



# The Doon School WEEKLY

*"I sketch your world exactly as it goes."* -Arthur Foot  
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# The Cost of Integrity

*Avi Bansode considers whether morality and justice can exist independently of religion and societal expectations.*

A few days ago, a Junior attempted to prove to me that morality cannot be independent of religion. There were a lot of arguments for — the surveillance of a higher power, the afterlife concept, and the historic appeal; surely, these are sound arguments in the Indian context, wherein 81% of the populace believes in a higher power. But when asked ‘can morality exist outside religion’, several people simply answered “No, that’s not how that works.” All of a sudden, I’m seven, and my parents told me that’s just how the world works, when I wanted to stay up at night.

What then, I asked myself, is morality? Backed by rationale and reason, morality is an absolute, exclusive framework and is based on the principle of individuality. It is based on the fact that it really is each to their own, such that we can all have our own personal ideas of morality and define what our moral compass is.

But, it’s important to note something here. Morality is still relevant everywhere and anywhere; it is not always just about ‘moral dilemmas’ of abortion, euthanasia, or the legalisation of marijuana. Morality literally seeps into our everyday lives. When we say that honesty is the best policy, it is a component of morality; when we say that we should not make false promises to one another, it is a component of morality; when we say that we should be kind to one another, it is a component of

morality.

But, when we say that we are honest, do we really mean it? It is easy to say that lying is bad, that perjury is bad, that dishonesty is immoral — but do we really follow that? Ask yourselves the question - are you really honest? Honest to others and honest to yourselves. I can tell you frankly, I’m not always honest to myself. I tell myself that my work will get done, that my worries are not valid and that it will sort itself out — call it copium if you want, but objectively, that is as good as lying to myself. The greatest peril of that probably reflects in every exam I attempt.

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Granted, the ability to read a situation is not always easy. To understand that certain things go unsaid, to understand that some things cannot be said in any context whatsoever, or to understand the gravity of words that come out of your mouth, is a skill that is magically developed. Sometimes, we need to go through the pain of having to bear unintended consequences to understand this.

Take for instance the time you were horribly misinterpreted, simply because you didn’t understand the right tone in a situation.

But, can this justify exceptional cases of immorality or dishonesty? Consider a scenario with two outcomes, contingent on lying or not; if the consequences are far worse off in the world where you spilled the truth, one may refrain from the same. At that point, is it fair for us to hold the ‘liar’ accountable? If the person was doing what is best for themselves, or better yet, for a group of people, should we be as punitive about it as we want ourselves to be? When a Junior has to make an excuse for their absence, for example, should it be necessary that they have to lie because that seems to be the only fit outcome for them?

I don’t think there’s a fit answer to this — it’s beyond a polar question. It comes down more to why a scenario like this needs to happen; if we claim to be a community of wise and principled leaders, we would have arrived at the conclusion that the world in which the consequence was worse should be the one of dishonesty. People claim that karma takes its strike, but let’s face it — have you been satiated after that one Senior took away something important to you? Did you feel appropriately compensated that one time you did not get that recognition? Karma can’t work at will and want, if it

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## This Week in History

**1973 CE:** Egypt and Syria launched a sudden Yom Kippur attack on Israel; Israel counterattacked, resulting in a ceasefire.

**1949 CE:** East Germany's constitution was established, which existed alongside West Germany until reunification in 1990 after Cold War tensions.

**1871 CE:** The Great Chicago Fire began in the O'Leary barn, destroying most of the city and killing 300 people.

**2004 CE:** Afghanistan's first presidential election saw Hamid Karzai elected, marking a democratic uprising after the Taliban's fall.

