

#GOOD-N-BAD

Elvish Honey and Mad Honey

The World's Rare, Expensive, and Hallucinogenic Honeys, from Turkey



In the vast, remote mountains of north-eastern Turkey, two incredibly rare and highly sought-after types of honey are making headlines: Elvish Honey and Mad Honey. While both are produced in the same country, they offer vastly different experiences, one prized for its luxurious, floral taste and health benefits, the other known for its hallucinogenic properties and potential risks. These two honeys are not only unique in their origins but also represent the extremes of honey production, from the heights of exclusivity to the edges of danger.

Elvish Honey: A Prized Luxury
Elvish Honey is one of the most expensive honeys in the world, fetching a staggering price of \$1,033 for just 150 ml. Harvested from beehives located high in the Kackar Mountains, near the Black Sea, Elvish Honey's production is as extraordinary as its price. To reach the hives, beekeepers must embark on a two-hour 4x4 drive followed by an eight-hour hike through bear country, an arduous journey that only adds to its exclusivity. The honey is produced by Caucasian greys (Apis mellifera caucasica), bees that are specially adapted to access wild plants that other bees cannot reach, such as wild blueberries, cherry laurel, and komar flowers, which are related to rhododendrons.

While Elvish Honey does contain traces of grayanotoxin, the same neurotoxin found in Mad Honey, its effects are far milder, and it is best known for its intensely floral flavour, which has been described as pure, delicate, and with a sharp whisky-like tang. This unique taste, coupled with the honey's high mineral content and antioxidant properties, has turned it into a luxury item. Perisima Kababulut, co-founder of Elvish Honey, emphasizes the health benefits, claiming it strengthens the immune system, regulates circulation, and helps relieve headaches and respiratory infections. However, these benefits are still under scientific review.

Mad Honey: The Hallucinogenic Delicacy
In stark contrast to Elvish Honey's luxurious reputation, Mad Honey is an intriguing and dangerous substance that

has fascinated people for centuries. Known for its ability to induce hallucinations in small doses, Mad Honey is produced by bees that gather nectar from rhododendron flowers containing grayanotoxin, a powerful neurotoxin. When consumed, grayanotoxin disrupts sodium channels in the body, leading to symptoms such as nausea, dizziness, and blurred vision. In larger doses, it can cause cardiac issues and even temporary paralysis.

Although Mad Honey is most famously produced in the Black Sea region of Turkey and parts of Nepal, its use has spread far and wide due to its psychoactive effects. Throughout history, it has been used both for medicinal purposes and, intriguingly, as a biological weapon. In ancient times, armies used Mad Honey to disable enemy forces by poisoning them with the hallucinogenic substance. Today, it remains a part of local traditions in Turkey, where it is believed to help treat gastrointestinal disorders, lower blood pressure, and even act as an aphrodisiac. Despite its cultural significance, the risks of consuming Mad Honey cannot be overstated. Overconsumption can lead to grayanotoxin poisoning, a potentially dangerous condition that requires careful management and medical attention.

Price, Exclusivity, and the Future of Premium Honeys

Both Elvish Honey and Mad Honey have found a niche in the luxury market, with Elvish being particularly coveted for its exclusivity and premium status. Less than 10 kilograms of Elvish Honey are harvested each year, and its price can soar to \$5,400 per kilogram. This scarcity has made it a symbol of luxury culinary tourism, with exclusive tours offering food enthusiasts the chance to witness the harvest process firsthand.

On the other hand, Mad Honey's price varies widely based on the quantity and quality of the honey. While it remains less expensive than Elvish, its black market value can also be high due to its illicit nature in some countries. Despite its risks, the curiosity surrounding Mad Honey has ensured its place as a coveted commodity.



An Assassination Attempt On Jinnah

The story begins weeks earlier in Lahore, when Mozangvi boarded a train to Delhi, driven by a burning political grievance. Although only 32, Mozangvi had lived many lives, working as an electrician, committing petty crime, serving short stints in prison, and shifting allegiances among the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League and the Ahrar Party. Eventually, he aligned with the Khaksar movement, a paramilitary group led by political theorist and Islamic scholar Allama Inayatullah Khan Mashriqi, who opposed the creation of Pakistan and believed Muslims could prosper in a united India.

● Bulbul Joshi

On a July day in 1943, Muhammad Ali Jinnah entered his secretary's room in his Malabar Hill bungalow to find a young man speaking with the secretary. The man was desperate for a meeting with the Muslim League leader. He hoped that if he could just speak to Jinnah, he might convince him to reach a compromise with the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi on the issue of India's partition.

