

5 TRADITIONAL OBJECTS THAT ARE ALMOST DISAPPEARING

NILIMA JAHAN

Bengali culture and tradition are basically the reflection of our rural settings. Rural lifestyles, crop-production, vehicles, machineries, food, religious beliefs and the nature are the vivid elements of our folk culture. Here are five such traditional objects that are disappearing with time:



FIVE THINGS

1 Palki (Palanquin): The Palki is basically a box-like wheel-less vehicle, which is carried on shoulders of six men called the Beharas. In earlier times, the palki was used by the zamindars to move from one place to another. Later on, it was used to transport the new bride from her father's home to her in-law's -- depicting the huge transition in a woman's life. Today, the palki is more of an ornamental addition in weddings.

2 Dheki: A dheki used to be a very significant part of a village home. An agricultural tool, it was used for separating rice grains from their husks operated by two or three women. Though husking machines and automatic rice mills are now used in the country, dhekis are still in use in many villages. A dheki is basically a heavy wooden lever and at the one end of the lever, there is a vertical wooden cylinder, which functions as a pestle.

3 Kupa (Kerosene Lamp): When electricity was not available in many rural areas, a fire lit Kupa was the only way to shed some light around. There are varieties in designs and colours, for example, some are earthen, some are wooden, and again some are metallic. Though presently, the use of Kupis has been replaced by the electric lights and charger lamps, kupis are still used in many rural areas.

4 Tal Pankha (Handmade fan made of palm leaves): Tal Pankha is a long-standing tradition of the Bengalis. There was a time, when a variety of pankhas were kept at home for the new bridegrooms, guests, and every day use as well. After collecting and processing the palm leaves, they are cut according to the size and then a bamboo handle is attached. After which, colourful clothes or sometimes laces are stitched around it to make it more attractive. In our villages, many folktales exist surrounding the tal pankha!

5 Latim (Spinning Top): Playing latim is one of the most significant games for those who have grown up in the rural villages. Earlier, the village teens would pull a string and watch the top spin on its own. Traditional latims are made of wood, or sometimes iron. A rope is twisted around its axis that causes a rapid unwinding when pulled quickly -- setting the the top in motion.

NUMBERS

200

Is the number of migratory birds that are rescued by the forest department in Gouripur upazila of Mymensingh. "The birds were being sold at a market as food item in Shyambazar area," Ashim Kumar, wild life inspector of the forest department, told The Daily Star. Tipped off, a team of forest department led by Ashim Kumar reached the spot and rescued the migratory birds at around 2:00pm. However, the sellers managed to escape, added the wild life inspector. Several Cattle Egrets, Night Herons, Pond Herons, Common snipes, Little Cormorants were rescued among others, the inspector also said. The forest department is all set to set the birds free.