### READER'S CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been reading this week:

**Naman Adlakha:** *Can't Hurt Me* by David Goggins

**Saharsh Khetan:** *1984* by George Orwell

**Anay Gupta:** *Final Gambit* by Jennifer Barnes

**Aashman Agarwal:** *Sapiens* by Yuval Harari

**Namjus Multani:** *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides

### LISTENER'S CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been listening to this week:

**Darius Sharma:** *All of Me* by John Legend

**Uday Rana:** *505* by Arctic Monkeys

**Kaushal Golyan:** *Choo Lo* by the Local Train

**Aditya Sethi:** *Get Along Better* by Drake

**Loechin Phangcho:** *California Gurls* by Katy Perry

“

Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

# THE WHO?

Who is Sooraj Cherukat?

**Kridaye Mundhra:** A comedian

**Agastya Mehrotra:** A rapper

**Raghav Walia:** A photographer

**Avigna Daruka:** A food critic

Sooraj Cherukat, known professionally as **Hanumankind**, is an Indian **rapper, singer, and songwriter** from Malappuram, India. He released his first single *Daily Dose* from his debut **EP Kalari** in 2019. He received mainstream popularity in India and internationally with his track *Big Dangs*, which features the Hyderabad-based artist and producer Kalmi.

### UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*If a dog bites me, I'll bite him back.*

**Shivam Kedia,** tit for tat.

*Travis Scott is a bad album.*

**Ayan Dhandhania,** music FE!N-d.

*He was a good student at studies.*

**Vedang Shah,** what about you?

*My tongue has slipped.*

**Nirvair Ahuja,** so has your grammar.

*Who came first: the chicken or the murgi?*

**Sarosh Kamal,** redefining evolution.

## Around the World in 80 Words

John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton received the Nobel Prize in Physics for their research in machine learning and artificial neural networks. Indian philanthropist and businessman Ratan Tata passed away in a Mumbai hospital, aged 86. The Wimbledon Championships announced the replacement of tennis line judges with an electronic system from 2025 onwards, after 147 years. Chelsea and Nottingham Forest were charged by the FA for a fight between the teams at the 87th minute of the game that ended 1-1.

**Dosco Doodle**

**Hot Pursuit**

Reyansh Agarwal



(Continued from Page 1)

ever works.

It's important, therefore, to change the outlook from the leading end. Leadership has several forms in School, and the best of them know the value of honesty being the better alternative. Inculcating a change like this, and creating such a culture is the point where people

can confront others about genuine issues. Insofar as this can be upheld, there's likely to be a better chance at renovating our systems and structures — when we know what is happening, because truth gets proliferated rather than tangled lies misconstrued with personal twists and additions. It is perhaps a step in the right

direction, for us as a community, to ensure that we create an ambience that is conducive to encountering situations where being honest is the better choice, where being honest is both the right and the good thing to do.

## Roving Eye

### Scoping Season

Rejoice! (or for quite a few of you sixteen-year-olds, beware), the Eye has been summoned and it is here to *spill the tea*. So, here we go again....

The race for School Poster Boy takes new turns every day. Will it be the Warrior's OG *scopat*? The Gentlemen's Roger Federer? IGCSE's Star Boy? Or another *chbupa rustam*? Only time (and the bat), will tell.

We shift our focus onto the Tiger's Den. *Bona Baller* and *Flying Jatt*. Perhaps one of the greatest underdog comeback stories these walls have seen in recent years, as a drastic change in behaviour has seen the duo lead the race to be the *Tiger's pet*. The *Instagram Story Spammer* continues to ride on the great wave of Prime Ronaldo aura, as a single header could see him go a long way. *Hatti Katti* is eager to play some hockey, but the Eye's favour, however, goes towards the *Thepla*, as his callover-taking skills should be commended (Tiger to note). Speaking of Gujarati food items, *Shanay* and his strong moral compass remains a threat to all his fellow *scopats*, as a clean record is something rare in the House of the Nizams.

On the opposite end of the *quadi*, the Chemist and the Trackstar concoct their next solution, but will there be some unexpected items in the recipe? *Bhabar Aa's* excessive use of scoping has backfired, as the FBI seem to have caught on to him, fighting for the title with the support of his Juniors. His chances in his second home for two interesting positions are in good contention too. Fresh off the tennis courts, the Unibrow seems to lead a resurgence, while for the original tennis player, *delulu is the solulu*. The Editor-in-Chief wanders aimlessly through, still unsure of how to fulfil his destiny. Kashmir's Michael Phelps, on the contrary, has his eyes set on his target, accompanied by Manali's number one Kobe fan.

