राष्ट्रदुत

# Middle Ages was the poulaine

Poulaine Shoes: The Long-Toed Trend That Took Medieval Europe by Storm





robes, chainmai armor, and towering hats might come to mind. But one of

# What Are Poulaines?

called crakows or pikes, were characterized by their distinctive elongated toes. These pointed tips could range from nodest extensions to comical times reaching several inches past the wearer's actual toes! They were typically made from leather, richly decorated, and worn by both men and women across Europe during the 14th and 15th centuries.

The name 'poulaine' is thought to derive from the French term for 'Polish.' as the style may have originated or been inspired by footwear popular in Poland and Eastern Europe before

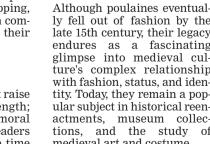
## **Fashion and Function** At first glance, the poulaines

may seem impractical, but they were a powerful fashion statement. The length of the toe was often a symbol of social status and wealth. Nobles and the aristocracy sported the longest points, signaling their elevated rank and ability to afford such extravagant footwear. Interestingly,

poulaines were so long that they had to be tied to the leg with chains or straps to prevent the wearer from tripping, a fashion meets function com promise that added to their theatrical flair.

# Symbolism and

Controversy The poulaines didn't just raise evebrows for their length: they also stirred moral debate. Some religious leaders









hen you think of medieval fashion, images of flowing

the most striking, and sometimes puzzling, footwear trends of the Middle Ages was the poulaine: shoes with exaggeratedly long, pointed toes that stretched far beyond the foot itself.

Poulaine shoes, sometimes

condemned them as vain and spreading westward. excessive, emblematic of vanitv and decadence in society. In fact, various sumptuary

laws were enacted in different regions to restrict the length of poulaines and who could Despite this, the shoes remained popular for decades, influencing other styles and even art. In medieval manuscripts and

tapestries, poulaines often

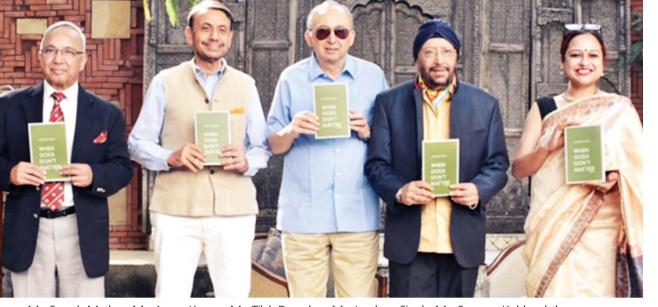
appear, capturing the imagi-

nation of historians and fash-

ion enthusiasts alike.

late 15th century, their legacy endures as a fascinating glimpse into medieval culture's complex relationship with fashion, status, and identity. Today, they remain a popular subject in historical reenactments, museum collections, and the study of





Mr. Suresh Mathur, Mr. Apurv Kumar, Mr. Tilak Devasher, Mr. Jagdeep Singh, Ms. Saumya Kulshreshtha

I FORGET, I FORGIVE

just another

being led

crafty charm

intricate web

of affluence

of deceit

of lust.

Don't tell me

I didn't warn you.

With a swollen womb

with a badge of infamy

when repulsed

ask not

for cyanide

my love

just ask

for my shoulder

to weep on

my love.

"When Gods Don't Matter" (p. 57).

A dare and a plea from the Covid

"Hey Dad" (p. 23). Rail timeta-

bles and retiring rooms; a son's

"Cath-Labbed" (p. 19). Stents, fear,

"Insomnia" (p. 29). Anger at 3

a.m.: a line arrives before dawn

"Hawking Love" (p. 35). Brief

"The Verse" (p. 76). Process as

poem, Wordsworth's 'sponta-

"The Flash" (p. 28). Whitman

embraced: "I contain multitudes."

The launch doubled as a quiet

Teacher's Day. Singh thanked

Suresh Mathur and Jaipur profes-

sors, Rajul Bhargava, Mini Nanda,

Rimika Singhyi, Sudha Rai, Prof.

Rajul Bhargava called the book 'a

tunnel that opens into a rose gar

den.' I was taught by each of these

professors at the University of

Rajasthan, so the acknowledge-

ments felt like walking back into

class. I remember Jagdeep's lines,

"The six years I taught English lit-

erature at St. Xavier's were the best

vears: faith tested, care restored.

soft ache for one more lesson.

and a twist towards sunlight

peace in a divided time.

neous overflow' reframed.

