

THE MERCURIAN TIMES
JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE

ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2020

PARACOSM



The Good Life

Culmination of creative imagination

Cryptic Cross

*A puzzle soirée encompassing
Netflix and Commerce*

Evoon 2.0- A Glance

*A look into the second edition of
TMT's flagship event*



ABOUT US

The Mercurian Times is the official E-Newsletter of Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi. The Society was established in February 2015 and has since been acting as an omnipresent college media and social platform where perspectives get shaped into constructive ideas.

We, at The Mercurian Times, aspire to provide students with a budding platform to grow their potential beyond the college boundaries. Our objective is to develop the writing knack of our college's youth into constructive and influential pieces, with the predominant focus on bringing worldly expertise for our students.

In order to keep pace with our sustainable goal of creating influential writers and motivators, we conducted our first flagship event EVOON'18 in 2018, which was a confluence of bloggers and influencers. This set into motion our next event, TECHOCIAL, 'a Round Table Conference' as part of the International Conference, followed by EVOON 2.0 which included a variety of events. We also launched our very own website in September 2019.

We, at The Mercurian Times, are a family of determined individuals on a path delving into broadcasting people what they are at the core, thereby enabling them to lead their own journey ahead.

Since our inception, We aspire to, Stay Ahead and Beyond!

INERTIA

To all the endless cries I bear
To all the scars my soul tears
To all those moments that
raised my hopes
To all those dreams that saw
despair.
To all the love that I have lost
To all the bad that I have got.

Why Me?
Why Me?
Is what I ask
But who is to answer
The questions lasts!

The cruel past
The present, Unreal.
But who is to blame
When I am there?

Oh my Future, here you are!
Some time for me,
Where it's all clear.
My choice, my decisions, my
thoughts, my dreams-
All that I will now bear!
No more scars, no more cries
No more you, it's all now ME

A bigger world, a better stage.
No more faults, just a quick
pray

Now it's time,
For some exploring inside.

Away from this world
And the expectations it
thrives

To a life full high
Of hopes, of dreams, of love
and sweets!
To a place where it's me
And only ME

*From a girl who just
wants to be herself
Pranjal Bhandari*



VIRAGO

Confined to four walls,
Day in and Day out,
Asked for the freedom to shout,
Struggled for our right to vote.

Came the era of war,
Of suffering and calls for
sobriety,
Ditching our shrouds of vanity,
We fought without losing our
sanity.

Each of us are actors,
Sister to one, daughter to
another,
A guide to many and a pet
mother,
But work and party? How about
neither!

March for you, March for us.
March for today, March for
tomorrow.
We the restricted, We the
rejected,
We the unspoken, We the
women.

By
Cheryl Jolly



I want you to help us live

I'd like to believe that you can make us love again, make us believe in each other again. I want you to show us the ability to give without expecting anything in return, to fall deep in unconditional love, for anyone who can do this is a kind creature.. And I would like to believe there's still kindness within us.

I want you to make us feel whole again, be strong again, and show us how to hold our broken hearts together.

I want to see happy smiles all around me. I no longer want anyone to endure the feeling of acting and faking a smile to make it look like they're fine. I want euphoria.

I want to see intensity in feelings, this emptiness of emotions in our hearts causes loneliness that is destructive. I want change. Show us how to love ourselves, show us how to find our lost hopes and faith.

Things that happen in life are like a storm, and I'm done waiting for this storm to pass, I want us to learn to dance in this rain. That way, we won't just exist, we'll finally feel alive.

Onjang Shongzan

We are above humans, though we live beneath them.

I'm not a monster, I'm a messenger with a warning, though at times I stutter.

It's like a high when it feels like my lips are blocked by an invisible force shield, at the same time the fatigue is pinching my veins, I fall on my knees but I don't. I am just a hellhound lurking in my introspective, nostalgic element.

It's ecstasy.

Am I a villain or am I heroic? I do Satan's bidding for which I am dearly loved by him, and I love him.

We are above humans, though we live beneath them. Their feet shuffle and beat with rhythms of unrest and that is music to our ears. When their time comes and their business is left unfinished because God had not been kind with time, we offer them solace in a quiet sanctuary like ours, away from the noise of the confused relationship of human and God's.

