

#FRUITS

Sweeter Than Candy And Nearly Extinct

While the common strawberry, pineapple, orange, Fuyu persimmon, and ordinary durian are familiar to most, these rare varieties showcase how nature can create sweetness far beyond sugar



ature has a way of producing sweetness far beyond what candy can offer, but some of these fruits are incredibly rare or nearly extinct. Their unique flavours, textures, and compositions make them natural treasures, often surpassing the sweetness of familiar fruits. The White Jewel Strawberry, native to Japan, is a tiny, creamy-coloured strawberry known for its delicate, vanilla-like sweetness. Unlike the common red strawberry, which balances sweetness with acidity, White Jewel strawberries are almost syrupy with very low acidity and a soft, fragrant flesh. Their rarity is due to delicate cultivation requirements, as they need precise greenhouse conditions and careful soil management to thrive.

From tropical regions of Central and South America comes the Pink Pineapple, also known as Pinkglow. This pineapple boasts vibrant pink flesh and a tropical, floral sweetness that far exceeds that of the regular yellow pineapple. With lower acidity and a smoother texture, Pink Pineapple tastes almost like candy in comparison, offering a rich, honeyed flavour. Its long maturation period, up to two years per plant, combined with sensitivity to climate makes it an extremely rare fruit outside specialty farms. The Golden Langset, originating from Southeast Asia, is a citrus fruit prized for its honeyed, almost caramel-like sweetness. Compared to ordinary oranges, which are tangy and citrusy, Golden Langset is far sweeter and low in acidity, with hints of apricot and nat-

ural honey. Its cultivation is challenging due to susceptibility to disease and climate sensitivity, making it nearly extinct. Japan is also home to the Hachiya Persimmon, a fruit famous for its custard-like, syrupy sweetness when fully ripe. Unlike the common Fuyu persimmon, which is firm and mildly sweet, Hachiya melts in the mouth and develops a honeyed flavour that rivals mangoes and peaches in sweetness. The fruit's delicate flesh and precise ripening require aged to escape again. While imprisoned, Yaqub learned Italian and German. After the war ended, he was released. During this time, his elder brother Yunus Khan was stationed in Burma.

Finally, the Durian Musang King, native to Malaysia, is known as the 'King of Fruits' for its rich, custardy, and intensely sweet flavour, with notes of caramel, almond, and vanilla. While ordinary durians are strong and sweet, Musang King is creamier, richer, and far more dessert-like. Its slow growth, vulnerability to pests, and deforestation in its native habitat have rendered wild populations nearly extinct, making cultivated Musang King fruits a prized luxury. These fruits not only surpass their regular counterparts in sweetness but also in flavour complexity and texture. While the common strawberry, pineapple, orange, Fuyu persimmon, and ordinary durian are familiar to most, these rare varieties showcase how nature can create sweetness far beyond sugar, offering a luxurious, natural alternative to candy. Preserving these fruits is essential to maintain agricultural biodiversity and ensure that future generations can experience the pinnacle of natural sweetness.

By 1971, Yaqub Khan had become a Lieutenant General and was posted as the commander of the Pakistani forces in East Pakistan. When he was ordered to launch a military operation against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League in March 1971, he advised General Yahya Khan, the military dictator, not to use military force against a democratically elected government. Knowing the impending crisis, Yaqub Khan chose to resign rather than participate in the operation. He submitted his resignation to General Yahya Khan on March 5, 1971. Although Yahya was initially angry, later events proved Yaqub was correct.



The Story Of Two Brothers In India And Pakistan

● Bulbul Joshi

ir Abdus Samad Khan was the Chief Minister of the Rampur state. His eldest son, Yunus Khan, first studied at Colonel Brown School in Dehradun. Later, he was selected for the Indian Military Academy, from where he was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles.

His younger son, Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, born in 1920, was also selected for the British Indian Army and was commissioned in 1940 into the 18th King Edward Cavalry. Both brothers participated in World War II and were awarded the Indian General Service Medal.

Family Partition and Choices in 1947

When India was partitioned in 1947, Yunus Khan decided to remain with

the Indian Army, while his younger brother Yaqub Khan joined the Pakistani Army.

