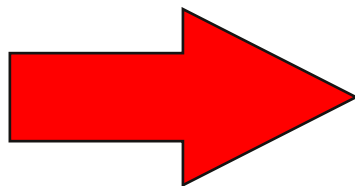


PRESENT MAGAZINE

*YEAR 2020
EDITION*



*Open this
magazine to reveal
the party inside...*



CONTENTS:

Welcome to the
2020s...

Filled with
wonderful
fiction, comics,
photos, facts,
and much
much more!

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Dear Reader

Welcome to the brand new decade of the roaring 2020s. You are holding in your hands the first ever issue of Present Magazine, a breezy leisurely read that feels like a series of podcasts come to life.

We are Vancouver based, but our minds wander all over the world and we find all sorts of places fascinating. In each issue you will find fresh facts and opinions about our world, cartoons and illustrations straight from the brains of our editors, photos, and regular features such as predictions of the future. Let us be your comic relief in the information age when time is passing much too fast. Now, we present to you our present, "Present Magazine", because "there is no better time to be in than the present!"

To the 2020s and beyond!

Present Magazine is published periodically by YL Publishing Co., Inc., Vancouver, BC.

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*"Where your most important gift
is living today in the Present"*

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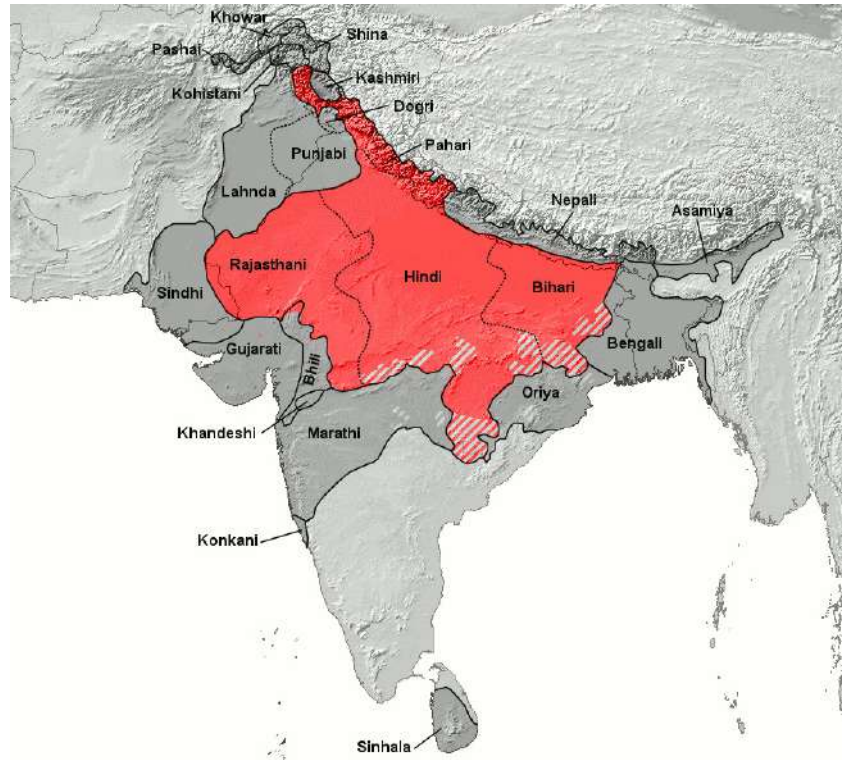
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Speak to me in...

Hindi

हिंदी



Map of the Hindi Belt in India (Wikimedia Commons)

Very Bahot

Good Aacha

Very Good! Bahot Aacha!

Aacha! also means "I see"!

Wanted, Needed Chaahiye

Do you want? Yes, wanted Chaahiye? Chaahiye

to ko
Josh wants tea Josh-ko chai chaahiye

Aaron wants Timbits Aaron-ko Timbits chaahiye

to me (I want) Mujh-ko

Hindi is the fourth most spoken language in the world with over 500 million speakers, following Mandarin, English, and Spanish. It is common and accepted to use English words in everyday Hindi conversation, so don't be shy to say "Mujh-ko coffee chaahiye please". Another bonus of Hindi is you get two languages in one! Conversational Hindi is intelligible with spoken Urdu in Pakistan.

