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Follow Me to Tainan guidebook and reflection

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Reflection for LOD

In brief, this Tainan Trip was surely fantastic.

In the afternoon that Friday, we set out on our journey as soon as we could right after professors dismissed the course, like five little earnest kids looking forward to a field trip or a picnic. Three girls of us dragging their heavy colorful suitcases was leading ahead and keenly discussing matters we planned to do after. I still can clearly recall that unspeakably cozy feeling suddenly emerged out of the bottom of my mind while we were heading to Taipei Main Station, like being held in Mom's gentle arms in the childhood. It was so amazingly warm and comforting, and I remembered that kind of feeling only comes out when it wants to. Maybe it was reminding me of something I've lost for a long time, or maybe it was just out of no reason. When I pulled myself together, the metro had already pulled in. We stepped out the carriage, helped each other to lift three suitcases upon the escalator, and finally came to the first floor of Taipei Bus Station. It's been a while since my last trip to other cities, somewhat nostalgic. It was around six, but we got no time for dinner. Travis and I even had to rush into the High Speed Rail waiting place right after finishing a cigarette (alright I admit we were too childish for this action). Minutes later, the broadcaster began to announce the coming of train, and we finally set foot on this tight trip.

The first stop we made a stay was a bouillon shop. All of us were nearly about to beg for the urban bus driver to drive as fast as possible because we were extremely starving. After we got off, the first thing was to find the shop that Jean's grandfather recommended to us, as quick as we could. We walked for around fifteen minutes and finally got to it. The nameboard glossed than usual, as if we had not seen such a brightening sign ever before; well, we were just too hungry to distinguish between a sign and an angel. Ordered five bowls of bouillon, sat down on the seats, and fixed our eyes on the storeowner and his huge silver stove, with

our mouths watering. After few minutes of waiting, all of our orders were ready on the table, and they were appetizingly steaming hot. I am a guy who enjoys bouillon pretty much since it's so unreasonably delicious and I have one to two bowls of it every time I visit Tainan, so I can never figure out why there's no famous or not even one shop selling bouillon in Taipei. Is it possible? Is it possible that the capital city of this country has no bouillon store? Anyway, although our orders were all set up, right in front of us, we could not do in yet since we had to take photos of the food for the project. If this shot angle was not fine, then change another one; if that light was too dim, then change another seat. That was really a torture, and sometimes the time the procedure took was long enough for me to consume a cigarette, no kidding. Finally after taking pictures, we started to satisfy our miserable stomachs.

We visited many historic spots and highly-praised restaurants, and scenes in restaurants were usually like what I mentioned above. Honestly I can't remember too many details about places we'd been, maybe because I wasn't concentrated enough or the schedule of our journey was too tight or the sun was burning. Most historic spots we had a tour in even seemed fresher when I was writing descriptions for them. Even so, still a place I want to highlight, and that is the B&B Jean's aunt and her husband run (of course not just because it was on the house). They provided us with a huge tatami room which was located on the top floor of the building, with all necessities settled including slippers and some books, giving us a comfortable sense of being in our own house. Additionally, there was an ample terrace outside the room and one can take the whole night sky in at a glance when looking up. It was designed nicely and let customers enjoy the rare clear scene of sky in a developed city. There were no tables and chairs for people to relax or have fun outside on it were a fly in the ointment, although I didn't inquire of them about it. Maybe they've already taken that into consideration before I came up with this little jangly complaint. Really thanks Jean's aunt's generosity and courteous entertainment as if we were all her close friends. I heard Jean said

that the B&B was just completed few months ago and we were the first batch of guests (and they even didn't charge us with the reason that it should be better to collect our opinions before a formal opening), so I sincerely hope that their selfless effort would not be failed at last.

I was the only driver during this trip, and rather than drove my own car, we rented a car; I had to acknowledge that I got way more nervous owing to the rental car. I actually don't think I'm a sophisticated driver even though I've already driven for almost three years; while unfortunately I still somehow cannot learn how to park appropriately and precisely. My dad usually makes fun of me for that, and I also admit my incapability of parking. Whenever I hang out with my friends and at the same time take the responsibility of driving, I spontaneously feel fussy, not to mention to drive a rental car. I notified them of that unpleasant fact in advance since I thought it was my duty to let them know first, as if they were forced to sign some kind of indemnity agreement. Beyond my negative expectation and excessive worries, nothing bad happened with the drive during our trip, and apart from the good luck and enough attention I had, I want to specifically appreciate the warming consideration my group members gave me. I could deeply feel their trust and patience (since it usually took a couple of time for me to park), and Travis, who hardly says something good to me since our first acquaintance, even gave me a compliment. Except a bloody careless scooter rider who was closely hit by me since a nearby car accident distracted him from focusing on his own, thank Lord that we did not encounter difficulties during the trip. Maybe the most hardship I bumped into was the moment when everyone was eating pops but I couldn't because of my sensitive teeth.

Indeed, this trip was undoubtedly exhausting but I really did have a good time and I would remember that explicitly. Thanks to this experience, I got to know people who I was in fact not that familiar with better and deeper, and to further learn parts of their own stories and

interests. To be embarrassingly frank, I felt honored and even touched when dealing with this project with all these mates. I have to say I'm not a cooperative person and sometimes I even despise the significance of cooperation since in my point of view it's more problematic and tricky than individual work. I am not antisocial; I just don't believe teamwork without coherence. Nevertheless, luckily I was given the chance to work with these decent people and to reexamine my bias against working together. I used to work alone, while accomplishing something great with people who are at their service also benefits me a lot. Travis and I were such two fidgets and we hated being commanded and forced to walk with a group of people, but the girls weren't mad at us at all during the trip (maybe they desired to punch us in the face so bad yet they just didn't say it out), showing how much effort they put in and how patient they were to maintain operation of a group. They really did a wonderful job, and I appreciate that.

Tainan is a lovely option for a short visit (as well as a long-term habitation due to countless finger-licking foods) without a doubt, and our trip this time helped me to explore this quaint charming city in a more profound vision. I've been to Tainan several times before, while none of these former trips make me feel like I know it further. Things I can never forget include not only the foods but also the people there. Unlike living in Taipei, most Tainan people are more straightforward, and sometimes visitors might feel a bit offended or reckon Tainan people are not polite enough. Man, it won't be so easy to get offended unless you take everything offended easily. I pretty admire how people living in Tainan talk and their attitude, since I personally hate beating around the bush and sitting on a fence. As long as you aren't scolding or maliciously criticizing, say whatever you want in a direct manner. During this trip I'd observed many things as I've gradually fostered a fractious habit of reading surroundings, what surprised me the most was the unspoken atmosphere this city generated. In addition to plenty of historic monuments, this city radiated more, but unfortunately I can't explain it

better than not to explain. It's about sensation and experience. In a word, Tainan is certainly a top choice for people who are inclined to relax and have interest in appeal of an orthodox Taiwanese city. Lastly, there are too many people I must pay gratitude and respect, as a result, to find a middle ground, thank God.