

# GOLDEN JUBILEE BEGINNINGS

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## The joys of travel

#TRAVEL

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The pandemic brought travel to a halt. With flights grounded, restaurants shuttered, and popular tourist sites morphed into ghost towns, globetrotting and exploration became distant concepts. Reminiscing my travels with my young son, I am reminded of the joys of travel and how it shapes us as humans, even from an early age.

Three years ago, we packed our lives into two backpacks to travel the world

its ugly head, my youngest has spent the majority of his young life within the confines of our home. His initiation in life remains a stark contrast to his older brother's, something that often gives me cause for reflection.

My oldest, Zain, was a seasoned traveller even before he'd turned one and I had similar, lofty ambitions for my second. However, I can't foresee a return to the easy, carefree days of travel anytime soon. So, I mourn the opportunity to cultivate a passion for

in awe, and admittedly, a hefty amount of trepidation, as a teenaged girl led Zain to a large slide. She gently guided him up steps that seemed impossibly vast for his 2-year-old legs, and then promptly wrapped her arms around him to tumble down the slope at breakneck speed, both of them erupting into fits of giggles.

In Rio, a group of kids from the nearby favela descended upon Zain when they noticed him playing by himself on the beach. They raced each other up and down dunes and frolicked in the waves.

A waitress in a tiny restaurant in an obscure street in Bangkok whisked a disgruntled baby Zain away, fussing. She patiently sang him songs so we could finish our meal in peace.

None of these instances held much common ground between the parties — no shared language or backgrounds. These are examples of how people connect with each other and how barriers in age, language, class and creed are largely unnecessary social constructs.

**Travel broadens your views and deepens your understanding of the world**

Walking through a shantytown in Soweto, South Africa, we were besieged by local children, running after us, clamouring for hugs and high fives. Their smiles and enthusiasm were inescapable, and Zain made some quick friends. It didn't matter that they didn't speak each other's languages or had no knowledge of each other's likes or dislikes. It felt completely natural.

Watching Zain interact with other children across the world, I've learnt that a child's play transcends all barriers. What didn't escape him though, were that many of his new friends were bare feet. Perplexed, he asked, "Mama, oder

shoes koi?" (Mama, where are their shoes?) It was Zain's first lesson on the inequalities that exist in this world.

Throughout his travels, he's made some acute observations about language and culture. Even as a toddler he'd picked up on how the Spanish and Italian languages contained similar sounding words. He's remarked upon the similarities between scenes from grotty, bustling streets of Latin America with those of Dhaka. He's learnt early on that there are differences in people's appearances and behaviours based on where they originate from. Exposure to such differences is what makes us more accepting and tolerant of each other.

**TRAVEL INTRODUCES YOU TO NEW CULTURES AND CUISINES**

Exposing Zain to new cultures and places has been a fantastic way to fuel his sense of curiosity. It has fostered an appreciation of waterfalls in South America, lions in Africa, pasta making in Italy, and tourist landmarks like the Eiffel Tower.

By three, Zain had developed a fascination for globes and maps. The tangibility of travel has helped solidify

his knowledge of geography and history and has allowed him to appreciate the nuances of cultural differences, however simplistic they may have been through his young eyes.

Similarly, it has taught him to be an adventurous eater. Since we'd be on the road for months, we had little choice but to embrace eating as the locals did.

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with our 2-year-old. Who would've thought that in 2021, this would be impossible? Yet, here I am in Melbourne, having spent months under some of the strictest restrictions this pandemic has seen. Our defence against the pandemic not only includes state and border closures, but for several months, we weren't allowed beyond a 5 km radius from our homes.

And it is against this backdrop that we welcomed another son into our lives. Born just as the pandemic had reared

exploration early in his life.

Remembering our travels with our oldest offers a fascinating study of the inherently social nature of humans and their unending thirst for knowledge. I've learnt that just like adults, even the youngest children can derive the joys of travel.

**TRAVEL ALLOWS YOU TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE**

What I loved most about travelling with Zain, was witnessing how easily children bond with others. In Bhutan, I watched



রেমিট্যান্স পাঠান মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংকে

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২% নগদ প্রদান



- বিদেশে কর্মরত বাংলাদেশীদের কঙ্কাজিত বৈদেশিক আয় বৈধ উপায়ে স্বদেশে পাঠাতে উৎসাহিত করার লক্ষ্যে সরকার কর্তৃক গৃহীত সিদ্ধান্ত মোতাবেক মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংকে প্রেরিত রেমিট্যান্সের বিপরীতে ২% প্রদান/নগদ সহায়তা দেওয়া হচ্ছে।
- একটি লেনদেনে সর্বোচ্চ ৯৫০০ মার্কিন ডলার অথবা বাংলাদেশী টাকা ৯,৫০,০০০/- এর ক্ষেত্রে কোন প্রকার কাগজপত্র ব্যতিরেকে প্রকৃত গ্রাহককে ২% প্রদান/নগদ সহায়তার অর্থ গ্রাহককে সরাসরি বা গ্রাহকের হিসাবে জমা করা হয়।
- যদি গ্রাহকের রেমিট্যান্স এর পরিমাণ ৯৫০০ মার্কিন ডলার অথবা বাংলাদেশী টাকা ৯,৫০,০০০/- এর বেশী হয় সেক্ষেত্রে রেমিট্যান্স প্রেরকের বৈধকাগজপত্র বিশেষত পাসপোর্টের কপি এবং বিদেশী নিয়োগকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নিয়োগপত্রের কপি/বি-এইটি কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সনদের কপি, ব্যবসায় নিয়োজিত ব্যক্তির ক্ষেত্রে ব্যবসার লাইসেন্সের কপি পাওয়া সাপেক্ষে প্রদানকার ২% নগদ সহায়তা উক্ত গ্রাহকের হিসাবে বা নগদ প্রদান করা হয়।
- যে কোন পরিমাণ অর্থের ক্ষেত্রে, রেমিট্যান্সের মূল অর্থ ততক্ষণাৎ প্রদান করা হয় এবং নির্ধারিত সীমিতরিত রেমিট্যান্সের ক্ষেত্রে প্রমাণপত্র পাওয়া সাপেক্ষে প্রদানকার অর্থ প্রদান করা হয়।
- ০৯ জুলাই ২০১৯ তারিখ হতে প্রাপ্ত সকল রেমিটেল-এ ২% প্রদান/নগদ সহায়তা কার্যক্রমের আওতাভুক্ত।
- মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংকের এক্সেল ব্যাংকিং আউটলেট ও ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং উইন্ডো'র মাধ্যমে অতি শীঘ্রই রেমিট্যান্স সেবা প্রদান করা হবে।

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