Teachers and Threads

(My first published poem

at the age of 21.)

t Hotel Clarks Amer,

Jagdeep Singh's 50 free-

verse poems turn Covid

loss, classrooms, and

city life into lean con-

nostalgia flowed.

A full house welcomed Jagdeep

Singh, publicist, teacher, long-time

Jaipur voice, for the launch of When

Gods Don't Matter. Friends some

times call him the 'Khushwant

Singh of Jaipur' for candour and

reach; admirers simply say he's a

'spark.' The event mixed quick read-

ings with a plain argument: when

the sacred feels far, language and

care still do the work. Apurv and

Timmi Kumar were gracious hosts;

moderator Saumya Kulshreshtha

kept it brisk. The city's literature

crowd showed up, as did decades of

Mayo College alumni. The book's

stance is contemporary and person-

al, free verse without hedging, clos-

When Gods Don't Matter gathers

free-verse poems written over four

vears. Covid shadows many pages:

so do insomnia, hospitals, travel,

first love, and last words. As the

press note puts it, "Contemporary

poetry reflects the true expression

of today's thoughts, emotions and

experiences... not bound by any par-

ticular subject, style or tradition.

Singh salutes T. S. Eliot, W. B. Yeats.

Svlvia Plath, James Jovce, S. T.

Coleridge, and Jean-Paul Sartre, felt

• "I Forget, I Forgive." First published

(Reprinted with permission

at 21; very young and direct.

here as echoes, not costume.

**Poems to Start With** 

er to talk than sermon.

The Book (What's in It)

fession and wit, with an

habits these poems prize: early discipline, silence that sharpens attention, and a long train gaze readers often take as a metaphor for departures and returns. Teachers there, later echoed by Suresh Mathur, pressed form and plain speech together: think hard, write plain, care anyway. The book's trains, platforms, and timetables trace back to that boy boarder learning schedules and separations. Friends asked for Anthology 3.0 to be lighter, closer to Singh's banter. Two projects are on his desk: a novella with love and a nopeful end, and Mayo reminiscences for the school's 150th year (2025).



Mrs. Uma Sharma, Ms. Tusharika and Mr. Divij Sharma



Page vs. person. Off-

stage, you're understated;

on the page, vou're

fiercer. Where does that

split come from, craft or

reflect angst, anger, disillu-

sionment, and disappoint

ments. However, I don't

demeanour should ever por-

Mayo & the trains. What

did boarding-school life at

Mayo, and those long

train journeys, give your

poetry (discipline, dis-

'The Mayo Special to Delhi

from Ajmer. The trains have

never been used as a

metaphor or symbol in my

verses. The greatest take-

away from Mayo was some

very fine teachers. My for

mer English teacher, Mr

Suresh Mathur, to whom

have dedicated my antholo

gy, imbued in me the love for

literature. Having said that, l

never wrote poetry in school

Leadership change. When

a younger principal (Mr.

attended by King Charles

III succeeding Principal

Jack Gibson) took charge,

what shifted in the

school's air? Did that han-

dover shape your voice?

34 when he became

Principal. I hero-wor-

**Ans.** Mr. Shomie R. Das was just

Das,

school

Shomie

Gordonston

**Ans.** True. Some of my poems

tray those emotions.

tance, rhythm)?

**Ans.** I have written a long piece on

temperament?





shipped him. He introduced

a number of new initiatives.

However, that doesn't take

away Mr. Jack Gibson's solid

One classroom moment

that still echoes in a

poem. Six Xavier's years

as the happiest: 'pure lit-

and-a-half years that I taught

at St. Xavier's, Jaipur emerge

as the most memorable. I

loved teaching there. I con-

vinced the school manage-

ment to introduce Elective

English. I loved teaching

poets like Sylvia Plath and

Ted Hughes, who were in the

syllabus. As moderator for

the school publication X-

writing page and made stu-

They still remind me of that

Do you still write like a

boarder on a platform,

packing small truths in a

long poems. Even some of

my shortest verses have con-

siderable depth and lavers

How has Jaipur shaped

Ans. I have never written very

Rays, I introduced a creative

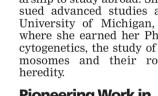
dents write poetry in class

when we meet

rucksack?

