

# The Pearl of the Orient

I remember that country with thousands of islands that are under the sun. They lie in the Pacific Ocean with glory upon their grounds. I used to live there, where small houses are surrounded by green grass, where hills echoed my laughter, where beach sand burnt my feet, where blue waves splashed my body with cool water, and where sunlight turned me into gold. I remember that country, the Philippines, which is also known as the "The Pearl of the Orient".

The Philippines is an archipelago located in southeast Asia. Since it is a tropical country, the sun is almost always out year round. Can you believe that this country is composed of 7,701 islands? Some of the islands are as big as the ones in Hawaii, but most of them are as small as 9 feet. The island had a big piece of green nature ( plants, trees, grass, and all that jazz )and in the middle, busy cities are located. But the coast is all water with sand as white as a pearl.

My life was fascinating there. I remember when I would play with my brothers and cousins until late in the afternoon with the sun still out, making me feel that evening was so far ahead. When the sunset is over and evening comes, if there was no school we'd go out after dinner and just make up scary stories. Sometimes it rained too, but that didn't stop us from playing. We would actually go out and play in the rain. We spent most of our vacation at the beach. I enjoyed going there, even if there was nothing to do. I'd just feel the sweet cool breeze touching my skin - I thought that was life - the most amazing life a child could have.

I could never imagine where I'd rather be. But I live in New York now. The Philippines holds a special place in my heart. Sometimes, when I want to go and

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visit, I just close my eyes and picture myself playing in the sun, with water and sand at my feet, and on the other side, I look at the green mountaintop with clouds almost touching it. I can even feel the sensation - a sensation of a lifetime. I will always remember the glorious pearl of the orient that made my life fascinating.

*Gianpaulo's writing, p. 2.*