But instead of dialogue, there was violence.

Aggravated by Jinnah's refusal to meet, the young man pulled a knife from his pocket and attempted to stab him in the throat.

Jinnah managed to deflect the blade, just barely. He suffered a small puncture wound on his jaw and a gash across the back of his hand. His assailant, Rafiq Sabir Mozangvi, was quickly overpowered by the household staff and arrested by the Bombay Police.

But one question lingered: who was this man, and had he travelled halfway across India to attack the leader of the Muslim League?

Travels from Lahore

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Jinnah's bungalow, South Court.

aligned with the Khaksar movement, a paramilitary group led by political theorist and Islamic scholar Allama Inayatullah Khan Mashriqi, who opposed the creation of Pakistan and believed Muslims could prosper in a united India.

"I decided to stay at Delhi for a day as I thought Mr. Jinnah might pass through there, but on making enquiries, I was told that Mr. Jinnah was probably already in Bombay," Mozangvi told the Bombay Police in a statement.

From Delhi, he took a train to Cawnpore, spending a few hours there, and then hopping on another train to Mughal Sarai. "As I travelled all the way without a ticket, I found it necessary frequently to alight from the train and catch another train," Mozaangvi said, "and I eventually reached Bombay V.T. Station at sometime near 8 pm, last night having travelled via Gwalior, Busaval, Bhopal, etc."

He wandered the bazaars at night, slept on the footpath, and bathed in a mosque, though he could not say exactly where, claiming his mind was 'obsessed with the object' of meeting Jinnah and discussing the 'political policy of the Muslim League.'

He asked around for directions to Jinnah's house and was given a receipt by a Muslim League member bearing the printed address of Jinnah's bungalow on Mount Pleasant Road.

Angry confrontation

At the gates of the bungalow, Mozangvi told the security guard, a 'Pathan with a long moustache,' that he wished to see Jinnah. He was escorted to Jinnah's secretary, Al Syed, who asked him to put his

#HISTORY



Rafiq Sabir Mozangvi, a member of Khaksar party.

request in writing. As they spoke, Jinnah himself walked in and asked what the visitor wanted.

From this point, accounts diverge.

According to John Colville, the Commissioner of Police for Bombay, Mozangvi told Mr. Jinnah that he wanted to have an interview with him regarding the solution of the present political deadlock in the country and Mr. Jinnah's refusal to see Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Jinnah told him that he was very busy and had no time, and that Rafiq Sabir could make an appointment with his Secretary and could see him in a day or two.

This apparently enraged Mozangvi, who first punched Jinnah in the jaw and then tried to stab him. "Mr. Jinnah warded off the blow and caught hold of the assailant's right hand with his left hand, and in doing so, sustained an incised wound on the back of his left hand, one and half inches long skin deep," Colville wrote in a letter to the Home Secretary. "He also sustained a small punctured wound on the angle of the left jaw."

Jinnah's servants managed to subdue Mozangvi and summoned the police, who arrived promptly and arrested him. Mozangvi offered his own version of events. He claimed that when Jinnah entered the secretary's office, he pointed at him and said something in English. "I stood up and saluted and exclaimed that Mr. Jinnah that I had travelled a long way to see him and asked him to hear me," Mozangvi

said. "Mr. Jinnah abruptly refused and pointed towards the door saying in English 'get out' or 'walk out.' I do not remember which expression he had used, but the purport of his words was that I should leave the place. I understand enough of the English language to know what was being said."

Mozangvi said he refused to leave and repeated his request for an interview. At that, Jinnah 'flew into a rage' and abused him, calling him a 'dog' and 'zalli (despicable).' He claimed that Jinnah's servants tried to push him out of the room and struck him. "I also used my fists in retaliation," he said. "Mr. Jinnah was standing nearby. During the struggle, I remembered a clasp knife that I had in my pocket and took it out in self-defence. I cannot say how Mr. Jinnah was injured."

During interrogation, Mozangvi insisted that his only purpose in meeting Jinnah was to urge him to speak with Gandhi. "I have no real grudge against the Muslim League or against Mr. Jinnah personally, beyond my disapproval of certain points of policy followed by them."

