





Serenity amidst chaos

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Finally, we were able to get seats and after an hour and a half, we reached the ferry exactly 10 minutes before it left the dock. Despite the stress of running to the ladies' room, buying water and food, and the hassle of dealing with our backpacks once we got on the ferry, there were still rays in brilliant shades in the sky, smiling upon us.

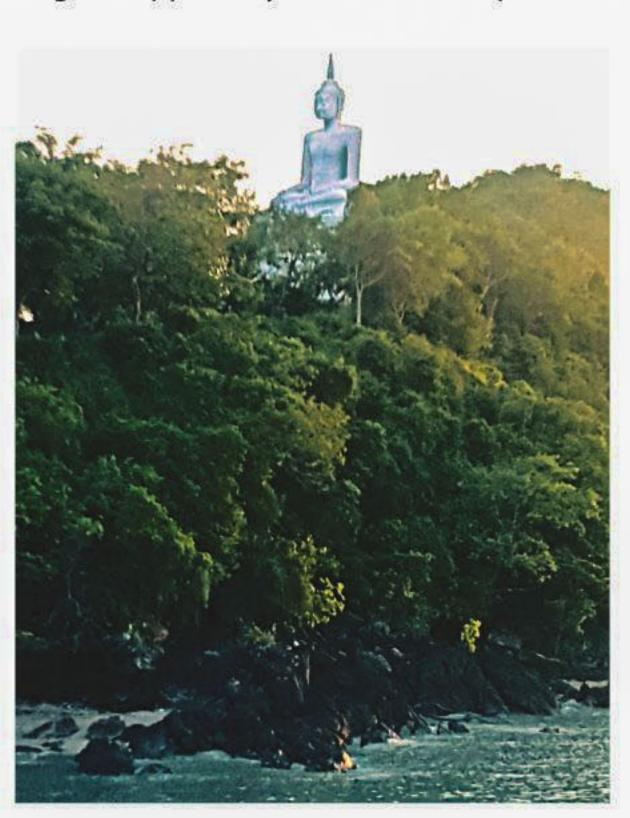
There was a statue of Buddha far away on top of a hill, and I remembered the saying, 'three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth.' Almost two and half hours of being in the ferry we observed a mesmerising sky. The sun went to sleep and the moon was up; it was full moon alright!

The Full Moon Party was held the previous week and the island was now tourists free. "You really thought we would bring you to thismadness after all the medical check-ups?" said the TV star and everyone started laughing at me.

We dumped our backpacks in our rooms and headed out to Haad Rin looking for food. And there it was - my friends were

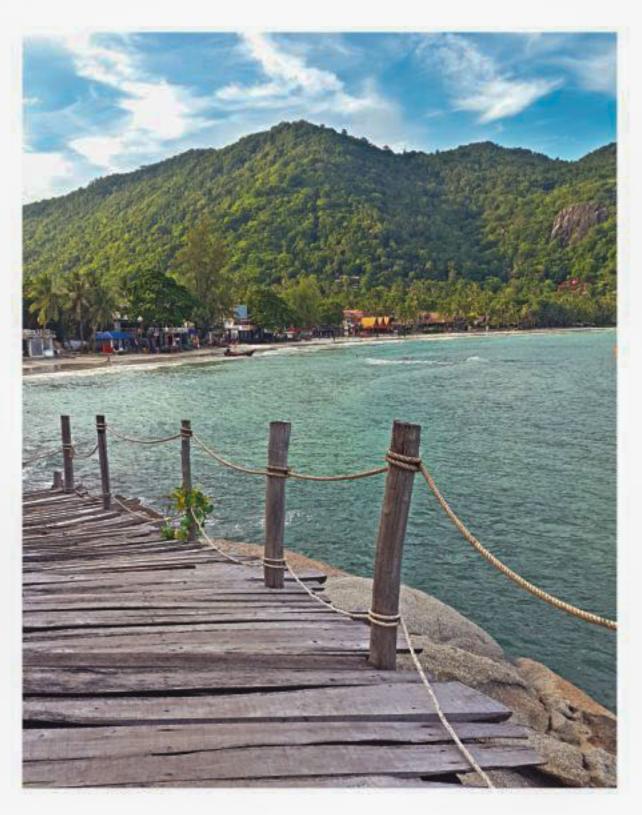
wrong - it was not tourist free; it was a ghost town!

'Phangan' means Sand Café, and there were cafes, one after another by the beach, each playing loud music with people spinning fire, apparently for no one except the



four of us.

Morning started with heavy rain followed by a drizzle that lasted the entire day. Right before sunset, the hint of sunbeam on the blue waves glittered away; we were in our own paradise. This island was so calm,



without any chaos that we didn't mind the rain. We were chilled out and enjoying the solitude. But not for too long, as we sat at Tommy's Resort café, enjoying the enchanting sea view. We grew nostalgic recollecting our experience of the island we had visited 15 years ago and how it might look 15 years in the future.

We did wish there were a few more people and we could make some money by making Rayyan read Tarot cards. "Next time in some other island" he said.

It's fascinating how we humans change the atmosphere of a place. There we were at the biggest party island having conversations about life, love and laughter. Just seven days ago, the place was so crowded that people could not hear each other even a few inches away.

Waves crashing at the shore, scent of the salty breeze, sun playing all shades of blue and grey, Adele singing 'Rolling In The Deep' in the music player and a few old friends - all you need to live.

By Tanziral Dilshad Ditan
Photo: Tanziral Dilshad Ditan

