

Henry N.

Finding Freedom: The Journey from Vietnam to America! (True Story)

The Vietnam War ended in 1975. Communist now took over the South Vietnam Territory. They raided homes, made people slaves, and would take away liberty. My Father's parents was worried, a few years passed by. My father's parents decided to send my father and his little brother America. They went to a boat that led refugees to America. The boat was a small fishing boat that carried around 43 refugees. My father set sail April 13, 1975.

1-2-3-4 days passed by, people on the boat were getting cranky, fresh water ran out. My father's little brother begged for him to pee so he can drink it. My father didn't have enough water for him to drink so he couldn't pee. His little brother begged and begged by my father couldn't do anything about it.

Day five the boat engine died out, everyone on the boat screamed, "WE ARE GOING TO DIE."

My father was an independent man but, in his mind, he was starting to worry like everybody else. Few hours passed by and somehow the captain fixed the engine. Everyone thanked God. Everyone set off again.

The next day they saw land. The refugees were singing jolly songs and yelling, "We are going to live." When they got to the land the boat broke to small planks and floated away in the lonely sea. Marines came and surrounded the refugees. The marines gave them supplies. They sent the refugees to the nearest hospital. My father was very lucky. He only spent seven days on the sea. His friend spent 39 days on the sea. His friend's boat became carnivores. When someone died, they would split the meat and eat it raw.

You can have different kinds of journeys. A peaceful one or a horrible one. In one case, my father told me when a refugee boat went out to sea a few hours later they saw dead bodies coming back to shore. Finding freedom takes blood, tears and your life.

I am very, very lucky to be born in AMERICA where the country is powerful, rich and has the world's most advanced education, healthcare system and above all, freedom.

My father always told me he is thankful that America opened their arms to welcome the refugees.

My desire is everyone in the world In general and Vietnamese people in particular have good education, happiness and FREEDOM.