

31st September '23

JDSOLA's Independent Student Publication

THE LIBERAL CANON



EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi there!

Welcome back to The Liberal Canon.

Personally, I have always felt September to be a very busy month. It's always full of presentations and due dates which isn't very charming, is it? This year, however, wasn't the same; this September was full of festivities or like most of ya'll would say, it was 'Gannu' season. I'm sure all of us have taken a break during this time, taken extensions on assignments and stuffed ourselves with modak while vibing to the dhols of visarjan. The multiple long weekends, to some extent, brought back my work-life balance which I had lost along the way in this hustle culture and realised that life goes on outside academic walls. We have normalised the rat race so much that we have forgotten how to take a step back and relax. Let's all try and take the coming months and their festive season to slow down and be unproductive for sometime without feeling guilty about it because like they say, 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy'.

In this edition of TLC, we bring to you pieces by Ridhina Arora, Aarya Sonik, Maithili Bachani, Meharpreet Gandhi and Drishita Coelho. We hope you take a break and get lost in the words of our writers and their pieces.

Have fun and Happy Reading.

♫ Do you remember... ♪

See you next month.

RIYAH AMIN



LETTERS TO/ABOUT
IMAGINARY PEOPLE

LETTER 2
(FEARS/SOCIAL
ANXIETY)



About Connor
A guy who knows all too well
his description will have depth like his soul

C O N N O R -
Growing heaps of dust
On the old shelves of books
Read once then
Left to sit amongst others
Only to be admired
Not adhered.

Search within those words
That silence leaves,
A void that wants to scream!
An expressional weary face
Had too much to take
Can you lend expressions?

This person was a work of art
Fading only to make
A masterpiece of chaotic beauty,
Like paint that smears on an empty canvas
Spreading in shades...

How do you give birth to fears?
Did your roots beseech such a combination
Of moss and lichen
To have been wild
Or have you just been low?

Counting your fears,
Jotting them down,
Sketching the idea
And piercing it on your heart;
Does it hurt enough to have bled?
Does every beating heart know?



How do you calm your heart,
When it is beating a thousand fears per second,
Will it ever run out of fuel?
How many hearts do other beings have?
Do all their hearts race too?

The books on those shelves,
Afraid of things they'd be called
Or written about.
Neither had lives seen the turmoil;

Big balloon afloat,
Taking in all he can.
Letting it lift him.
But on some days he gets overwhelmed.

Known plenty of languages,
But he cries in jargons that constantly yell.

At the edge of feeling is falling,
Falling deep into multitudes of reality.

-MEHARPREET GANDHI



THE KAPOORS *vs* Instagram

To hold and to cherish. In sickness and in health. Through hell and back. For seven lifetimes.
Endlessly and forever. Until you're being told to wipe your lipstick off I guess.

If you aren't living under a rock then you've definitely heard of the controversies revolving around the married life of box-office reigners; Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor. From rumors of trouble in paradise to bashful takes on the "early wedding gift" for a baby, the two have been feeding the gossip train ever since they tied the knot. But the most recurring "juice" has always been Alia Bhatt's comments about her then boyfriend, now husband and the public has been devouring all that they can find. In multiple interviews Alia Bhatt shared anecdotes of her married life which has raised several questions in the audience's mind. Alia has shared instances of Ranbir Kapoor's behavior that were perceived, unanimously, by bollywood buffs as a 'cry for help'. In a video with the internationally renowned fashion magazine, Vogue, Alia Bhatt mentioned that her husband would continually ask her to 'wipe off' her lipstick when they went out on dates for the reason that he loved her natural lip color much more. In another interview, she mentioned that she maintains a certain decibel of volume while talking to Ranbir, as he believes that it is important to be a source of kindness even in a challenging situation. Multiple other such anecdotal experiences of the actress have led the audiences to immediately concur the marriage to be an endless game of coercion and dominance.

When we look at the way media consumers have reacted to these incidents, it becomes obvious that it is a case of sensationalism. If a few inferences could be drawn from this, it would be these:

A frown is better welcomed than a smile!

