

I am not whining ... I'll take America any day



Perspective is everything. Just in case you are having a bad one, here is my humble perspective: I will not whine ... I'll take America any day.

I turned my alarm off this morning and heard the sound of birds chirping, not artillery shells falling.

I picked up the phone and called my brother and did not have to worry about the government tapping my phone. Even if they did tap it, I was not worried about landing in jail if I questioned the direction the country was taking.

I went over to the grocery store and found all the shelves stocked. I was irritated that they were out of my favorite cereal, then remembered that many in the world may

not find food on their grocery shelves.

I moaned about having to go to work again, then remembered the many who are jobless due to wars, unemployment, or lack of opportunity. I then drove to work gladly and worked diligently with all my heart as if working for the Lord.

On my way to work, I heard a fire engine and realized that it will arrive at the house to where it was dispatched in three to five minutes. I then remembered war pictures where the dead lie in the streets for days. I also remembered that fire fighting in many countries is just fighting fires, not prevention. What good would it do me if my family is already dead from a fire?

I then drove past a policeman who had stopped a motorist and was issuing a ticket, and I wondered whether they had something better to do. Can't they find

About Voices

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some crooks to apprehend? I then remembered that this same policeman may be the one who will respond within minutes to my 911 call and put his/her life at risk for my family.

While at work, I complained about Microsoft and the list of

richest people in the world. I then remembered that America is the land of the free and thus a land of opportunity, and that I have the same opportunity they all did, and I can achieve anything if I put enough hard work into it. I also remembered that in this country the ruling despots will not own the cellular networks, the construction firms and other lucrative industries and get filthy rich while the population wallows in poverty. I knew that in America, I have a chance.

On my way back home that evening, I drove past a National Guard convoy and remembered a few embarrassing acts committed by American troops during the war. I was tempted to feel ashamed of my country. I then remembered that those who committed them were punished — unlike despots and families of despots in other countries who are always above

the law and are never prosecuted. I also thanked God that this National Guard unit was not manning a checkpoint apprehending citizen-dissenters to lock them in jail. I was grateful that even if there was a temporary abuse of power in America, the Constitution would eventually win over it.

Was I being naïve and too patriotic, I wondered? I did, until I remembered the many from other countries who would sacrifice everything to come to this land of opportunity and freedom, to these United States of America.

All this confirmed my decision: I am not whining ... I'll take America any day. How about you?

Happy birthday America. I love you!

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