Hai (hey) is used all the time and means "is" or "there is". It comes at the end of a sentence.

Josh hai? Mary hai?
Is Josh here/home? Is Mary here/home?

Bahot aacha hai lekin bahot mehenga hai

It's very good but it's very expensive

But lekin

INDIA WORDSEARCH

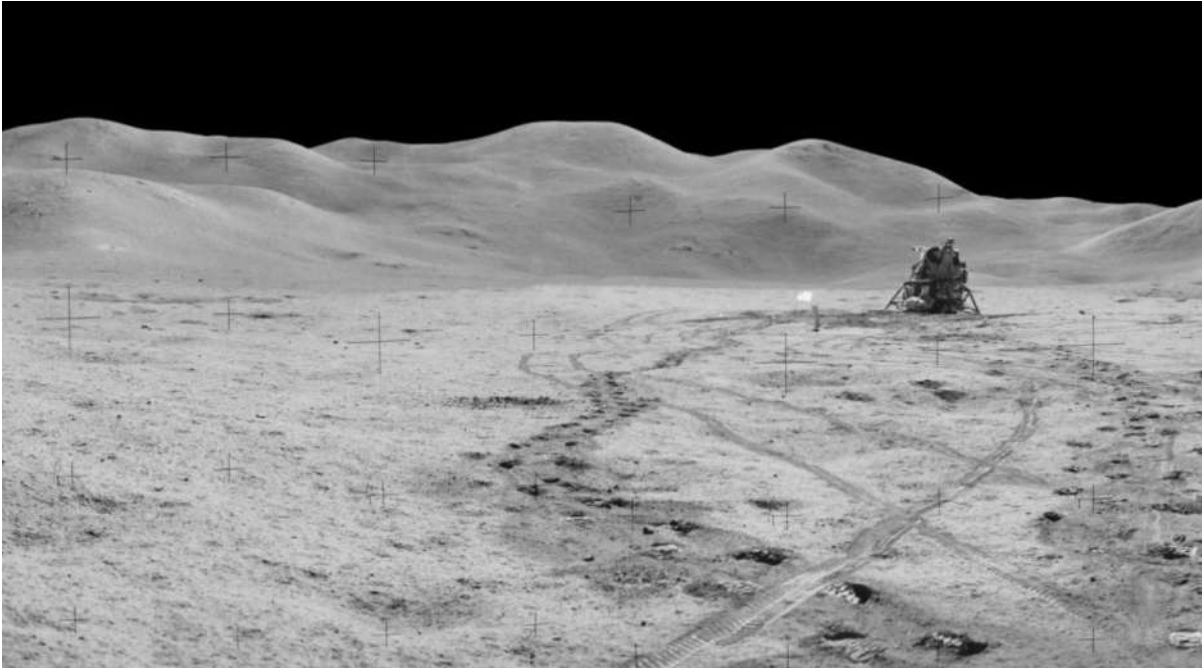
Now that you've learned some Hindi, it is your turn to discover ten of these most commonly spoken languages of India!

The 2001 India Census recorded 30 languages which were spoken by more than a million native speakers and 122 which were spoken by more than 10,000 people

Languages of India

G	G	T	A	E	I	I	A	I	U	A	T	O	I	HINDI
M	A	R	A	T	H	I	H	I	N	D	I	D	M	KANNADA
L	A	I	G	L	T	E	L	U	G	U	E	I	L	BENGALI
L	A	N	U	A	A	I	T	N	E	T	T	A	M	ODIA
A	K	P	J	M	G	B	L	L	I	M	A	T	D	MARATHI
I	H	U	A	I	A	R	E	I	G	G	D	G	L	MALAYALAM
B	E	N	R	I	U	L	I	N	A	N	I	M	L	TELUGU
Y	K	J	A	N	J	D	A	D	G	T	G	A	A	PUNJABI
I	A	A	T	N	L	G	L	Y	M	A	U	I	U	TAMIL
N	T	B	I	T	T	T	H	N	A	D	L	A	A	GUJARATI
D	J	I	A	O	R	R	A	I	M	L	A	I	N	
K	A	N	N	A	D	A	I	I	T	R	A	D	H	
A	B	P	N	I	T	M	N	L	A	G	U	M	L	
B	A	A	D	B	H	I	A	A	O	A	Y	I	G	

