

# The Vision

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

APRIL 4, 2014

## لماذا أتيت إلى أمريكا؟

محمود الكوفحي

خلق الله الناس و منحهم الحقوق الأساسية في أن يكونوا أحرارا على الأرض. أعتقد أن الحرية هي أثن شيء يمكن أيملكه أي إنسان و يشمل هذا حرية التعبير ، وحرية المعتقد، والحرية السياسية . معظم الأميركيين يأخذون هذه الحقوق الأساسية و حرية الاختيار باعتبارها أمرا مفروغا منه، و أنهم لا داعي للقلق حول هذا الموضوع ولا يخشون أي تدخل من الحكومة أو غيرها من الكيانات في حقوقهم و في حرية اختيارهم ، وذلك لأن الدستور الأميركي العظيم يضمن لهم تلك الحقوق .

ولكن هذا ليس هو الحال بالنسبة لمعظم الناس في العالم العربي ، حيث يفرض الطغاة من الحكام إرادتهم على الناس و يحرمونهم من حقوقهم الأساسية في أن يكونوا أحرارا . بالنسبة لي، الحياة بدون حرية لا تساوي شيئا . لذلك، فقد قررت قبل عشر سنوات أن أضع حدا لحياتي في ذلك الجزء من العالم (الأردن )، حيث كل أنواع الظلم موجودة ، وقررت الهجرة إلى الولايات المتحدة. أعتقد أن الولايات المتحدة هي جنة الله على الأرض، حيث يتمتع الناس بحقوقهم كاملة . بدأت كمقيم دائم و قبل ثلاث سنوات حصلت على الجنسية الأمريكية . الآن أنا سعيد وفخور بأن أكون أمريكيا، وأتمنى لو أنني أستطيع أن أساعد الشعب العربي ليستعيد حريته وحقوقه ممن يضطهدونه من أنظمة الحكم الفاسدة.

### EVENTS:

- [French Table](#) every Tuesday at 11:30
- [Spanish Table](#) every Tuesday at 11:30
- [German Table](#) every Thurs. at 11:30

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

لماذا أتيت إلى أمريكا؟	1
Why I Came to America	2
En la clase de árabe	3
In Arabic Class	4
Contribute	4

## Why I Came to America

MAHMOUD AL-KOFAHI

God created people and granted them the basic rights to be free on earth. I believe that freedom is the most precious thing that any human can have. This includes freedom of expression, freedom of belief, and political freedom. Most Americans grow up taking these basic rights and freedom of choice for granted, and they never have to worry about it or fear any interference from the government or other entities in their rights and freedom of choice, because the great American Constitution guaranteed that for them.

However, this is not the case for most people in the Arab world, where corrupted regimes and dictators impose their wills on the people and deny them their basic rights to be free. To me, life without freedom is worth nothing. Because of that, I decided ten years ago to put an end to my life in that part of the world (Jordan), where all kind of injustices exist, and to immigrate to the US. I believe that the US is God's Heaven on Earth, where people enjoy their full rights. I started as a permanent residence and three years ago I was naturalized as a US citizen. Now, I am a happy and proud American, and I wish I could help the Arab people to gain back their freedom and rights from their oppressors and corrupted rulers.



## En la clase de árabe

BENJAMIN SOBEK

Este semestre, he tenido la gran oportunidad de estar en la clase de árabe del profesor Mahmoud Al-Kofahi. Es verdad que he aprendido la lengua árabe, pero he aprendido muchísimo más que eso.

Decidí tomar la clase por la fuerte relación histórica entre las lenguas árabe y española. Los moros—un grupo étnico árabe del norte de África—reinaron en España entre los años 711-1492. Por eso, hay una gran influencia árabe en el español. Es por eso que quería tomar la clase.

Sin embargo, lo que he aprendido es mucho más que la lengua. La gente del mundo árabe no debe ser una gente que da miedo. Es una gente de música y de baile. Si un hombre árabe oye música, se anima, y por instinto, se pone a bailar y divertirse. Encuentro esto un aspecto de una cultura de bondad. También es una cultura de familia y amor. El sentido de amor es fuerte, y el amor de la familia es muy importante. Pero para un árabe, la familia consiste de la gente importante en su vida. Por ejemplo, después de cenar una noche con la familia de Mahmoud, me dijo que debo tratar su casa como si fuera mi casa árabe y mi familia árabe. Es una cultura de aceptar a los otros.

En la clase, no sólo he aprendido a respetar la cultura árabe, sino también he aprendido a respetar, aún entender, la fe islámica (que en árabe quiere decir “paz”). Me he dado cuenta de que hay muchas cosas que asumimos conocer, pero no los conocemos, y nos dan miedo por eso.

Si tienes la oportunidad, te recomiendo que aprendas el árabe. Descubrirás algo que no piensas encontrar. ¡Te lo juro!

# In Arabic Class

BENJAMIN SOBEK

This semester, I have had the great opportunity to be in Arabic class with Dr. Mahmoud Al-Kofahi. It is true that I have learned the Arabic language, but I have learned so much more than that.

I decided to take the class because of the strong historic relations between the Arabic and Spanish languages. The Moors—an Arabic ethnic group from the north of Africa—ruled in Spain between the years of 711-1492. Because of that, there is a huge Arabic influence in Spanish. It's because of that that I wanted to be in the class.

However, what I have learned is much more than language. The people of the Arab world should not be a frightening people. It is a people of music and dance. If an Arab man hears music, he gets excited and instinctively starts to dance and have fun. I find this to be an aspect of a culture of goodness. It is also a culture of family and love. The feeling of love is strong, and love of family is very important. But for an Arab man, the family consists of important people in his life. For example, after having dinner one night with Mahmoud's family, he told me that I should treat his house as if it were my Arab house and my Arab family. It is a culture of accepting people in.

In the class, not only have I learned to respect the Arabic culture, but I have also learned to respect, even understand, the Islamic faith (which in Arabic means "peace"). I have realized that there are many things that we assume we understand, but we do not know about them at all, and that's why we are afraid of them.

If you get the chance, I recommend that you learn Arabic. You will discover something you didn't think you would. I promise!

## WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

The Vision is Baker University's world language magazine, and we are always seeking and accepting contributions. Writing for the publication is a great way to flex and hone your language and writing skills, so don't be shy!

We at *The Vision* love and promote all Mother Tongues, so whether you're writing about the World Cup in Spanish or trying to make sense of Middle Eastern foreign policy in Arabic, **WE WANT IT!**

**Like us on Facebook at *The Vision—Baker University*  
View past editions on the Baker U. website under "Student Activities"**

### **CONTACT THE VISION**

Email: BenjaminGSobek@stu.bakeru.edu  
Editors: Xiomara Nuñez and Benjamin Sobek