

Transcript

18 ius soli: The Right to Be Italian

Kevin: My name is Kevin Javier and I was born here in Italy and my parents are of Filipino origin.

Anastasio: My name is Anastasio Moten. I was born in Parma...

Ragazza 1: ... province of Padua, in a small town called Ponso.

Ragazza 2: I am of Indian origin. At noon I cook a bit of Italian food. For dinner we eat Indian food.

Ragazza 3: ...sweet polenta, polenta with rabbit, polenta with braised meat. I mean, on Sunday, polenta is typical Bergamo, right?

Aravinda: I feel Italian, even though I don't have citizenship, but the simple fact is that I've been here since I was three years old. So, if I don't feel Italian, what should I feel like?

Paolo: I'm on the bus maybe I'm talking to a friend of mine, to someone, maybe on the phone, they've been turning around for a while. "Ah but... oh wow... you're black?"

Ragazzo 1: The compliment that I get is "Oh, you speak Italian so well!" And I reply "You, too!"

Anastasio: Since I'm not an Italian citizen, I should always have these things on me: my residence permit, issued on June 27th, 2008. It expires on October 29th, 2010 and it arrived to me in August of 2010. I could basically take this one and throw it away. And I have to walk around with this, which is the postal receipt, the classic receipt of registered letters of postal packages. It's a bulletin, I have to walk around with these that are substitute for a residence permit. If I don't always have these, I risk being taken to the police station and maybe being put in a cell.

Ragazzo 2: When I say, "I have a residence permit," people are amazed and they say to me "Why?" like, "Don't you have citizenship?"

Ragazza 2: I am still not an Italian citizen. I understood this whole thing about citizenship in the ninth grade.

Catalina: I had the opportunity to participate in a selection for Nationals. Even if they chose me, I couldn't be part of it for the mere fact that I'm not Italian.

Anastasio: At 18, I would have liked to do service, enroll in the army and go somewhere, but unfortunately, I couldn't and I still can't.

Ragazzo 1: It says, "Born at Nigeria." In correct Italian, however, it should be "Born IN Nigeria," and anyway I wasn't born in Nigeria, I was born in Rome.