A marriage, giving birth to an infant, being the face of Bollywood's annual blockbusters and now a National Awardee, Alia Bhatt's life is every girl's dream. As someone who seems to be excelling in every area of her life, it is the law of human nature to attract critics and nazar from not just contemporaries in the same industry as her but also the viewers who believe in combined failure rather than the success of the deserving. In today's world of social media and the constant comparative narrations it injects in the viewer's head, insecurity and lack of self worth has instilled a sense of bitterness and pessimism among the people, which manifests itself as hatred for others. The speculations around Alia Bhatt's marriage, placates the public that their mediocrity isn't a real dilemma.



Feminism can be conditional

If the community aims to dismantle conventional expectations from women, it is then also your rightful duty to protect the reputation and reiterate the strength of females that are doing exactly what is required to change the traditional roles attributed to women. Instead of taking a constant swing at Ranbir Kapoor, dismantling his actions, trying to read between lines that do not exist and making Alia Bhat seem like a helpless, damsel who is nothing more than an abiding wife, feminists on the internet should be respecting the choices made by another woman and celebrating her for the positives that are also as easily available on the internet as rumors.

The internet is as real as a leprechaun

They might seem like harmless little sources of naive entertainment, but reels, short form videos and clips out of context are capable of manipulating and digressing narratives to the extent where a person can become a social criminal overnight! From political leaders, to large-scale influencers, none can be saved from the wrath of malicious editing followed by misread interpretations of expressions and actions. Instead of being unassuming and watching a video for what it might be, people prefer to leave their personal takes on all things public and/or televised. Isn't it exhausting to think for so many?

But let's not forget that rumors and assumptions stem from behavior patterns. One might be able to attribute this scrutiny to the history of the Indian film industry and its publicly paraded employees. Actors and actresses have been known for their frivolous lifestyles. Instances of celebrities being unfaithful in their marriages, having numerous romances and being power/publicity hungry aren't new. Alia's beau can be speculated under the same lens and maybe then the questioning of his character wouldn't seem so out of reach. Regardless, you cannot assume a mirage to be water just because it reflects the light of the sun. Just because their marriage might come off as a publicity stunt, it doesn't necessarily have to be one, and neither should the birth of a child be undermined as a meagre unwanted fallacy. After all, you'd be filled with rage if you were made to withstand a percent of the hate that public figures experience on a daily basis. The excruciating experience would only lead to your lipstick being out of sight and your anger making your decibels reach new heights.

In the end, all you can do is remember the biblical saying; Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!

-AARYA SONIK



"God, it's brutal out here": Angst in Olivia Rodrigo's Music

The transition from “good for you, you look happy and healthy” (good 4 u) to “I hope you’re happy, but don’t be happier” (happier), is classic Olivia Rodrigo. This spectrum of emotion is a complete 180 but has one recurring theme: angst

Angsty might as well be her middle name, Olivia Angsty Rodrigo if you will, okay, that was bad. Moving on, if you’ve been living under a rock and don’t know who Miss Rodrigo is, let me catch you up.

Olivia Rodrigo is a pop singer and songwriter, who slightly dabbles in rock and indie. She won 3 Grammys for her debut album ‘Sour’, which was critically and commercially very well received. She recently released her sophomore album ‘Guts’, two years after her debut album and people are just as excited to have her back, her album has been topping the charts since the minute it was released.

But I’m not going to talk about her undeniable pop success, I want to explore an element in her music that makes it truly her music, which is as mentioned previously, Angst. So, what is angst? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, it is to feel or express anxiety, apprehension.

Angst is a relatively difficult emotion to portray, spilling your truest subconscious feelings in the rawest form ever. Olivia’s music is the exact definition of anxiety and hurt all mixed up in a song, it’s known for its gut-wrenching lyrics.

