

# Life and Times of a Geographically Challenged Person

ANUPOMA JOYEETA JOYEE

Every time I step out of the house, I feel the sense of sheer satisfaction about being a grown-up who doesn't have to be escorted anywhere. But that feeling doesn't last long; in fact, it lasts only a few minutes. I start wondering why anyone ever lets me out of my house because I'm an utter disgrace of a grown-up who can't find her way to the easiest of places around the city. I could never forget that day when I was heartlessly abandoned by my friends at Dhaka University. The gigantic maze of that place I've cursed the most in my life, not because I didn't get into it but because I can never find my way from Kalabhaban to the glorified FBS Food Court. Somehow I always end up in front of Madhu'r Canteen and start feeling lost; the awkward stares of the bystanders are not much help either.

I usually start planning (and panick-

ing) the night before if I have to go somewhere the next day. Plans basically include consulting Google maps. Yes, you can hire a rickshaw to get you to your destination but the number of rickshaw pullers who will tell you on your face that they never heard of that alien place is higher than the number of CNGs you will get refused by. It doesn't help if you have severe social anxiety issues and can't bring yourself to ask random strangers for direction.

I feel duty-bound to use this platform to help out fellow sufferers. There're a few dos and don'ts if you don't want to roam around the streets like a headless chicken.

- Never leave your phone at home. Sometimes when you can't find the way and you need to call someone for directions, you'll have to look for shops that would let you make a call. Unnecessary hassle.

- Take help from Google maps before

leaving home if you don't carry a smartphone with internet. It saved my life countless times and shielded me from being humiliated in front of geographically knowledgeable friends in situations when I otherwise would've failed to turn up without asking them for directions at least 17 times.

- Pay attention. If you normally travel in your family car, you don't pay attention to the labyrinth of routes your driver takes. But when you have to go there all by yourself, you won't remember the most obvious



details because you didn't observe.

- Lastly, try to seek help from people who don't seem potentially dangerous. If anything, Bangladeshi people are always eager to help. So the next time you expose yourself to the threats of solitary trips around the city, have courage.

The geographically challenged community shall survive one trip at a time. Good luck.

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## WINDOW SHOPPING ETIQUETTE

MAHEJABEEN HOSSAIN NIDHI

When we venture out of the comfort of our rooms, we observe how incredibly hard it can be for some people to not be absolutely, utterly obnoxious. Never is this more evident than on shopping trips. Occasionally, observing these people is like observing the sun through a looking glass – it could possibly blind you. The following are some of the most incomprehensible things that the said people do; things when you try to explain provoke a swift “lol” with an outstretched palm as the response (I speak from personal experience).

**It is NOT okay to hog the trial room.**

No. Please, no, especially when there's a sale or it's a holiday season. Don't take 10 different articles of clothing, take intervals between trying on each to show how the dress looks to those who accompanied you and discuss its pros and cons at length, all while taking dozens of near identical selfies of yourself – for every piece. Please don't be that person. If, in case, you are, please acknowledge the salesgirl's scathing look when you walk out buying nothing and leave a pile of unfolded clothing; or, in case you see her clenching her fists and rolling her sleeves up, run for it.

**No one is asking for an on-spot review**

Imagine this – while browsing through clothes at your own pace, you pick up something for a closer inspection and



you hear a glass-breaking shrill voice saying, “OMG! Look at that! I would NEVER wear something like that! I swear, I'm not even exaggerating, if I look at that one more time, I'll literally puke.” Then the minions next to the owner of the voice burst into the most repulsive form of laughter. First of all, that person is definitely not going to “literally” puke unless s/he had something s/he really

shouldn't have had for his/her last meal and secondly, who in their right mind gave him/her the supreme authority of being the fashion police? Oh, and people who scan through all the shops might know the current trends better than others but that does not give them the authority to loudly proclaim the “knowledge” they acquired.

**Realise you are not obliged to act as**

**a potential buyer**

In wholesale shops, the scenario is usually like this, the salespeople are busy drying their throats on why they can't lower their prices any further and the customers are looking to buy it at half the original price. After the whole intensely heated, time-consuming act of bargaining for everyone at the shop to witness, imagine the salesperson's frustration when the customer gets up and says, “Not today.”

At fixed priced outlets, in a long queue with people waiting to actually purchase their desired items, don't be that person trying to blend in and then go up to the cashier just to have a conversation like, “I really liked this, but I can't buy it!” “Would you like to book it?” “No, I'm just looking. But do you think I should buy it later?”

As bewildering as it might sound, there is no binding contract that you have to pay the cashier a visit every time you drop by a shop.

Window shopping is a great way to pass a lot of free time but it should not be done at the expense of a good shopping experience for others around you.

*With a keen eye and a broken brain to mouth filter, Mahejabeen Hossain Nidhi has a habit of throwing obscure insults from classic novels at random people who may or may not have done anything to warrant them. Drop her a line at [mahejabeen.nidhi@gmail.com](mailto:mahejabeen.nidhi@gmail.com)*