

#FASHION

Middle Ages was the poulaine

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



When you think of medieval fashion, images of flowing robes, chainmail armor, and towering hats might come to mind. But one of 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.

What Are Poulaines?

Poulaine shoes, sometimes called crakows or pikes, were characterized by their distinctive elongated toes. These pointed tips could range from modest extensions to comically long projections, sometimes 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 spreading westward.

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, some 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 metals function compromise that added to their theatrical flair.

Symbolism and Controversy

The poulaines didn't just raise eyebrows for their length; they also stirred moral debate. Some religious leaders and social critics of the time



condemned them as vain and excessive, emblematic of vanity and decadence in society. In fact, various sumptuary laws were enacted in different regions to restrict the length of poulaines and who could wear them.

Despite this, the shoes remained popular for decades, influencing other styles and even art. In medieval manuscripts and tapestries, poulaines often appear, capturing the imagination of historians and fashion enthusiasts alike.

Legacy

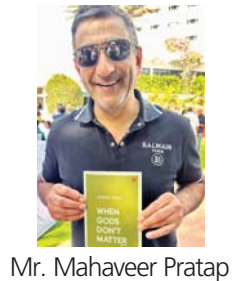
Although poulaines eventually fell out of fashion by the late 15th century, their legacy endures as a fascinating glimpse into medieval culture's complex relationship with fashion, status, and identity. Today, they remain a popular subject in historical reenactments, museum collections, and the study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



A Jaipur Launch of Plain-Spoken Feeling



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



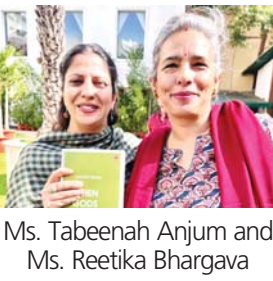
Mr. Mahaveer Pratap



Mr. Suresh Mathur, Mr. Jagdeep Singh's teacher from Mayo College, Ajmer



Mr. Rajiv Sahai



Mrs. Tabeneah Anjum and Ms. Reetika Bhargava



Mrs. Bhavna and Mr. Ashok Jagwani



Thakur and Mrs. Ram Pratap Diggi



Lt Gen Padam Singh, Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta and Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan



Mrs. Saumya Kulshreshtha in conversation with Mr. Jagdeep Singh.



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



Mrs. Swati Vashishtha



Ms. Dharmendra Kanwar and NPS Jhala



Mrs. Pinky Singh

WHEN GODS DON'T MATTER

A call to home

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

He writes: "A 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 relation avec mon père. Je me suis dit que dire je t'aime, c'était peut-être aussi ça mettre en lumière ces instants ordinaires, ces gestes silencieux qui contiennent tout. Chaque ligne respire l'amour avec pudeur. J'ai été



beaucoup touché. 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 Reetika. Merci Jagdeep Singh, vous ne me connaissez pas mais moi j'ai

l'impression de vous connaître un peu. Vous avez gagné un lecteur. Dr. Yannis Laribi (translation of Je l'ouvre au hasard et tombe sur le poème Hey Dad!.

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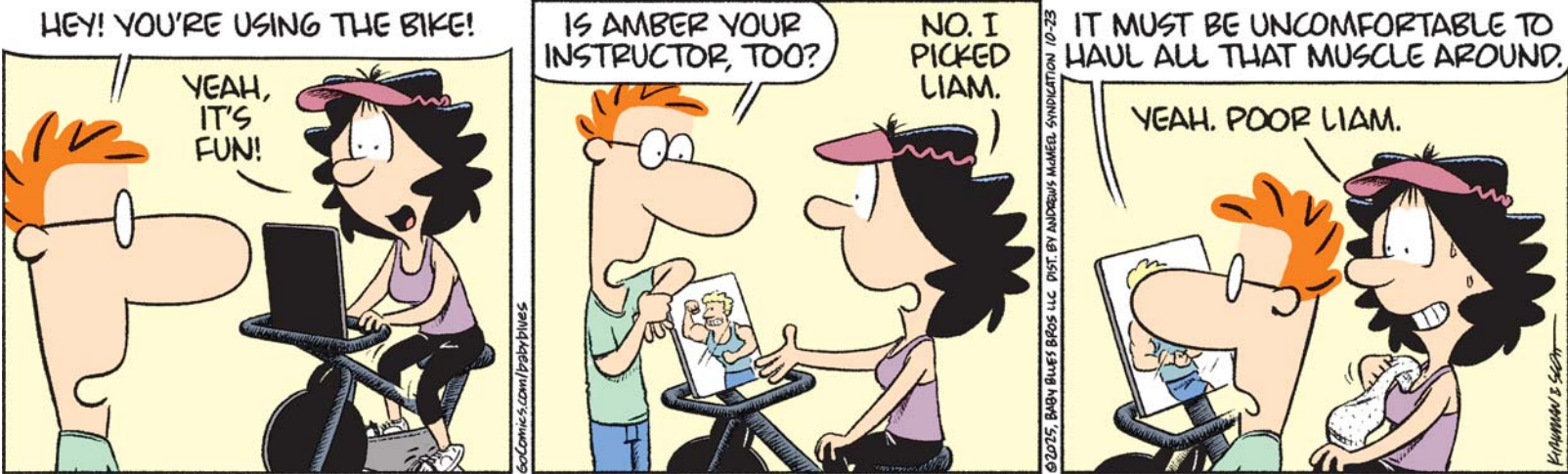
The words describe the moments so perfectly that they took me, inspite of thousands of kilometres, towards my own relationship with my father. I told myself that saying I love you, it was perhaps also that: highlight these ordinary moments, these quiet gestures which contain all. Every line exudes love with pudeur: I was touched a lot.")

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

Book Facts

Title: When Gods Don't Matter Author: Jagdeep Singh Form: 50 poems, free verse Publisher: Hawakal Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi Themes: Covid years; love and loss;

BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

#DR. JANAKI AMMAL

Making Sugarcane Sweeter



Trailblazing Botanist and Her Remarkable Contributions

Dr. Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal (1897-1984) stands as a towering figure in Indian science, renowned for her groundbreaking work in botany, cytogenetics, and plant breeding. As one 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 education 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 heredity.

Pioneering Work in Cytogenetics and Plant Breeding

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 relationships.
- 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 role in developing improved banana varieties such as the famous Coorg Honey Dew, known for its taste and yield.

International Collaborations and Recognition

Her scientific career spanned 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 international



Honours and Legacy

- Padma Shri Award: In recognition of her outstanding scientific contributions, Dr. Janaki Ammal was honoured with the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1977.
- First Woman Cytogeneticist in India: She is celebrated as India's first woman cytogeneticist and a pioneer in plant genetics.
- Inspiration to Women Scientists: Beyond her scientific achievements, her career broke gender stereotypes, paving the way for countless women in science. Several institutions and botanical gardens have been named in her honour, preserving her legacy and inspiring future generations.
- Dr. Janaki Ammal's life and work reflect a rare blend of scientific brilliance, dedication to national development, and a commitment to empowering women in science. As a trailblazer, educator, and environmental advocate, Dr. Janaki Ammal remains a shining example of how passion and perseverance can change the world, one chromosome at a time.