

# Lurline

by Bona Rae Villarta (July 15, 2010)  
Dedicated to Lurline Ortiz

Background: In July 2010, my mother's uncle Eddie and his family (Lurline included) went to the Philippines for the first time as a family. As you will find out in the poem, she hasn't been to most of the world and she is around my age range.

Until you came to visit us  
You were one of the many "anonymous" Filipino-American children  
Who never knew where your parents' or ancestors' homeland is located  
Or perhaps you never know what's in store in this country.

But then, you also have not visited all the regions of your home country  
You told me, you had only been to Nevada before this trip  
And now, you have visited us here  
Which means to say, your family made us their top priority to visit.

I really can't believe that you're my age  
We are only separated by one month  
And your nephews and nieces are even older than you are  
But you're still part of our extended family.

I hope that you'll make our homeland a place to visit  
Later in your lives, when you have a family of your own  
Even if we may have already left to work or live elsewhere  
You should remember us.

\* homeland is the Philippines; home country is the United States; nephews and nieces are what we Filipinos have a term: "mga pamangkin sa pinsan"