

關於東沙島的故事

The Story about Dongsha Island

◎文/語靈

◎Article/ Yu-ling

拎著簡單的行囊，以一種朝聖的心情，飛向境外延伸的國土——東沙島。航程中，用完全的陌生兀自編畫著藍天、碧海、白沙灘。當一望無際的跑道映入眼簾，艷陽高照下的東沙機場石碑早已熱情的將人擁抱入懷；專車、迎賓的行伍，預告東沙島近在咫尺。

從此刻起，讓來東沙的任務照著行程表操作，就用閒暇來探探這塊神秘的土地，腳踏車是上島後的專利。經一番巡禮，島上遍佈低矮的熱帶灌木頗為壯觀，檫樹、林投、木麻黃、銀合歡、草海桐處處可見；貝殼沙在腳下、輪縫間，如沙漏般細數著時間的流轉。夕陽下的潟湖，有岸鳥獨自覓食；灰白色的沙蟹，用它的極速驚擾不少紛踏的腳步。望向無涯的海域，有著陰陽海的錯覺，原來是泰萊草墨染了近岸，而海中斜立的反登陸樁有它設置的不同評價，隱約中一股細細的感動隨著晚風輕拂而來。

flied with simple luggage and a mood of pilgrimage to Dongsha Island, the extended territory outside Taiwan. During my journey, I imagined the blue sky, clean ocean and white beach through an unfamiliar view. When the endless runway came into my eyes, I felt enthusiastically hugged by the stele of Dongsha Airport under the sun. Limousine and welcome ranks were an advance announcement of getting closer to Dongsha Island.

From this moment, the mission to Dongsha had to follow the schedule here. Therefore, I decided to explore this mysterious land during my spare time and the bicycle was my only privilege on this island. After a few rounds, I found the tropical shrubs were quite impressive. The India Mulberry, Screw Pine, Horsetail Tree, White Popinac and Scaevola could be seen everywhere there. Shell and sand were under my feed and my wheel. It feels like counting the time as a sandglass. There were shore birds foraging at the saline land under the sunset, and grey-white sand crabs used their speed to wake many steps. I looked the never-ending sea and had an illusion of the two-colored sea. It turned out to be that Thalassia algae changed the color of sea nearby the shore. The against-landing stakes in the middle of sea had different reflections according to their location. Indistinctly, fine and touched feeling flies close to me with the evening breeze.

The night in Dongsha is quite, dark and peaceful. Stars twinkle at night without light pollution. In the island, lampposts along the streets are considered to be a luxury and waste, and flashlights have already taken over its place. Although there are Dong-Kuang Hospital, First Coast Patrol Company, Duty Command Center, the fifth site, Dongsha fisher service station, etc., walking on



東沙碼頭的夜寧謐、暗寂，夜空中，因無光害而繁星點點。在島上，路燈被認為既奢侈又浪費，手電筒早已習慣的替代了它。縱有東光醫院、第一中隊、勤務指揮中心、第五據點、東沙漁民服務站……，摸黑走在植被間的小道，還是令人步伐虛浮不實。靜心聆聽，遠處隱隱傳來陣陣的浪濤聲，像是在訕笑那只能用探照燈驅離違法捕撈的守望人。

翌日，太陽意外的爽約，但見停留在皮膚上的是昨天被日照烙曬的痕跡。這一天風起雲湧，陽光隱在雲後，為不再受烈日酷暑頓覺神清氣爽。放眼球場旁矗立成排的木麻黃，有成群的家燕時而群起上下飛舞，時而靜肅挺立地面，像在進行一場例行的訓練，齊一的動作不時展現出力和美。獨自來到香火鼎盛的東沙大王廟，潔淨的神台、裊裊香煙，想見島上信眾的誠心與精神所寄；寧靜蒼翠的長青亭坐落廟前，整夜裡灑落滿地的榕樹葉，一時間非三、兩支竹掃帚所能清淨！捻起12柱香，感謝關聖帝君、南海女神—媽祖、左右護法、虎爺、福德正神……，讓這裡所有人的的人身安全盡受庇祐。

就在那一夜與東沙話別，有海巡人在微量的燈光下，咀嚼著無奈。放空的眼神望向遠方，訴說來到東沙島的漫漫歲月；這裡沒有小蜜蜂、沒有7-ELEVEN，長久以來，就怕夜幕低垂，那揮不散的寂寥不時啃噬著鄉愁，有時不免懷疑東沙是否島孤人也孤！或許是這股情緒的強烈衝擊，對此地的「百無聊賴」竟也感同身受。

夜裡，催促自己定要誠心禱告，因為，明天的風速及地面的能見度，將決定能否如期下島。🙏

small paths in the dark still made me worry. Listen carefully, the sound of waves far away felt like laughing at those guard keepers who can only use searchlight to expel illegal fishing.

The next day, sun disappeared unexpectedly, but I saw the sunburn from yesterday on my skin. Today is full of wind and cloud and sun is behind the cloud. Suddenly I feel fresh and cool. Horsetail Tree lining up by the sport court and there were groups of barn swallow flying and dancing here and there. The swallows sometimes stood still on the ground as a routine training; sometimes they moved together showing the beauty of strength. I went to the popular "Dongsha Da-Wang Temple" alone. I saw the clean altar and the smoke from incense stick moving to curl upwards. I imagined how people on this island to leave their mind with this temple wholeheartedly. The peaceful and green Evergreen pavilion set in front of the temple. The fruits of Chinese Banyan covered the floor at night and it is not easy to clean up only by 2 or 3 brooms. I held 12 incense sticks and thanked Sainly Emperor Guan, Goddess of South China Sea-Ma Zu, Left Guard and Right Guard, Tiger God, God of the Land, etc. for protecting people here safe and well.

I said goodbye to Dongsha at that night. The feeling of no choice stayed along with some sea guarders under the dim light. They looked through the far, telling the story of Dongsha Island. There were no bees, 7-11 here. People are afraid of night since long time ago, because of the loneliness and homesick that never goes away. Sometimes you doubt if people feeling lonely because the island is lonely itself. This strong emotional impact made me feel deeply "the Extreme Boringness" here.

I urged myself to pray sincerely at night, because both the wind speed and visibility scale tomorrow will decide whether I can leave this island as planned.

