

Reflection along latitude

(by Udo Lauterborn, 12-2020)

With a bottle of Singha-beer, I make my way down to the sandy beach. It's so peaceful here. All I can hear are voices in the distance and the sound of the sea.

I'm on holidays in Thailand. A pretty place on earth, good food, friendly people, lots to see and experience. Some research with my mobile phone told me, that I'm at the 10th latitude.

The sun will go down soon. That yellow bright ball will turn orange and later it will drown in the ocean, colouring the blue water into red. Silent but unstoppable. It's still not possible to peep into the sun directly but this process of sundown is a very quick one, being close to the equator.

Facing West. Anticipating a beautiful sundown like in a picture book. A so called romantic moment. What's romantic about it? A day goes to rest, that's all. Night time kicks in. Tomorrow morning the sun will rise again. Is that a romantic moment as well?

Facing West. At this very moment somebody on a beach in Somalia had his lunch. Hopefully. What are his circumstances in life? Why is he sitting on the beach right now? In the shades of a palm tree, I assume. Is he a tourist? A tourist in Somalia? Probably not. Does he have a task to fulfill and what is his name? I will never meet him.

Facing West. At this very moment somebody in Guinea hopefully is looking forward to his lunch. The sun will be at its highest point soon. That's usually lunchtime. Or it might be too hot to eat. A good sip of water would do the job for a while. Does he have access to water, to clean water, to drinking water?

Facing West. At this very moment somebody is sitting on a sandy beach in Venezuela, facing East, watching the sunrise. A new day begins. Does he enjoy the sunrise? Is he looking forward to this new day? It's the same sun that will go down in a few minutes in front of me.

I get up, leaving this beautiful sandy beach, heading back to my hotel.

Facing East, while at this very moment somebody on a ship, south of Japan, snores his brain out.

18 h Thailand

14 h Somalia

11 h Guinea

07 h Venezuela