erature, pure joy?' Ans. When I look back, the six-





Dr. Janaki Ammal's research focused primarily on plant cytogenetics, a field that combines genetics with the microscopic study of chromosomes

to understand plant heredity and variation. • Chromosome Studies: She conducted pioneering work on chromosome numbers and behaviour in plants, helping to classify various species and understand their evolutionary relation-

you and your verse? Ans. A city always impacts poet. In my first anthology, I 'Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II.' I (the statue at Statue Circle) appealed to him not to take a walk around the taste and yield. city, he would have been

# utterly shocked at its state.

"Unbound by any limitations. -Jagdeep Singh -Timmi Kumar -Rajiv Sahai rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

# **#DR. JANAKI AMMAL**

# Making Sugarcane Sweeter



# Trailblazing Botanist and Her Remarkable Contributions

r. Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal (1897-1984) stands as a towering figure in Indian science, renowned for her groundbreaking work in botany, cytoone of the earliest Indian women scientists to make a global mark, her achievements not only advanced botanical sciences but also broke social barriers, inspiring generations of women in STEM fields.

## **Early Life and Education**

Born in Kerala, India, Janaki Ammal showed a passion for plants and nature from an early age. After completing her educa tion in India, she earned a scholarship to study abroad. She pursued advanced studies at the University of Michigan, USA, where she earned her Ph.D. in cytogenetics, the study of chromosomes and their role in

## **Pioneering Work in Cytogenetics and Plant** Breeding

Sugarcane Hybridization: One of her most notable contributions was her work on improving sugarcane varieties. Through hybridization and breeding techniques, she helped develop strains that were more productive and disease-resistant, significantly benefiting the sugar industry.

Development of 'Coorg Honey Dew' Banana: Janaki Ammal played a key improved banana varieties such as the famous Coorg Honey Dew, known for its

# International

Her scientific career spanned



Padma Shri Award: In recognition of her outstand ing scientific contributions, Dr. Janaki Ammal was hon oured with the Padma Shri by the Government of India

Cytogeneticist in India: She is celebrated as India's first woman cytogeneticist and a pioneer in plant genet-

Inspiration to Women Scientists: Beyond her scientific achievements her career broke gender stereotypes, paying the way for countless women in science.

Several institutions and botanical gardens have been named in her honour, preserv ing her legacy and inspiring future generations.

Dr. Janaki Ammal's life and work reflect a rare blend cation to national develop ment, and a commitment to empowering women in sci ence. Her pioneering research in cytogenetics and plant breeding not only enriched the field of botany but also contributed significantly to India's agricultural progress As a trailblazer, educator, and environmental advocate. Dr Janaki Ammal remains a shining example of how pas sion and perseverance can change the world, one chromosome at a time.

# # WHEN GODS DON'T MATTER

Mrs. Bhavna and Mr.

# A call to home

n. Yannis Laribi, from France (a french guest at the Jaipur Inn who attended the poetry read ing). He is taking the book back with him from Jaipur as precious

He writes: "À peine cinq minutes après avoir posé le pied à Jaipur pour mon premier voyage en Inde, Reetika, mon hôte, une Indienne au français impeccable m'invite à une récitation de poème en anglais. L'auteur s'appelle Jagdeep Singh, un nom que je n'avais encore jamais entendu Dans la voiture, on me tend son livre: When Gods Don't Matter.

Je l'ouvre au hasard et tombe sur le poème Hey Dad!. Les mots décrivent des moments si justes qu'ils m'ont ramené, malgré les milliers de kilomètres, vers ma propre rela tion avec mon père.

Je me suis dit que dire je t'aime, c'était peut-être aussi ca mettre en lumière ces instants ordinaires, ces gestes silencieux qui contiennent tout. l'amour avec pudeur. J'ai été

Chaque ligne transpire of my life, pure literature, pure joy. I also recall Father Mani's mix of

informality and rigor (a memory).' Among Xavierites he once taught are three presently serving lieutenant generals: Padam Singh. Raghu Sriniyasan, Anindya Sengupta. That classroom cadence meets a boarder's discipline in the next chapter. Mayo.

Mayo College: The Spine Boarding life at Mayo gave Singh the habits these poems prize: early discipline, silence that sharpens attention, and a long

train gaze readers often take as a

metaphor for departures and

Puis vient la récitation.

