

Where I'm from...

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I am from pyramids and temples
from feathered serpents and prophecies of the feared dioses

I am from the city that builds and builds on top of mountains, on top of fields
from where the cerros can be seen no more

I am from where the metro becomes a can of sardines due to overpopulation
from where clouds are non existent due to the pollution situation

I am from my mother Maria Guadalupe Esteban with no father and my sister Maria Adriana too
from having a single parent never understanding what its like to have two

I am from crossing the border wandering through the scorching desert and swimming across the violent Rio Grande
from where many die in hopes of attaining the American Dreams I've been so lucky to have been given

I am from sleeping in a cramped two bedroom apartment with thirteen tios and tias, primos and primas I had never met
from never seeing my madre because she worked 12 hour shifts and sometimes more in order to feed my sister and me

I am from my mother telling me every day "los errores se pagan muy caros" and "no salgas con tu domingo siete"
from "ya ves a tu hermana, tres niños y batalla, no seas como tu hermana"

I am from getting a call that someone's been deported and I have to leave class immediately
from where helping family comes first rather than studying for a final exam

I am from a family that asks "why don't you have a boyfriend?" or "why aren't you married or have children?"
from a family that tells me I think I'm better than them because I go to college instead of congratulating me on awards and excelling

I am from having to attain the highest grades because my mother sacrificed so much for me to be the best
from where the pressure of family and working two jobs while going to school full time is not an excuse to get anything lower than an A

My life is split in two from that girl who crossed the border with a life of hardships who puts family first and the student who must maintain her grades while keeping a smile on her face. In my mind are my memories, both big and small, happy and sad, but all of which have shaped the woman I am today.