

During my vacation last May, I had a hard time choosing a tour. Flights to Japan, Hong Kong and Australia are just too common. What I wanted was somewhere exciting and exotic, a place where I could be spared from the holiday tour crowds. I was so happy when John called up, suggesting a trip to Cherokee, a county in the state of Oklahoma. I agreed and went off with the preparation immediately.

We took a flight to Cherokee and visited a town called Qualla Boundary surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery, the town painted a paradise before us. With its Oconaluftee Indian Village reproducing tribal crafts and lifestyles of the 18th century and the outdoor historical pageant *Unto These Hills* playing six times weekly in the summer nights, Qualla Boundary tries to present a brief image of the Cherokee past to the tourists.

Despite the language barrier, we managed to find our way to the souvenir shops with the help of the natives. The shops were filled with rubber tomahawks and colorful traditional war bonnets, made of dyed turkey feathers. Tepees, cone-shaped tents made from animal skin, were also pitched near the shops. "Welcome! Want to get anything?" We looked up and saw a middle-aged man smiling at us. We were very surprised by his fluent English. He introduced himself as George and we ended up chatting till lunch time when he invited us for lunch at a nearby coffee shop.

"Sometimes, I've to work from morning to sunset during the tour season. Anyway, this is still better off than being a woodcutter ..." Remembrance weighed heavy on George's mind and he went on to tell us that he used to cut firewood for a living but could hardly make ends meet. We learnt from him that the Cherokees do not depend solely on trade for survival. During the tour off-peak period, the tribe would have to try out other means for income. One of the successful ways is the "Bingo Weekend". On the Friday afternoons of the Bingo weekends, a large bingo hall was opened, attracting huge crowds of people to the various kinds of games like the Super Jackpot and the Warrior Game Special. According to George, these forms of entertainment fetch them great returns.

Our final stop in Qualla Boundary was at the museum where arts, ranging from the simple hand-woven oak baskets to wood and stone carvings of wolves, ravens and other symbols of Cherokee cosmology are displayed.

Back at home, I really missed the place and I would, of course, look forward to the next trip to another exotic place.

A visit to Cherokee

In vacation the writer wanted to visit an uncrowded place. His friend suggested him to visit Cherokee. He was happy and started preparation. They took a flight. The place was ~~just~~ surrounded by beautiful mountains. An old town in Cherokee represented their tribal art and games to the tourists. They found a shop having traditional things. Here they met a native man and impressed by his fluency in English. The man invited them to a coffee shop and had a long conversation. He told that they worked for many hours during peak tourism days. Otherwise they cut trees for living. The people were not only dependent on tourism. A huge crowd of people gathered on Bingo weekend. They earned a handsome amount from this. The museum of Cherokee was full of traditional and old things. The writer wanted to go some other places like this.

Approx words in Passage = 435

Words in precis = 144

اے محبوب وطن کے فرزندو! جو قوم سیاسی آزادی کھودیتی ہے وہ ان قوتوں
سے محروم ہو جاتی ہے جو فطرت نے پر انسان کو بخشے ہیں۔ بیداری اور الو العز و جی تو
رہے حیات ہے بتدریج فنانع ہو جاتی ہے۔ وہ مہارتے و اے بھیدوں کا گروہ
بن کر رہ جاتی ہے، جو جوں و چرا کٹے بقیہ جو ایدے کے لئے سے یا ٹکا جاتا ہے
رفتہ خیال اور غرت کا احساس مردہ ہو جاتا ہے ایل صب پر اثر مردگی
چھا جاتی ہے اور صبا کی قدرتی پیداوار اور دولت ان کے کام نہیں آتی ہے

Oh the son of beloved country! The nation who lost
the political freedom it deprived from such power
that nature has ^{blessed} ~~given~~ it. Bravery and determination
that are essence of life wasted gradually. It becomes the
flock of bleating sheep, that willingly driven by shepherd
stick. The sense of loftiness and self respect died.
Frustration is spreaded over the people of the country and
the country's natural production and wealth do not
work for them.