You are welcome to join..

Onjang Shongzan

I REFUSE TO BORROW MY IDENTITY FROM THAT OF A MAN'S . I AM MUCH MORE THAN A HOMEMAKER.

BY HARSHITA SINGH

I am a Homemaker
seated on the pedestal of nobleness by the society ,
for I am the epitome of selflessness and altruism.

I am a homemaker
They call me someone's mother , daughter or wife
for my identity is reduced to just that,
and I ought not complain
for I am the effigy of grace, decency ,love and humbleness.

I am a homemaker,
dignity and pride of the family as they call it
but dare I say out loud what's on my mind,
for pride and dignity are to be reflective of silence and lowered eyes.

I am a homemaker
I slog day in and out ,to feed my family, to do their chores
yet I am dependant and indolent
for I just binge on daily soaps all day.
I am the woman they tell other girls to be,
shy,docile ,timid and obedient; all that makes the perfect bride.

I am a homemaker
but now I refuse to be the paradigm of the 'ideal naari'
I refuse to be someone's dignity,
I choose to be flawed ,imperfect and selfish
for I am just as human as you
I refuse to be humble and polite
for I believe in emerging victorious with voices to be heard clear and loud
And I refuse to borrow my identity from that of a man's,
for one day, I will narrate my story to the world that
I am much more than just a homemaker



The Hardship of Irreversibility

She left her family
 And went abroad
 As she found there a lucrative job
 Earning in dollars
 A millionaire she became
 Staying as busy as one could be
 To the phone calls from home she responded
 less
 With a dream in her eyes to have riches and success
 She worked day and night
 And finally decided to visit home on the Diwali night
 She reached there with the most expensive gifts she
 could find
 But there was something she realized
 Her parents were now old and fragile
 On seeing the gifts they didn't excite
 But at the sight of her face tears welled up in their
 eyes and those slender arms still hugged her tight
 At that instant only one thing popped in that girl's
 mind
 "All they needed was a little of my time..."

-Isha Saxena

La Vie

There's a void in my heart
 An emptiness that grows within me
 A pain which rips every inch of my body
 Layer by layer,
 Slowly and painfully.
 An absence of something in me,
 Which I don't know how to set free.
 For that's all I could see

I no longer craved love and affection,
 For I understood that with love, pain is
 complementary.
 Pain which destroys everything when it explodes,
 For which there is no medicine to cure.
 But such is life, as they say,
 A bittersweet symphony
 We laugh,
 We cry
 We love
 We survive,
 Such are the rules of the game
 We call life.

-Aarushi



JACKMA - THE KINGPIN OF BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

Be it a monarchy or a democracy, we need leaders to adjudge our minds and lead us to a streamlined direction. People are often questioned, "who is a leader?", "what type of leader do you want for your country?" and "why do you want him to be your leader?". Answer to all these questions would be just two Golden words "JACK MA". "Today, making money is very simple. But making sustainable money while being responsible to the society and improving the world is very difficult." These verses are the action path for Jack Ma, the co-founder and executive chairman of the Alibaba Group. He is a great business magnate, investor, motivator, leader, philanthropist and anything you name it, he has it. Jack Ma is not just another brilliant mind behind the Alibaba group but also a leader with Global intelligence. Despite being called "Crazy Ma", he is always keen on doing something or the other for the society. Contribution in form of equity to high schools or sanctioning a rationale amount for environmental cause have made him high in eyes of all emerging entrepreneurs. He inspires people more with his traits than only his business mindedness.

Jack Ma has been instrumental to the success of Alibaba right from the word go. That's why people around the globe are eager to follow in the wake of his stellar leadership qualities and discover the reason behind his thriving success. Even being one of the world's richest men, Jack Ma has not never allowed success to cloud his acknowledgement of where he came from or his vision for the future. His keys to success are motivating and true for anyone, be it the entrepreneur of the smallest businesses or an aspiring billionaire magnate. His humble beginnings and astronomical rise to the top is proof enough that there is a huge potential in the marketplace. He is a man with the most vital foresee one can have. Timely decisions have made Jack Ma a visionary leader.