He added that he believed Jinnah lacked sincerity in seeking a constructive dialogue with Gandhi. "I disapprove of Mr. Jinnah's attitude in this matter and consider he is doing a disservice to Muhammedans and to India in general. On giving the matter considerable thought, I came to the conclusion that Mr. Jinnah's true policy is one of self-aggrandisement and that he has no real desire to do anything



Celebrating the Magic of Mickey Mouse

M

ickey Mouse Day, celebrated on November 18, honours the iconic Disney character who has become a symbol of joy, imagination, and childhood memories worldwide. Created by Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks in 1928, Mickey made his first appearance in Steamboat Willie, captivating audiences with his charm and adventurous spirit. Over the decades, he has starred in countless cartoons, comics, and films, inspiring generations with positivity and creativity. The day is marked with special events, merchandise, and tributes across the globe, celebrating Mickey's enduring legacy as a beloved cultural icon and a reminder of the magic of animation and storytelling.

#THREAT

Jinnah replied that Mashriqi 'was a very indiscreet gentleman and also extremely pig-headed and obstinate.' The commissioner offered an alternative explanation. "I suggested that a leader might convey to several of his trusted followers that Mr. Jinnah was an obstacle to Self-Government, and that if he were removed, their goal might be within reach. This small group might then have incited the assailant to commit this dastardly act," Colville wrote. "Mr. Jinnah doubted this and said that in his opinion, Allama Mashriqi was so indiscreet and individualist that it was not at all unlikely that he personally would have expressed such views to the assailant..."

towards ending the political deadlock in the country for the mutual benefit of all Indians."

Panic in Bombay

The police report noted that Jinnah's injuries were not serious and were treated by Dr. Massina on Pedder Road.

Soon after, Jinnah addressed the press about the attack. "Although it was a serious and well-planned attack, no serious injuries were inflicted on me," he told Reuters. "I do not want to say anything just now but I appeal to Muslims to remain calm and cool, and let us all thank Providence for this miraculous escape."

The news of the attempted assassination spread through Muslim neighbourhoods in Bombay. Some shopkeepers shuttered their stores until Muslim League workers assured them there was no need to panic.

"All the newspapers, including the extreme Congress press, had condemned the attempt and congratulated Jinnah on his escape," the Intelligence Bureau wrote in a confidential report.

The Bombay Police contacted their counterparts in Lahore and requested that an officer be sent to interrogate Mozangvi to determine whether a broader conspiracy was at play, as the Muslim League alleged.

"I saw Mr. Jinnah shortly after the incident, and in the course of conversation, I questioned him as to whether in his opinion, the action of

the assailant was that of one man instigated by an idea which he developed in his own mind or whether it was an idea planted by someone else." Commissioner Colville wrote in a letter to the director of the Intelligence Bureau. "Mr. Jinnah's opinion was that the idea had been planted there by Allama (Inayatullah Khan) Mashriqi, the Khaksar leader."

When Colville expressed his doubts, Jinnah replied that Mashriqi 'was a very indiscreet gentleman and also extremely pig-headed and obstinate.' The commissioner offered an alternative explanation. "I suggested that a leader might convey to several of his trusted followers that Mr. Jinnah was an obstacle to Self-Government, and that if he were removed, their goal might be within reach. This small group might then have incited the assailant to commit this dastardly act," Colville wrote. "Mr. Jinnah doubted this and said that in his opinion, Allama Mashriqi was so indiscreet and individualist that it was not at all unlikely that he personally would have expressed such views to the assailant, and that the assailant, having absorbed the idea, decided to act on it."

The Criminal Investigation Department had a file on Mozangvi, revealing that he had lived in various parts of India, including Aligarh, where he ran a tea shop, and Calcutta, where he was wanted for theft in May 1943. He remained untraceable after the theft until he resurfaced in Bombay two months later. The file also revealed that Mozangvi had embezzled Khaksar funds in Cawnpore.

The police found no direct evidence linking the assassination attempt to Mashriqi.