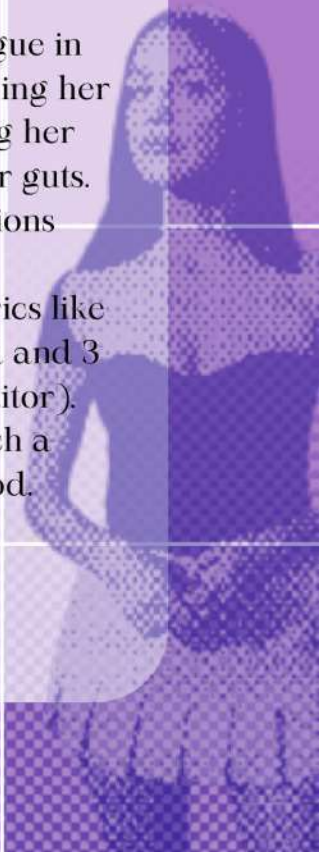
‘Sour’ and ‘Guts’, the titles themselves scream angst and slightly tongue in cheek, classic Olivia. Sour’s album cover is presented with Olivia sticking her tongue out, hating the taste of love and life; and ‘Guts’ has her biting her half-chipped nails, basically holding on to her words yet, spilling her guts.

The titles shape the genre of music very well and add to the emotions displayed.

She has a unique flair to portray a teenage toxic relationship with lyrics like “I’d leave you but the rollercoasters all I’ve ever had” (1 step forward and 3 steps back) or “guess you didn’t cheat, but you’re still a traitor” (traitor).

The thing about anxiety is, it can hardly ever be explained. It’s such a complicated emotion that it is usually left unsaid or misunderstood.

**BAD IDEA
RIGHT?**





Imagine having feelings that you couldn't possibly translate into legible sentences and then listening to Olivia's heartbreaking poetry-like lyrics. Olivia Rodrigo has not only successfully captured angst, but also made it commercial. She is an unabashed hit for all age-groups, be it 10-year-olds or 40-year-olds, despite her music only revolving around a very concentrated phase of life: teenage years.

To be fair, our teen years are as angst-ridden as they come. That's the only time it's acceptable to say "I'm not cool and I'm not smart and I can't even parallel park" (brutal). This reaffirms the fact that, even though angst is not the most expressive emotion, it still stands to be the most relatable and appealing. Angst is explored beautifully through her music because of the plain fact that her perspective isn't wide but it's very concentrated and highly introspective. The songs are never about anyone, instead they're about what she saw in that someone and what she felt. This compressed lens can cause the rawest emotion to find itself in a song seamlessly.

The exploration of angst doesn't stop at music, it continues in the music videos too. Olivia primarily works with Petra Collins, who is known for the rawest portrayal of female rage and angst. Whether it's a room lit on fire while Olivia has a breakdown (good 4 u) or her running aimlessly on the freeway while bleeding (vampire), the feeling of apprehension and uneasiness is always felt. The sheer exaggeration of the most normalized things adds that extra "umph" that we all deserve. A socially awkward person hearing "each day that I'm alive, it's social suicide", will feel the lyrics right at the heart. From "I despise my jealous eyes and how hard they fell for you" (lacy) to "For some weird second string, loser who's not worth mentioning, my God, love's embarrassing as hell" (love is embarrassing). Miss Rodrigo's songs encapsulates teenage years, heartbreak and most importantly, angsty catharsis.

Top 5 Angsty Olivia Songs:

1. Brutal (Sour)
2. Ballad of a homeschooled girl (Guts)
3. Jealousy Jealousy (Sour)
4. All-American Bitch (Guts)
5. Drivers License (Sour)

~Maithili



SIRF EK MULK KA NAAM SUNAI DETA HAI- INDIA

Do these words hold any truth today or are they just money-making lines by SRK?

One article recently reported -“A student at a school in UP was slapped by peers on teacher's orders”

And a hundred others did - “A Muslim student at a school in UP was slapped by peers on teacher's orders”

That extra word in fact changed the crux of the whole information. Yes, I am referring to the viral video that made rounds where a teacher was seen asking students to slap one of their classmates at Neha Public School in Uttar Pradesh. Disturbing as it is, it is not the first time something like this has happened in India, and surely not the last. The speed at which we all notice the difference in the news reported and understand the meaning behind shows just how deep this issue is ingrained in us.

This idea of secularism we sell to each other often falls short because communal violence and differences have prevailed since decades ago in India. It is what doesn't let us live in peace and harmony. But we keep running away from it in the hope that it's not as real and maybe if we ignore it enough, it shall pass (Spoiler alert- it won't.)

Communal violence or the lack of tolerance of other religious ethnicities is problematic at its core, it aims to give rise to one community while actively oppressing the other and it goes against everything India claims to be in its constitution.

