



# HOW BORHANI STOPPED ME FROM BEING A GENRE SNOB

NUREN IFTEKHAR

You know that one guy in your middle school who wore a Pantera t-shirt anywhere and everywhere, constantly reminded you that "pop music will be the death of humanity" and reminisced about how good the 80's were? Well, that was me and, I'm quite sure, many of you.

This crazed infatuation with metal and the metalhead culture is quite understandable. I mean on one hand we have this world of bubbly music where we can find Britney Spears lamenting about how she did it again, and on the other we have James Hetfield screaming for fuel and fire and what he desires. Of course, music isn't as simple as that and there is a whole different spectrum of genres between the ones I mentioned, but good luck trying to tell my 16-year old self that. He'd just tell you to go listen to Slayer.

Now I know you're wondering where the borhani comes in and I'll remind you with an annoying smirk that, "It comes after the kacchi, of course".

You see, I used to hate borhani with passion, a hatred only paralleled by the one I had for pop music. I still remember the first time I had borhani. It was at a wedding and I resented it right from the moment that smell entered my nostrils. Why they would serve this greenish abomination instead of Coke baffled me. And when I took a little sip of that bizarre liquid it didn't take me long to

make up my mind on how I'd rather drink ketchup.

Is borhani actually that bad? Of course not. It's clearly not fair to jump the gun and judge something based on one try. Besides, there are good ones and bad ones. The one I had that night was just one of the latter.

This epiphany dawned on me some three-four years later when I bravely tried it for the second time and loved it to my own surprise. I realised that I can also write the exact same thing with borhani replaced by pop music and I wouldn't be in the wrong. I hated listening to Timberlake in my friend's car; doesn't mean I'd hate listening to a bit of Lana Del Rey on a rainy day. Just because I'm a Coke person doesn't mean borhani has to be terrible. There is no rule that they can't co-exist beside a sumptuous serving of kacchi.

I can still feel that 16-year old in me shake his head in disappointment seeing how I turned to the dark side. But as much as I still love that old Pantera t-shirt, I don't mind that odd Coldplay song scattered here and there in my playlist either.

Now if you'll excuse me I have a wedding to attend to and see what life lesson I can gather from the kacchi this time.

*Nuren Iftekhar is your local basement dweller who dreams of a better world where the concept of elachi is non-existent. Send him obscure memes at n.iftekhar18@gmail.com*

# GOOGLE STREET VIEW TOURISM

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If you've spent your vacations envying those who got to travel to exotic places or if you're too broke to satiate your wanderlust, then this is for you. This is a great way to kill boredom and also to procrastinate.

All you have to do is swap your passport for a smartphone or a PC and get a good internet connection. You won't need to lug around luggage or prepare for any weather.

How is this possible?

Using Google Maps Street View you can actually have a stress-free, pocket-friendly adventure. Scoffing at the idea? Consider this first. Google Maps Street View gives you access to most landmarks and natural wonders around the world. You can go as far as Antarctica to as close to home as Uttara. You can visit multiple places on the same day even if they are on two different continents or across the globe. If you like venturing into neighbourhoods, peeping into restaurants or strolling around campuses, you can still do those. Only difference? It's for free and you can do it while rolling on your bed.

How do you make the most out of Google Maps Street View? You can either hit up their website or just Google a list of places that are covered. If you're using the app on your phone, enter the name of the place or the address. For places covered by Street View, a little box with an image of the place will appear at the bottom left corner of your screen. Tap on it and you'll be immediately transported to your desired location. From their website, the process is easier as they have recommendations. All you have to do is click on them.

From this point onwards, it's a matter of scrolling around as you would if you were there in person. The 360 degree and panoramic views give

you the impression that you're actually there. It's particularly useful when you want to check out landmarks or restaurants up close. You can also use this to make your bucket list or travel itinerary as well. It's a great way to gain an insight on the places you should visit and ones you can avoid.

Of course, the downside here is that you're missing out on the sensory experience. However, a visual treat that costs nothing and lets you productively spend hours on the internet is a pretty great deal.