He is more in news these days for his voluntary retirement. People keep on influencing him to not to leave asking him about future of Alibaba after him. But this great leader has one thing to say in this wake that never complain but look for opportunities on your way. He firmly believes that a leader ought to recruit people who possess skills many times more than him. This has helped him to build the most successful future empire across the world.

His ultimate believe is that the need is to have the right idea and execution coupled with hard work to reach the zenith. It is this zeal of his that, he is the world's most prominent motivator and influencer.



BITCOINS : VIRTUAL CURRENCY , REAL MONEY

BY VIPANSHA MEHTA

1 bitcoin=928817.94 INR, amused? Well the genesis of this cryptocurrency could be traced to 2009, with ambiguous origin alias Satoshi Nahamotu and this is how far it has travelled that too without any central banking or administration system. Not surprisingly, it is yet to be legalised in many parts of the world including India. Altcoins or better known as bitcoins were initiated as Peer-to-peer electronic cash system to facilitate instant payments. Bitcoins are released into circulation through a process known as bitcoin mining which involves solving a computationally difficult puzzle and earning bitcoins in exchange or simply buying them. Given that the current Bitcoin market is more volatile than a bag of plutonium nitrate, multi-explosive, sound seeking projectiles, one stands a very good chance to lose a lot of money. Through worldwide Wannacry ransomware attack in May 2017, hackers demanded ransoms in bitcoins, do we need something else to justify the potency of such cryptocurrencies? Such an upsurge in the demand and trade of bitcoins in recent years has attracted much attention from governments across globe and this has brought these cryptocurrencies under tax scanner. The need of the hour is to understand whether cryptocurrencies are going to revolutionise the way we perceive electronic trade or are they simply another risky electronic medium to lose hold of our money?



TRUDGING ONWARDS

BY SHAMBHAVI KALASH

Regardless of the trials and tribulations one faces in their lifetime, time paints a rather divine figure. The years ghost past your frame, memories slipping past your hands like sand, each granule holding a fragment of the times you were broken and healing, but running- never halting once, only going forward. You sense it before you see it coming, change. Life is an endless labyrinth, and change is that voice in your head, first a whisper, then a benediction, finally, a chant, urging you to "Go, go, go!" to walk the maddening path, down the hallways of life, only looking back to gaze at the trails of your soul down the nostalgic road, seeping colors bright and dark, painting a picture of haunted effulgence, alluring and vivid nevertheless. You halt and listen to your heart, beating and resonating like a tidal wave, there is hesitation underneath that thunderous beating as it stares at the expanse ahead of you, Aberrant, unknown, vast. But you're a warrior, captain of your own ship, master of your own destiny, and ships do not yield to rough waters. You do not yield to hardships.

And so you go on with the current of time.