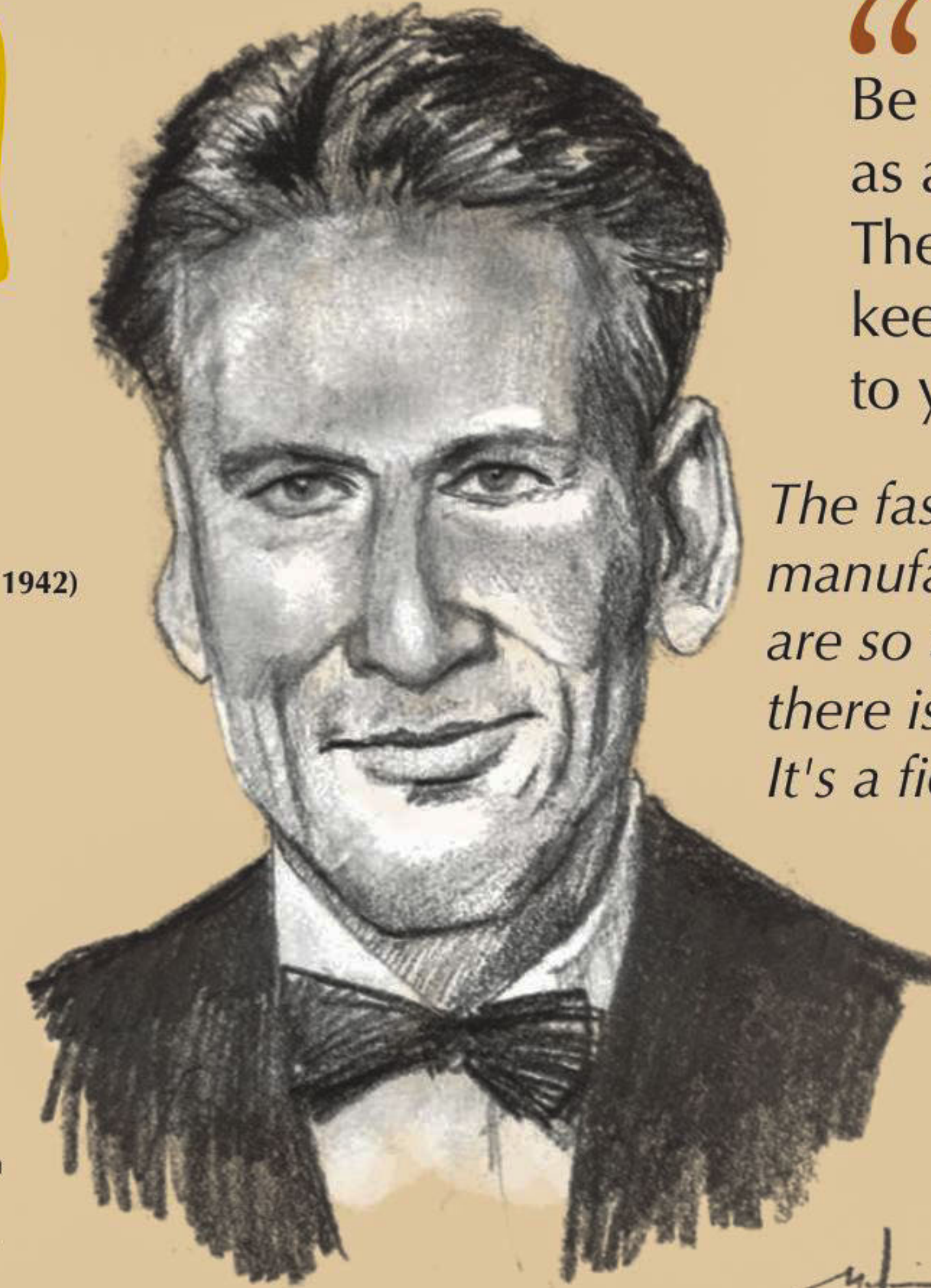
PHOTO: STAR



CALVIN RICHARD KLEIN

(born November 19, 1942)

Founded by Calvin Richard Klein, an American fashion designer with his business partner Barry Schwartz the company later became Calvin Klein Inc., in 1968 which has become one of the leading fashion brands for their simple aesthetic and innovative designs. In addition to clothing, Calvin Klein also has given his name to a range of perfumes, watches, and jewellery.



SKETCH: YAFIZ SIDDIQUI

“ My advice is you need to have a vision. Be confident. Or act as if you are confident as a way to get people to believe in you. Then repetition is reputation. Keep growing, keep changing, but always remain true to yourself and your vision.

The fashion world can truly be a jungle filled with manufacturers who come up from the bottom and are so tough, insecure, jealous and greedy that there is a kind of animal, killer instinct in them. It's a fiercely competitive business.

I think fantasies are for the birds; anything I wanted to do, I did. If there's something I want, nothing stops me.

I don't think about my fame very much and I don't dwell on success. Maybe that's one reason I'm successful.”

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA AND BRAINY QUOTES

STARDIARY

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THE BIGGEST BEAUTY ETIQUETTE

The other day while I was in a beauty salon, I found someone just went on a rant to a hair stylist because of her unsatisfactory beauty experience. She was not happy with the length of her hair cut, but from my experience I could tell that she failed to make the stylist understand what she wanted. She did not mention any particular hair style nor did she show her any picture. She was on phone the whole time, and the stylist had to put her head into a specific position so she kept on telling her to move her head.

As a result, once the styling was done she was not happy at all and started yelling at the girl. The manager too appeared in the scene and started scolding the girl. People go to parlours for relaxation. Yes, you are paying them to do things but also remember, they can not read your mind. There's a slim-to-none chance that any beauty professional will go out of their way to make you unhappy. While many beauty bloggers would hand you out tips to keep in mind when you're deciding on salons for your beauty treatments, no one ever mentions treating the beauticians with respect. Please remember that they are there to help you look great. It's fairly straightforward: Be clear about your preferences, and speak up when you're uncertain, in a respectful and polite way.

Zarin Tasnim,
North South University, Dhaka

The other day, I was waiting for a bus at Farmgate after my office. Every day during the rush hours, I need to wait for almost an hour to get in a bus, pushing the huge crowds of male passengers. When the bus stopped, I struggled to board in. At the time of getting in, I felt that the conductor firmly touched my hip. I felt very uncomfortable and angry. I turned back and started yelling at him. There were other passengers too who started gathering around me. But to my shock, the conductor totally denied it and said that he usually holds customer while boarding the bus for safety reasons. It is true that many women remain silent when this happens and do not protest as such situations are mostly avoidable. But we should always stand up for our rights.

Nadia Mahub
Uttara, Dhaka

THAT AWKWARD FEELING!

