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Business 1050

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REFLECTION 3: "In the Footsteps of Marco Polo"

"In the Footsteps of Marco Polo" is a documentary style video distributed by PBS and filmed by Marco Polo enthusiasts Denis Belliveau and Frances O'Donnell of Queens, New York. The film revolves around their decision to retrace Marco Polo's 25,000 mile journey from Venice, Italy to China, and back. Their routes consisted of land and sea, they chose not to use air travel during their journey since that was not possible during Polo's journey. Their dream of retracing his steps took them two years to complete. They faced many of the same difficulties that Polo faced on his journey. The two had made a pact that the only way they would be returning to the United States was if they were 1) dead or 2) victorious and had completed their journey. Their opposition began when they tried to enter Iran. They were held up for days trying to be granted access. It was almost that alone that discouraged them enough to stop and go back home, however they waited it out and were eventually let into the country. They had similar issues where they weren't allowed through and the same thing happened during each occurrence. However, waiting it out and illegally forging their visas to remain in the country, eventually led them to being allowed through. Coming back through India was a challenge because they were eventually allowed in but only given a few days to hurry through the country. When they tried to enter Iran again they were given the opposite treatment and allowed to spend as much time as they needed.

Throughout their journey they met many different people and were accepted into the cultures. Although they put themselves in a few very scary situations, they ended up have a lot more heartwarming ones to take back with them. I realize this is a business class and I should be taking something business related from this documentary, but what touched me most was what was said about all of the people they met. They said that there are far more good people in this world than bad and their journey definitely proved that. The way I can tie this together is that business do have a responsibility to the community. Especially since communities are likely to do so much good for the people around them businesses should be there to help facilitate that.