there was another girl who you could tell was Puerto Rican, because you can tell them apart, but she denied it. And I would wonder why she was denying it.

Interviewer: What was her name?

0:35:59.3

Interviewee: Yolanda Ortiz.

Interviewer: Do you think there are problems when a Puerto Rican marries someone from outside of their race?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: What kind of problems do you think there are?

Interviewee: It depends on how one was raised. If one was raised Puerto Rican, then there are going to be cultural problems. But if one was raised American, then I would assume there wouldn't be those problems.

0:36:29.1

But if one is raised Puerto Rican and gets married to, for example -- I can give you the example of my brother who married an American. If you remember, he no longer lives with him. She can't live there because my mother doesn't accept her and she doesn't accept my mother. She always complains that my brother doesn't help her. That he doesn't get involved with the raising of the children. She doesn't realize that is how he was raised; entitled, you know.

0:37:00.0

Interviewer: What do you mean by entitled?

Interviewee: Entitled, like, "Bring me the food. Bring me that. My clothes washed and ironed."

Interviewer: Do you think that your brother's issue is affected by Women's Lib? Or that she naturally feels that way because she's American?

Interviewee: I don't think she's been affected by Women's Lib, because she's not that advanced in that. I think that's the culture here, that perhaps husbands need to be more understanding.

0:37:35.7

They help the woman. They see marriage differently. They see it more like a partnership, with both having the same responsibilities.

Interviewer: Do you think that creates conflict within Puerto Rican marriages when the man is like that?

Interviewee: I can't tell you that really.

0:38:01.0

I know there are problems depending on how the woman thinks, her capacity. If she's been affected by Women's Lib, then it's going to cause problems, because I doubt that the husband is going to change. Because I tried. I went through a more political period in my life and I tried to change my husband's way of being and I was not able to do it. There were a lot of conflicts as a result.

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Now I've left my husband and I always think – I have gone out with other people, and if they are macho, as they say, it doesn't bother me. If they... I don't mind, but it was, like, "If he meets his responsibilities, I will meet mine." But my husband didn't fulfill his duties, so I thought that I didn't have to fulfill mine, either.

Interviewer: What do you think are men's duties?

Interviewee: I think it is a man's duty is to look after his wife and his children.

0:39:00.6

Work, to live well off. Demonstrate that he is the head of the household. The wife and children should be able to depend on him.

Interviewer: Do you think that all people are like that? That all races have the same problems? Or that that problem is more prevalent in Latin races, as opposed to Black races or White races.

0:39:30.8

Interviewee: Well, I think that the idea of requiring so much from husbands is very common in Latin families. It's because of how men are raised, compared to how a girl is raised and that's when the difference starts.

Interviewer: Yes.

Interviewee: You see it more in Latin families, because you'll see a baby boy might be naked, but not a girl and that's where it all starts.

Interviewer: You think that women are more reserved?

Interviewee: Yes.

0:39:59.9

Interviewer: Should it be that way?

Interviewee: Yes. I don't know if that holds her back later on in life, because I can say that I am more capable. I have been through this and I've been through that. And I can see that one can fall in the idea of feeling liberated and feel that the husband should help and that it should be a shared responsibility, and I can also see the case of a woman who is happy being subjected to her husband.

0:40:31.1

Interviewer: How do you feel about that? Do you think that women should be subservient to men?

Interviewee: I don't think that women should talk back to a man. I don't think that – even though it might be said that women are below men, they always are on top, because it's something, not sure what, but like, you tell your husband, "Okay, you're the boss," but it's always known that women are the ones who do everything.

0:40:59.3

But to make him feel good, you say, "Papi, you're the boss."

Interviewer: Just an appearance.

Interviewee: Regarding your political ideals that you tried to convince your husband of, what were those?

Interviewer: During that time it was political, but it was also that I needed the help. I was studying. I had a young daughter. I spent my pregnancy at school and I also worked. I had to study and take care of the house and I wanted my husband to help me at home.

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But, I had political meetings and I would tell him, "Stay with our daughter," and he would say, "No way. It's your responsibility."

Interviewer: Yes.

Interviewee: Raising the kids, you know. So, I can't say that it was necessarily political, but he didn't want to stay with our daughter, whether that was so I could go to a meeting, or school, or any other place, even if he was just at home and that bothered me, you know.

