

SOCIAL MEDIA

Where Introverts become Extroverts

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The internet, in particular, the social media seems to have allowed introverts to be involved in the social scene more often than not. Yes I know, at first glance, the whole concept may sound rather paradoxical. Introverts, people who are known to keep to themselves, actively "socialising" on Facebook and Twitter at their own will and actually enjoying it? It's not just because they feel obliged to or they had one of their extroverted counterparts drag them into this netherworld? What?

The answer lies at the heart of *what* being an introvert means. As many of you may already know, the primary difference between introverts and extroverts lie in their neural wiring – extroverts feel energised by all forms of social contact and introverts on the other hand, feel drained. However, that's majorly because introverts abhor small talk, which is a crucial part of starting a conversation in a social setting, and after channeling all their energy into coming up with right things to say, by the end of it they are left devoid of anymore to carry on the conversation much further. This eventually leads to the perpetuation of the stereotype that introverts hate people and social contact of all sorts, which I, as an introvert, can vouch to be incorrect and I'm quite certain many others feel the same way.

The thing is, introverts are rather selective about what they want to share or talk

Being an introvert I love facebook: It allows me to socialize without having to actually talk to anybody.



about. If you start a conversation with an introvert about a topic which piques their interest, they can talk for hours without tiring, even to the point where you'd have to urge them to take a moment to catch their breathe. Just ask anyone who's ever had a conversation about football with me. Does this remind you of that friend of yours who is very quiet in class, but when it comes to giving a presentation or discussing the fundamentals of physics, he lights up with his immaculate wit and

array of clever puns? You can see it in his eyes how passionate he is about it? Well, you might just have an introvert at hand.

Now, you're probably wondering what does all that have to do with social networking. Well, here's the thing, unlike face to face conversations, discussing something on social media does not require to first pass through the laborious prerequisite of making small talk, telling the other person how lovely you think the weather is today, asking them what they'd

like for lunch or how cute you think their new shoes are. You can cut to the chase and go onto rant about how last night's episode of *Game of Thrones* proved to be a total disappointment. Not only does this make the process a tad easier for the introvert, but it also eliminates the drawn-out and protracted process of figuring out who actually likes the same stuff as you do. I've had people come up to me and say how different they assumed I was before knowing me through social media and vice versa. It's almost as if the internet allows us introverts to manifest as a pseudo extrovert or live two different lives and have the best of both worlds. Get it? No? Sigh.

Yes, introverts do adore and require their alone time to ponder and recharge. At the same time, we, without a doubt would equally enjoy having a conversation with you about fan theories regarding who Jon Snow's actual parents are. But you never could've guessed this quiet nerd, who always seems to be lost in a world of their own and never say a word in class, was interested in it unless it wasn't for those status updates. You see my point? Thanks to social media it is easy to get the message, "Hi, I may come off as quiet and disinterested, but I would absolutely love to have a conversation with you about this particular subject that interests me as much as it interests you" across; something that might get you odd looks during face to face conversation.

How Parents React to Your Success

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We all dream of winning the world some day and make everyone around us super proud. However, life is not a movie and most Asian parents just seem to suppress their reactions. While they are super ecstatic about our glory, they will bask in it, but in your absence.

As a child who lives away from her parents for higher studies, I rely on phone calls to convey my messages. Usually I am torn apart between which parent to call first in case the other feels less important. But this is how it goes:

"Hello Baba"

"Yes, ma. Where are you?"

"I am at the university. My team just made it to the final round of the competition I told you about few days back."

"Yeah. (Pause) Your mom was telling me something like that."

"Umm okay."

"Okay. Drink plenty of water because it's summer."

You just can't get a "congratulations"

out of them.

For those of us who have both parents working, to break the news, we usually have to wait for them. I was excited the entire day when my SSC result came out and I imagined how I would be wearing a cape for the rest of the year.

At around 8 p.m., my mom rings the bell and I hastily come out of my room. When she sees me, the first thing she says is "All the sweet shops ran out of sweets." She seemed guilt-ridden, a clear reflection of how things didn't go according to her plan.

Even though sometimes you don't get to celebrate your success the way you expected, your parents go to bed with a content heart, and that's what matters.

However, many of us have parents who are just unreadable.

You might be beaming with pride after topping your class in a semester.

You will break the news over dinner and some parents will say, "Good. I will be happier if you top your

bachelor's and get into an Ivy League school for MBA."

This may make you wonder how your hard work was left unappreciated,

but stand silently next to your parents' room. You will hear them tell your relatives over the phone about how proud they are of you.

I dreaded chemistry in college and before my exam day, my mom reminded me of all the obstacles I had overcome earlier – the first time I sang solo on stage at the age of 6, swam across a 25 meter swimming pool, adapted to a different curriculum. No matter how tiny our achievements are, our parents keep track of our ups and downs even though they don't react to them every time.

There are parents who are expressive of their affections. There are also families where the son/daughter gets to hug his/her father for the first time in years on the occasion of becoming a doctor. These occasions bring out the best expressions in us.

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