

HOW TO BE A BANGLADESHI PEDESTRIAN

RASHEED KHAN

Living in this country, I'm sure you're aware of the existence of "overbridges". You know, those built for safer road crossing and fewer accidents? No, you're never going to use those because you're a daredevil. Today I'll teach you how to be a proper pedestrian in Bangladesh.

For the budding thrill-seekers, you can jaywalk across relatively empty streets. Walking across when there are more cars in the flow is a bit extreme. But in my opinion, if you truly want to be a Bangladeshi pedestrian, the ultimate option is to walk when it's crowded with MOVING traffic and it's clearly a smashing idea to cross. Extra tip: if you attempt to cross RIGHT as the traffic officer lets go of the lane, more vehicles will be likely to appreciate you by blaring horns — kind of like walking on the red carpet at the Oscars. Bonus points if you move slowly in front of each fast moving vehicle with your hand stretched out as if you're Gandalf. Indeed, they shall not pass.

Some roads don't have pavements, forcing people to walk on the road. But see, a true Bangladeshi pedestrian is a master of consistency; even when you have a perfectly fine pavement, you'll need to pretend it's not there and still walk on the road.

The further you're away from the pavement and towards the middle of the road, the better. This is particularly helpful if you're looking for potential suitors. You hear all those cars and buses that are honking at you over and over to get your undivided attention? They totally want you.

Unfortunately for many of the suitors, Bangladeshi pedestrians are obligated to make match-making difficult. One way is to go to your nearest neighbourhood store to buy invisible earplugs, only for BDT 799.99 (and no, I'm not being paid for this advertisement). They're so effective that even when the vehicles are right behind and maddeningly honking at you, you won't even notice! A close money-saving second is to have friend(s) tag along so y'all can play hard to get together by talking as exaggeratedly as possible and ignoring traffic.

Indeed, being a Bangladeshi pedestrian is quite daunting, but if that's what you're worried about, then I've only got one thing to say to you: don't you want to be cool?

Rasheed Khan is a hug monster making good music but terrible puns and jokes where he's probably the only one laughing. Ask him how to pronounce his name at aarcvard@gmail.com



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



What kind of drink are you?

SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

"You are what you drink."

WATER

You are basic. Though you can blend in with everyone easily, not everyone has strong feelings for you. Some take you for granted unless they are almost dying. Some use your existence and are actually grateful to you; some just take advantage of you all the time and never express gratitude. Despite the negativity, you should focus more on the most positive side of things, that is, your cousins always follow your lead. You are literally the first one of your kind.

MILK

People hate you. A large portion of your time is spent dealing with the hate you receive. In the grand scheme of things, you are useful and hence irresistible. The hate is always there, so is the attention. Everyone knows that they must not abandon you in spite of pinching their noses in your presence. You are that one friend who wishes everyone well. You always keep their energy bar as it should be — full. However, your concern for your friends is often faded because no one is a fan of how you present yourself. Work on that, and you should get better.

TEA

Milk, your first cousin, always creates scope for you to get all the praises. Without Milk, your existence is somewhat unthinkable. Now you might be very grateful to Milk for helping you reach heights, but the public will always write off their satisfaction with YOUR presence, without giving any credit (or minimum credits in some circumstances) to Milk. You have a huge fan base. They need you in their lives. Many don't even start their day without you.

COFFEE

You have a rival. Your fan base will

always fight with your rival's. You are popular in your circle as the one who helps everyone function properly. Your fans love your aroma and some of them even consider you their soul mate. You are the only person who can get your friends out of bed. Your life is pretty smooth since you have only a few haters to deal with and many admirers to cherish. Check the internet sometimes — there are poems and love letters written in your honour.

HEALTH DRINK

You are a snake. You're full of fake promises. You promise to make everyone's life better, but you barely do anything. Though you manage to steal kids' attention and they're your ONLY fan base, their parents know how treacherous you actually are. You're a celebrity, disliked by most, but liked by the advertising agents. You are omnipresent and clever, because your business is going great despite the false hopes you radiate.

CARBONATED DRINKS

I always find you on billboards and advertisements like Health Drinks. But the difference between you two lies in the fact that you are not only liked by the advertising agents, but also by the mass.

LEMONADE

Are you the calmest one in your squad? Does your presence always lessen the temperature of the ongoing conflicts in your circle? Are you preferred by everyone as a healthy company? Do your relatives look up to you as the embodiment of perfection? Do you always make people feel wholesome and cool? Congrats, you are perfect.

ELIXIR OF LIFE

You don't exist. Or you could be Rooh Afza.

Shah Tazrian Ashrafi wants 2018 to be as smooth as stormtroopers missing easy shots. Send him prayers at tazrian123@gmail.com