FUTURE FICTION



Commander Glenn was standing on the surface of the moon and he glanced at Apollo Lunar Module leftover from the early 70s. The US Space Force has accelerated its manned planetary exploration of space over the 2020s and the 2030s. After the American Space Force was created under the initiative of President Donald Trump in 2019, several more countries, such as China, Russia and India, responded by establishing their own Space Forces. Glenn remembered growing up as a young boy in Nashville. In the late 2010s, he used to watch Trump speak passionately about space exploration on television. The Space Force evolved into a multinational effort to establish colonies on the moon and other planets. It would be more than simply a scientific colony like Anatarctica, but a full lunar colony where normal families would settle down and raise Moon children. Glenn's childhood idol was Apollo 17 astronaut scientist Harrison Schmitt. Apollo 17 previously spent 72 hours in extravehicular activity on the moon (EVA) and his team was on track to beat it...in the year 2050, nearly eighty years after men last stepped off the surface of the Moon in 1972.

We have finally returned to the moon, Glenn thought. His new mission, Luna One, was established for the purpose of planning a town site on the moon. What would the future community look like? A square gridiron street pattern or new suburban style urbanism filled with wavy roads...who knows? Would we even need roads on the moon? Then we need new lunar rovers for that. That was why Earth sent a group of engineers, geologists, urbanists, as well as sociologists to sketch and visualize plans for a lunar colony. Tire tracks from the Apollo lunar rover were still etched on the lunar soil. All this would be protected as part of a Global Historic Site

Fred, an urban geographer trained in Canada, strutted up next to Glenn. "Say Cheese". Glenn held up two fingers and Fred took a snapshot on a camera. "Can you believe it? We are finally here. Masters of the solar system." Fred patted Glenn on the back.

To be continued....

Photography

The Ayutthaya Ruins of Thailand

Photographs by Aaron Chechik



"In the land of the elephants, the size and significance of these ruins matches their enormity"



Observing Pigeon Park



The front of Pigeon Park, as observed from Hastings Street. Tree planters and benches are popular social spots and there is a washroom facility which does not always appear to work (Google Streetview, 2018)

Pigeon Park is described by the Vancouver Parks board as a popular gathering place in the Downtown Eastside, sheltered by lacy leaves of surrounding trees in a historic part of the city located at the intersection of Hastings and Carroll. However, what sets Pigeon Park apart from other Vancouver parks is that it does not feel like a typical park. It is actually a small concrete plaza with some benches and trees rather than a grassy park for sports. Passing through Hastings, this park also stands out to me because it is frequented by a visibly different demographic in a low-income area. I intend to observe Pigeon Park through a neutral point of view where I put away prior preconceptions about this part of Hastings Street and its residents. My intention is to observe the users of the park as a participant observer, namely by becoming a park user myself for a few hours.

During my observation, I have a few questions in mind for Pigeon Park:

Which people are the primary users of this space and how frequently is it used by neighbouring students and office community?

Is this space also used as a lunch spot by neighbouring office workers or is it solely occupied by locals who are already familiar with each other?

How is this park perceived by outside pedestrian traffic?

Observation Highlights

Pigeon Park is a small triangular area with considerable foot traffic. I counted about two dozen people using the space. One side of the park was filled with bicycles and shopping carts covered with blankets. I did not want to intrude on their space so I sat down on a free bench facing Hastings. This was rather startling as a man in a rubber Halloween mask resembling a goblin stood in front of me. He seemed to be trying to fix a broken flashlight. I did not know why he was dressed up like that and he seemed to be on his own as nobody else was paying him much attention. I took out my pen and wrote notes through the course of the hour.

Much of the park smelled like cigarettes. The flow of traffic and people using the space changed throughout the hour. Men often stop to socialize on the corner, having conversations with men on bicycle. Pigeon Park is next to the new Vancouver Greenway project so people on bicycles passing through are now part of its immediate urban fabric. Elderly men and women were resting on benches, doing nothing in particular.

A man was washing his face in the park drinking fountain. He then continued to wash his shirt. I realized that this drinking fountain is used as a sink by some park users. After he washed his shirt he walked to his duffle-bag next to the road. He looked bothered and expressed his frustration out loud.

Pedestrians generally walk along the two sides of the park without crossing it. The ones who do walk through the park do so quickly. A tattooed face man sat on stone tree planter smoking and listening to music through earphones on a smartphone.

I heard someone yell "Come here, you punk!" and turned around, wondering if someone was addressing me. It turned out that the men socializing by the tree planter were greeting someone else they knew.

A balding man with large cup and shopping bags sat down beside me on the bench. He opened his bag and I saw at least one six pack can of beer. He faced me and introduced himself. "What are you doing, sociology?!" he inquired. Taken aback, I explained that I'm a university student in geography studying just a few blocks away. He pointed to a sign on an adjacent boarded up building saying "Conservation of the Historic Merchants Bank of Canada" and told me it is a century old. The conversation died down. He took a sip of beer, closed his eyes, and then appeared to nap.

In addition to being a living room of the Downtown Eastside, Pigeon Park is also an informal marketplace. Two elderly Asian ladies with backpack and carts walked around selling cigarettes by waving at potential customers. They did not acknowledge each other and worked in different parts of the park.

During my next observation session, I saw the same two ladies selling smokes and also recognized a few bearded men from last time.

A grey haired man approached me and offered to give me a prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. I said "okay" and he rested a hand on my shoulder to recite a passage for one minute, with many words that are inaudible or spoken too fast for me to hear. He did the same to others sitting on park benches.

The majority of Pigeon Park users were older men, although there were a few women.

An older woman on a wheelchair spoke fluent French to a man next to a bench. A younger tattooed woman showing skin, belly piercing arrived to socialize and seemed to be on friendly terms with at least two men. It was common to see people just sitting and people watching. Some pastimes included crossword puzzles, handling assorted objects, and general socializing. A man in leather jacket pulled a cart around with used hockey equipment.

The park has a diverse mix of characters; a man casually walked by with googly eyes apparently glued to his eyelids and a blonde male in his late teens crossed the sidewalk while shrieking and waving his arms around. I overheard a man chatting, mentioning that he once worked at an industrial park for \$35 an hour in trades. He showed knowledge of technology as he explained plasma torches, welding cylinders, and airplanes to his friend.

Before I left, an elderly man on bike asked me whether I knew about the fire at the Regent Building last night and he was concerned because he knew someone living there. I told him I didn't know and asked if there was damage, and he heard that the fire had been contained. Later I read on the news that there was indeed a fire at the Regent Hotel single-room occupancy building.

I did my final observation in the evening without taking a notebook. During the night, the park had bright streetlights and it was lively with just as many people as during the day. Police cars patrolled Hastings and an officer confiscated packs of cigarettes from a woman before letting her go. The neighbouring roles are evident as familiar faces from the daytime spend their leisure time here. Because of its location, there are high traffic relationships with minimal interactions. People walking from surrounding Gastown largely walk quickly by the park and it was clear that students, office employees from surrounding communities largely bypass this park and ignore it as a potential recreational site. However, for Downtown Eastside residents, they are comfortable treating Pigeon Park as their own recreational and resting spot, as I watched a woman play with a soccer ball by herself. Aside from recreational roles, provisional roles are seen in the cigarette ladies who solicit customers in public as well as police cars that patrol the streets as a way to provide security.

There are relations of stable propinquity and many of the observed individuals extend personal recognition to familiar faces. I observed many seniors and largely single individuals. However, for the most part household and family kinship roles are absent, although the neighbours who live close to each other may see each other as such as many residents are First Nations. In this space there is a complete absence of children and youth, as well as parents, although factors such as school time and proximity of family residences must be taken into account.

