



Introduction

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Chapter 7: Glimpses Of India

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Part – 1
A Baker From Goa

Chapter 7: Glimpses Of India

Summary

Part 1- A Baker From Goa

1. Bread Making in Goa:

This is a pen-portrait of the traditional Goan village baker, who is still remembered by Goans. Bread making started from the Portuguese days. They were the lovers of bread. Bread making was an art which needed perfection. Mixing, moulding and baking were the areas of specialisation of making bread. The loaves were baked in time tested furnaces. This profession has been continued by the baker's descendants.

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Part 1- A Baker From Goa

2. The Author's Childhood Days Recalled:

The author remembers his childhood days when the baker used to be their friend, companion and guide. He used to visit twice a day, once in the morning during his selling hours and then again while returning after selling all his bread. The jingling thud of the bamboo, he carried, woke them up in the morning and they ran to meet and greet him. They ran for getting the bread-bangles, which were a specially made sweet bread.

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3. Delivering the Loaves:

As the baker came, he would call out the lady of the house and wish her 'Good Morning'. The children would be pushed aside and the loaves would be delivered to the maid servant. The author recalls the aroma of loaves that filled the air. The children would not even brush their teeth and ate bread bangles made of bread with tea.

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4. Importance of Bread in Traditional Ceremonies:

The various kinds of bread were very important for all occasions. No marriage was complete until and unless the traditional bol was served. The lady of the house on the occasion of her daughter's engagement would prepare sandwiches and bolinhas would be prepared for Christmas and other festivals. (bol and bolinhas are the varieties of bread)

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5. The Baker's Dress:

The baker was usually dressed in a kabai, a long frock reaching down to the knees or a shirt and a trousers which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants. Even today if anyone dares to go out in the streets wearing half pants, he is referred to as a pader (baker).

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6. Bread Making - A Profitable Profession:

The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. All the accounts were written on a wall in the premises with a pencil. It was a profitable profession during those days because Portuguese were lovers of fresh baked loaves. The baker, his family members and his servants looked prosperous and happy.

Part – 2

Coorg

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Summary

Part 2- Coorg

1. Coorg - A Heavenly Place:

Coorg district of Karnataka lies between the towns of Mysore and Mangalore. It is like a heaven on Earth. It is inhabited by martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures.

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Part 2- Coorg

2. Weather and Environment of Coorg:

It is the smallest district of Karnataka. It consists of evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantations. The best season to visit Coorg starts in September and continues upto March. The weather in Coorg is pleasant during those months.

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3. People of Coorg:

The people here are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent. According to a legend, Alexander's army moved South along the coast and settled there only when they were unable to return to their country. These people married among the locals and their culture can be witnessed by their martial traditions, marriages and religious rites. The Kodavus (residents of Coorg) wear a long black coat with an embroidered waist belt. Known as Kuppia, it resembles Kuffia worn by the Arabs and the Kurds.

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4. Bravery Tales of Coorg:

Coorg people are well-known for their bravery. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated regiments of the Indian Army. General Cariappa, the first Indian Army Chief, was a Coorgi. Even today, only the Kodavus are permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

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5. Wildlife in Coorg:

Coorg is home to a large number of wild animals and birds. Mahaseer, a large freshwater fish, is found here. Kingfishers, squirrels and langurs live without any fear. Wild elephants enjoy being bathed and scrubbed in the river by their mahouts. The river Kaveri gets its water from the hills of Coorg.

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6. Coorg - A Tourist Place:

Even the laziest tourists become adventurous on coming to Coorg as it is full of adventure sports like river rafting, canoeing, rock climbing etc. The climb to Brahmagiri hills brings smiles to many faces as one can see the panoramic view of Coorg from there.

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Part 2- Coorg

7. Nature at its Best:

India's largest Tibetan settlement at Bylakuppe is inhabited by monks in red, ochre and yellow robes. There are many more surprises waiting at Coorg for the tourists to discover.

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Part 2- Coorg

8. Reaching Coorg:

Coorg can be reached by road and by rail. If one prefers to go by air, then the nearest airports are Bangalore and Mangalore. By road, it is around 250-260 km from Bangalore.

Part – 3
Tea From Assam

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Summary

Part 3- Tea From Assam

1. Rajvir's Visit to Assam:

Rajvir and Pranjol are travelling to Assam by train as Pranjol has invited Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation. Rajvir is very excited to see the beautiful scenery of greenery and tea plantations outside. Rajvir tells Pranjol that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk everyday throughout the world.

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Part 3- Tea From Assam

2. The Beautiful Tea Gardens:

Rajvir looks at the scenery outside and is mesmerised by its beauty. The view from the train was also panoramic (a wide view). There was greenery outside. The soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. Tea bushes spread as far as the eye could see.

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Part 3- Tea From Assam

3. Legends about Discovery of Tea:

There are many legends about the discovery of tea. The Chinese legend says that when a few tea leaves accidentally fell into boiling water which the emperor tasted and liked, and tea making started.

Indian legend tells that a Buddhist monk cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of these eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk, drove away sleep.

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4. Chinese-the Tea Lovers:

Rajvir told Pranjol that tea was first drunk in China. Words like 'chai' and 'chini' are of Chinese origin.

From China, it spread to Europe and then to Asia, Earlier tea was drunk more as a medicine than as a beverage.

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5. Dhekiabori:

The boys alighted at Mariani junction. Soon, they were driving towards Dhekiabari, the tea garden managed by Pranjol's father. Groups of tea pluckers, with bamboo baskets on their backs and wearing plastic aprons, plucking the newly sprouted leaves, could be seen everywhere. The best tea is obtained during the period of May to July.

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Conclusion

In the chapter – Glimpses of India, we learnt about the beautiful landscapes and specialities of different parts of India. There are a lot of beautiful places to explore in India itself before we make our way to explore foreign locations.

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