An insight of an outsider

Different environments, different ways of living. That is what happens if you move from one place to another. It means a different story, and adjustment takes place. Once, I consider myself an outsider coming into this city, a city that is a mixture of indigenous, non-indigenous and migrant people. A place where you can classify ethnicity base on appearance or clothing, a place that still preserves culture and lastly, a place that can be called home.

One thing that captures my heart is the way things before, are still the ways today. Not that I lived here before, but base from what I read and heard, nothing changes, except for the infrastructures and its population. It’s their way of protecting their culture and how they give importance to nature and respect to their great ancestors. At first, by looking at them, they seemed to be serious at all times, but what I’m trying to point is that, they may look stern and firm on the outside, they are soft on the inside once you get along with them. They are also friendly, even to those people whom they don’t know. Another thing to consider is their discipline, people in Baguio are disciplined enough when it comes to cleanliness. I had this privilege to witness a wedding ceremony of igorots, particularly in Itogon. They still practices their traditional dance. At first, their instruments were on the floor, where they can pick it up to start their ceremony. Usually, men do the playing of instruments, while the elders were the one to start the dancing, everyone can join, even children. I was amazed since it was my first time seeing a cultural dance, and I was even shocked when kids plays their instruments, and some of them even dance, on a circular pattern. From then, I was really mesmerized by the beauty of their culture. That even though decades have passed, their love for their culture doesn’t fade.

Culture is about life, it is about preserving the ways of those who’s already gone. It is a sign of respect, that even how big changes will come, culture would still be the same, and it would still be passed down from generation to generation. Culture is what they have in common, and it should be the one that connects them together.