

My Trip to Joshua Tree National Park

by Theodore Chang

On the way to Joshua Tree national park, I couldn't wait for the walks in nature with my family and stargazing at night.

But on the way, with all the thoughts buzzing inside my head, I started to get carsick. But shortly after getting out of the car, I felt a nice breeze and as the fresh air traveled through my lungs, it blew away the headache as I breathed out.

We then went on a walk. I saw lots of rocks to climb up. I also saw a lot of holes. I was afraid to go near them, however, in case they were snake holes. A few minutes later, we got to the end of the trail. Then we went back. We drove to another trail, which was much longer than the previous one. The first trail only took a few minutes. On the other hand, the second trail took about an hour and a half! With no particular destination in mind, I kept myself busy by racing my little brother, pretending that we were explorers from the movie Indiana Jones, and by enjoying all the scenery. It was tiring, but the fresh air and beautiful scenery made me not feel as tired. While we were walking, I heard my dad say "Look! It's a rock shaped like an elephant!" I quickly took a look, and it was true. There were carved parts of the rock that looked like an eye, connected to the long arched part that looked like a trunk. We found out later that the rock was called 'arch rock'. I definitely knew that this was the one that I must climb up. At the top, I saw more rocks, cactuses, mountains, jack rabbits, and the most beautiful sunset I have seen in my life. Even though others have told me that Joshua Tree was only a desert, what I saw was rather a place full of nature's beauty. After watching the sunset, we got down and headed back for dinner. At this point, I got even more excited for the stargazing as it got darker and darker.

For our dinner, we went to the cap rock, which was named after its shape. Deeper into the night, the stars started to shine, and I took out my constellation map. However, I soon realized that I forgot the red light, which is necessary to read the map. Extremely disappointed, all I could do was let the tears trickle down my face. My parents tried to comfort me, but that did not help at the moment.

The next day, I felt better, thinking about all the fun memories and how my parents tried to comfort me. Even though I didn't get to see the constellations that I wanted to, the views, exploration with my younger brother, and the lovely times that can only come from family made me realize that I don't always get everything I want, but the best things will come when I expect the least.