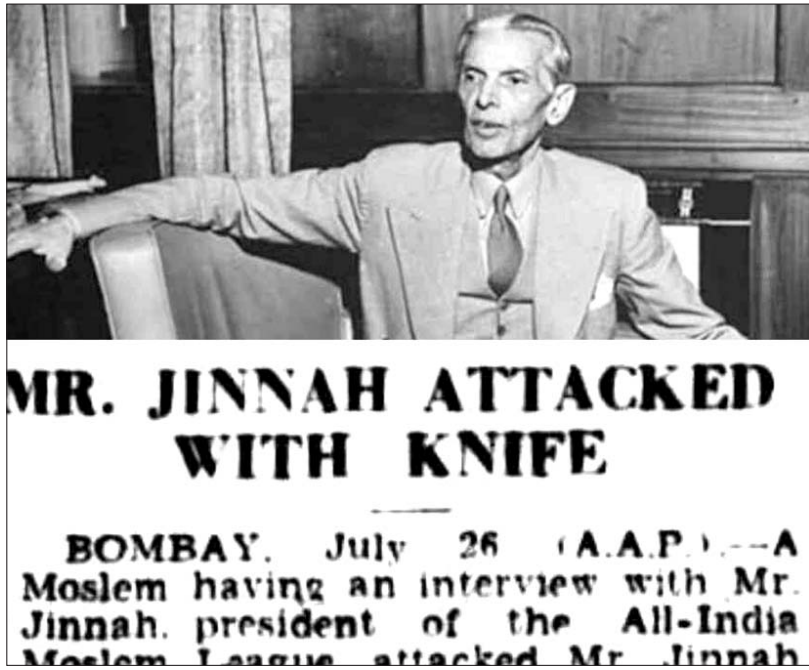
Threat to life

In November 1943, Mozangvi was sentenced to five years' imprisonment by the Bombay High Court. The court found no links between the attack and the Khaksar movement. Police records from 1943 reveal that there was another plot by members of the Khaksar movement to assassinate Jinnah that year. "It was reported that one Abdul Rahim Dagh, a resident of Ambala district and Nazim Bab-i-Ali of the Delhi Khaksars, had called on Sadq, alias Munir to Delhi, and detailed him to proceed to Bombay to murder Mr. Jinnah," GAJ Boon, assistant director of the Intelligence Bureau, wrote in a December 1943 report. When members of the movement in Delhi heard about the plot, they immediately informed Mashriqi.

"It was reported that Allama Mashriqi ordered that the plan must be frustrated at all costs," Boon noted. The bureau remained vigilant, monitoring individual Khaksar members who might attempt to assassinate Jinnah. "While, therefore, there is no evidence at present that the Khaksars are planning to assassinate Mr. Jinnah, it remains true that the Khaksars are not particularly pleased with him and the possibility of an individual attempt to harm him physically cannot, in the circumstances, be entirely discounted," Boon added. "Fortunately Rafiq Sabir has received heavy punishment for his attack on Mr. Jinnah and this may deter others from repeating the performance."

Mashriqi, who opposed the partition of India until the end, would go on to become a citizen of Pakistan after its formation. He remained politically active until his death in 1983.

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#PEACOCK

Special And Curious

The Science Behind Lasers in Peacock Feathers: Nature's Brilliant Display

Peacock feathers have long captivated humans with their vibrant colours and shimmering iridescence. Beyond their beauty, recent scientific research has revealed an astonishing phenomenon: under certain conditions, peacock feathers can actually produce laser light. This discovery bridges the gap between biology and physics, showcasing how nature can inspire and even replicate sophisticated technological effects.

What Makes Peacock Feathers So Colourful?

The dazzling colors of peacock feathers are not caused by pigments like those in most coloured materials. Instead, their brilliance comes from a natural optical phenomenon known as structural coloration. This effect occurs when microscopic structures within the feathers interfere with light, reflecting and scattering specific wavelengths.

Peacock feathers contain layers of microscopic photonic crystals, regularly spaced nanostructures made of keratin and air pockets. These nanostructures manipulate light through interference, creating the rich blues, greens, and iridescent hues that seem to shift and shimmer as the angle of light or the observer changes.

From Structural Colour to Laser Emission

While the colours produced by the feathers are remarkable, scientists took this understanding further. By coating peacock feathers with a fluorescent dye and illuminating them with a powerful light source, researchers found that the feathers could amplify light and emit laser beams.

Lasers (an acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) require a specific setup: a gain medium (a material that can amplify light), a source of excitation (to energize the gain medium), and a resonator (to bounce light back and forth and reinforce certain wavelengths). The photonic crystal structures in the peacock feathers act as a natural resonator, while the fluorescent dye serves as the gain medium. When excited by a laser pulse, the dye emits light that gets amplified and confined by the



feather's nanostructures, resulting in laser emission.