Un moment suspendu, presque irréel, dans un jardin baigné de lumière, entouré de bougainvilliers et de fleurs multicolores. Les voix s'élèvent, les mots résonnent, et le temps s'arrête. Un bel hommage Merci Ritika.

Merci Jagdeep Singh, vous ne me connaissez pas mais moi j'ai

echoed by Suresh Mathur, pressed form and plain speech together: think hard, write plain, care any way. The book's trains, platforms. and timetables trace back to that boy boarder learning schedules and separations. Friends asked for Anthology 3.0 to be lighter. closer to Singh's banter. Two projects are on his desk: a novella with love and a hopeful end, and

Mayo reminiscences for the school's 150th year (2025).

Mayo, Then Xavier's: How the Voice Formed Mayo built the frame, routine,

eller's eye. St. Xavier's tuned the classroom clarity humour, and a listener's ear. Read 'Hey Dad' (p. 23) and you'll hear both: timetables and retiring rooms (Mayo's order), followed by the gentle afterthought of a teacher who knows how to leave space (Xavier's ease).

impression de vous connaître un

Je l'ouvre au hasard et tombe sur

noments si justes qu'ils m'ont

ramené, malgré les milliers de

cilomètres, vers ma propre rela

t'aime, c'était peut-être aussica:

mettre en lumière ces instants

Je me suis dit que dire je

Chaque ligne transpire

"I open the book and by chance I

The words describe the

moments so perfectly that they took

me, inspite of thousands of kilome-

tres, towards my own relationship

I told myself that saying I love

Every line exudes love with

you, it was perhaps also that: high-

light these ordinary moments, these

quiet gestures which contain all

pudeur. I was touched a lot.")

'amour avec pudeur. J'aiété

fell upon the poem 'Hey Dad!'

Dr. Yannis Laribi (translation of

Les mots décrivent des

oeu. Vous avez gagné un lecteur.

e poème Hey Dad!.

tion avec mon père.

qui contiennent tout.

with my father.

**Book Facts** Title: When Gods Don't Matter

**Author:** Jagdeep Singh Form: 50 poems, free verse Publisher: Hawakal Publishers Pvt **Themes:** Covid years: love and loss:

#### insomnia: hospitals: travel: teachers **Influences named:** Eliot, Yeats,

the bone. Homage, not imitation.

Plath, Joyce, Coleridge, Sartre

**Influences in Plain English** Eliot's structure without stiffness; Plath's candour without cruelty; Whitman's room for contradiction Wordsworth's overflow, trimmed to

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

# **Pull-Quotes**

"Still waters run deep.' "Poetry mixes memories with desires... spring rains on dull routes."

### **Collaborations and** Recognition

continents. Dr. Janaki Ammal worked at prestigious institutions like the John Innes Institute in England and the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley, where she conducted cytogenetic research and plant breeding. Her contributions earned her internation-

#### **Championing Indigenous Plants and Biodiversity** Dr. Ammal was a strong advo-

cate for the conservation of indigenous Indian flora. She conducted extensive research on Indian medicinal plants. romoting their importance for healthcare and biodiversity. Her work highlighted the value of India's rich botanical heritage and emphasized sustainable utilization of plant resources.

al acclaim, making her one of

the few Indian women scientists

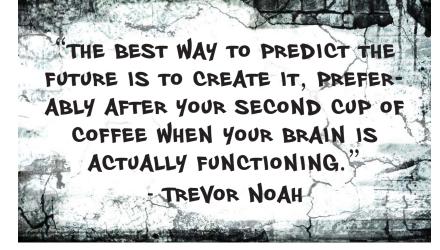
of her era to be recognized glob-

ally. She was a member of vari

ous scientific organizations and

participated in conferences

# THE WALL



# **BABY BLUES**

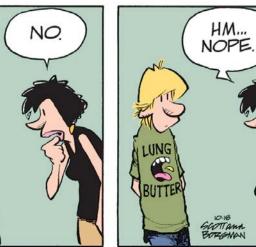


INSTRUCTOR, TOO? PICKED LIAM.

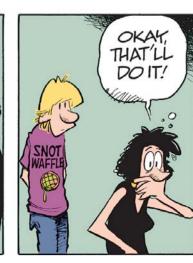
IS AMBER YOUR



# ZITS









By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman