



## MARRYING INTO THE BIG WORLD

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Be a big fish in a small pond. That quote was something I heard in a movie long ago, and it has stuck to me ever since. As explained in Yahoo! Answers the phrase means being able to excel at something and become recognized for what you have within the limited scope you may be in. (<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080924153001AAs7lRt>)

Small fish have the ability to become big fish. However, let us not allow the 'pond' we inhabit to limit us. When we conquer the world we belong to, we also have a potential to create inroads in another world.

Take for example the many among us who were not just contented being inhabitants of the small ponds that they had belonged to. We have international artists and athletes, people who, by dint of hard work and perseverance, saw a horizon that burned brighter with bigger possibilities and benefits for themselves. We have overseas contract workers who, in their quest to overcome poverty on the home front and to find a better future for their families, have braved depression, danger and unspoken risks to their safety by working abroad. We have fellow countrymen who have made foreign shores their destination for establishing their own identities, away from all they hold dear and the people they love the most in order to find a stage where they will be recognized for their talent and skills, where they can intermarry with other races and eventually raise offspring who are products of incorporated beliefs and values from two diverse races.

It can be a challenge to decide to take on another culture that's distinct from one's own. Yet many among us have succeeded at demonstrating that it can be done. The delicate-and oftentimes complex-balancing act that those people need to perform is commendable in that they bravely face whatever consequences there may be and still come out with their personal set of values intact. While carefully paying respect to the novel values they are introduced to, these individuals are still able to maintain a sense of sanity and clarity as to where they belong. Without losing their identity, they learn that other cultures have their own sets of values that must be respected and upheld.

In our daily lives, let us include such people in our prayers. They are fitting forms of inspiration for us who choose to be big fish in our little pond. These individuals have apparently outgrown their ponds and have decided to swim into the churning waters of a much bigger pond. Let us look up to them as role models so that we may get inspired enough to find bigger ponds for ourselves. It is not the small pond that must scare us, but rather the limitation that such a small pond ultimately represents.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What are the values you personally adhere to?
2. How do you stick to those values? Be as specific as needed.
3. Is it easy to marry into another race? Why or why not?
4. What are the possible sources of conflict in an interracial relationship?
5. Is there a particular nation that you admire for its people's set of values? Be able to talk about that country and its people's values.