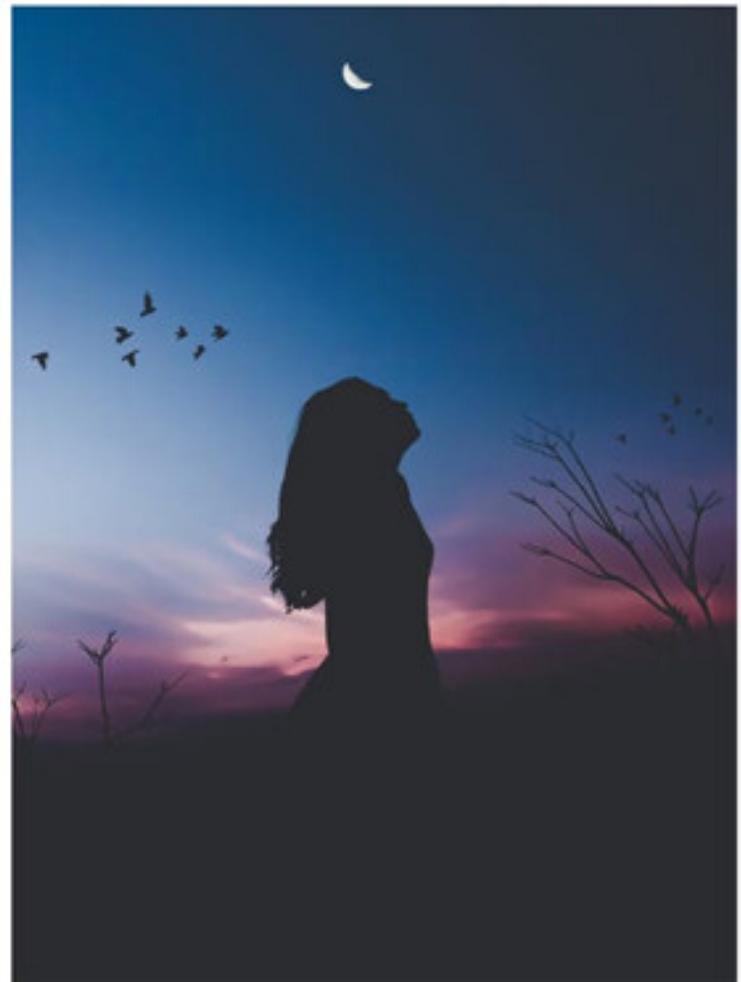
Abduction of Lives

As the explosions break the quiet,
 All chaos breaks loose, starting a riot.
 Then there's screams, shouts and gun-fire,
 As they demand what they require.
 Lies a body here, a body there.
 They're here to kill, no one to spare.
 People run and people hide,
 Do whatever to save their lives.
 Pets are huddled, children pulled close,
 As held at gun-point, people froze.
 This is how they work, spreading terror through
 the city,
 They're inhumane, destructive, all lacking pity.
 What a way to die, innocent blood being shed,
 Terrorists don't stop till everyone is dead.
 Why do they do this, is it fun?
 Merciless and guilt-free as they trigger the
 gun.
 These attacks are not as rare as they used to
 be,
 But who'll tell the criminals and make them
 see,
 Humans killing humans is just not done,
 Waving the white flag- the only way for the war
 to be won.
 ~ Nitya Babbr

Peace Amidst the Chaos

Amid the chaos in a city fuelled by a desire to push
 boundaries, one is solely defined by their hardwork.
 We strive so that one day it translates into something
 meaningful. A hope that becomes the essence of life trapped
 in the monotonous affairs of our days. A glint of hope in the
 ring of despair.
 No matter how chaotic this world looks right now,
 Close your eyes and feel the calm.
 Hear the sound of the wind that blows,
 And smile a little more when it blows through the curls of
 your hair.
 Hear the song of rain and all that it says about,
 How it fought with the clouds and came down
 But will get back up to them when it's all calm.
 Hear the birds chirp and what they say about the shining of
 the sun and the beautiful warmth it offers,
 Enough to comfort you on a cold day.
 Feel such things when you close your eyes,
 And when you open them,
 Remember what you heard and saw with your eyes closed.
 And it will make you realise,
 That the world is beautiful in every aspect.
 Even when the sun rises,
 And when it sets...

-Nishika Simon



Witnessing the stereotypical traditions:

The Convenience of Heteronormativity



They fall in love through eras.

He gifts her flowers, as he would have in the 3rd century, and reaches for the cheque, as he would have in the 1920s. He lays claim to her body, as dictated by the 1950s, and gets down on one knee to present a diamond-encrusted ring, sharp enough to cut and heavy enough to bind, in a move reminiscent of medieval times and beyond.

She wears skirts and saris to dates, because the 19th and 20th centuries said it was a crime to be clad otherwise, and some pockets of the world still do. Her education is a moth flitting aimlessly around the burning bulb of marriage and motherhood – dreams descended from the Post-Vedic Age.

They fall in love through familiar lines, etched in pragmatic stone. If you were a guy, would you bring me sunflowers? He wonders, silently, because some words are tinged with the promise of pain. If I got down on one knee, would you say yes? She wonders, silently, because silence is her domain.

It is the eternal convenience of heteronormativity – masculine and feminine, yin and yang, anima and animus.

The roots stretch back to circa time immemorial.

