


A FESTIVAL FOR THE ONES YOU LOVE

~ Gayatri Mankani

Raksha Bandhan is a Hindu festival that I adore. Ever since I was in a boarding school, I have only had a few occasions where I could celebrate Raksha Bandhan at home and due to the lockdown this time I will physically be there and I am really looking forward to it. I have two younger brothers, and I am truly ecstatic to see their little hands full of Rakhis. Back in 2019, I wanted to tie a Rakhi to someone while I was at school, but my brothers were at home so while looking into the festival's history, I came across one specific story that was about Indrani tying a Rakhi to Lord Indra, her husband to protect him from demons. That is when I realized that a Rakhi can be tied to anyone we truly care about and wish to protect from evil. I could tie a Rakhi around the wrists of my mother, father, sister, brother, or anyone I consider important to me. As a result, I decided to tie a Rakhi around my sister's wrist, who was at school with me and since we were on campus, I decided to make a Rakhi myself. I made a wrist band style Rakhi out of paper threads and tied it around my sister's wrist. I believe that tying a Rakhi should not be limited to only brother-sister relationships (as it is now) or husband-wife relationships (like the olden times). Rakhis are symbolic of love and protection, and they can be tied to anyone we love and want to protect.

COMPLETE LOCKDOWN?

~ Jigyasa Mathema

The question of lockdown still arises when we think about going back to school, after 4 months of online classes and virtual programs. As everyone prepares to go back to the campus, we hear news everyday of schools in different states that have opened and been shut already. Many states have extended the lockdown. India might or might not see the third wave of coronavirus if all the Covid-19 norms are followed by the people largely. Gujarat has extended the night curfews in eight cities. It will be in place from 11pm-6am. The restrictions in West Bengal have been extended till 30th August. Karnataka has considered a partial lockdown in the state from 16th August after a steady escalation in Covid-19 cases. With a rapid growth in the number of cases in Kerala, the government of Kerala on Friday updated the triple lockdown guidelines in the state. With the rising cases and extending lockdowns, all of us are wondering if we will have to go back home again after a few weeks or months. But, with Mrs. Meeta working hard to keep us safe along with all the other faculty members who are ready to welcome us warmly but yet safely into the school, almost all MISars have packed their luggage and booked their flights to be back to school, our home away from home. We are excited to meet everyone and obviously enjoy the serene campus, but after the 14 days lockdown and following the COVID protocols at all times.

NEW ADVENTURES OF MY LIFE

~ Gunveen Kaur Bedi

Standing at the school gate, my heart felt fulfilled, as one of my dreams has come true. First step inside the building, I was ready to accept all the new beginnings leaving the past behind, keeping lessons in mind and prepared to take challenges meeting people who will soon turn into families. Although I have not seen the campus except the infirmary, meeting my online friends in person and interacting with everyone is a different kind of happiness. Eating delicious meals such as Nutella for breakfast, Chole Bhature, pastries, tea and of course MIS's infamous food, Rajma Chawal. At first, I was facing difficulties in sleeping because of a change in the environment, but my house mother took great care. I thought I would not be able to live without my parents, but I have got my own back. Although getting quarantined for 14 days sounds like a big deal, the days have passed by in a blink, interacting with each and every one from morning to night. I am already in love with the environment here at MIS. It's a blissful vibe, and I am surely excited to meet the rest of the MIS family.

THE ORIGINALS

THE 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

~ Gauri Garg

The celebration of our 75th Independence Day at school was marvellous. During the flag hoisting ceremony with our dearest principal Mrs. Meeta, she presented a thoughtful speech and taught us how to conquer various issues in life. "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom", this inspiring quote gave us the courage that anything is possible. The national anthem brings goosebumps every time I rise up to sing it. As the tradition goes, we paint the tricolour flag on our cheeks and eat 'laddus' as it is something that makes us feel patriotic. We stayed in our quarantine zone while the event took place with our sanitizers and masks, and attended the celebrations via zoom. It was quite astonishing that now we have become so compatible with technology considering we do everything virtually. Tired of the online platform, all of us do miss the school and the celebrations as attending them in person gives a different rush of excitement which in any form, cannot be felt virtually. We hope to be together next year during all the vast celebrations instead of a virtual platform.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS GLOBE

- On 16th August, newly elected Muhyiddin Yasin resigned as the Prime Minister of Malaysia. His terms of 17 months consisted of political turmoil, economic hardship and rights to freedom of expression and assembly. He is to remain as the interim leader till the next successor is appointed.
- The Egyptian authorities failed to hold accountable the police forces responsible for killing at least 900 people during their violent dispersal of sit-ins in Rabaa al-Adawiya and al-Nahda squares. 12 men face execution and hundred others face lengthy prison terms over involvement in protests.
- A US science institute, The National Ignition Facility, is on the verge of marking the completion of an ages-long goal in nuclear fusion research. They are initiating fusion by heating and compressing hydrogen fuel with a powerful laser. Experiments suggest developing useful and profitable clean energy through fusion is now within reach.

THE START OF AN ERA

The unfolding petals of a bud,
The petrichor wafting in the air,
And the subtle hints of nature,
All remind me of something new,
Something fresh.

Dawn welcomed by chirps,
Twilight by the hoots of the owl,
Seem to all say the same thing,
It's coming soon,
A new beginning.

