

READER SUBMISSION

After-effects of applying Henna



PHOTO: STAR

AFSARA GAZI

With Eid approaching us in about a month, among the many things occupying in our mind, henna is definitely up there. Soon, social media will be blessed with photos of colourful hands captioned "#DoNEwIthHeNNA". There will be compliments all over. But why do we never

speak of the things that follow the application of henna? Here's a summary of the horrible after-hours.

Half an hour later: You start to realise that you have a back pain from sitting straight for hours to get your henna done. So you go to lie down on the bed for a while. But can you? You don't trust yourself enough to not ruin the winsome

henna design. But most importantly, you are too afraid to face the rage of your mom in case you smear henna on the bed sheet. So you decide to sit the next few hours out and get a brand new back pain. Awesome.

1.5 hours later: After adjusting yourself to the "Sit straight and don't move as if you're in a mannequin challenge" situation, you begin to think of all the things you could do if you didn't have the freight all over your palms and the back of your hands. That's right, henna equals a burden now. You regret your decision and tell yourself that you are never getting into this mess again just like you did for the past however many Eids you were alive for.

2 hours later: Everyone is laughing at your inability to eat, drink or do anything on your own. You can feel the rage growing inside you. Despite trying to keep it together for hours, you finally lose it. You are now a believer of the Thanos school of thought. Because snapping people to disappearance is the only choice now. But if there's nobody left, who's going to help you with things until you can get rid of the henna?

2.5 hours later: You must have grown immune to everything by now. The back pain, the jokes thrown at you, the inability to use your phone, and the good old "Ew, your mehedi smells" from little kids - these are nothing but noise on deaf ears. You

look into the mirror and wonder how you should pose for a photo showing your hands off when all this is over. Just when you are about to pose for the 40th time, you realise that some broken pieces of the dried up henna have invaded the floor. Yeah, this is what makes you stop (over) acting like Poo from Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Chum.

3.5 hours later: The moment you have been waiting for has finally arrived. It felt like a million years. You are getting rid of the henna as gently as possible because it really hurts if the henna is attached with the hair follicles on the back of your hands. Exactly when you tell yourself that it's over, some henna expert female relative of yours appears out of nowhere to scare you to death by their negativity. "It's only been a few hours. Keep it for at least 10 more hours for gorgeous reddish color. I used to wait for 78 hours straight and get the darkest mehedi colour in the tri-state area." Yeah, you are dumb enough to believe her and wait in hell for 3 more hours.

Alright. I'm going to stop now and prepare myself to have the aforementioned experience. Eid without henna, you say? Come on! Get a life.

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Do you have the wrong opinion?

MAYABEE ARANNYA

Social media platforms are where we truly are not ourselves. At least, in most cases. With millions of people sharing the same platform, it's no surprise that we feel the pressure to push out unique content in order to stand out from the crowd. However, people have different definitions of "unique content."

One of the easiest and most fool-proof ways of getting attention on social media is to post an unpopular opinion on any trending topic. Humans are wired to have different opinions so there shouldn't really be a problem if these ideas are shared, right? The issue here is not about having a different opinion, it's about the feeling of superiority that many people associate with it.

It's difficult to comprehend from where exactly this feeling of superiority stems. These people think that going against the majority automatically tags them as being "cool". A different, usually negative, opinion perhaps makes them feel like they are not sheep like the rest of us and can think outside the box. This is not really the case because even though they belong to the minority, they are still part of a group. None of their opinions are ground-breaking. The most these unpopular status updates can achieve is the collective scoffs of people who disagree with them.

Some people have yet to learn how to let others enjoy the things that they like. To them, the only feeling better than joining the bandwagon is to go completely against it to ensue fans' frustration. Sharing an unpopular opinion for the sake of it has become a cheap thrill. A lot of the people doing this don't care about what they're saying or don't even believe in what they're preaching. The angry comments of people who disagree with them fuels their



joy and helps lessen their boredom.

Ironically, sharing an unpopular opinion has now become a trend. I see more posts talking about how some have never seen a popular TV series than posts by people actually hyped about the series. Another interesting twist here is that in an even larger number than these posts are memes about people who have unpopular opinions. These memes are not helping the cause of the mainstream crowd since they're just giving more attention to those who are seeking it.

In the end, it's all just a mess. The only solution to this

would be to keep negative opinions to yourselves if your only intention is to gain some hatred. However, the dilemma that forms is that social media is supposedly free for people to express their thoughts no matter what they are so should people be stopped from posting what they please? At least it's safe to say that nobody is superior for not agreeing to the majority and this kind of mentality should always be judged and discouraged.

Mayabee Arannya can never say no to a cup of tea or cute doggo pictures. Send her the latter at fb.com/mayabee.arannya