According to *Freedom at Midnight* by Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins, Yaqub's mother was shocked when he announced his decision to move to Pakistan. She expressed her sorrow, saying, "We have lived here for two centuries, and our family graves are here. As a mother, my desires are selfish. I fear that we are parting forever." However, Yaqub remained firm, and the next morning, he left Rampur. Lapierre and Collins note that his mother, dressed in white as a symbol of mourning, bid him farewell with Quranic verses. Their servants, Ram Lal and Kundan Singh, said their goodbyes with teary eyes.

Yaqub promised to return soon to collect his belongings, but he never returned to his ancestral home or saw his mother again.

Fighting on Opposing Sides in Kashmir

Within months of leaving India, Yaqub Khan was leading a Pakistani battalion in the snow-covered hills of Kashmir. Lapierre and Collins write that Pakistani soldiers tried to advance, but they were stopped by a company of the Garhwal Regiment, which was also led by a Muslim officer named Yunus Khan, who had decided to stay with the Indian Army in July 1947.

The two brothers found themselves facing each other in battle in Kashmir, both serving as Majors, leading their respective battalions.



#KIN



Details of Gunfire

Pakistani journalist, Hamid Mir, in his article *The Story of Two Khans*, writes, "A shot fired by Major Yunus Khan injured his younger brother Yaqub." When Yunus realized that the injured man was his brother, he reportedly shouted, "Don't be sad, 'little one,' we are soldiers, and we have done our duty." Later, Colonel Sam Manekshaw praised Yunus Khan for his bravery.

However, Yunus's daughter-in-

law, Saman Ali Khan, disagrees with this version of events, stating, "Both brothers were indeed in Kashmir fighting on opposite sides, but Yunus never fired at Yaqub. I asked my husband and mother-in-law about this, and they confirmed that no such incident occurred. They only found out later that they were fighting on the same front."

No Contact for 12 Years

For the next 12 years, the brothers had no contact and continued to serve in their respective armies. In 1960, when Yaqub married a Bengali girl from Calcutta, Tuba Khalil, Yunus sent him a congratulatory message.

Yaqub Opposed Military Action in 1971

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forces in East Pakistan. When he was ordered to launch a military operation against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League in March 1971, he advised General Yahya Khan, the military dictator, not to use military force against a democratically elected government.

Yaqub Khan's niece, Muniza Shamsi, writes, "At that time, when the talks failed, my uncle and the Governor Admiral Ahsan both advised that only a political solution could solve the problem. But Yahya



and his advisers were committed to a military solution."

Knowing the impending crisis, Yaqub Khan chose to resign rather than participate in the operation. He submitted his resignation to General Yahya Khan on March 5, 1971. Although Yahya was initially angry, later events proved Yaqub was correct.

Advising Against Bhutto's Hanging

Yaqub Khan, who was fluent in multiple languages, including French, German, Italian, Russian, Persian, and Arabic, was appointed as Pakistan's ambassador to France in 1972. When General Zia-ul-Haq took power in 1977 and overthrew Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Yaqub advised Zia not to hang Bhutto, but his advice was ignored.

Despite differences, Zia appointed Yaqub Khan as Pakistan's foreign minister in 1982.

Reunion After 35 Years

In the same year, Yaqub Khan, as the foreign minister, visited New Delhi, where, after 35 years, he was reunited with his elder brother Yunus. Yunus's daughter-in-law Saman Khan recalls, "I was there when they met. My father invited them to his house. They hugged each other and cried uncontrollably."

Saman continues, "Yunus called Yaqub by his old nickname, 'Natta,' meaning short. Although Yaqub was tall, he was shorter than his two brothers, which is why they called him 'Natta.' It was amazing to see



two men who were considered tough soldiers openly weeping."

Retirement and Later Years

After his military career, Yunus Khan worked as an administrative officer at Aligarh Muslim University and served as ADC to various prominent Indian leaders, including India's last Governor-General, C. Rajagopalachari, and India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He passed away on January 30, 1984, and was buried in Aligarh.