Interviewer: In other words, you wanted to do certain things outside of the home and your husband didn't help with that.

0:42:02.1

Interviewee: That's right. He didn't want to.

Interviewer: Did he belong to any organization?

Interviewee: No. He believes that women should be barefoot at home.

Interviewer: Barefoot at home?

Interviewee: Yes. They should be barefoot at home.

Interviewer: How did you learn what it is that men should do and what women should do? Who taught you that? Or did you see it or how is it that you know what it is men have to do and what women have to do?

0:42:29.0

Interviewee: Even though my father didn't live with us in the home, my mother showed me that women need to wash, cook, iron, and that men have to work and support the home, fix whatever needs to be fixed and treat the woman well, as well.

Interviewer: Did she tell you these things or did she demonstrate it?

Interviewee: She taught this to us in the way she raised us. Since I was little I had to learn how to wash. I was six years old and I had to learn how to wash. And then later, as I grew older, I had more responsibilities.

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So, I would complain and say, "Mommy, they don't do anything." And she would say, "They're men. They have to work."

Interviewer: She would say that?

Interviewee: Yes, so they weren't supposed to cry, but also it was made clear that women had to be respected and loved, because they weren't allowed to hit me or speak to me harshly and if something happened to me in the street, they had to defend me.

Interviewer: Did your mother teach them this?

Interviewee: She taught them, yes.

0:43:30.1

Interviewer: During the entire time that you've been here in the United States, have you gone back to Puerto Rico?

Interviewee: I went to Puerto Rico for the first time about two summers ago, for the first time. I was there for two months.

Interviewer: And you haven't been back since that time?

Interviewee: No, I haven't been back.

Interviewer: Why did you go to Puerto Rico on that occasion?

Interviewee: To get to know the island. Because I'd always heard about Puerto Rico and I knew that my parents were from Puerto Rico, that I had family in Puerto Rico.

0:44:03.1

So, when the movement started regarding the history of Puerto Rico and what Puerto Rico is, well, I had the interest of going to see the island and I spent enough time to be able to say that I had been on the island.

Interviewer: What was your first impression when you got off the plane in Puerto Rico?

Interviewee: My first impression, and I can't say it was of the people because I hadn't met them, but the island had lots of colors, very green and the sky was very blue.

0:44:35.0

And that mountain you could see in the distance.

Interviewer: So, it was very colorful?

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Interviewee: Yes, that's the first thing...

Interviewer: Do you think it was prettier than the United States? Your first impression?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: When was it, while you were flying and the plane arrived in Puerto Rico, when was it that it dawned on you that you were in Puerto Rico, in a new world, where you'd never been before?

0:45:01.4

Interviewee: When the plane was landing.

Interviewer: When it touched down?

Interviewee: When it was about to land.

[Interference]

Interviewer: Do you plan of moving to Puerto Rico at any time in the future?

Interviewee: A dream I have is to get lost in a mountain in Puerto Rico someday.

Interviewer: Get lost?

Interviewee: In the mountains.

Interviewer: Do you think that someday you could pack up and leave and go to Puerto Rico?

0:45:33.5

And live the same life you live here. Working and doing the same activities you do here?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: Would things change.

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: In what ways?

Interviewee: I would not be able to go to Puerto Rico by myself with my daughter. I would go to Puerto Rico perhaps if I got married again. And if I went to Puerto Rico, like I said, I would like to go up in the mountains to have kids.

0:46:00.5

I don't want to work. I want to go to enjoy life with, you know... I feel that in Puerto Rico it is easier to raise a child. Here the woman has to work really hard. If she's alone, and even if she's with a husband, she needs to work, and children live withdrawn from their parents and I don't like that. I don't like that I have to work, honestly. I would like to be home with my daughter, and I would like to have more children. But the way the financial situation is and my personal situation, it's just not possible.

0:46:35.7

Interviewer: Do you think that affects children, when their parents are not around?

Interviewee: I think it does, because they watch a lot of TV and I can tell you that with my daughter, that I work and she's with my mom. I haven't placed her in daycare the way other children are because I don't want her to lose her Spanish. And my mother is alone also, so she keeps my mother company, But...

0:47:02.3