Compiled by
Riya Setiya



Beautiful Imperfections

Only if people could see
the beauty of
imperfections,
The beauty that comes
from within.
Which no mirror can
reflect.
The world is blindly
craving for a pretty face,
Only if it could
surrender to a pretty
heart
and experience the
power of it's charm.
Shackle the notions of
external beauty and
embrace the elegance of
inner beauty

By

Aarushi Bhutani



ANTHROPOCENE

Paradise in one hand
Hell in another
Therein lies a question
No, not a question- a statement

A statement that is angry
A statement that scares
Glowing like heated glass
Glaring at your nescience,
The cost of it all

In this dynamic society
Only time is constant
Recycled words and looped ideas
Run the world
Nothing is everything
And everything is nothing

In times of war
When the world burns
Be careful while fighting monsters
Lest you become one.

Shambhavi Kalash



BUSINESS LETTER TO LOVED ONES

Piled neatly
on the right of my bed
are the envelopes
for each unposted letter I write to you,
Having a tone fading into
monotony
probably defining an ironical battle between
you know whom.
Yet,
from the very ounce of my nerve cells
to the arteries I possess
I call only for victory and defeat for none.

I won't lie that I fear
for the symphony of the
'unknown address'
or
'coherence of an unexisting one'
stabs my soul deeper and deeper
as I witness the dawn alone
from where we stood together.
I have started sleeping
on the left confining to the margins,
my body unable to
unlearn the rituals of the letters.

Observing the Orion
from my widely opened windows
with a numbness
I've never felt before,
while embracing the drought of January
that spears my throat
sharper than any hoarse,
I try to unlearn
the sore
You left me with.
The sky keeps my eyes glued
detailing mysteries as
the day passes by
and I keenly observe
birdly creatures carrying
people here and there
as I wonder

Strangely,
on every Saturday twilight
I'm all ballsy,
Hoping to change,
rather erase
that fatal Sunday morning
As the deadly plane crash
made its way to my knowledge
crushing every string within me
like an earthen pot
slipped
from the fingers
innocently.

Carefully I draft the letter again
Trying to structure it
firm
pushing past the pain
of my index and thumb.
But the melancholy heart
brews the perpetual syllabary
"Please return"
On Mondays I think
how foolish of me,
Eyes drizzling
And the pile to the right
keeps on growing.

-Devyanshi Agarwal

WHEN BUSINESS MAKES YOU GO "WHATTTTT????"

Here are some crazy business facts you probably haven't heard about.



1

THE ORIGIN OF 'YAHOO'

A Yahoo doesn't come from the old bollywood song yahooooo!!!! Yahoo.com is an acronym for "Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle" Found by Jerry Yang and David Filo Yahoo is an American Multinational Company headquartered in Sunnyvale, California known for it's web portal search engine and other related services.

2

NO LONLINESS AT STARBUCKS

Starbucks doesn't want you to feel lonely :) The round tables at Starbucks are specially made circular because according to their research the customers feels less alone this way. Weird right?! But true. I think it is even working out. Might be coffee drives away loneliness too!

3

AN UNLIKELY PEACEMAKER

Apple's I-pad retina display is actually manufactured by Samsung. WOOAH! Despite being great competitors, the two big names in mobile industry still partner on this on feature. Samsung id the largest supplier for Apple's Retina display.

4

GOOGLE AKA BACKRUB

Google was initially named Backrub. Any day google is better. Imagine saying, "Just backrub it" instead of the famous all time solution to everything " Just google it!"

5

'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' IS COPYRIGHTED

Warner Music owns the copyrights to "happy birthday". Like seriously? Well yes you can backrub/google it. Technically it should earn royalties for every time you sing it to someone.



SRISHTI BABBAR



ARUSHI KOTHARI



ARUSHI KOTHARI



VRINDA GOYAL

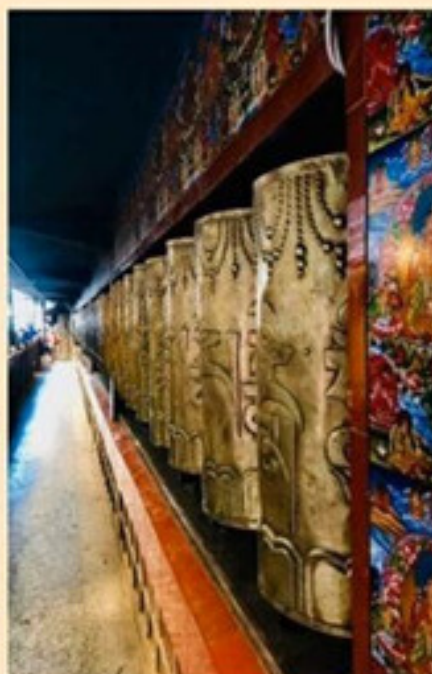
THE CREATIVE CANVAS



SHAMBHAVI KALASH



KAREENA OBEROI



VRINDA GOYAL



SHAMBHAVI KALASH

WHAT IS FEMINISM?

