

Case 1: Havar & The Restaurant

Havar is the son of a prominent restaurant owner, Emanuel, in Southern Florida. Emanuel had immigrated from Cuba when he was sixteen years old with his older brother, Armando. To survive they cooked Cuban food and sold it from a sidewalk vendor in the heart of the business district. Emanuel and Armando worked late at night also selling their spicy creations to the young and the young at heart who stayed up until the sun rose in the morning hours. Their lunch crowd grew steadily as did their late night crowd. There were the noon regulars: Joe the attorney, Rhonda, the bank-teller, Soulita, the accountant, and Inez, the insurance agent. Each had their daily specials. They had tried it all but Joe preferred the spicy fajita, Rhonda liked the ham and cheese rolls, Soulita enjoyed the vegetarian black bean wrap, and Inez devoured the seafood payea every day. The night crowd, which was always a culturally mixed bunch, loved the spicy blackened chicken skewers.

It was serving the late night crowd that Emanuel met his wife, Gezelle, who had immigrated from Mexico with her family. It was a spicy relationship – their love, their arguing, and above all the new recipes that they created which combined both of their cultures. Within five years, Emanuel and Armando had saved enough money to open a restaurant, Su Casa. It was an instant success. Their regulars now came to lunch to sit and enjoy the food and the hospitality of their hosts. At night the restaurant was always packed. To get a reservation the wait was at least a month and walk-ins had to wait for at least two hours for a table. But the bar was lively with the voice of Emanuel's cousin singing Latin music, and no one minded the two-hour wait for the food. Within three years they had opened

a second location in Southern Florida, which Armando managed.

Havar grew up in the restaurant. Everyone loved him especially when he would perform with Emanuel's cousin at the piano. He began cooking with his mother and father at home when he was five. He was helping clear dishes at the restaurant when he was eight. By high school Havar would race to the restaurant to help create the Thursday night "Havar Special." Havar's creative dishes were establishing him as a reputable chef. Some said he was better than his father but that was spoken of quietly and NEVER when his father, Emanuel, was around.

Unlike many of his friends Havar had no dream of going to college. He knew it was not an option. It was expected that he would take over running the family restaurants. He was the only child of Emanuel and Gezelle. Armando had never married nor had children; he was married to the restaurant. From early childhood people talked of when Havar would be old enough to take over the business. His path in life was to be the next great chef, like his father, Emanuel - everyone said so. Thus, it was his dream.



Developmental Analysis Questions

1. Detail Havar's identity status and exploration processes. What elements of the identity process are evident in this case?

2. How are talents and interests of childhood and adolescence linked to the formation of personal identity in this case? How typical is it for identity formation to evolve from earlier childhood talents and accomplishments?
3. Who are the important figures for identification in this case? How does identification with adults contribute to the formation of identity in later adolescence?



Contextual Analysis Questions

1. How can parents, teachers, and friends promote or impede identity exploration in this case?
2. How may culture influence Havar's identity exploration process?
3. How typical is Havar's identity formation process for children born to immigrant parents?



Psychosocial Analysis Questions

1. How does psychosocial theory explain why Havar wants to be just like his father?
2. Imagine Havar fifteen years in the future, when he is in his thirties. What might his life be like? What challenges may he be facing that are a result of career, educational, and lifestyle decisions he is making now?



For Further Research and Study

1. Search the Internet for information about career exploration. What type of information is available to individuals who are unsure about their career path?
2. Explore family-based business. What are some considerations in forming a family-based business? What are some unique challenges?