



**ECHOES BY
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The Still and the Moving Selfies



Nemesis learned that Narcissus refused the love of Echo. To punish him, she tricked Narcissus to a pool of water where for the first time he saw his own image as a reflection. Narcissus fell so much in love with his own image that he fell into the water and drowned. Centuries before photographs came and selfies weren't around, self-portraits were the selfies of the time. The rich and the powerful spent endless sums to have their portraits done. In the middle ages, those who could afford would see themselves in a mirror like Narcissus did in the water. After cameras came, self-portraits soon became a past-time for those who couldn't afford to commission expensive oil paintings. Robert Cornelius from Philadelphia, USA is credited for taking the first ever selfie. On the back of the photo he wrote, "The first light Picture ever taken, 1839."

Self portrait, self photograph, selfie whatever term we

use, it has to have the stamp of the person in the frame. There's a bit of narcissism in all of us. What's behind the person in the frame? Is it a famous landmark; a wild animal? Isn't that why we take photos? To freeze time that was special in our lives at that very moment?

In the 21st century, selfies have changed the definition of our self and self-photographs forever. The smart phone has made it possible to take a selfie wherever, whenever, and how many times ever we like. Selfies can tell where we are and what we're doing; where we're going on vacation and how we're travelling; and much more. Once we express ourselves and disclose this on social media, companies use our 'cookies' in strategic marketing. That's still not a problem. The problem is the exuberance youth brings. Youth is the time of our lives when the difference between danger and safety isn't always well defined.

There are selfies and there are 'moving' selfies. The moving selfies can be very dangerous. In May 2015, an 18-year-old Anna Ursu from Romania set out to take the ultimate selfie. She lay on top of a train. As she was about to take that ultimate selfie her legs touched the overhead cables. Within seconds Anna became a human fireball from the high voltage. This is one of the many instances a selfie has led to death.

As Narcissus drowned, he became a beautiful Narcissus flower. In the real world, when we're playing with moving selfies it may be a good idea to listen to the 'echoes' of Echo. It would be better to remember, there is something called a moving selfie.

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The Oxford English Dictionary classified 'selfie' as the word of 2013. A selfie is a photograph taken of one's self; uploaded and shared in social media. Today, selfies have proliferated to such an extent that what started off as a craze of young people has now become an obsession. If there isn't a photo to show in social media, it didn't happen. Much as elders show their dislike, they too have started to hop on the bandwagon. The tendency to like one's own image or show one's own image to others isn't new.

HOW ORIGAMI WORKS

NUSRAT JAHIN ANGELA

I'm sure a lot of you have heard of origami. One might say origami is just folding papers. Well, origamists wouldn't agree.

Most of us have grown up doing origami, subconsciously. Remember the time you would make paper boats and placed them on puddles when it rained? Or when you would make a paper plane and fly it across the house? All of those were simple forms of origami.

There is quite a lot to learn if you want to master origami. You have to appoint a step by step procedure to familiarise yourself with the whole mechanism. To begin with, you have to learn the foundation over which your whole structure will stand. For any origami design, this is the introductory lesson. Some common bases include the bird, the blintz, the boat, the diamond, the Fish, the frog and so on.

Then the folds need to be learnt. This is what will make the structure, the design that will sit on your base. These folds can be of numerous types: the book and the cupboard, the inside and outside reverse, the petal, the sink, the squash, the triangle, the valley and the mountain, etc.

Once you're done learning bases and folds, you start off with simple origami. You can select a particular design you're interested in and work on it. Simple ones include stars, flowers, birds, and hearts.

Slowly, as your skills improve, you can move onto more complex struc-

tures. Once you have mastered these skills, you can even make your own designs. You can just create anything of your liking with paper. There is nothing quite like the sheer pleasure of making something out of nothing; turning a plain old paper into birds, flowers, animals

and what not.

You don't necessarily have to use boring white paper to make origami. Using different prints, colours and patterns to enhance your design is also a big part of origami. That is how you add your own personality and taste to origami.

Apart from being an enjoyable hobby, origami helps to improve your patience and thinking skills.

Here are some

websites that can come to your help if you are interested: origami-fun.com, origami-instructions.com and origami-make.com. Not only do these websites provide ample techniques for you to choose from, they have step by step procedures and abundant descriptions along with videos to help in quick learning. All you'll need is paper and imagination.

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