

WEST AFRICA

The task of summarizing the experience from a personalized phenomenological prospective is all but impossible. Either, my vocabulary hinders my expressive powers, or there is no combination of words that can describe the process wherein my pith was metamorphosed. While the excursion was more than fulfilling, my ability to assimilate and accommodate the experience is woefully inadequate, miserably inept. My inner psyche is hopelessly spinning in an eternal loop searching for meaning. Zeddie's trite phrase "endlessly fascinating" seems to fit nicely. Words like spellbinding, absorbing, disconcerting, bewildering, or Mrs. Moore's "muddling" fail to encompass my befuddlement. That is, I experienced something a kin to falling in or out of love. Visions, sounds, smells, combined with tumultuous affect and forged a new me. The process continues to alter my perceptions and, indeed, my priorities. what was once paramount, is, more often than not, now tertiary.

Perhaps more useful would be comments regarding schedules, educational milieu, transportation, et.al. The itinerary was nicely composed. Schedules were, for the most part, preplanned and appropriately modified when necessary. There were a plethora of opportunities to gather information from key individuals representing a cross sectional populous. Perhaps our schedule could have included more exposure to the "true africa". That is, we might have ventured to spend more time in villages and interacting with rural West Africans; however, in retrospect, given the difficulty of arranging such an experience from "home" seems, unrealistic, risky, and uncertain. Never the less, the experience of one night in the village under a thatched roof

in a mud hut would have provided a peek experience.

The educational milieu seemed most appropriate; however, there were times when presenters were a bit long. Given the diversity of the group, it was quite marvelous that, by' in large, presenters held the interest of the majority of the group. When presenter were non-english speaking, the process of translating was at times awkward and uningratiating. I would offer that educational speakers or presentation might be more productive in the mornings or in the evening. It seemed that mid-afternoons were burdened with torpidity.

The trip was well done. Thank you so much...."my friend"
(We got the best price).