

# Seoul Searching

**As we began the year 2016 following the travels of Rudyard Kipling into Myanmar (Burma), and Thailand, Diane and I are ending the year dancing on the jet stream across the Pacific at 655 mph in our usual seats (Seat 7 G**



**and 7 H) on Korean Flight 6 to Seoul, Korea with our final destination the mystical and magical kingdoms of Bhutan and the Sikkim.**

**It rained as we landed at Incheon with a temperature of -2 degrees Celsius and a hurried deplaning of 300 passengers from our 777 airship into the quiet of the early morning custom/immigration terminal. We lost a day at the International Dateline, but what's a day when your first destination is in the Land of the Morning Calm. Diane and I can still remember in the 70's that next to Peace Corps Afghanistan, Peace Corps Korea was one of the more difficult assignments because of language and culture. Yet in 50+ years unlike Afghanistan, Korea has morphed into an economic powerhouse and a democracy that serves as the proverbial Phoenix Rising from the consequence ashes**

**of war and poverty. Korea's modernization is directly attributable to its insatiable embrace of technology. Like the Tower of Babylon, built by a homogenous people with one common language, Korea fit the profile that even god recognized was a major ingredient to success. The result was a Country without rival in Asia.**

**One of the spin-off benefits to Modernization Version 2.5 in**



**Korea is their expedited immigration/visa entry process. Absent the scrutiny and delays of our past travels, we were cleared without incident and pushed**

**headlong into the chaos of the main terminal with our freedom intact and the ambience of anticipation for our new photographic quest.**



**It was sign from heaven, as we passed the surge of taxi drivers shadowing us for transportation into Seoul and finding our hotel chauffeur waving a sign with my name misspelled. It must be the Hotel Artnouveau Rosetta Korean translation**

**that resulted in a Guest named Renaldo Dizon. Regardless, finding our driver was an expected convenience included in our stay and one that eased the rigors of a long, arduous flight.**

**Because there are no early check-ins @ Korean hotels until 1:00pm we took advantage of the 5 hour hiatus to visit to visit the infamous 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel of the Demilitarized Zone.**



**The DMZ is another somber reminder of the “Unknown War” where the United States engaged in its Cold War struggle against a form of government named Communism. But today, the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel is a tourist mecca that South Korea flaunts as a symbol of security for its citizens.**

**Tomorrow – One Night in Bangkok with a morning flight to Paro, Kingdom of Bhutan on Royal Bhutan Airlines’ Druk Air. [Click Here to view Images of Seoul.](#)**



























