Culture and Interest in Tea

Student’s Name

Institution
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In vina veritas, someone said. In tea veritas, I argue.

People live their lives surrounded by things they consider usual, trivial, uninteresting, mundane. It is so easy to overlook a wonder when it is right by your side, from your birth to the time you pass away. It is a real revelation, though, to see beyond the regular, to reveal and unveil the depths of wonders of the seemingly ordinary things. When it happens, the mysteries of daily life open in an endless world of pleasure and wisdom. In my life, I recognized the mystery in tea.

I am Chinese, my parents are from Chaozhou. Our tea culture wrapped me in my early childhood, and tea became the indivisible part of my life, my vision of life and myself. However, the real appreciation came to me in a more conscious age. Thenceforth, my path of a conscious tea drinker began. My knowledge of tea consists more of sensitive, emotional and spiritual experiences rather than dry theory. My favorites among tea sorts are shuixian and tieguanyin. They make my day. In general, tea means a lot in my life. Shen Nong tasted 100 plants daily, consuming 72 different types of poison in the process, and tea leaves helped him remove the toxins from his body (Dong, 2012). In a similar way, tea helps me remove the ‘toxins’ of the bad mood, illnesses, and worries of the modern world from my body. Tea is my salvation, so I unraveled the secret why other people called tea the “Arcanum for all illness” and “sacred remedy” (Martin, 2007). Drinking tea makes me forget about the routine and turns my attention to the high matters, to space, to the divine. So I also know why tea is called “celestial dew”, “divine elixir” and “fragrant quintessence” (Martin, 2007). I drink tea to relax. By doing so, I cognize why tea is called “soul’s delight” or “harmonizer and satisfier” (Martin, 2007). I also know that tea is a symbol of hospitality. The course, in which I am so interested, proves this last verity for me. I perceive this course as a friendly invitation to share a cup of tea knowledge. I
hope I deserve a spot in this class because I am passionate about tea and I am from the country where, according to our legend, the tea tradition was born the day Shen Nong tasted tea leaves. If mythology is a weak proof, I will turn to scientific evidence, which says that: “[first] leaves of Camellia sinensis … were placed in boiling water by Homo erectus in the area that is now China” (Martin, 2007, p. 23). Being a descendant and a carrier of the Chinese tea culture, I still have not tasted much of the American tea tradition, and I hope to do so with the help of this course.
References
