**20th January 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**The day Xmas came month late!**

Today morning, I got a call from one of the cola companies which organized a lottery for two week holiday in India and South East Asia for one, they’ve said I’ve won!!! Couldn’t believe that!!!

I was so happy that I immediately ran downstairs and shared the news with my mom, sister and dad, they all were happy for me, I’ve promised to send them postcards from every single city that I’m going to visit, I hope I’m not gonna forget about ‘em.

I’ve also told my friends about it, they all were so happy for me, but I could feel a little bit of jealousy in their voices, which is understandable since everybody would’ve wanted that kind of holidays.

Right away I’ve started to plan what to take with me on a trip it’s just 6 months away!

I was so happy I’m still shocked that something like that happened to me, it’s like a dream come true!

Night,

Dave

**5th March 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**Early Xmas gift, here I come!**

Every day I’m counting how long it’s gonna be before I’m going on the best holidays in my life! Even my family is making fun of me and plays “Final Countdown” by Europe whenever I cross another day on calendar. They’re great and really fun, gonna miss them for those 2 weeks I’m away.

Today on geography lessonwe’ve had Asia on the subject, me, my classmates and geography teacher were laughing a couple times as we made subject jokes involving my holidays, I’ve also learnt a lot about the countries I’m gonna visit. I’ve told the teacher I’m gonna bring something from this journey to his clan, perhaps touristic map or some kind of geographical stuff? Do not know yet.

I was really curious about what teacher said about South Asia countries, I was pretty sure it’s only full of cultural buildings and inland beautiful nature, but I found out there are a lot of good beaches here as well! This pumped me up for this trip even more. Now what to take with me on the beach…

Bye, bye,

Dave

**12th July 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**Dream Time’s Eve**

Can’t believe time goes so fast, I could’ve sworn I’ve won the lottery just yesterday!

This was my early 19th birthday, since on 20th I’m gonna be in Thailand. I’ve told my family and friends that they don’t need to give me any gifts since I’m gonna have mine day after. We’ve eaten the b-day cake and had a great fun, most of my friends and family came since I’m gonna be off for two weeks. We’ve played my favorite songs and some that had something to do with traveling.

It was a great evening, I went to sleep pretty late, 2 am, but I couldn’t fall asleep!

Night,

Dave.

**13th July 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**The Day it all started,**

**Sorry Diary! It’s gonna be a short one.**

After sleepless night I’ve done my morning ritual and said goodbye to my family and closer friends, after that I went to the airport, from there I took a flight to India. Here I go Asia!

Bye!

**14th July 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**(New) Delhi,**

I’ve arrived in New Delhi, it’s a big and living city, capital of India, filled with great people, I didn’t stay here for too long, maybe 2-3 hours then I went to Delhi, a great city, once a capital of India, it had many touristic attractions that really showed India’s diversity, Hindus and Muslims and other living in peace. I’ve visited Akshardham Temple – Hindu temple, in fact it’s the third largest Hindu temple in the world! I’ve also seen Jama Masjid – one of the largest mosques in India. I also had the pleasure to see one of the most beautiful buildings in the world (in my opinion) – Lotus Temple a place of worship for Bahá'í, religion which honestly I’ve never heard about, but now I know it and I’m very happy, I really like to learn about other people’s cultures or religions. Then I went to Red Fort and saw Sri Digambar Jain Lal Mandir which were pretty close, first one is old palace of Mughals Emperors, it’s enormous! Really love that now it’s been turned to lots of museums, really great idea to teach people about history in place that was part of that history. Second one is another house of worship – Jains, it is called Red Temple since it’s made out of red sandstone, I couldn’t get inside it, since I had to go somewhere else, but it was really enormous looking.

I’ve learnt very many new things about India, including a religion I didn’t know before.

Alavida, (Hindi for “bye”)

Dave

**17th July 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**Sri Lanka,**

I’ve landed in Sri Lanka about 10 o’clock in the morning in Colombo, the biggest city. I was told that even though Sri Lanka has rich culture, we would be staying here mainly for the nature.

It was great the weather was sunny but it wasn’t too hot, we went to the east side of the isle where we spent almost 5 hours on the beach, not only swimming and doing all that stuff you do on other beaches, this one had many animals walking pass and they weren’t afraid of tourists! I’ve also fallen in love with the plants: trees, beautifully colored flowers and many, many more.

And so that’s who I’ve spent the day, surrounded by wonders made by nature. It’s really makes you think that people want to destroy all that pretty stuff for money.

Bāyi, (Sinhala for “bye”)

Dave

**20th July 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**The B(est)-day,**

Yay! The time has came it’s my birthday! I have the best birthday gift I could’ve ever imagined! I’m in Thailand right now, it’s my second day here, I’m really enjoying my time here, the sun, lovely green carpet of thousands of plants and patches of colorful flowers scattered across it and me, sitting on a terrace, drinking green tea and listening to my favorite songs, really relaxing.

Later, I’ve been to an elephant sanctuary in the jungle, when I was a child whenever there was a program on elephants on the TV I’d just rush in and watch it, and now I had a chance to see them in real live! I really love elephants, they’re fun, they like playing, they look sweet, just loving them. I actually had the chance to ride one of ‘em, it was really fun since I didn’t get to ride a living animal in my entire life, not even a horse.

And so the time passed and then I had to get back to the hotel, so I did, there I was so excited that I couldn’t sleep and I decided to do what I loved to do back in Poland, I’ve started to watch some TV Shows, movies or videos on Youtube on my phone since the Wi-Fi in the hotel was free and pretty fast considering it’s Thailand.

The food here is really cheap and overall all the prices are lower than in Europe. I was first skeptical about the meat here since I’ve heard people here eat dogs, of course it was a stupid stereotype, it tasted really good, but then again everything that’s for free tastes good.

Bāy, (Try guessing what this one means, heh.)

Dave

**22th July 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**Angkor Wat,**

Today I’ve visited Angkor Wat in Cambodia, it really blows my mind how big that thing is, in fact it’s the largest religious center in the world, It’s really curious how people built it without modern technologies, it shows their devotion to their gods. I’ve known it from pictures and some video games but I’m still surprised how everything in Asia is big, we pride ourselves with Leaning Tower in Pisa and Eiffel Tower but those wonders really show what a human determination can do.

Leahaey, (Khmer for “bye”)

Dave

**26th July 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**Bali, Paradise on Earth,**

A day before leaving for Poland I’ve visited Bali, isle in Indonesia, it’s really beautiful thing, probably the best out of all I’ve visited so far, the azure water, big beautiful mountains, the cliffs, the buildings, it’s really breathtaking how harmonic people and nature can be when they don’t need much money and only take what they need. I’ve discovered local culture, took part in some festivals and dances with them, these people are really what other should look up to, they don’t need many things, they respect traditions and live in peace and harmony with each other.

Sesuatu yg sekunder, (Indonesian for “bye”)

Dave

**27th July 2013**

**Dear Diary,**

**The comeback,**

Today I’m leaving home, I think this travel really changed me, Asians are really diverse people, but they have one common thing – respect for tradition, nature, the past and each other, that I’m really jealous of, despite living in “Third World” countries, these people don’t know concerns that we do, no stress because of work, no browsing the web 24/7, and many more, they are simple folk, but a happy one, that you gotta give ‘em.

Bye from East Side of the Earth!

Dave