Yaqub Khan, on the other hand, became Pakistan's longest-serving foreign minister. He played a significant role in the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Yaqub was also a prominent voice against military actions, including the Kargil conflict in 1999. He died on January 26, 2016, about 32 years after his elder brother's death.

Conclusion

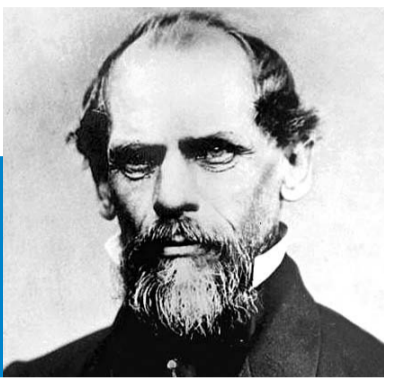
Hamid Mir writes, "When I suggested that Yaqub Khan write his autobiography, he replied, 'I don't want to make a spectacle of my achievements and sufferings. I can't tell my story without mentioning my brother who served India. We fought against each other, but he did his duty and I did mine.'" This article portrays the deeply emotional and complex story of two brothers, separated by their choices but united in their shared heritage and service to their respective countries.

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#GROUNDBREAKING

The Tough Making Of A Bridge

The Brooklyn Bridge: A Monument of Innovation, Persistence, and Engineering Genius



The Brooklyn Bridge, one of the most iconic landmarks in New York City, stands as a testament to human ingenuity, perseverance, and vision. Connecting the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn, it was the world's first steel-wire suspension bridge and remains an engineering marvel over 140 years after its completion. The story of its construction is as dramatic and groundbreaking as the bridge itself, with challenges, tragedies, and triumphs that are woven into the very fabric of this extraordinary feat.



The Vision: A Bridge Across the East River
In the mid-19th century, the East River posed a significant barrier to the growth and development of New York City. At the time, ferries were the primary means of crossing between Manhattan and Brooklyn, but these were slow, unreliable, and vulnerable to weather and tides. The increasing population and rapid industrial growth on both sides of the river called for a better solution.

In 1852, John A. Roebling, a German immigrant and visionary civil engineer, proposed the idea of a suspension bridge. Roebling was already well-known for his work on the wire-rope technology that would be essential in building such a bridge. He envisioned a bridge that would not only serve as a means of transportation but also stand as a symbol of modern engineering and American progress.

The Challenge of Building a Suspension Bridge

At the time of its conception, suspension bridges were not new, but none had been attempt-

ed on such a large scale. Suspension bridges work by using a set of cables to suspend a roadway between towers. The weight of the bridge and traffic is transferred to the towers, which are anchored deep into the ground or riverbed. While the concept was sound, building such a structure over the turbulent East River presented numerous challenges, both technical and practical. Roebling's plan called for a bridge with two massive stone towers, each over 270 feet tall and a roadway suspended by steel cables. These cables would be made of thousands of steel wires, twisted together to create a structure capable of holding immense weight. The design was ambitious and would require cutting-edge materials and technology.

Emily Roebling: The Bridge's Unsung Hero

With Washington Roebling unable to directly manage the construction due to his health, his wife, Emily Warren Roebling, stepped in to assist in the daily management of the project. Emily was highly educated and had a background in mathematics and engineering, which made her exceptionally qualified to help with the technical aspects of the bridge's construction.

