



10 March 2003

In Transit - Toronto to Bangkok

Amidst the March break madness that was rushing though Toronto's Pearson International Airport, I somehow managed to sneak into the airport and onto my first flight with very little difficulty. The first leg of my journey, from Toronto to Detroit went by in an instant, while the second, from Detroit to Tokyo, seemed to take forever. There were at least four full-featured movies and a relatively continuous "perfumed" odour coming from the constantly crying little Japanese baby in the seat in front of me.

From the time we took off from Detroit, I tried to imagine myself on Bangkok time as to ease the jet lag. With twelve hours time difference, this was no easy task. I somehow managed to lull myself to sleep mid-afternoon Toronto-time, which is midnight Bangkok time. Maybe it was the horrible film selection, or possibly the lack of one good station on the radio. Better yet, perhaps it was my strong mental ability to focus on an abstract task and complete it efficiently. No matter the reason, the outcome was the same.

After fourteen long hours I finally arrived in Tokyo and had a couple of hours to waste before boarding the plane for Bangkok. What struck me most about Tokyo's Narita Airport was first and foremost the high prices, and second, the sheer volume of advertising for beer – Kirin to be exact. I wandered from one end of the terminal to the other and back before settling down in front of a television to catch some classic prime time sumo wrestling. The trip to Bangkok was kind of a big blur as I was trying to stay awake, but kept drifting out. All I remember is eating all the chocolate I had received as an early birthday gift. Yum!

