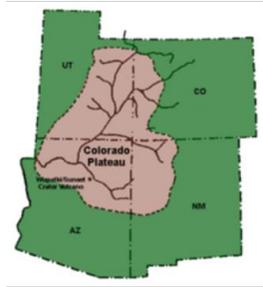


ARIZONA AND A PLATUE OF SPLENDOR

Extending its portions down into the Northern Arizona region, lies a plateau of splendor and wonder, a place where few travel, a place of extensive arid desert regions to climbing pines of mountainous terrain. It is a place like a place no other, as diverse as the stars in the sky, whose expansion, only the few find to admire.

These are my experiences of it. A resident of Arizona for 20 years. I have found myself in awe of its beauty and majestic splendor.



As a child, I came to know Arizona, visiting it from a time gone past, a time in distant history, a distant memory of a place I now indwell. Hot, dry, the night sky ablaze in stars, the hot dry air refreshing in the evening sunsets. The feel of the hot air blowing over your skin, your feet in contact with the desert sands below. Surrounded by trees with waxy leaves and shrubs. The waxy substance holding in the moisture so sparse between its arrivals.

A monsoonal flow of moisture gives it pleasure, annually at unpredictable periodic intervals comes the rain from the east, sweeping upwards in a counter-clockwise direction from far down south in Mexico. It waters the desert with rapid downpours, lightning and thunder. The dry air giving way to cool enjoyment as thunder and lightning proceed the downpour the desert thirst for. There I sit during those times enjoying the coming climax of the approaching storm. First the hint of moisture in the air, then a coolness starts, followed by a calm relaxing wind that slowly builds, commencing in a downpour. The desert earth soaking it up, holding on tightly for the next of the storms are a short duration, punctuated by unpredictable periods of length that only God knows.

There upon the Arizona region lies a plateau like no other. It is this plateau like no other, its expansion sweeping through the northern region of the state, diverse and endorsed with splendor from its Creator. Upon it, flat it is, distances seen measured not in mere miles but tens of miles. Mountain tops seen from distances extending out to 30-40 miles or more, some more, some less. The expanse of the horizon, moving outward in all directions towards the North and extending around you like a giant disk, there you sit on top. Myself amazed at the expanse of land that you cannot take in with one look. Multiple looks and pictures do not avail themselves to explain it.

My discourse ending here today, I may follow up with yet more to come. For what is to be described in few words is not within my capacity and would fill a volume of books that only an extensive visit by a foreigner, the lonely traveler could comprehend.

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