

## The Problem of Inde Island

- 【1】 Inde Island is a small island in the midst of a huge ocean. It is covered with lush greenery.
- 【2】 An unusual animal called the *kamonoushi* lives on the island. The people eat its eggs and meat, drink its milk, and use its hide.
- 【3】 This is an Inde dragon (roar!). Actually, it likes sweet things and loves fruit.
- 【4】 The indigenous Inde people live on Inde Island, and they speak Inde language. They have a nomadic lifestyle, picking fruit, growing food, ranching kamonoushi and catching fish. As long as they keep moving, they never lack food or run out of grass for grazing.
- 【5】 This is the 'Hill of Creation'. The Inde people worship their island as the source of their rich lifestyle. For them, this 'Hill of Creation' and the Inde dragon are important symbols of the island and their faith.
- 【6】 Since Inde Island lies in the middle of a huge ocean, for a long time nobody outside of the island knew about it. But in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, explorers came and soon declared the island to be territory of their country, Corona.
- 【7】 After becoming territory of Corona, Inde society changed dramatically. Appreciating the mild climate and flat land, Corona engaged in large-scale colonization and development.
- 【8】 First, Corona organized land use. The Inde people had no concept of land ownership. But Corona established a reserve for the Inde people to live in and divided up the land there, giving it to the people as their own property. Outside of the Inde reserve, Corona took advantage of the mild climate to make sugar plantations.
- 【9】 The Inde people didn't really understand the concept of real estate, and many of them continued their former nomadic lifestyle. But Corona prohibited movement and treated the people harshly. The Inde people were angry and many tried to resist, but Corona sent in troops with modern weapons to put down the resistance. About 20% of the Inde people were killed.
- 【10】 Colonization destroyed the self-sufficiency of the Inde people. They found themselves having to use money brought by Corona and to live in a new form of social relations. Ten percent of the people were able to successfully farm the land they had been given, but most of the Inde people wound up having to work on the plantations. They were not allowed to fish anywhere except in the coastal areas of the Inde reserve.
- 【12】 The Corona government tried very hard to make the Inde people citizens of Corona. They built schools and taught them Corona language, prohibiting them from speaking Inde. The Inde people rapidly became Coronized, and soon only about 20% of the people could still speak Inde.

【13】 The Inde Island faith was also prohibited. But the Hill of Creation was inside the Inde reserve and sometimes Inde dragons could be found there, too. The people were able to secretly continue their annual custom of assembling at the Hill and giving thanks,.

【14】 When the plantations were first established, the fighting reduced the Inde population to 80% of its original size, but what really decimated it was disease brought by people from Corona. Unlike the Corona, the Inde people had no resistance to contagious diseases and died one after another. More than half of the population was lost, reducing the Inde people to 30% of what they had been at their peak.

【15】Not only people were affected. The kamonoushi that supported lives of the Inde people and the Inde dragon, the symbol of their island also declined dramatically. The Coronas thought of the kamonoushi and Inde dragons as beasts that destroyed their plantation crops. Whenever they found one, they would kill it immediately. Today, both the kamonoushi and the Inde dragon are endangered species.

【16】People in Inde felt a sense of loss at the demise of the kamonoushi that supported their life and the Inde dragons. But in spite of their grief, Inde Island developed into a stable plantation island.

【17】 Not all the people in Corona were in favor of the colonization of Inde Island. Some Coronans began to sympathize with the Inde people after left-wing political parties and media started to criticize the government's policy toward the island. That public opinion brought the enactment of the Inde Island Protection Law.

【18】 Some Inde people were encouraged by the law and began lobbying and filing suit to regain their island, but Corona refused to acknowledge them.

【19】Eventually the plantations failed due to rising fuel costs, falling sugar prices and unseasonable weather. Inde Island became notorious as an economically depressed island and most of the people who had worked at the plantations lost their jobs.

【20】 Making use of the mild climate, a plan for making Inde into a destination resort was developed in order to revive the economy. The plan called for developing the island as a beach resort by building roads and an airport to attract tourists from Corona and other countries. The plan was welcomed by many unemployed Inde people because it would create jobs, and Inde islanders who had some money saw it as a good business chance. So Inde Island became an island resort.

【21】 Rich Inde islanders built casinos, and people who had worked on the plantations began to work for the resort and casinos. They also worked as entertainers performing Inde culture shows. They began to earn more than they had earned during the plantation period.

【22】 However, not everything was good. After Inde Island became a resort, serious social problems such as dependence on alcohol, substance abuse and addiction to gambling began to occur.

【23】 What is more, many more people from Corona began to move to Inde Island than during the plantation period. Before the resort was established, Inde islanders were a majority, but now they comprise only 10% of the population.

Some Inde people remain strongly attached to their culture and pre-colonization life style. Those who had lived most of their lives in the plantation period began to express dissatisfaction with the current situation.

【24】 They said things like, “Everything bad – disease, alcohol, drugs, gambling – it all comes from Corona” or “Most of us have forgotten our sense of pride as Inde people” and “It is shameful to make a show of Inde culture.” A small minority began to show their anger toward Corona. The media referred to these people who expressed their dissatisfaction as “Inde nationalists”. Some people found them ridiculous and others, especially rich people, called them “narrow-minded nationalists” or “outdated fossils”, treating them with a combination of pity and contempt.

【25】 The situation was compounded by the discovery of oil in the ‘Hill of Creation’ on the Inde reservation. The government of Corona made a plan for developing the oil fields, and began encouraging people to buy land on the reservation around the ‘Hill of Creation’.

【27】 Since the beginning there has always been a movement in opposition to Corona, but different people have different perspectives. However, they all share hostility toward turning the ‘Hill of Creation’ and the surrounding land into an oil field, as well as feeling afraid and threatened by the seizure of their land by Corona police and the forced removal of the Inde residents.

The Inde people are split into three groups. First, realists think that it is useless to protest the oil development because there is no way to win. They think that the issue is how to return the oil profits to Inde society. They also think that they should use the transfer of their land as a way to negotiate a better deal from the Corona government.

【28】 The second group are those who are protesting the development of the oil fields. They are opposed to developing oil on the Inde reservation and of course they can’t allow the development of their holy ‘Hill of Creation’. They refuse to endure any more destruction of their environment.

【29】 The third group is the separatists. Historically Inde people have been oppressed by Corona. Many people were killed, and their lifestyle and culture has been destroyed. Now Corona is planning on stealing the ‘Hill of Creation’, the symbol of the Inde people’s faith. The people in this group think that it would be better to be independent from Corona.

【30】 Public opinion in Corona is divided into two. Some people who are sensitive to indigenous people’s rights and environmental issues protest against the oil development. And although the number is limited, some people also support the independence of Inde Island from Corona.

However, those who stress Corona's national interest think that it is selfish of the Inde people to complain because a huge amount of the national budget was invested to build the resort and besides, they also have the advantage of the casino. Inde people have Corona citizenship and oil makes the whole country rich, so the Inde people should think not only of themselves but of the interests of all Coronans.