

MUSINGS

If we could read minds

She said: You look amazing in that dress!
She thought: You should have lost 10kgs before putting that dress on!

Imagine a world where everyone could read everyone's mind. Wouldn't that be scary? But it would also help keep our ugly thoughts at bay, and be more honest with the people in our lives.

The world would be chaotic if we could read each other's mind, not that it is any less chaotic now. But if we could read minds, we would know our real friends and our biggest foes. We would also know our enemies, cleverly disguised as well-wishers. That way, we could avoid heart-breaks and betrayals. But would life be as exciting-adventurous? Perhaps not. There would be no secrets. There would be much more embarrassing moments than we could deal with. There would also be lots of apologies, because we tend to think ill of others all the time.

If we could read thoughts, we could easily find out that some of our friends and relatives always talked about us behind our backs. Even the person you thought loved you most had pent up negative feelings about you.

People secretly in love would have nowhere to hide their feelings in a world where everyone could read everyone's mind.

If we could read each other's thoughts, we would easily know which compliments were genuine, and which were not. I would know who really appreciated my culinary skill and who only stomached what I cooked so as not to hurt my sentiments. Because ignorance is bliss, some of us would never want to be able to read another person's mind.

If we could read minds, then forget thinking twice before talking, we'd also have to think before thinking.

If we could read minds, we could easily know what was coming; a termination letter, a pay raise, an argument, an assault, bad news, good news. We would frequently miss all the fun that came with getting surprised, but then we could also avoid or prepare ourselves better for misfortunes.

But if we could read thoughts, there would be little use for language, both spoken and written. While the idea of being able to read thoughts may seem thrilling, such a world would be dull and gray. The momentary happiness that came from someone calling us beautiful, even if it is a lie, would no longer exist! Although the question remains, is a false compliment desirable at all?

By Wara Karim



Ispahani tea estate in Habiganj

It was the second of November, and our destination Habiganj is about a two-hour drive from Sylhet city centre. Our agenda was to visit a tea factory, specifically the Ispahani Mirzapore tea factory. The manager of the Mirzapore tea garden is a friend of a friend, so we had special privileges.

The three of us, my father, mother, and I, were escorted by a pick-up truck from Bahubali (where we were staying at a hotel) to the Ispahani Tea Estate. Along the way to the manager's bungalow was around 2,500 acres of tea, being picked by workers. These women get a salary and an additional amount based on how many kilograms they each can harvest. Most of the field workers in the tea garden, as in other tea gardens in Bangladesh, are women, who, to protect themselves from the sun, wear local versions of a sombrero.

So we arrived at the manager's bungalow and was greeted with two treats; the first, a table full of food items and secondly, a very interesting tea auctioneer buyer, who explained to us in detail how tea auctioning takes place. So, a tea company sells their many varieties of tea to local and

international buyers, all through the auctioning process. After a stomach full of goodies, we were on our way to the tea factory.

The tea factory was about a 10-minute drive from the manager's bungalow. The factory was enormous, and running on 1/3 the total capacity. Essentially, it is one big machine. The process starts with workers placing the raw leaves onto a conveyor belt, which then dries the tea, grinds it, and then ready for packaging. This is the stage where enchanting flavours of the tea can be smelled and tasted.

The factory was very clean and well kept. Next, we got to see the manager do a taste test of five different varieties of tea that Ispahani Mirzapore produces. Much of this factory's tea ends up in supermarket shelves under the Ispahani Mirzapore brand, and others end up in the export market. If you are a tea drinker, you probably know the beautiful aroma of the Ispahani tea. If you are not a tea drinker, try it once, and you won't be disappointed.

By Shifat M. Sadiq



Lifebuoy Silver Shield Formula
Strong protection from flu germs*



*Creative Visualization. *As per lab test washing with soap and water is a recommended measure to help prevent transmission of infection causing germs.