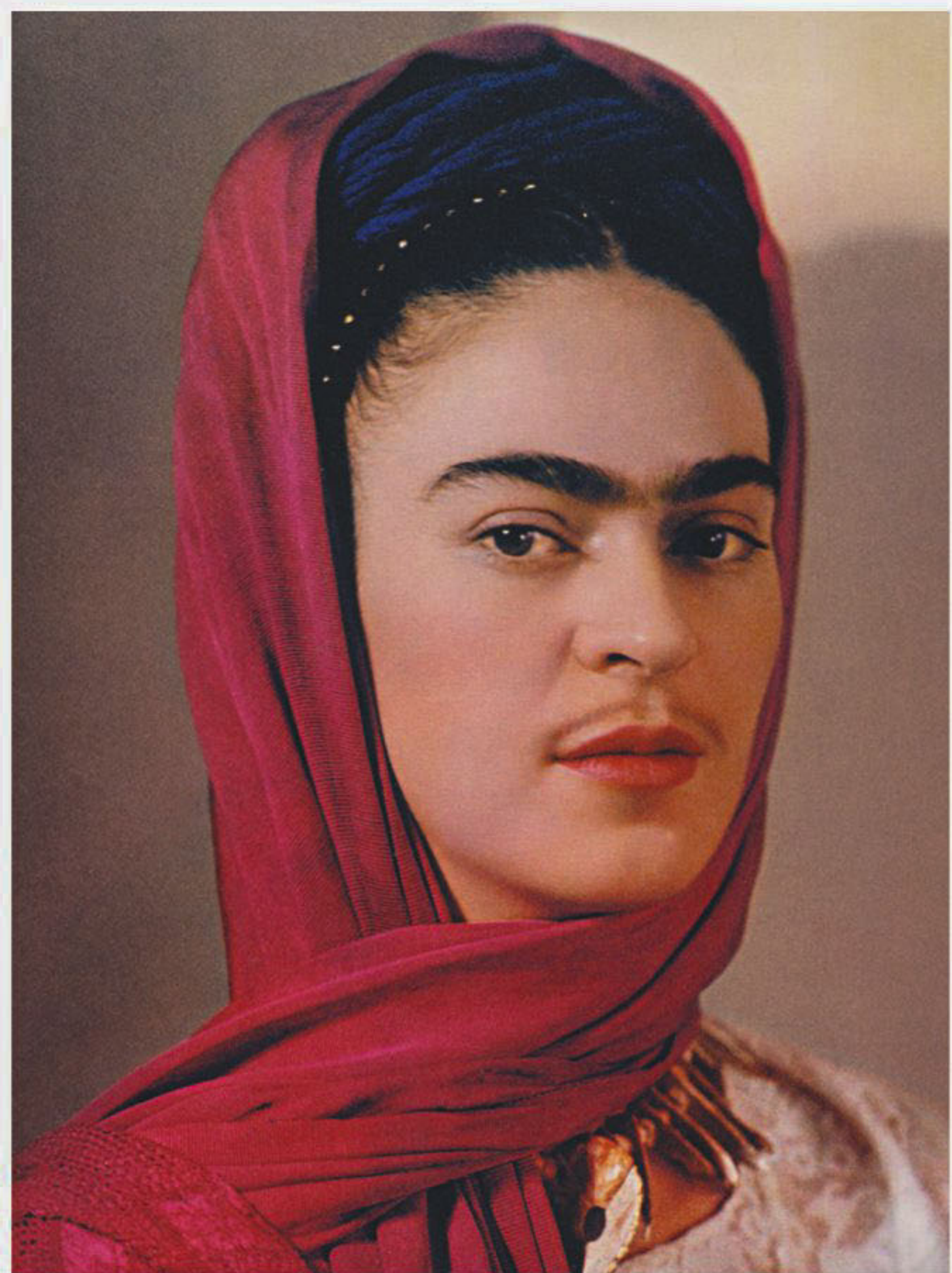


The Time I Grew a Femstache



FRIDA

I grew a moustache this November (by moustache I mean a slight dark fringe over my upper lip). By the way for all intents and purposes, I am a girl. I am girl and I grew a stache. Actually I went all out – no shaving, waxing, threading, tweezing or anything for a month.

Now before you stop reading this article and go barf in the nearest sink, here are some fun facts.

#1 One of the founders (there are two) of the 'Noshember' campaign is a woman: Rebecca Hill.