But why does it happen?

Well, there are a couple of reasons that give rise to this- Media and social media being at the center of it. News is one of the easiest ways to reach the masses and feed them an idea that needs to be spread. All it takes is a few news channels to report that one community is supposedly marginalized for that community to then act out and seek their rights, even if that information is not true. It births this sense of threat in people and when that happens, everyone runs to save what is theirs. It is the fear of the majority eating up the minority and this manifests particularly in the form of Hindu-Muslim conflict. The age-old rivalry to emerge on top.

Muslims feel India is gradually inclining towards becoming a Hindu nation (Hindutva), which puts their national identity at risk of being stripped off where they may no longer be considered Indian. And this is rightfully troubling to those who are citizens of India under different religions. This is their home that is experiencing turbulence. The whole issue gets further aggravated when political parties get involved and push an agenda in terms of their governance and who they support implicitly. The state that therefore claims to be equal for all no longer stays so equal. A lot of biases and prejudices reside in people and they start acting on it, from their hate and more specifically their fear.

It leads to terrible inhumane incidents that violate human rights, social well-being, and balance. It weakens the foundation of a nation and spreads this bitterness amongst even next-door neighbors, nobody can trust each other and it creates an environment of hostility. This is not going to stop till the atmosphere of the nation feels safer- where one community is not favored over the other, where the government does not intervene with its personal propaganda and we are all allowed to exercise our religious rights.

Alas, that's a dream but only then will SRKs dialogue still give us goosebumps, otherwise they are superficial words aimed at a fantasy of India.

-Ridhina Arora



HOW TO BE HUMAN A GUIDE

Given below are ten simple but effective steps towards becoming a sufficiently functional, emotionally fixed, and socially secured human.

1

1. Human honestly feels like a portmanteau to me. A blend of the two most valued words - humble and man/woman. Thus, in order to build a human or become one - Start off by adding dollops of humility into a calcium vessel beautifully blanketed by skin. A very significant aspect of being humble is to judge no one. It is always easier to make an assumption, but extremely difficult to dissolve an assumption that has been made about you.

2

2. This calcium vessel is really fragile and you ought to ensure it does not crackle into tiny pieces during this entire process called 'life.' In order to toughen this vessel, layer it with this new and beneficial oil out in the market - it goes by the name 'mental stability'. Add a good thick layer and protect the vessel from falling apart.

3

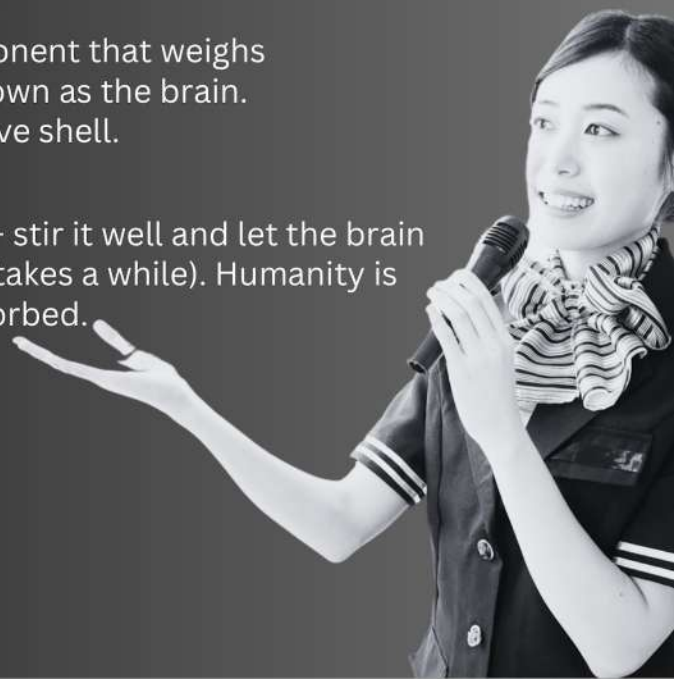
3. Pour in a cup of toughness, half a cup of awareness, five spoons of honesty, four spoons of emotions, three of kindness, two of vulnerability and add in a drop of ego.

4

4. Add in the most complex component that weighs around three pounds, it is also known as the brain. Secure it well in its tough protective shell.