Meanwhile Rocky and Balboa look to the hamlets, to pick up their next set of big Swans. Another duo have been engaging in a civil war of sorts, with competition tight between them for the much coveted (sure?) title to be Panipat's number one. The Eye, though, thinks

### Your Closest Allies

it's neither of them, as the future SpaceX employee looks to make a mark, despite spending most of his time in the 'Chem lab' rather than at callover. That's not the case for Ted, however, as the rewarding elder Swans have given him yet another gift, as he seems to have developed a rather robust work ethic, at a suspiciously convenient time. In an already neck-to-neck battle, a surprising name finds himself amongst the ranks, as *Daddy's Boy* gears up for one final push and, is looking for an opportunity to cause an upset.

Across the Skinners, Chandbagh's Knight Rider loves to spin the ball. This line is not about cricket. *Big Dang's* traditional style seems to be working, but whether he will be the one to open the innings is the real question. The artist seems to be quite confident with his place in the team, but we fear he might have to end up fielding at *third-man*. The IGCSE Starboy, who now wants to be the School's starboy, since the 'Assembly incident' aims to pull off a second innings miracle. To all the other Eagles looking to find a place for themselves on the team, we are here to tell you that, sometimes you win even after being given a follow-on.

Meanwhile, in the dark hallways across the School, the Warriors prepare for their biggest battle yet. The football-playing Oompa Loompa's stock is highly volatile, and the Poster Boy (to-be) faces some stiff competition in a battle he thought was already won, but if the past indicates anything, it's not over until breakfast. There are always two sides to love. While Chandigarh's finest looks to cement his place amongst the Warriors, having tasted success earlier, the same cannot be said for the heartbroken President, who is searching for just one win. Both first speakers are also in a tight race, with the result perhaps being decided by dissent, for who will give the first victory speech.

The Eye departs with one final line of advice "keep your friends close, but your Housemasters closer."

# The Week Gone By

Krish Agrawal

As new coats of paint layer the Main Building and Houses, it seems like that *Founder's Wala Smell* that everyone talks about has finally arrived back on campus. Toye time seems to have become a concept of a bygone era (last month, that is), for the Music School, Rose Bowl and Auditorium reverberate with the echoes of practices, often stretching late into the night. The markers and sketch pens also reveal themselves, as the list of CDH announcements for exhibitions and activities seems to run on and on in the lead-up to the event of the year.

Friday saw Inter-House Athletics make an early appearance, bringing with it unexpected bouts of rain and of course, more than half the School Community being brought to the mercy of the barber due to the *bi-annual buzz cuts* (but who are we trying to impress?). As the Competition progresses, a few fire extinguishers will have to be kept on standby, for certain individuals seem intent on setting the track on fire and producing those *photo-finishes*.

To the dismay of all Masters teaching 3rd School, Assemblies have become a rather arduous ordeal in the leadup to Founder's Day, as a cornucopia of Ties and Blazers were being given out in the past few days. Speaking of Assemblies, our local *banksys* were finally called out for their *Van Goghs* on the Main Building Walls, as their work was rightly not

deemed to be artistic in any sense. Amidst this giant cacophony, Sc's silently face the goliath that is the Common App Portal – *Why Us?* Essays have, in frustration, simply turned into '*Why do I even need to go to College?*'

So, while it may seem like you got a lot on your plate, remember the final destination is not too far away (it is in fact less than a week away). There is a lot of food at the end of the tunnel, especially at the Nizam's Gymkhana Stalls. So keep your head up and persevere. Stay safe, and have a great Founder's Day. Until next time...

## Sudoku

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

Key:

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

Source: <https://www.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku/>

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