

To all the Coratini who went to the USA

Transcript of a poem by Sabino Zaza (Facebook, la voce dei coratini)

https://m.facebook.com/groups/447540642099522/permalink/1649410738579167/?sfnsn=scwspwa#_=_

"This poem is dedicated to all the coratini who left Corato to find fortune in America.

Letter from the United States of America:

Every day, with my hands in the earth, my life was always the same.

In Corato, there were too many farm workers and that's why they departed on their adventure.

With the little money they had collected to pay for the trip, with a bundle, tears and a lot of courage, they took a boat in Naples to go to another continent, to America, to seek their fortune without knowing anyone.

And at the sight of the Statue of Liberty, the dreams of so many nights had come true.

They were treated like animals, they were stripped and washed.

To get work, it was a war with so many people you didn't know.

But thanks to all those brave people who opened the way, many families followed them and left Corato.

They left with many tears and with just a few photographs as souvenirs.

They wrote to each other and the postman was expected every day.

And one day, in a letter there was a photo and on the portrait of a beautiful and thin girl there was a cross indicating that Cataldo wanted to marry her.

If she accepted, we would start to prepare the papers.

My daughter, even if you don't know him, he is a good boy and besides he is intelligent and you can see that he is not stupid.

Don't get attached to his looks nor to the fact that you are marrying him by proxy, but at least there in America you won't starve.

And since that time, so many Coratini became Americans and many of those families settled in those far away lands.

But they never forgot the blisters on their hands as they worked in the fields all day for a piece of bread."