Let It Rain Coffee Discussion Guide by Angie Cruz

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Let It Rain Coffee is a proverb or Dominican colloquialism that has long referred to abundance and better times, made popular by the Juan Luis Guerra song of the same name, [Let It Rain Coffee](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZOLOggfWp0). The memory of better times is a powerful reflection tool.Think about a time in your or your family’s life that was filled with prosperity, abundance; affluence, and stability.

How much can you trust those memories? Now that you are older or more critical about the past, or now that you have a better understanding of your family or society. Was it really like that?

The Colón family migrated to Los Llanos from Juan Folio and then to the U.S. What internal and external migrations has your own family been through? Map your family trajectories and migration routes and also the "shocks" that lead to those displacements/migrations.

Esperanza wanted to control everything even her hair. Miraluz wants a steadfast revolution. Both women cause different impressions in Don Cha and how they seek power and assert their rights as matriarchal and feminist figures. Don Chan as the revolutionary is attracted and intimated by MiraLuz demanding a place at the table at the revolution but disregards Ezperanzas control over him and the household. How men as the enforcer of the patriarchy can navigate these dangerous double standards as we seek to create more equality for women in society?

Zonas Francas or free trade zones can be controversial economic development incentives per sustainability, labor rights, and social responsibility standards. In a recent Case Study Report by Barna School of Management [Alta Gracia Apparel](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13MY3soqrbACBCBO8tqarMsr0Nr1bE1E3/view) Page 38, highlighted opportunities to redesign this system. What are some labor rights, land justice, and women rights struggles in Dominican history that you will like to learn more about?

"Women are the ones that remind men of their mistakes, they are the knowledge holders and direct connections to our ancestors," said Don Cha to Hush. Think about the women in you lived, how do you receive knowledge from them? Had you always appreciated that knowledge? How are you documenting it and treasuring it?

Did you know women of color in the U.S. are about 3 times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women? Learn [more](https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/pregnancy-relatedmortality.htm) here and [here](https://www.marchofdimes.org/complications/pregnancy-related-death-maternal-death-and-maternal-mortality.aspx). As Don Cha is adopted by the Colóns , Esperanza adopts Consuelo. Cruz reaffirms the importance of cycles and repetitions with family dynamics and revolutions here. What other patterns did you observe in the book?

Ezperanza is so obsessed with future wealth. Like the possibility of a ranch in Dallas, but no una casa en el campo en Los Llanos. Everyone's ideas of wealth and socioeconomic status are different. What do you now consider wealth and prosperity? How has that definition change over time?

Cruz magical realism brings out botijas (how my grandma calls them) or the secret treasures that people from Los Llanos find in their land after a hurricane. We all have stories about secret treasures in our families. Ask your elders about them. Ask them about the memories of their campo. We need to carry those stories with us because we are from those parts are well.

"All revolutions are based on the land" - Malcolm X

During the last half of the 20th century, agricultural reform policies in the Dominican Republic stripped away land from many rural people, then an economic recession led to a wave of migration out of the Dominican Republic to the United States. Some scholars believe it was part of a conspiracy between the Dominican government and the Dominican elite to push out of the country the mostly poor, rural, and dark-skinned *Campesinos*, or people of the countryside. During those critical years, the Dominican economy changed significantly, and more than 350,000 Dominicans left the island. Are there any stories of land loss in your family?

The people of Los Llanos were able to focus and support themselves as a community when they earn ownership of their land. They were able to transition their land to self-subsistence instead of cash crops like *caña*, sugarcane. This enables them to create community. Think about the opportunities that exist in your community to create collective action like a community garden, food cooperatives, housing cooperatives, *sans* or money circles, volunteering, organizing. How can you support this community ownership initiative?

Don Cha laments that owning the land and this new found prosperity inhibits the people of Los Llanos from organizing and advocating for a better country and democracy. Think about your own privileges and comforts that might make you immune for opportunities to organize/advocate for improving not only your community but society as a whole.

“How do you think we cultivated our garden? Con la mente” In the Next American Revolution by Grace Lee Boggs connects workers struggles with the potential of urban gardening just as Don Cha. She calls us to be producers and not just consumers and workers in the system. Thinking about your own labor and consumerism habits, how can they support your own revolution in your community?

“No, no la busque.

Si alguien quiere saber cuál es mi patria,

no pregunte por ella.

No quiera saber si hay bosques, trinos,

penínsulas muchísimas y ajenas,

o si hay cuatro cadenas de montañas,

todas derechas,

o si hay varios destinos de bahías

y todas extranjeras.” - Perdo Mir, [Si Alguien Quiere Saber Cual Es Mi Patria](http://www.circuloreflexionjuanbosch.com/poesia-si-alguien-quiere-saber-cual-es-mi-patria-de-pedro-mir/)

React to this Poem.

Revolution is a central theme in this book. As Dominican people, we have gone through cycles of fighting different kinds of enemies (Colonialism, American Imperialism, Dictatorship, American Occupation, Capitalism, Corruption) and asserting our sovereignty and fighting for our rights. What is the revolution we need to be fighting as Dominican and Dominican Americans?

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