WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

I Miss Being A Child

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1. THE CHILDHOOD TV SHOWS

Sometimes, when I think of my kindergarten days and TV programmes I used to watch makes me believe that life was better in the past. The days when I used to wait whole day for the final bell to ring . Watching my favourite cartoon while having my food after coming back from school. Waking up early in the morning to watch Takeshi's castle. Cheering up on Shaktimaan's spin. Dreaming of having a magical pocket like Doraemon and answering Dora's silly questions. Laughing uncontrollably on Tom & Jerry who fights whole day and become friends in the end .

I miss being a child. I miss Javed Jaffery making me laugh uproariously during Takeshi's castle. I miss getting scolded by my father for watching cartoons whole day in the weekends.

Sitting on my balcony in the evening with a cup of tea in the hind.

-This is when I realise , Life was better in the past . I miss being a child.



2. FAMILY PICNIC

As a child, going to a family picnic was a different episode you could remember. You'd say to river but your mother would say to the valley and finally your father would say "Okay, let's go to the river".

The flow of happiness amongst the family member was at its peak while preparing for the picnic. You start your journey to the picnic spot early in the morning, you collect all the things needed for playing games like football, cricket, badminton etc. You help your mother in washing and cutting the vegetables. Then your mother would play a boring classical song in the loudspeaker, you get bored by the song and ask her to change.

Your uncle would bring lots of snacks, you'd jump to him, snatch all the snacks and share it to everybody. You play and dance whole day with your siblings, get tired in the end and go to a distance to get photographs. You take family pictures and give all those awkward solo poses on your camera. You all return back to the spot after making your gallery full of pictures. Then you start deleting your

sibling's solo pictures without letting them know. The food gets cooked and you literally attack it like a hungry animal. It's almost dark and you all leave for home, you come back home with either a tan or a cold.

In the evening, all the family members would sit surrounding the kitchen hearth, share the picnic photographs in the what's app family groups and have a lethargic sleep in the night.

But you've grown up now. You've forgotten about the last family trip you took. Until you open your cupboard and check that old album full of old photographs.



3. GLOOMY SUNDAY

What can be worse than a sunday getting wasted . Just imagine you had your terminal exam a whole week and you had a plan with your friends on Sunday . But then you hear Mr. Paul (Maths teacher) is taking three hours of extra class on Sunday . Yeah , nothing can be worse than this. You go to school with your dejected look , starts complaing him for wasting your Sunday and your plan and when you reach home you start yelling at your parents . Don't you ?

" Just one Sunday is wasted . Okay , nevermind " But imagine, your school starts taking extra classes on every Sunday till your final exam . You would cry like a small kid . While you look at your video games you would look down and think you both are going to live a long distance relationship from now on . On Saturday night , when you wake a little longer, you mom tells you to sleep and you replies " Mom , tomorrow is Sun— " mom laughs at you and tells you to sleep. Setting your alarm even for Sunday while you make your face as long as a fiddle is something we all could relate. We're grown up now, it doesn't that matter if we have to work on sundays as well but just look at your flashbacks and try to remember those days. When you had to lock up your bicycle even on sundays. When you had to cancel your trip and had to cancel going to Cinemas .

These are some things that never change . No matter at which stage or position we are in . —Nobody loves working on Sundays .



4. BEING THE ELDEST

If you are the eldest one of your family or the oldest one among your siblings you have many responsibilities when it comes to your family. You have many roles you need to fulfill and the jobs you need to undertake. Being the eldest one, you get the bigger rooms, more freedom. The blames are always on you when your younger one makes mistake or donot get good grades. You start dominating them by doing all the crazy stuffs like "You were picked from the dustbin" and the younger one starts crying ,complains to your mother and you get scolded by her. The day comes when your parents make you the in-charge when they aren't home, you dominate them using your full power of the day.

After all, you are the older one and your parents trust you more. You could remember you would fight for the stupidest things like fight for TV remote, your brother would like to watch cartoons but you snatch the remote and change the TV channel. You never know when they leak your secrets, they leave no stone unturned to make the most out of situation. They reveal your secret to your parents to become the better kid or keep blackmailing you , make you write their homeworks , science projects or buy them chocolates.

But the bond between you and your sibling is priceless. They know how to brighten up your mood when you are felling low. They would fight with the whole world, no matter how much fight records you both have made. The relationship between the siblings is always the irreplaceable one.



5. MY FIRST EVER CELLPHONE

Yesterday , I found my first ever cell phone while cleaning my drawer . It was Samsung Galaxy JI 2015 with super amolad and 5 mega pixel camera . My father didn't provide me this phone because I scored 100 in maths but Because I didn't eat for two days . The first time I asked my father for a cell phone , he looked at me like I was pregnant before marriage . He didn't need to say no , his look had already given me the answer .

I was disappointed but continued to beg for weeks , either way they finally told me that I would get a cell phone . Of course I thought I was so cool being the only kid with a cell phone in my society . I thought I could impress Priya with this cellphone by giving her my number , telling "You take my number and call me if you want something".

I was in my sixth and of course the mobile phones were not allowed inside the school campus . The kids who were allowed to bring in , were the kids who had an after school job or who used to live far and were picked up by their parents . And those conditions were definitely not in my case . They used to show off their phones infront of other Students and were called "Cool Guys" by them . I told everyone that my father bought me a phone but nobody had believed me . So , took my phone inside the school next day without letting my mother know . While taking out my cell phone from the "thief's pocket" of my bag , the guy with whom I had a fight three days ago saw me taking out something from my bag . He found it lustrous and started doubting for something fishy . I hid it und-

er the books and never took the phone inside the school again .

