

Essay: **“I am an Islander”**

Written by: **Abdyresul Orazniyazov**

Contact Information: +993 65 547725, +993243 77571

Address: 7-17 A. Niyazov Str. Turkmenbashi city, Turkmenistan

*“My soul is full of longing
for the secret of the sea,
and the heart of the great ocean
sends a thrilling pulse through me.”*

— **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Have you heard a legend about a mermaid living in the waters of the Caspian Sea? Runanshah – that is how people call the mermaid. When I first heard the legend I have always hoped that I will someday have a chance to see it in the sea. When I was a kid, me and my friends often used to go fishing and I remember we all were so anticipated to see this unusual creature, but it never happened. There were stories that people saw mermaid while fishing, even photos started to appear. Unfortunately I still have not seen anything unusual in the Caspian Sea, but that childish desire still within me.

When I was a kid I remember stories my father told me, the stories that I would remember forever. How he grew up in the island by the Caspian Sea. All five children used to run away from home just to go swimming during the day time in summer, when the weather was so hot and parents did not allow them to go because of the sun or how they used to dig up wells to get a drinking water. My father, my grandfather and my great grandfather are all islanders; my great grandfather Orazniyaz was born in an island called Aydak or how people also call it Ogurchinskiy, my grandfather and father were born in an island Gyzylsuw, so I can proudly say that I am also an islander, I have spent my childhood in Turkmenbashi city, by the Caspian Sea. There will not be enough words to explain the beauty of the Caspian Sea. The turquoise colored water of the sea, no other lakes, seas or oceans have the same color.

I am the third year student of the Istanbul Kultur University in Istanbul. The reason why I chose to study in Istanbul is because the city is situated by the Bosphorus strait. I thought it would always remind me of home. However I realized that there was no place like home; no other cities or lakes would take place of your actual home. Every time I come back home, and every time I see

the Caspian Sea from the airplane window I feel like I am home, I feel conciliation.

However, I started to notice that the environment is changing and the conditions of the Caspian Sea are not the same as it used to be. When I was a child I remember there were so many small fish swimming in the shallow water of the Caspian Sea, but nowadays there are not as many as it was before. It is the result not only of the poaching capture of the fish that is increasing rapidly nowadays but also because of the increase of oil production in the Caspian shelf.

Governments of the Caspian countries take measures each year on preventing environmental accidents, but unfortunately it is not enough. We all must be conscious citizens, take actions to prevent environmental pollution. By the personal example we must show people that it is normal to go to beach cleaning for example, or that it is shameful to throw rubbish on the walkways.

Yes, I still wish to see a mermaid in the waters of the Caspian Sea. I believe it is not a fiction. And I will be positive, because I believe that I am not the only islander who loves home. For us the Caspian Sea is our home, and even if it hurts sometimes to witness that our home suffers from some other people, I will try my personal best to show others that it is important to love home, our planet and mysterious, beautiful and the largest lake in the world – the Caspian Sea.

Written by : *Abdyresul Orazniyazov*