#2 This one is for those who use Noshember as just another excuse to spew out selfies on Instagram. Here is what the official campaign website says, "The goal of No-Shave November is to grow awareness by embracing our hair, which many cancer patients lose, and letting it grow wild and free. Donate the money you usually spend on shaving and grooming for a month to educate about cancer prevention, save lives, and aid those fighting the battle."

#3 Women – all women – have body and facial hair. Although body hair in women is significantly less than in men (well in most cases; Google 'Mariam', she is a German lady I think you should know), it exists.

Taking all of the above into account, I reached a simple conclusion. As a girl I was in a better position to truly contribute to the Noshember campaign. Think about it, as a guy you might spend hardly Tk 3000 for a razor and shaving foam, and technically even that is like a bimonthly expense. However as a girl, you are definitely spending at least Tk 3000 or more for your

hair removal purposes; whether you buy Veet or go to the salon to wax your arms and legs, shape your eyebrows and thread your upper lip, you are definitely spending more on your grooming than your boyfriend is (if this is not true, I suggest you guys have a serious discussion about...).

Let's get back to my experience. I tried to get my sister on board as well but she cunningly bleached her stache. If you don't know what that is, imagine Jared Leto's eyebrows from *Fight Club*. So technically even though she didn't shave, no one really noticed her stache.

Mine was a different case. People noticed. People hated. People berated. Nevertheless I decided I was awesome. Until I had the following conversation with a friend...

Friend: You look utterly gross. What do you think you're achieving?

Me: (basically recite the stuff I have talked about here.)

Friend: Everyone already knows about cancer and that women have body hair. Why do you have to parade around looking like Sasquatch to pitch old news? Are you even donating any money?

Me: Umm no but I think it's unfair that women have to shave off their staches and men don't. I think if we all just accepted that women have facial hair too then...

Friend: Are you retarded? Beauty standards are meant to be unfair!

At this point Friend pointed to a guy with a pair of very healthy moobs and asked me if I was attracted to the guy.

I tweezed my moustache to oblivion the next day.

RATED 'M' FOR ~~MANLY~~

MASNOON KHAIR

A few weeks back, SHOUT ran a cover story that evaluates the expectations placed on men in our general society and the strange parameters for being one. Although trying to be a 'manly man' does have its share of adverse effects on an individual, it still is funny to see the extent to which some will go in order to achieve the *ultramanly* title. Here are some of the common suits of armor some guys try to wear in order to prove that they are the manliest of men—

THE 'TOUGH' GUY

These guys have supposedly vanquished the word 'pain' from their vocabulary. Even if they had a knife sticking out of their back, they would use phrases such as 'I'm fine' and 'it's no big deal' in struggling to hold on to their man card. Just to draw an example, a good friend of my cousin once fell down an open manhole while on his way home late at night. Not wanting to shame his role model Chuck Norris, he somehow dragged himself home and showed up at the doorstep just before dinner time. If it wasn't for the stench and the trail of blood, absolutely no one would have ever noticed that his neck wasn't in the right place.

THE 'BEARD' GUY

Facial hair has always been a benchmark for manliness, especially after ancient men realised that not even the face was spared of testosterone. I am not talking about any run-of-the-mill facial hair here, rather the beards that make a guy look as if he lives on the hills and kills bears with his bare hands. With all due respect, not only does it take skill to make your chin disappear underneath a lush forest of hair, but they can come in handy too. In times of dire need, you're bound to find crumbs of food, small supplies of water and even a few bucks here and there inside the hairy labyrinths.

THE 'GENJAM' GUY

For them, every problem in existence must be settled with fists. Someone spreading rumours in the hood?



Genjam! Someone forgot to say 'hello' to the local boss? Genjam! Kim Kardashian on the cover of Paper Magazine? Genjam! It becomes an arena where men of all shapes and sizes test their osterone. Strange enough, most Genjam fests usually have little or no exchange of fists in them. A few weeks back, I remember getting my popcorn ready to witness a local genjam. It turned out to be a real life simulation of an average *DragonBall Z* episode – where they screamed at each other for three hours straight, threatened each other with fists, and at the end ran home to catch the latest episode of *Glee*.

THE 'MUSCLE' GUY

Being healthy is definitely important, but you know something is up when there's so much muscle mass on person that you can't tell the arms apart from the face. Many of these guys have mastered body language ... quite literally. For example, if you ask them the time, they will do ten sets of pushups, ten sets of squats and plank for ten minutes to tell you that it's exactly 10'o clock. These guys have left no muscle unturned in their bodies, and will often watch classics such as *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* (while everyone's asleep) in order to work on their tear duct muscles as well.