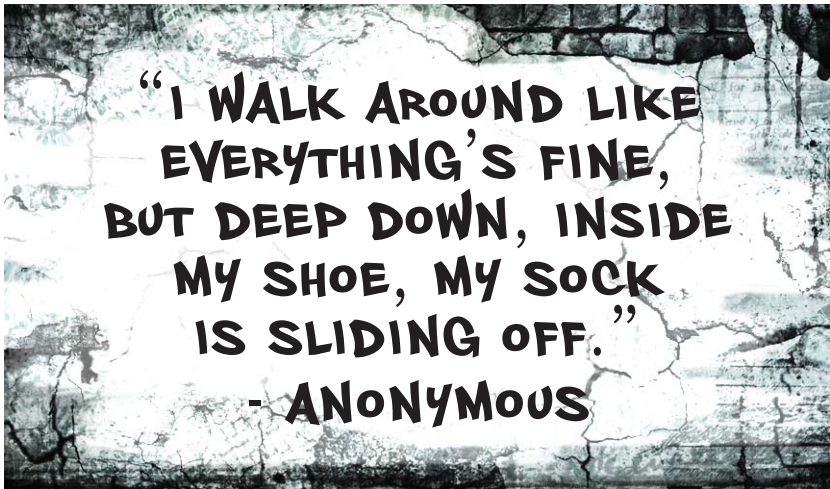
This biological laser is a type of bio-laser, a laser made from biological materials, which has potential applications in biosensing, medical diagnostics, and photonics.

Potential Applications and Future Research

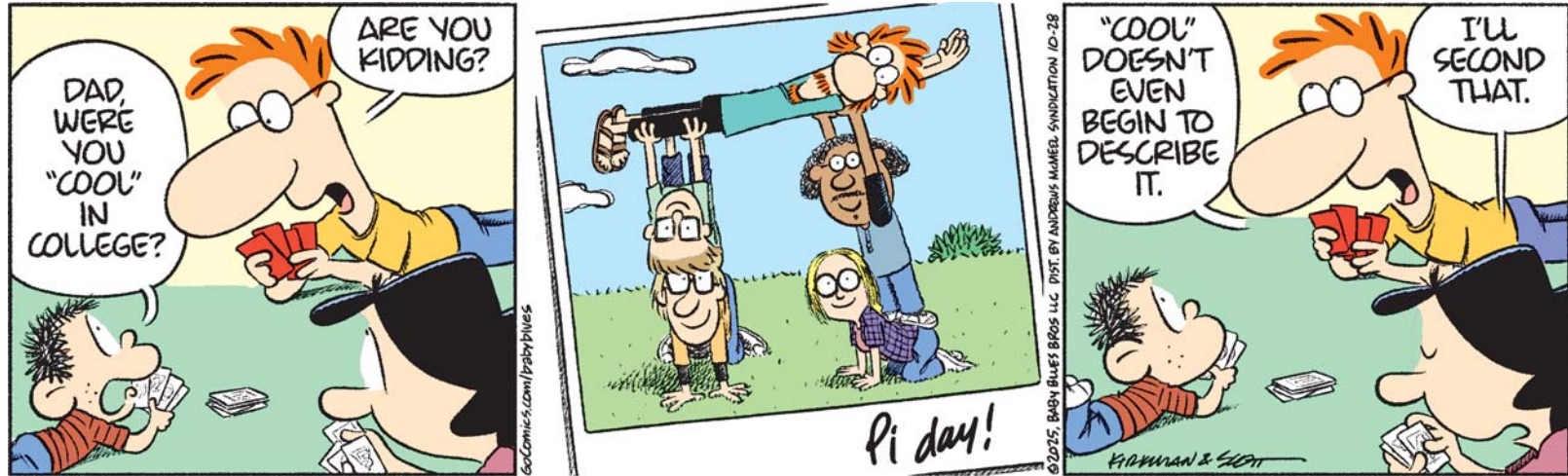
The ability of peacock feathers to act as a natural laser resonator suggests exciting possibilities in the future of optics and bioengineering.

- **Biosensors:** By combining biological materials with laser technology, sensors could be designed to detect diseases or environmental changes with high sensitivity.
- **Medical Diagnostics:** Bio-lasers might enable minimally invasive imaging techniques, providing clear views inside the human body.
- **Sustainable Photonics:** Inspired by nature, engineers can develop eco-friendly lasers and optical devices without relying on rare or toxic materials. Researchers continue to explore other natural materials and structures that might exhibit similar properties, further bridging the gap between biology and technology.
- **Fundamental Science:** The discovery of laser emission from peacock feathers highlights the incredible complexity and ingenuity of natural structures. What appears simply as a beautiful feather to the naked eye is, under the lens of science, a finely tuned optical device capable of manipulating light in extraordinary ways. As research advances, the lessons learned from peacock feathers may illuminate new paths in laser technology, optics, and sustainable materials, proving once again that nature is the ultimate innovator.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman