

BANGLADESHI CHAIN MAILS

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The internet is a miraculous invention, but it has its dark sides too. Examples include the questionable contents of the deep web, the vast majority of 4chan, and of course, the plague that has haunted almost every user of the internet: the golden age of chain mails. However, it is ironic that almost every one of different races and nationalities has had their brush with the cursed, Eurocentric chain messages. Which brings me to my question: what would Bangladeshi chain mails be like?

One of the most prominent types of chain mails would be the Boomer bait. These messages are generally the most popular with older family members, as they use eye-catching buzzwords very often. Although most messages of this variety have the same generic formulas, a more suitable version for Asian Boomers would be:

"The people who run Facebook will make sure you don't see this BUT YOU MUST FIGHT THEM!! This has been studied by scientists specialising in science so what are about to read is a FACT. Your phone releases special radioactive energy ONLY WHEN YOU SHARE THIS MESSAGE. The radioactive energy is special because it affects the part of your brain that is disappointed with your children's inability to become doctors. The energy will also HELP YOU with coming up with justifications for your child's DISTASTEFUL career choices. Spread the message to your friends and experience the power of HEALING."

The most entertaining chain mails would be the ones with actual curses. However, most of them involve teenagers dying and becoming ghosts

at parties, which is unrealistic, since there is a very distinct possibility that you will never go to a party while living in a Bengali household. So this will have to do:

"IF YOU OPEN THIS MESSAGE YOU ARE CURSED. KEEP READING."

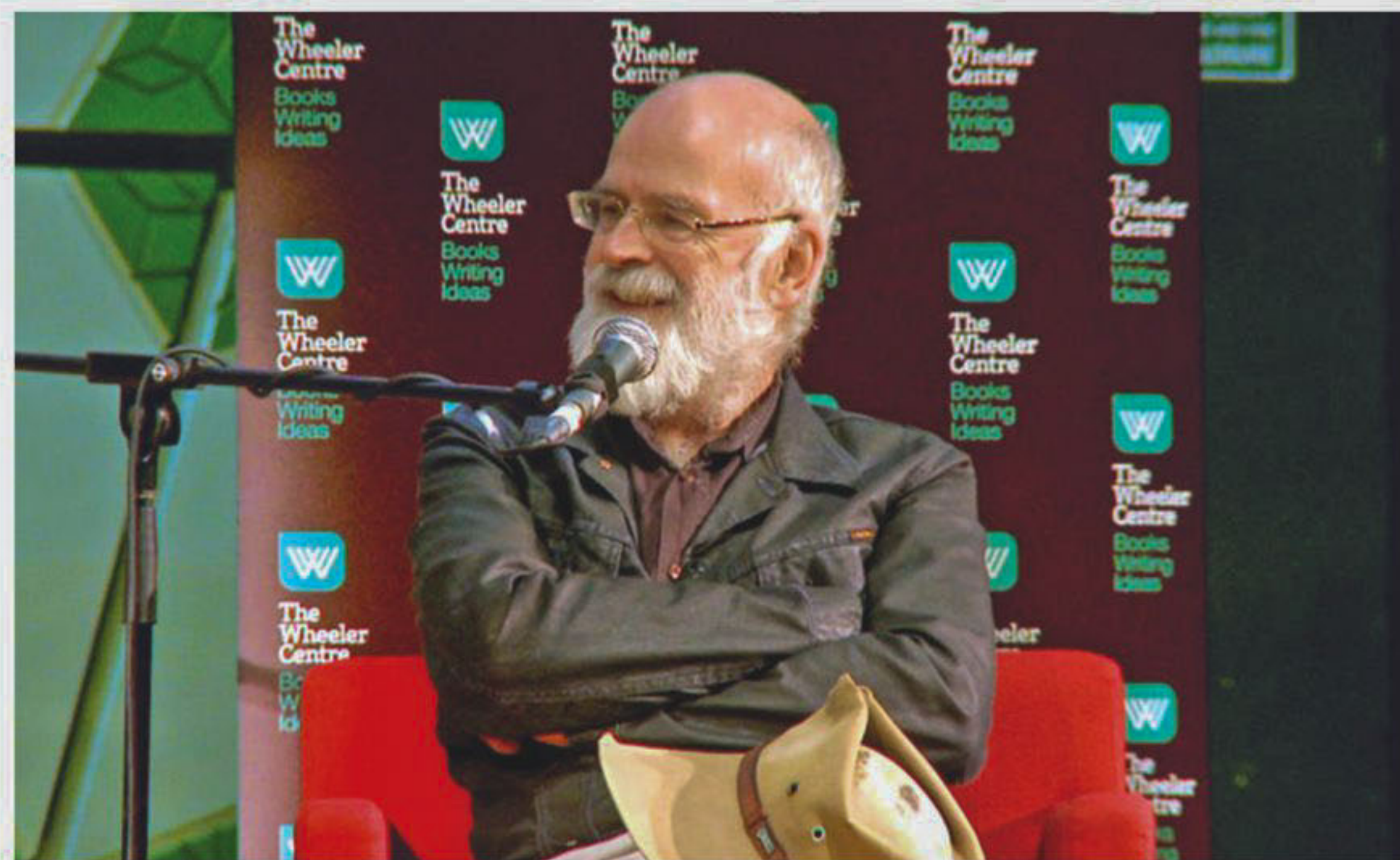
My name is Fatima. I am a teenager. If you are reading this, I am dead. I was at a dawat with my family. We were saying goodbye to the hosts for almost two hours. Because of this, it was too late. All the rickshaw pullers said no to us. We could not find a rickshaw. Then a rickshaw puller finally said yes but then I died. I did not go home that night. I didn't even get to haggle with the rickshaw puller about the extra 10 taka he wanted.

IF YOU DON'T SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH 50 FRIENDS, I WILL CURSE YOU. I WILL STAND NEAR YOU WHENEVER YOU TRY TO TAKE A RICKSHAW RIDE. ALL THE RICKSHAW PULLERS WILL SAY NO TO YOU."

Last, but not least, we have the nonsensical optimism traps that almost everyone falls for at one point or another, whether that's out of gullibility or just sheer desperation:

"There are 365 days in a year. There will be a specific number of Mondays in the year. Multiply the number with your age to show how many times good luck will favour you. Your grades will be good, you will escape the tendrils of arranged marriage, the waiter will save the leg piece for YOU at a wedding. Share now and share your good luck with others. Love and peace rules us all!"

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



Videos for Aspiring Writers

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Whether it's writers' block that has decided to be a thorn in your path, or just a lack of motivation, spending these dull moments of absolute monotony watching professionals in the writing world talk about the art of writing can definitely be helpful. That's why this writer compiled a list of some of the best videos to watch if you're an aspiring writer, or even just one who is having a hard time motivating himself.

THE "MAKE GOOD ART" SPEECH – NEIL GAIMAN

Neil Gaiman's 2012 commencement speech at the University of Arts, when compared in length to the rest, is probably on the shorter end of the spectrum. However, the content is so great, that even at only 20 minutes it can easily be a contender for number one. Gaiman discusses his past career as a journalist, as well as his initial failures as a writer. He gives the students, mainly art majors, advice on making a profession out of their passions. The speech was so popular, that it was eventually made into a book titled "Make Good Art".

WHEELER CENTRE WITH SIR TERRY PRATCHETT

In contrast to the former video, this conversation with the late great Sir Terry Pratchett clocks in a little over an hour. The mind behind the massively successful *Discworld* series sits down to discuss a variety of topics. Hearing Sir Pratchett's thoughts on his career as a journalist, the world of fiction, imagination and death all bundle up into one brilliant conversation which will get you itching to start a novel immediately. The Wheeler Centre for books is usually a common host to such events, so definitely check out their channel on YouTube as well.

NEIL GAIMAN IN CONVERSATION WITH AUDREY NIFFENEGGER, THE FISHER CENTER

You might've noticed a tiny bit of bias,

on the part of this writer, for Gaiman. However, the highlight of this particular conversation is Audrey Niffenegger, the author behind the novel *The Time Traveller's Wife*. Both of the authors discuss their own personal histories as writers, as well as a little bit of insight about the publishing industry. Niffenegger's story about her job as a graveyard guide, which she started in order to help research one of her books also showcases the passion writers often have for their particular craft. Gaiman does a great job at keeping the conversation humorous, as well as interesting; while Niffenegger gives more detailed insight into her own fictional universe and its initial inception.

GEORGE R. R. MARTIN AND STEPHEN KING AT ALBUQUERQUE

While the aforementioned writers may not be household names, these two have an entire empire of literature and cult following behind them. King, a writer with so many accolades to his name, that you could write a book about his life and win a prize; and Martin the creator of the *Game of Thrones* universe. What more needs to be said? The two converse about their childhood, getting published, rejection from publishing houses, comics, etc. Watching these two giants will definitely give you a few ideas on how to up your writing game. Getting your creative juices flowing isn't always the easiest of tasks. When you're a musician or an artist, you find inspiration in songs and paintings. But as a writer, reading a book isn't always a quick fire way to get motivated. So give the aforementioned videos a watch, and get your pens, keyboards, quills or whatever it is you use, ready for a round of intensive writing afterwards.

Aaqib loves petting doggos. Send him pictures of your "good boys" at aaqibhasib94@gmail.com