

Jerónimo Movie Essay

By: Jean Kim

After watching the documentary, I was able to look back at how easy my life has been compared to other Korean diaspora. For me, I always took my life and identity for granted, not knowing how much other people have worked to establish a strong foundation for my Korean heritage in America and other parts of the world.

Korean leaders such as Jerónimo were crucial to shaping the world and America as seen now. Without them, the happiness, diversity, and multicultural heritages of the world would not be able to coexist. I am motivated to work harder and be proud of my Korean background when I see people such as the descendants of Jerónimo who continue to work to save their Korean culture in the midst of their lives as Cuban citizens. This made me think to myself as to what I have done to celebrate my heritage and be proud of it. Besides people knowing that I am a Korean American student, there is nothing that I have done that stood out to me particularly. This showed me that I need to work harder for my Korean culture to be passed down to further generations and never be embarrassed of my race or the hard work that other Koreans have done for me to live an easier life in America.

Throughout the movie, I was wondering why Jerónimo started to take pride in his culture and gained an interest in saving the Korean culture in the later years of his life and not in the earlier years. I do not have a definite answer, but I think it may result from the social structure of Cuba. As a Korean American, Jerónimo wanted to make himself known as a person before he stood for his culture as a Korean and started promoting the heritage to other Koreans living in Cuba.

Overall, this movie has taught me to always be thankful for how easy I have life to live compared to other people. The hard work of others has put me in a place that is not hard, while they have had to work to promote the Korean cultures and values. I also learned how one person

could make a difference, no matter how small. In the movie, Jeronimo starts his change through making himself known and eventually starting a Korean school to promote Korean culture and heritage in Cuba. I think that this could inspire future generations to take initiative because everyone has the ability to make change in the world.