Construction and Innovation

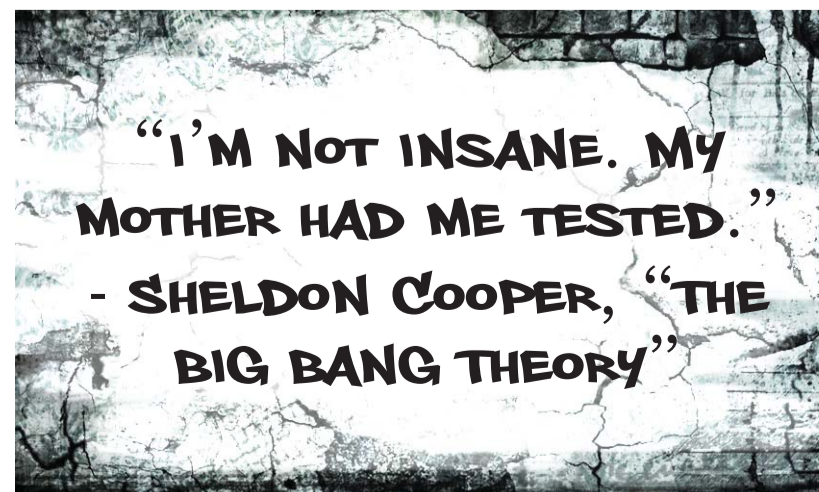
The construction of the Brooklyn Bridge took 14 years and faced multiple setbacks, including financial difficulties, labor unrest, and ongoing health issues for both Washington and John Roebling. However, the project also saw numerous technological innovations. The use of steel wire for the suspension cables was groundbreaking and allowed the bridge to bear an immense amount of weight, setting a new standard for suspension bridges. Today, the Brooklyn Bridge remains one of the most recognized and beloved landmarks in the world. It serves not only as a vital transportation link but as a testament to the vision and perseverance of those who made it possible. John, Washington, and Emily Roebling. The bridge continues to stand as a symbol of human creativity, determination, and the ability to overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Washington Roebling: The Man Who Took the Reins

Washington Roebling took charge of the Brooklyn Bridge project, but he soon faced his own set of daunting challenges. The work required him to be on-site for much of the construction, and the initial step, constructing the bridge's foundation, was incredibly complex. The bridge's two towers needed to be anchored deep into the East River's bedrock, and this meant working underwater in what was known as 'caissons.'

The process of constructing

THE WALL

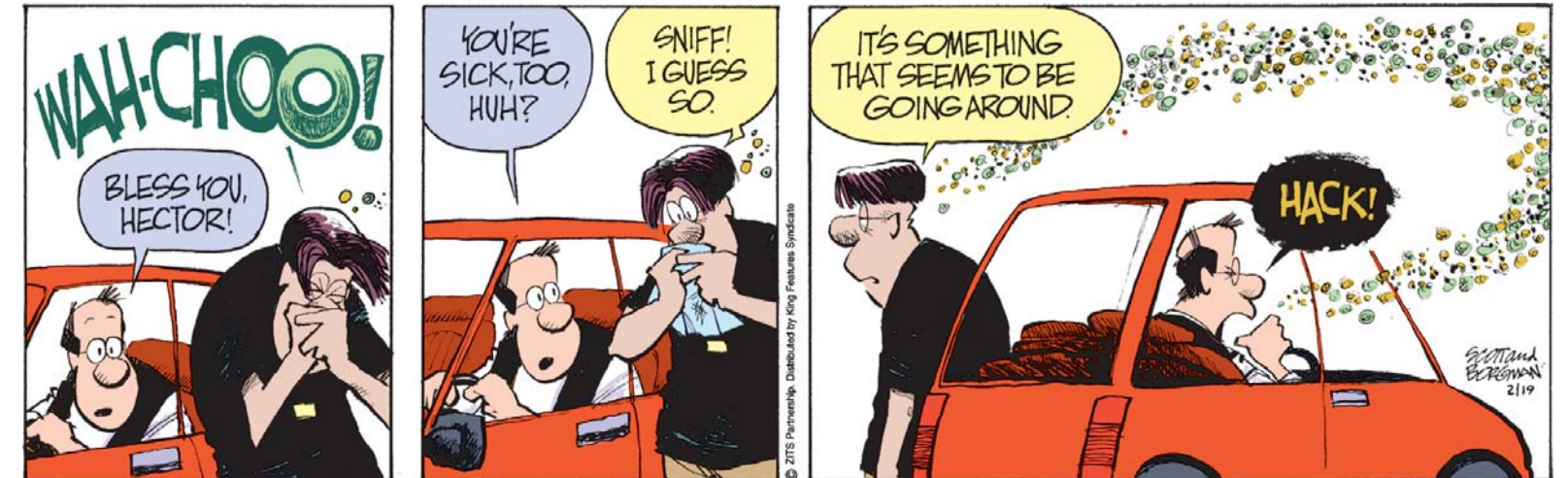


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

