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Essay 2, Draft 1

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Away from Home

 Humans have travelled the world throughout the ages for various reasons. With that said taking photographs go hand in hand with travelling and tourism in current times. Photographs are a way to store moments as physical or digital memories. Many of times a scene triggers a certain sense or joy or nostalgia which influences us to capture the moment forever. Thus, we start capturing and collecting photographs. The two photographs taken for this essay, are related to travelling and homesickness. The photographs are very different in their own ways but they are linked through my punctum. Here I will describe and compare the photographs, “The US flight” and “The peaceful remembrance,” and share my punctum to relate the photographs.

“The US flight,” was taken from the corner of Northern Blvd. and 70th street in Queens, NY. The photograph was captured when airplane soaring through the great sky, above waving the US flag in the wind in a sudden decisive moment. **Teju cole in his article *Perfect and Unrehearsed* said, “**There’s no single right answer, just as there’s no photographic formula.” Had I taken the photograph a second later, it may be different but there would be no right or wrong. Even though majority of the photo is mostly clouds in the gloomy sky, it is easy to focus on the two objects which are almost centered in it. It was a gloomy day as one can tell by the dark clouds with a little bit of sun though them in the back ground. Looking closely at the photo we can see that the wheels or in other words the landing gears on the plane are out and it is about to land, which brings up my punctum to the photograph. On my flight to the United States, I recall having a feeling of anxiousness the moment the cabin crew had announced that we were about to land into John F. Kennedy International Airport in a few moments. It was a bittersweet moment because I was about to start a new chapter in life, but I knew I wasn’t returning home any time soon.

The second photograph “The peaceful remembrance” was taken in the Amish country in Lancaster, PA. I was on a family road trip when I came across this scenario and in a decisive moment captured the photo. As John Berger states, “A photograph is a result of the photographer’s decision that it is worth recording that this particular event or this particular object has been seen.” The photograph shows a scenic view of a grass flied with mountains in the background, and the beautiful open sky. There is a silo, a corn field, and vast lands of empty fields with a few lush trees. The photograph was captured towards the evening as we can tell from the slight angle of the sunrays bouncing off the fluffy clouds in the sky. The alignment of the sky and land is aesthetically symmetrical. The beauty of this photograph reminds me of my country, Bangladesh. It is known for its greenery and lush fields. Susan Sontag in her *Essays of the 1960s & 70s,* *On Photography* said, “It is a nostalgic time right now, and photographs actively promote nostalgia.” Stating that I remember travelling a lot within the country where I would see very similar scenarios as such. With the mixture of cultivation fields and high terrains in the background, it would be aesthetically pleasing and away from all the hustle and bustle of the city life. The photograph gives me a feeling of being back home, it is a representation of the country side in Bangladesh.

Although the two photographs are very different from each other according to their studium, they can be tied together by my punctum. They are related in a sense that “The US flight” was all about my journey to a new country and the thought of being able fit in, having to adjust with everything new, and being uncertain of the future. Whereas, “The peaceful remembrance” is a sweet memory of the beautiful country I had left to be in this new one. It is a feeling of comfort and peace. Also, the open sky full of clouds is a similar feature in both photographs that compare a gloomy morning versus a bright sunny evening. In conclusion, the photographs were chosen because my personal relatability and its dominant impression. They are unique in their own way, yet they are coherent.

Works Cited

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