

## Blue Scholars

### "The Distance"

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If you've never seen the distance in an immigrant's  
eyes  
Then you've never seen resistance in the form of a cry  
He decided it was time to bring the drought to an end  
A sojourner, soul searchin', from whom I descend  
Put his life inside his pockets  
Leavin on a plane  
Living long lonely nights  
Children, wife left in labor pains  
Tirelessly trying to provide  
He applies dialectics to fight for the slice of a pie  
But this life was premised on a lie  
Instead of being promised by society  
The nature of economy is sodomy  
Ten generations of poverty turn to poverty later  
And a third world diploma  
Not even worth the paper it's written on  
With no elevators going up to the top, y'all  
Instead it's long days slavin' over hourly wages  
And when the clock strikes labor  
He savors the pages of letters  
Sent by his kinfolk  
Who invoke the image of what it's like to have been  
broke  
Through cigarette smoke he tries to spin hope to  
dreams  
In close to proximity to family in his memory  
And it's faded in between  
The night shifts and sleep  
A moment of clarity  
He may never come home  
Despite the familiarity of faces from his homeland  
Who speak the same dialect  
Fellow countrywomen and men  
Standin' in line to get green cards, visas, and  
passports  
Barely making enough  
Over half a paycheck remitted with love  
Strangers keep staring  
With disgust and mistrust  
Talking 'bout "This country's just us"

No justice  
His hope snuffed to one day return to his town  
To join his ancestors in their burial ground  
Almost forgot how the countryside sounds  
But this time around, the lost are never found  
In the distance between home and where we live  
It's the distance between a mother and her kids  
It's the distance that keeps us apart  
And it's the distance between my soul and my heart

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