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Uniqueness of Asian Culture

Race Card: “I am Filipino! There’s a difference.”

Growing up as a first generation immigrant was difficult. Throughout my childhood, I remember being constantly asked, “Are you Chinese?” or “Are you Korean?”. These questions, although extremely recurring, did not bother me, as I enjoyed explaining my ethnicity and culture to others. However, occasionally, after I would reply, certain individuals would retort, “Oh, it’s basically the same thing!” This is what truly bothered me. The uniqueness and beauty of all the different Asian cultures is something that should not be categorized into one general group. Whether it be Taiwan, China, India, The Philippines, or any other Asian country, each one holds its own unique people and culture.

Looking at it from the other perspective, it is understandable and forgivable for others to mistake one for another race. However, to state that one’s ethnic background and culture is, “basically the same thing,” as everyone else’s on the Asian continent is borderline prejudice. The race card phrase, “I am Filipino. There’s a difference!” is meant to voice these frustrations for other Asian-Americans who face the same ethnic generalization every day.