I had no connection with the other applications except Angry Birds: Space and Phone's camera. I learnt about You Tube when I had "Fight for Remote" session after school with my younger brother. For which we used to go everyday. Unknowingly tapped on You Tube and found Doraemon on screen. Spent hours on watching Doraemon and making my brother jaelous that day. I cried when my phone got a small scratch and spent hours on cursing myself. My phone's battery was replaced two times in two years and display screen was taken out three times. After two years it stopped working and was thrown inside the drawer for nothing. Living in 2022 I dream of living back in 2016 again. The joyous of getting a phone cannot be understood until you are a kid.

 may be your phone is also stucked somewhere and voicing for reuse .



6. LEAVING YOUR CITY

Leaving your city is like leaving a part of your child-hood behind . You leave behind your "Home Sweet Home " . You leave behind the scribbles you once made on the walls and the tables of your room . You leave behind the perfect spot to hide your pocket money from your siblings to buy late night snacks and have it secretly when everyone sleeps . You leave behind your next-door neighbours who looked after you when your parents were out of station. Who saved you many times while your father was running behind you with a stick in his hand .

You leave behind your wonderful terrace point where you used to go and see sun setting down in the evening . You leave behind your brotherly friends with whom you used to bunk your schools and sit at the bank of the river with some masala chips and pepsis . The most downhearted part starts when you realise you are never going to hear those roaring sound of the uncompromising homeroom teacher of your school . You let go the smell of your school canteen where you ate rupees ten samosa and sipping a pepsi . You let go the cricket ground where you made your first century .

After a couple of days . When you just walk around your new environment in the evening , enjoying the windy weather with a pair of earphone on and a mellifluous music . You suddenly cry . You cry because you miss your city a lot and the memories you have made to be cherished .



7. ENDING UP WITH FRIENDS

We all have heard the math about healing a romantic breakup but what about the math for a broken friendship?

The ending of a friendship hurts me the most . The silently walking out of people from my life and me wondering , if I did enough to hold onto them . When I look back - the reasons are completely blank from my side . My friendships have been my haven where I felt I could go when nothing felt right in the world . I've never worried if I am going to suddenly end up on the outskirts of their feeling .

It then happens . My school bench partner who made a space for my bag , haven't spoken to me for decades but still standing beside me in that old and dusty class photograph in my drawer . The one who picked me to distribute chocolates on his birthday , still haven't replied my "Happy Birthday " text wishes . The friend , I spent after-hours sitting at the bank of the river promising to stay in touch , hit " unfollow " on instagram.

These endings are like reminders of change . The conversations get fewer and shorter , only texts you on your Birthdays and sometimes even leave your messages on " seen " . It is awkward since you and your best friend had a fight because you both liked the same person . You can't message him because you both had started the friendship on the same date and broke up on a sour note . Then you come across the photos , the gifts and the archived messages that only remained a memory makes you pause and think - Friendships cause heartbreaks too.



8. LIVING ALONE

Something which was not possible in the past . And now you afford to make the choice to live alone . Where your definition of a bucket list is very different and also your bucket list is in fact longer . All while , somewhere at the middle of your list there is - that long vacation at your home

You would remember as a child how you would ask your parents for permission before leaving the house . And now you just say " I am going " and cut the conversation . When you live alone , you learn to take care of yourself and not depend on others to do things for you . You learn how to stand up for yourself and fight back . You suddenly have to act mature instead of acting your actual age . All because something changed your life .

You would check how much you are spending when your friends drag you for shopping just because you won't need to ask for more money . It starts with brooming in the morning and ends with a phone call with your mother in the night . You would ask your mother all those nonsense things just to make the conversation longer . Like , what goes earlier , the masalas or the veggies ?

Living alone is also the fact that you learn independence but when you reach home in the evening , cook for yourself , eat it alone and sleep alone . The silence says when you live alone you are actually alone .



9. THE THINGS I WANT TO REPEAT

There are things I want to repeat:

I . when it's my friend's birthday and he would pick me to distribute chocolates with him across school .

 $_{\rm 2}$. Go home tired after playing for hours and gulp down an entire glass of rasna (juice).

 ${\bf 3}$. Sit in the AC computer class and secretly check if there are any games on computer .

4 . Successfully mass bunk a lecture and end up at nearby theatre .
5 . Play my favourite cartoon and watch it on repeat . Go to the terrace and watch horizon .

Happily ever after: one

Simple things hold grave meaning when they are from childhood . The days were free of complexities and full of innocence .

Happily ever after: two

Life teaches you to be happy . Sometimes , it may let you wait and sometime , it gives you the whole package of happiness .

Happily ever after: three

It is indeed true that life and train journeys are alike. Each of us has our own destinations, the train of life stops at particular stations, there are changes in routes, and there are accidents as well. 'Life Is Like A Journey On A Train' very beautifully portrays the concept of life being similar to a train journey with its fixed destinations, routes, and reservations.

Further, "There's always a light at the end of the tunnel. Actually I think that's a train" and "There should be a Facebook relationship status for 'impending train wreck'" to make you giggle.

Happily ever after: four

It's time to forget all those emotions , spit out the conditions , rearrange your life , listen only to your heart and do for yourself .

Happily ever after: six

" Nothing " , can make you smart .

Happily ever after: five

In future , everything we need is our past . So , never forget your past .

Happily ever after: seven

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{EODs}}$ not only brings you memories but also divination and prophecy . Only the chai and the music should be sitting beside you .

Happily ever after : thank you

Thank you