



Chatting Means Never Having to Say Goodbye

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



One thing good about hospitalization is that you don't have to indulge in critical work, critical reading or critical thinking. During the two-week stay as a paying guest of doctors and nurses, I completely immersed myself in the wacky world of social media. I usually use social media for TheThinkClub related activities only. For the first time, I was truly exposed to the absurd and bizarre world of insanity. Overall, it was a good diversion away from solemnity and sublimity.

For example, I came to know from chats on WhatsApp that a brawl is brewing in India

over a dog biting a cow. We all know that cows are holy to the Hindus, but the dog was suspected to be a Muslim. There are arguments going on to determine the religion of that dog.

An animal rights advocate posted, "We can't assign religion to dogs. Dogs have always been secular."

"No sir, this dog belonged to a Kashmiri Muslim. Therefore, the dog definitely is a Muslim and it should be put to death," countered a Hindu zealot.

The Muslims are in arms ready to retaliate, should the Hindu mobs kill the Muslim dog.

I also found that people take selfies for no obvious reasons. We're deep in the thick of the selfie movement, and you now need no reason to post one on social media. Out for dinner? Take a selfie. Bought a new dress? Share it in a selfie. Cat sleeping on your shoulder? Selfie! It doesn't matter what you're doing. You can almost always take a selfie and post it to annoy folks who just happen to mind their own business.

Ever since Facebook introduced the Like button, almost every other major social networking site and app has tried to implement the same idea into its own platform. On Twitter, it's the favorite button. On Tumblr and Instagram, it's the heart button. People determine the worth of their life by the number of Likes they receive.

I also spent a lot of time on Twitter. I find amusing that someone says something about someone and Twitter immediately gets inflamed with angry responses.

Someone called @chrisbrown wrote: "HAPPY VALENTINES DAY to all the beautiful women around the world. Know that you are loved and appreciated!! God bless."

Someone called @thelindsayellisreplied, "I bet you say that to all your victims."

@chrisbrown: "You don't say that to your own father"

@thelindsay: "You ain't my father"

@chrisbrown: "Ask your mother. I am ready to take a DNA test."

The most interesting thing that I found was a list of weird holidays that are only celebrated on social media. Here is a list. If you are a lonely useless guy, sending these greetings will certainly give a meaning to your life and make you immensely popular (they are real).

January 15 is #NationalHatDay. Flood the social media with your selfie in different kinds of hats.

January 21: #NationalHuggingDay. Post your pictures hugging some beautiful ladies. They can be had for a fee.

February 7: #SendACardToAFriendDay.

Download a funny card (offensive cards are

more attention getting) from Internet and send to all your acquaintances on social media.

March 18: #AwkwardMomentsDay. Post a selfie wearing unzipped pants or pictures of wardrobe-malfunction of your favorite celebrities.

April 20: #NationalLookAlikeDay. Dress like Pinocchio with extended nose.

May 24: #NationalScavengerHuntDay. Send your friends on social media on a digital scavenger hunt, leaving clues over your social networks then ask them to claim prizes from Rev. Jessie Jackson.

June 4: #LeaveTheOfficeEarlyDay. This shouldn't be difficult to do.

August 12: #MiddleChildDay. If you don't have a middle child, hire one for the day and take a selfie.

August 27: #JustBecauseDay. Just because you are such an idiot, spread the news and feel good.

October 25: #GreasyFoodsDay. Dip your face in a bowl of Indian curry from the Taj Mahal restaurant and post that on the Internet (every city on earth has ugly Taj Mahal restaurant).

November 23: #WorldKindnessDay. Hug a hobo and take selfie. He may charge you a couple of dollars for that, but that's good for revealing your soft side.

December 8:

#PretendToBeATimeTravelerDay. Dress like a zombie and take a selfie in front of a Tesla, if they allow you to do so.

Boy, Am I already addicted? More when we meet again. Ttfn (Ta ta for now) and remember, chatting means "Never having to say Goodbye."