In conclusion, Pigeon Park is successful as a space that is widely used by Downtown Eastside residents, but it does not integrate well with the rest of the city. I felt self-conscious of the way I appeared as a student on the benches and was approached a few times. After the first observation, I made an effort to integrate myself visually by wearing a black hoodie rather than the purple polo shirt I had on initially. Before I spent time sitting here, there was some intimidation to using this park that is not used by the general public and absent from most city maps. Now that I am acquainted with this space a little more, I am fine with using Pigeon Park as a casual resting spot, although I can understand why others may not be as comfortable coming here. I watched carefully for signs of any outside interaction with park users and did not find any examples, aside from police officers and maintenance workers. However, upon leaving Pigeon Park, I saw students studying on laptops and well dressed individuals frequenting cafes and restaurants only a block away.

PREDICTIONS FOR THE 21st CENTURY

General Future Predictions

2024 Return to The Moon "By Any Means Necessary" at Conclusion of President Donald Trump's Administration

2025 Other Countries Establish Their Own Spaceforces

2030 Trump Spaceforce Commences Planning for Mars Astronaut Mission

2033 Slab Smartphones Viewed as Quaint and Old-Fashioned. New Communication Devices Will Be Smaller, Handsfree, and Attached onto Body

2035 Virtual Reality Lounges Will Be Commonplace. Internet Can Be Surfed via VR Headsets and You Can Join Friends Around The World By Walking On Virtual Streets

2040 Fuel Cell Self-Driving Cars Common in Canada

2045 First Permanent Space Hotels Constructed

2050 First Permanent Scientific Base on Moon

2055 First Space Tourist to Moon

2060 First Child Born in Space on Station

2065 More People Living Past 90 Can Expect to Be Healthy ("Walking and Talking with Good Vision and Hearing")

2070 English Becomes Minority Language Spoken in Canada. More Schools Focus on Mandarin, Punjabi, Arabic and People of European Descent Shift to Asian, Eastern Cultural Attitudes

2080 Beginnings of Lunar Colony



Metro Vancouver

2033 Lansdowne Mall Redeveloped into Richmond's New Town Centre

2035 Rapid Transit to UBC Completed in One Form or Another

2040 Major Earthquake Strikes Region

2045 Space Port Constructed in Metro Vancouver

2047 English minority language spoken at Home

2050 Rapid Transit Route to Seattle and Rest of Cascadia

2060 Central Richmond Preserved as Chinese Heritage District

CAPTION THESE IMAGES



STORIES WRITTEN BY AI

what stories will it write next?

Prompt sentence:

I finally got my new 12 inch Skyquest XT Dobsonian telescope! At least once a week, I drag it outside in the backyard to observe the night sky. I hope to see many new deep space objects and planets.

However, I do not expect to see anything completely new in the next 12 months as it has not been that long since I bought the telescope. So, I spent a couple weeks by myself considering the best way to get my new telescope setup, especially since I want to come back and upgrade my current telescope to a Skywatchers 8 inch Dob in a couple months, along with some other upgrades. I was researching various sources of lunar viewing and planetary observation, searching for suitable objects to search for on the moon and planets, and I went a little overboard. I found some very interesting material about two New Moon experiences, and started putting the pieces together.

That leads us to that bright patch of light on the sky on the afternoon of May 4, 2012, at 9:41 UTC. What was it? Was it a passing comet?

This comet, with a very long tail, would have been visible across the sky by the naked eye, especially before dawn on May 3. This was just two days before the Moon rose, which makes sense, because this planet was in the right hemisphere. As it grew larger, it would have become easier to see.

But the comet was not visible until after noon.

On April 15, 2012, the comet also appeared in our skies for the first time since November 2011, less than 3 years ago. Just like before, the comet had a much larger tail than before. It became even brighter in the sky and attracted lots of attention. It was indeed a great sight to see a comet once again. But we could not see the comet very well because it was scattered by cloud. Actually, the meteor was probably between 200 and 300 metres across, if not bigger.