Feminism means the advocacy of women's rights for equality between the sexes. Feminism aims towards fighting gender stereotypes and to achieve gender equality. It has different ideologies and social and political movements. Feminist Movements have campaigned for women's rights to vote, to work, to earn equal wages, equal rights within a marriage and to protect women from rape and sexual harassment.

THE FOUR WAVES OF FEMINISM

The Feminist Movement has had four "waves" which dealt with different feminism issues prevalent at the time. The first wave was promoting women's right to vote in the 1800s and early 1900s. It also promoted equal rights in marriage, contracts and property. In UK in 1882, the Tender Years Doctrine was passed to give women custody rights of their children for the first time. The second wave wanted legal and social equality for women in the 1960s. Projects were aimed at integrating women into the workforce and to achieve Women's Liberation. The third wave continued from the second wave and focused on its failures and began in the 1990s. The fourth wave began around 2012 and is associated with the use of social media or technology. These include workplace harassment, rape culture and sexual assault.

THE #METOO MOVEMENT

The #MeToo Movement is a Movement against sexual harassment and sexual assault, especially in the workplace. It started in 2017 on social media. The hashtag started with a purpose for people to share their stories of sexual harassment and the hashtag went viral and even spread to different languages. This movement included both men and women. This helps the society to realise the "magnitude of the problem."

DIFFERENT FEMINIST VIEWS

"All men should be feminists. If men care about women's rights, the world will be a better place. We are better off when women are empowered." —John Legend

"I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat." —Rebecca West

"Just like charity begins at home, we have to start making change from our home and society. We need to work together to make this world a better place for women." — Smriti Irani, HRD Minister, India

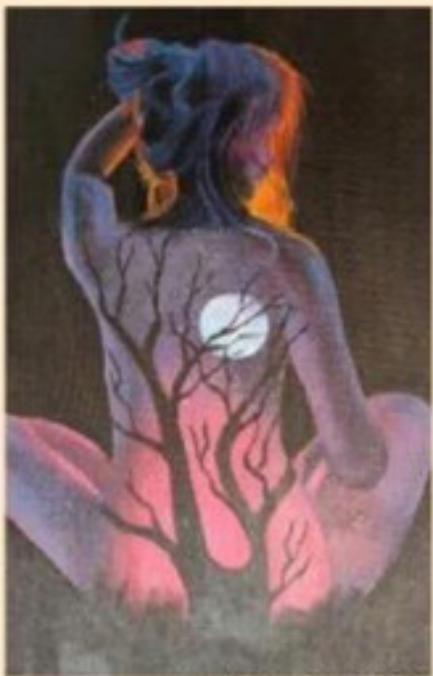
"A man told me that for a woman, I was very opinionated. I said, 'For a man, you're kind of ignorant.'" —Anne Hathaway

"When we empower girls hungry for education, we cultivate women who are emboldened to effect change within their communities and globally." — Meghan Markle

"I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat." —Rebecca West

"The most courageous act is to think for yourself. Aloud." —Coco Chanel

"It needs to be said and heard: It's okay to be who you are." —Hailee Steinfeld



KAREENA OBEROI



JAYA



ISHIKA JINDAL

THE CREATIVE CANVAS



JAYA



JAYA



KAREENA OBEROI



The phenomenal success of The Mercurian Times is a reflection of the ever increasing dedication and enthusiasm of the team as well as the continuing support and assistance that we have received from our principal and mentors. We owe our success to each and every one of you for your unconditional love and support. We shall always strive to stand true to everyone's expectations and act in the best possible manner.

Thanking you
TEAM MERCURIAN