

Canada

“The Airplane”

A middle-aged Kuwaiti passenger sat next to me on board the British Airways flight to Toronto via London. After the plane took off and passengers began falling asleep, I was startled by the loud chattering that made me feel like I was back in one of Kuwait's *diwaniya*. Apparently, a group of coworkers decided to gather and chat around this Kuwaiti guy who turned out to be their manager. They were talking so loudly it was impossible not to listen and it became clear they were leaders of one of the oil companies. One would assume their cultural literacy would be of a higher caliber, but they were unfortunately being disrespectful to the comfort of their fellow passengers. The hustle and bustle was only stopped when the British Airways attendant came to scold them and send them back to their seats.

Seeing these leaders of industry representing themselves and Kuwait in such a manner was agonizing and left a bitter taste in my mouth. Not only were they being disrespectful, but they contributed to dishonoring their country by showing annoyance at the flight attendant who was just doing his job when he asked them to return to their seats and allow the other passengers to enjoy a safe and comfortable trip.

Upon arriving in London, we waited for the airport bus to arrive. Despite the delay, all the passengers stood patiently as though they were waiting to witness a miracle. Strangely, I heard no one complaining or whining. Everybody seemed satisfied with the prospect of waiting. I thought about this situation and couldn't help asking myself, if it was a Kuwaiti airplane or if we were in Kuwait's airport and the same