"The fact that it was more than half a metre in diameter made it look really impressive."

It is clear from a number of Internet reports that TV pictures of the "comet" were taken from a hotel on the coast of the Canary Islands, about 1,600 kilometres from the comet's centre.

"There's no way they could have seen it as well as the next-door neighbour, because I didn't get enough light," co-author Dr Dominic Hart of the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research told BBC News.

"Their view is that it's normally quite dim in the Antarctic, and so it really doesn't match that light measurement, but it gives a strong argument that that light source is another planet."

Image copyright ALMA and M. Hart Image caption An image of M48, with a fraction of the telescope's field of view

The research team believes it has found the brightest star in the southern hemisphere - and possibly the whole of the southern hemisphere - for this time of year.

If it is indeed a different planet, this would be the first time we've detected a planet at this distance from its host star," Palomaki told Life's Little Mysteries. "It could also indicate there are a few more such planets out there."

Prompt:

I am travelling around the Hindi Belt in India and learning the Hindi language. "Bahot aacha! Bahot Mehenga hai!", I would utter before making a purchase at the marketplace.

"Bahot Mehenga hai?", the shopkeeper would chirp in perfect Hindi as I pay. He would be grateful to me, perhaps even smile and nod his head, making me feel good about myself. I would take a little note of that experience and carry it with me to others.

"Ischa bahot hai!" I would cry out again and again, and the delight on my face would melt into the smiles of my friends. In the morning, as I would walk to class, I would tell myself "Mustafa, Mayur"

No, we must be sane. No, we can't be crazy.

Mustafa, Mayur and I, we were the most quiet of people. We would only listen to music and watch TV for the barest fraction of the time. We loved our phone but were hesitant to answer it.

The policeman had a simple approach when interacting with us:

When you say "Dad," he would slap you in the face.

When you say "Girlfriend," he would slap you in the face.

When you say "I'm coming over, bye," he would slap you in the face.

Version 2:

I am travelling around the Hindi Belt in India and learning the Hindi language. "Bahot aacha! Bahot Mehenga hai!", I would utter before making a purchase at the marketplace. I had just purchased some vegetables, and in Hindi I repeated this slogan to myself. Eventually I reached the Shilananda Mata temple in our city of Bhilwara. I found a solution to a problem in Hindi that is unique to all people in the country. "Halaa kehte ho! Nahi hai!" and then began chanting the popular mantra in Hindi.

This is not the only time I have heard that I am different. Some women have told me that I look like the paintings of the Annadurga Shastra. Others have said they are not offended by the use of a sari by me. The problem for me is that I am not putting on a sari and wearing a sari. And what makes a woman wearing a sari look like an Annadurga Shastra painting? When I wore a sari during the most important of my visits, which was the time that I was traveling for my book, "The School of Life," I also presented myself to the public as an Annadurga Shastra, which happened at an exhibition in Mumbai at the Shekhar Vihar Police Station, where I found a woman who taught me the ins and outs of Annadurga.

THINGS HEARD BY A GROWING BEARD

Hmmm...you got a little something on your chin

I see you are going for that rugged look

How may I help you, sir?

You look like a real man now

You know, you can start shaving now

You are starting to look too old

How long has it been since you last shaved?

You just look dirty and unclean.
It's full of germs

You need to shave...this beard will get in the way of your future relationships and marriage

