

Best of Two Worlds

By Brandon Jewik

Best of two worlds-yep-that's me. I have to admit, being both Chinese and American have their advantages. I am proud to be an American and truly enjoy the benefits and comforts of living in America. Yet, at the same time, I also have the advantages of having a rich Chinese heritage. Boy, do I have it good.

Being able to have food everyday, clean water, a roof over my head, and a school to go to makes me thankful to be an American. While I always have food, sometimes too much, eating three times a day can be a luxury in third world countries. While I always have a clean source of water, in some countries, the source of drinking water is often from the river where hundreds of people brush their teeth, bathe, and wash clothes. While I have a house to shelter me from rain, a lot of kids in other countries live on the streets. Lastly, I am thankful to have an education where I have many opportunities to get advanced degrees as I wish. In third world countries, unless you have money, you either have none or limited education. The privileges I have in the America are what children in third world countries couldn't even dream of.

Not only do I have the advantages of being American, but also Chinese. I am proud to belong to a thriving, amazing Chinese culture and am excited to be part of China's progressive future. Through the years, so many Chinese inventions have been created in the fields of technology, medicine, and agriculture. Being Chinese makes me proud, knowing that they helped shape the world into what it is today. Shortcomings and challenges in the past have encouraged Chinese people to work hard, resulting in its role as one of the world's current superpowers. The hard-working characteristic was demonstrated in my great-great grandfather, who came to America in the 1800's to help build the railroads. Even my parents constantly remind me of this hard working virtue which helps me to strive academically.

I am very fortunate that I have the advantages of both worlds where my Chinese heritage are best supported by all the opportunities America provides. I'm in the best place that I could ever be. I truly do have the best of both worlds.