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QUEST *to see*
the WORLD

(Looking for Santa in Antarctica)

Travelogue
VOLUME ONE

PREFACE

To give further details to the first book QUEST FOR THE GOLD MIND (FIRST QUEST BOOK written by Ms. Lilibet Amatong and Ms. Lee Ulangca), I originally planned to compile photos and write a brief caption about each of them to comprise a compendium titled QUEST TO SEE THE WORLD. Later, I thought of including additional information to have a better appreciation of the photos. But as I progressed, I thought of writing short essays including anecdotes, impressions, or insights that readers might find informative and entertaining on the country being represented by the photo.

I also realized that it would help if there would be classification according to countries and then to be categorized into seven (7) continents so that readers may somehow be guided to which country and continent the place belongs especially those unfamiliar ones. Thus, the Quest to See the World would be divided into the following titles and volumes: Looking for Santa in Antarctica (Volume 1); At Home in Asia (Volume 2); Little, Big Australia (Volume 3); Tracing Ties with South America (Volume 4); Keeping Up with North America (Volume 5); Passport to Europe (Volume 6); and, A Taste of Safari (Volume 7).

I hope this project would be orderly and hopefully enjoyable and supplementary to those contained in web pages, travel brochures and even travel publications.

After having traveled extensively, I now believe that the fulfillment of a travel is derived only after surmounting various challenges along the way and reminiscing the same for lessons learned and/or feelings experienced during a particular moment.

In fact no traveler could claim that the past experience in one place would be similar in another place though in various aspects they may appear similar. Experience would reveal that there is radical variance in every place.

The same is true with modes of transport like airplanes and ships as their respective designs vary from one another. There is no guarantee therefore that the seat which you previously occupied from the same airline could be the same seat because of the various configurations and models of the airplanes of the particular airline.

Thus, the better course of action is for you to supply the details such as near the toilet, aisle, etc. As in every human endeavor worth

pursuing, it would be helpful to be inquisitive and not to adopt a know-it-all attitude aside from developing an open and flexible disposition as you immerse in varying experiences.

Some anecdotes told, impressions recalled, and insights gained may sometimes appear in bad taste to the purist and sanctimonious. What I hope the readers may take cognizance of is the untainted exercise of freedom of expression in the quest for truth.

It dramatizes the harsh realization that certain circumstances just happen due to human frailties and that they were just meant to be. Yet, one would never know surprises ahead could prove to spice up the memoirs as they might elicit a smile, a chuckle, or at best an outburst of laughter.

As I wrote this travelogue, I had to rely so much on captured moments by my handy camera – nothing fancy or sophisticated – but surely it facilitated the recollection of fragmented memories and guaranteed an interesting tapestry of information. I hope you will enjoy this presentation.