

# A friend named Meme is a friend indeed!

MD. ZAMILUR RAHMAN SHUVO

We are all lone walkers. Our roads commence and conclude the same way – all by ourselves. So why think of befriending a similarly emotionally overwhelmed creature just for the sake of feeding our need for support and empathy? It doesn't end well most of the time. People end up disappointing you and leaving you hanging high and dry just when you need them for the purposes which apparently defines a relationship. One might argue that it is only possible for a human being to understand another of the same species because nothing else can provide the intricacies of the humane need for a best friend. But surely something can. For long I have searched for an alternative to this, for a 'bestie'. All the while I've looked at the wrong places when the answer's been staring right back at me, literally, whenever I am browsing through my news feed on social media. I have found my best friend in memes and you can too. Here's why:

## MEMES MAKE YOU LAUGH!

If laughter is the best medicine of them all, then memes are the doctors. They will never turn their back on me when I am feeling down, which is what I feel most of



the time. They have a way of selflessly giving and never asking for anything in return. So whenever I see a meme and it cheers me up, I drop a like without even feeling like I've been forced to do it or in some cases, messaged in inbox to do it (YES, YOU KNOW WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT!). A simple case of give and take and this is the most natural one you'll ever find. Bet there isn't many friendships

with people that make you feel this level of sincerity.

## ...BUT NEVER CRY!

On the contrary, you can always trust the memes to show up when needed. They are always out there, waiting to be looked at and appreciated. But you will never find them complaining if they ever go unnoticed. They understand your busy schedule, all that you have to deal with all

day long, most of the time surrounded by people you despise. So they just stay put where they are supposed to be, so you don't have to go through any trouble finding solace and peace elsewhere. Always ready to be served, freshly baked! Most of the time, you can't count on people to even pass on a handkerchief when you are an emotional wreck. **THE PICTURES WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!**

People talk, A LOT! Most of the time it just keeps going round and round in a circle with nothing being actually accomplished in that conversation. Enter memes, hardly needing any words (other than the top text and the bottom text) to send the message it is trying to.

## THEY MAKE YOU FEEL WORTHY!

Memes aren't just anybody's cup of tea. In many cases, you need a 'high IQ and a solid grasp on theoretical physics' to understand what's going on. And therein lies the sense of accomplishment. You see a meme, you understand it and it gives you a feeling that you are worthy.

*Suggest the writer a good psychologist at shuvosanctum@gmail.com because clearly he needs one!*

# Travelling with parents who aren't open to experiencing different cultures

FATIMA JAHAN ENA

Growing up, I've been privileged enough to have had the opportunity to travel to many exotic places. The city streets bursting with creatures from all walks of life in Thailand, the tranquil hillsides of Nepal, the haunting frozen foods aisle of a Walmart at 3am in Nowhere, Florida. I've been extremely fortunate to travel to such diverse locations with my family so there's little room for complaining. But the one gripe I have with my travels is ironically the lack of culture shock I experienced.

Whenever my family and I visit a new country, the very first task my mother takes on is sniffing out restaurants within a two mile radius that serve classic Bengali dishes. She will manage to find food places in the very nooks and crannies of whichever city we would be staying in. It is both a fascinating and terrifying skill. However, it often puts us

in a culinary bubble. We end up staying detached from the whole array of exotic dishes and eventually end up eating the same food we eat every day at home, but with the added excitement of eating it all over the world.

Aside from staying away from tantalising yet odd foreign food items, another big issue is avoiding outdoor activities, such as parasailing or mountain trekking. It could also apply to anything that may have a slight hint of danger, including, but not limited to: roller coasters, bungee jumping, riding motor boats etc. This is very reasonable, however, given that these activities could be dangerous and could even cause accidents, which means our parents

are looking out for us and trying to ensure maximum safety for the trip. But eventually, a great sense of tragedy looms over you, as you watch other tourists do the ridiculous things you've been dreaming of doing ever since you were a kid, all because your mom said no.

As a last resort, we figured we could enjoy the scenery, if virtually nothing else. That, too, turns out to be an incorrect notion every time as shopping malls seem to be more appealing to the parents rather than exploring the foreign land. To be fair, the air conditioning of a mall will singlehandedly trump having to walk a considerable distance in the heat in the name of having a stereotypical adventure. But the fear of

missing out is still prominent as you feel deprived of a potentially life changing journey, even though in reality you're quietly grateful that you can sip over priced coffee in the air conditioned embrace of capitalism.

So if you ever find yourself stuck in any of these predicaments, not including countless more, like me, remember that the only way out is to look at the silver linings. Retaining a certain bitterness when it comes to travelling but not really *travelling* is completely natural, but at the end of the day, it's still a great opportunity to grow closer to your family and realising just how much they mean to you, even when your mom is comparing the majesty of seeing the Pyramids of Giza to that feeling she gets when she finds a great deal on handbags.

*Fatima Jahan Ena considers herself to be a chaotically neutral egg with feelings. Fight her at mail2ena@gmail.com*