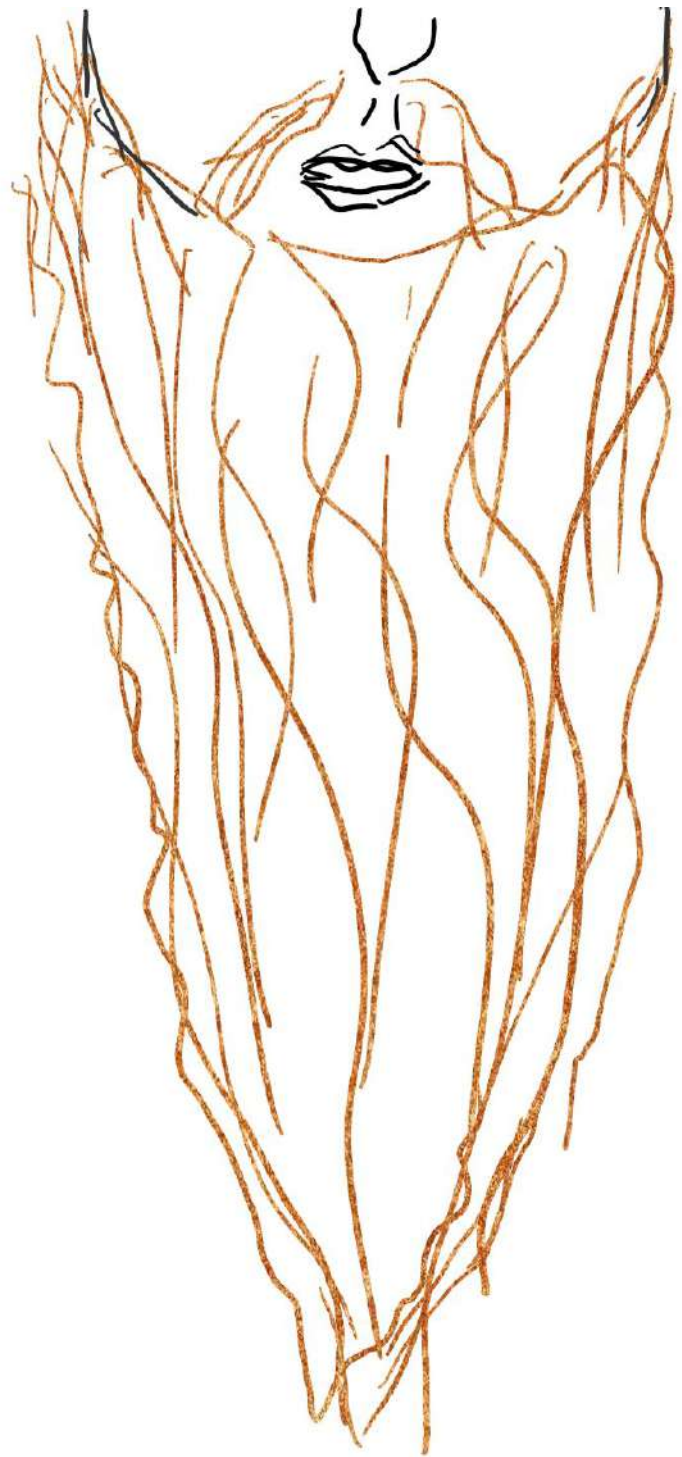
Your beard becomes the dominant topic everyday at the household meal table

Becoming intentionally excluded from group pictures

Can you please step out of this group photo? I don't like the way that you look so old in your photos

You are looking too old and no woman will ever like you now. Shave it

Being told that you need to have accomplished many things and to have reached a certain old age before you are allowed to have facial hair



Darwin? Lincoln?? They were old men and you haven't even accomplished anything yet so you shouldn't have a beard. Plus, you are an unmarried bachelor. They were already married with children so that was why they kept the beard since they didn't have to worry about attracting a wife. You, on the other hand...

You look like a Biblical character...Moses, is that you?

Look, I don't have any change for you, OK?

My Friend Jonny





Poetry of the Job Seeker

A Life on one Page - A Haiku

I update my cover letter

By changing the date

And eventually my age

Untitled Poem 1

I hunt jobs

Using myself as bait

And in a forest full of hunters

I prey

Untitled Poem 2

My paper planes don't fly far from Harbour Centre

Perhaps if I crumple them into a ball

And throw

Or would that be a waste of hope

SPECIAL TRAVEL OFFER:

Join PRESENT magazine on a trip to Washington DC in January 2021!

Contact us to book for special group rate.

Travel Dates: January 18 to January 23, 2021.
 Passport/US Visa required
 Subject to Change