5

5. Now that you have added it all - stir it well and let the brain absorb all of this nicely (even if it takes a while). Humanity is best served when valued and absorbed.



6. Okay, I forgot to ask you to add a good cup of trust to this mixture – if you achieve this in the right proportion, you are already halfway there! Trust holds lots of power and being trustworthy makes you powerful in all the right ways.

7. You can now add the muscular organ that is about the size of your fist and plays a major role in your survival, it is termed as 'the heart.' But before you add the same, peel off all the insecurities and self-loathing it has to offer and then squeeze in all the love and affection for best results and functional development.

8. After all this settling, and mixing and making you have undoubtedly sprinkled in some patience and chunks of effort and it shows.

9. Add in humor - a pinch of it or whatever amount that works best for you.

10. And now that you have reached step ten make sure you grab all your ingredients no matter how long it takes to do so, because it has so much to offer in the end. Here is where you are ready to become human. Feel proud of it and if this recipe sounds like a disaster to you don't worry, you will find so many pricks and gas-lighters who want to take control over you and want to build you themselves or shape you using a cookie cutter, all they are waiting for – is to make your bubble of ego inflate. The moment when they fill in some robotic-helium in you.

-DRISHITA COELHO

6

7

8

9

10



JD16 Loves

<p>Insta <i>page</i></p> <p>@madetoplan</p>	<p>Bored <i>games</i></p> <p>Tanuki Sunset</p>	<p>Take <i>out</i></p> <p>Tanjore Tiffin Room</p>	<p>Online <i>shops</i></p> <p>Styched.in</p>
<p>Movie</p> <p>Jawan</p>	<p>Apps</p> <p>UNiDAYS</p>	<p>Podcast the Ranveer show</p>	<p>Games</p> <p>Monopoly Deal</p>
<p>TV <i>show</i></p> <p>Sex Ed</p>	<p>Workouts</p> <p>Calisthenics</p>	<p>Destination</p> <p>Kolad, Maharashtra</p>	<p>Sneakers</p> <p>Converse</p> <p>Run Star Hike</p>
<p>Book</p> <p>101 essays that will change the way you think</p>	<p>Art</p> <p>"Girl Before A Mirror" Pablo Picasso</p>	<p>Online <i>course</i></p> <p>Coursera Financial Markets (Yale Uni)</p>	<p>Mental <i>well-being</i></p> <p>The MINDS Foundation</p>

Games

EASY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across:

2. A feline furry animal
4. The ability to understand and share the feelings of another
5. A small brown bird known for chirping

Down:

1. A large, four-legged animal that is often used for transportation
3. Existing or available in large quantities

	1	8			2	3		4
		3	5					
5	2	4	8	9				
1		5		7		4		6
		7				9		
2		9		4		5		8
				8	9	6	4	3
					7	2		
3		1	6			7	8	



MEET THE TEAM

Editor in Chief: Riyah Amin

D

DESIGN

Sini Shrivastava (HoD)
Jasmine Kharbanda (Dep Hod)
Daivya Vakharia
Harsh Jain
Harshita Rathi
Kanishka Gandhi
Shreya Kogekar
Saanvie Verma

P R

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Resham Natt (HoD)
Anannya Jain
Diya Shah
Jasneet Kohli
Kalika Mehta
Khushi Jain
Nandan Sawant
Saanvie Verma
Shruti Gupta
Srishti Kohli
Himangi Pandey
Hrishti Mavani
Hrishita Khurpe

E

EDITORIAL



Shriya Krishnan (HoD)
Maithili Bachani
Kreasha Dedhia
Ridhina Arora
Aarya Sonik
Aditi Mandrekar
Charukeshi Waikar
Drishita Coelho
Ketaki Deshpande
Meharpreet Gandhi
Saniya Kolwalkar
Sara Vaknalli
Syeda Kulsoom Jafri
Vera Malavia
Vidushi Lal

M

MANAGEMENT

Myra Barua (HoD)
Mehek Raval
Tisha Chhabra





DISCLAIMER

All the content in The Liberal Canon is displayed with the utmost respect for all beliefs and opinions and is not meant to offend or hurt anyone.

theliberalcanon@gmail.com
medium.com/@theliberalcanon