~Samiksha Singh

OODLE DOODLE



~ Shreya Ranjan

THE ORIGINALS

EDITORIAL

A TOTAL OVERVIEW OF THE TALIBAN OCCUPATION.

~ *Ishanvi Roy (Senior Editor)*

This is note-by-note collection of what you must know, and the country stances, to understand the Taliban occupation. This is just highlighting certain points. Hope this provides a useful overview of what is happening with the occupation. However, do not use this as the only basis of your knowledge.

Brief Reasons For Taliban's Success:

Weak leadership, with no substantive decision implemented by the government and apparent lack of communication. Over reliance on the American forces that led to dismay once the US troops left the country. No indigenous system to replace DOD contractors even after 20 years. Air Force grounded and ground forces were halted, and no evolution of the military in 20 years.

Let us now discuss the stances of major affected countries.

United States

The US involvement runs deep, they entered Afghanistan as part of their War on Terror agenda following 9/11, with a goal of defeating Al-Qaeda and the Taliban forces. It initially was meant to be a quick attack but miscalculation led to this developing into a series of attacks. Currently, under domestic compulsion, they withdrew troops on the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. This action garnered much criticism. While troops were deployed again to rescue US embassy personnel, they do not plan to re-enter again. Refugee settlement efforts have been sub-par.

India

Cold relations with Taliban, especially after the Kandahar Hijack of 176 passengers of Indian origin on Indian Airlines Flight that resulted in the release of high-profile terrorists- Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, and Masood Azhar and the subsequent attacks that followed. Will wait and watch the situation, but plans to aid Afghan national refugees. Might seek working relations- contingent on Taliban policies.

Pakistan

Biggest benefactor of the occupation. Orchestrated ceasefire with India per-Taliban to gain military space. Their support for Taliban, which was previously tacit, is now overt.

They gain as the chief-supplier/repair/recovery organisation for all captured US equipment, and have the technology and knowledge to facilitate that. Most active Taliban supporter in UN or international forums. Likely to divert Taliban forces towards Jammu and Kashmir as it now has a major political grip over Afghanistan and will also facilitate rebuilding of the country. Their experience in dealing with US forces hands them an edge in probable upcoming wars.

Europe and Others

Have been rendered powerless in this situation, and condemn the US for withdrawing troops. They seek to cut down losses. Refugee settlement plan is questionable. Future engagement with Taliban Government moderately seems to be possible as they claim to adjust to new realities.

China

Profits from this situation, and will occupy ceded space, and seeks partnership with Taliban.

Taliban understands that it needs Pakistan local support and Chinese global support to survive in tandem. China seeks to support the Taliban in UN measures. This might become a major cause of concern for India.

Russia

Russia claims to supervise, and keenly watch the situation. High chances of engaging with the Taliban government as they seek to occupy space vacated by the US, and most arms in control of Taliban are of Russian origin. However, they are wary of Chinese influence. Overall, gain from the situation.

THE ORIGINALS

Our Two Cents



DARK HUMOUR: WHERE DOES IT NEED TO STOP

Dark humour, black comedy or morbid humour are all terms to describe a style of humour that makes light of certain subject matters that are often serious, disturbing, and triggering to discuss. The issue is not with those who indulge in it, many even use it as a coping mechanism for their trauma. The problem lies with those who deliberately have racist, sexist, homophobic, or overall discriminatory intent, and create jokes at the expense of others.

“When privileged groups in society use comedy to attack marginalised voices, the hurt can have more damaging impacts” ~ Siobhan Hagarty

This is a concept often termed as “Punching Down”.

“**Punching Down**” and “**Punching Up**” are themes most commonly used amongst comedians. The idea is the unwritten rule in which jokes centred around elite social groups (politicians, CEOs etc) can be used to cope with disadvantages that privileged groups don’t ever have to endure (*Punching Up*), but marginalised communities can perpetuate damaging stereotypes and contribute to societal issues (*Punching Down*).

Because the majority is financially, racially, and sexually diverse, taunting those in higher positions on the social hierarchy allows the majority to relate and creates a sense of unity. Reversing this produces a harmful power dynamic that amplifies prior injustice.

Though the boundary between dark comedy and unpleasant content is unclear, there is one factor that can tell the difference: intention. Malicious intent in comedy can take the form of someone making light of a situation, not necessarily in order to produce laughs, but in order to elicit a reaction from those who are affected. This shows that their intention was to deliberately hurt others, and shouldn’t be brushed off as a joke. While humour generally has a positive effect on people and can act as a healing agent, when these jokes portray oppressed groups as the ‘butt’ of the joke, it perpetuates and normalises problematic ideals.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Guess which famous persona provided these quotes.

1. “You must be the change you wish to see in the world”
2. “They may kill me but they can't kill my ideas. They can crush my body but they will not be able to crush my spirit.”
3. “Don't let anyone tell you you are weak because you are a woman.”
4. “You can achieve anything in life. It just depends on how desperate you are to achieve it.”

5. “Make your own choices in light of your own wisdom.”
6. “I want to be the best, it's not about the ranking, it's about being consistent.”

ANSWERS: 1. Mahatma Gandhi, 2. Bhagat Singh, 3. Mary Kom, 4. Milkha Singh, 5. Amitabh Bachchan, 6. Saina Nehwal.



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