



## MARVELS IN STONE: HAVELI'S OF BIKANER

"If Dreams are cast in stones and if stones can sing they would be like the exteriors and interiors of Bikaner Havelis", such was the remark of Aldous Huxley, renowned philosopher and author, who was spell bound after watching these architectural marvels in sandstones. Bikaner, a small desert kingdom known to the world for its culinary delights and festivities, has had a prolonged period of antagonism and patriotic heroism. The city bewitches every traveler with its architectural glory be forts, palaces, cenotaphs or statues. But more than anything else, Bikaner is known for its "Havelis". These grand abodes of merchant families, strike you in the eye when you take first step towards the old walled city. Starting in mid 15th century they reached a crescendo in 19th century, as each merchant commissioned artists to create more extravagant homes built from newfound wealth, created through trade with the British.

By the end of the 16th century Karan Singh Bachawat took an initiative in this direction and the Bachawat Haveli was made. Other merchant families like Mohta, Daga, Rampuria, Bagri etc. followed this tradition. There are around 1000 Haveli's large and small scattered in the serpentine lanes of Bikaner boasting its rich architectural and cultural past. These havelis are storehouses of art in varied forms be it carving, fresco, murals, fretworks, mosaic and mirror work etc. They give a poetic feel to the visitors because of their evocative and aesthetic touch. Jharokhas, Divankhanas, Gumaharias give these Haveli's a touch of royalty. If exteriors of Bikaner havelis are the marvels of stone and chisel then interiors are the wonders of paint and brush. The artists used their fertile imagination to capture these on the canvas of the walls.

Havelis are the mute testimonials of benevolence of the Haveli owners who were art connoisseur. Most of these havelis were constructed out of noble cause to give employment to local artists during fatal drought. These marvels in stone have stood the test of time spreading the sweet fragrance of the toil and talent of those great artists. The craftsmen and artists expressed their imagination and their gratitude towards the patrons by creating wonders with colours and stone. Each has a story to tell and past to boast. These architecturally strong and intricately designed Havelis have enormous treasure to charm art lovers across the world. They have a lot to cater to the passion and interest of true art lovers



## Mitch Albom and his Famous Works

Born May 23, 1958, Mitchell David "Mitch Albom" is an internationally renowned American author, journalist, screenwriter, dramatist, radio and television broadcaster and musician. His books have collectively sold more than 35 million copies worldwide; have been published in forty-nine territories and in forty-five languages around the world. His books have made into Emmy Award-winning and critically acclaimed television movies. He is perhaps best known for the inspirational stories and themes that weave through his books, plays, and films. Some of his master pieces are: The First Phone Call from Heaven, The Time Keeper, Have a little faith, For one more day, Five people you meet in heaven, Tuesdays with Morrie etc.



**Five people you meet in heaven:** Everyone does have an idea about Heaven but only few can create magic by embroidering it on paper and yes it was magical reading it...I wonder whether everyone gets such opportunity after death as Edward {Eddie}the central figure in the novel. I felt the best part was Eddie's conversation with the Blue man,the first person he meets in heaven and even in the end when he gets acquainted with Tala...With a blend of creativity and rich philosophies about life this novel grabs all the attention .Few lines like "Death doesn't just takes someone, it misses someone else and the small distance between being taken and being missed, lives are changed" "strangers are just family you have yet to know" "people often belittle the place they are born, but heaven can be found in most unlikely corners" etc. are noteworthy.

**Tuesdays with Morrie:** This book is about the bond between the author and his former professor, Morrie Schwartz. It deals with numerous themes like family, happiness life and death. It is truly inspiring book with lessons to glare a life with different lens .This book is in itself an extraordinary piece of literature and everybody should read it at least once in their lifetime .The following quote from the book says it all "Have you ever really had a teacher? One who saw you as a raw but previous thing, a jewel that, with wisdom, could be polished to a proud shine? If you are lucky enough to find your way to such teachers, you will always find a way back. Sometimes it is only in your head and sometimes it is right alongside their beds." - Mitch Albom.

Hope you get your hands on one of these soon and enjoy it just as much as I have. Happy Reading !!

**-Editorial Board**

### Did You Know These Things Had Names?

**Glabella** - The space between your eyebrows is called a glabella.

**Petrichor** - The way it smells after the rain is called petrichor.

**Aglet** - The plastic or metallic coating at the end of your shoelaces is called an aglet.

**Wamble** - The rumbling of stomach is actually called a wamble.

**Vagitus** - The cry of a newborn baby is called a vagitus.

**Tines** - The prongs on a fork are called tines.

**Phosphenes** - The sheen or light that you see when you close your eyes and press your hands on them are called phosphenes.

**Box Tent** - The tiny plastic table placed in the middle of a pizza box is called a box tent.

**Overmorrow** - The day after tomorrow is called overmorrow.

**Minimus** - Your tiny toe or finger is called minimus.

**Agraffe** - The wired cage that holds the cork in a bottle of champagne is called an agraffe.

**-Editorial Board**

## Food for Thoughts

### Shakespeare:

Never play with the feelings of others because you may win the game but the risk is that you will surely lose the person for a lifetime.

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Laughing faces do not mean that there is absence of sorrow! But it means that they have the ability to deal with it.

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### Napoleon:

The world suffers a lot. Not because of the violence of bad people, But because of the silence of good people!

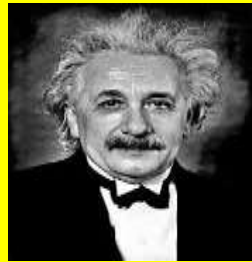
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### Einstein:

I am thankful to all those who said NO to me It's because of them I did it myself.

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### Abraham Lincoln:

If friendship is your weakest point then you are the strongest person in the world.

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### William Arthur :

Opportunities are like sunrises, if you wait too long you can miss them.

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### Hitler:

When you are in the light, Everything follows you, But when you enter into the dark, even your own shadow doesn't follow you.

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-Editorial Board

## Imperishable Intellectual Jewels: Remembering Rumi



Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī, popularly known as Rumi was a 13th century Persian poet, jurist, Islamic scholar, theologian, and Sufimystic. Rumi's influence transcends national borders and ethnic divisions. He has been appreciated for his spiritual legacy for the past seven centuries. His poems have been widely translated into many of the world's languages and transposed into various formats.

### Pearls of wisdom from his poetry:



“Words are a pretext. It is the inner bond that draws one person to another, not words.”



“Reason is powerless in the expression of Love.”



“Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.”



“You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean in a drop”



“Love is the bridge between you and everything.”



“Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They're in each other all along.”



“You were born with wings, why prefer to crawl through life?”



“There is a voice that doesn't use words. Listen.”



“If you are irritated by every rub, how will you be polished?”

-Editorial Board



# THE MOVIE OF THE MONTH

## Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows (2016)

Rated a solid 6 Out of 10 this is a must see especially for families with kids.

**Director:** Dave Green

**Writers:** Josh Appelbaum, André Nemec

**Stars:** Megan Fox, Will Arnett, Tyler Perry

Box Office

**Budget:** \$135,000,000 (estimated)

**Opening Weekend:** \$35,316,382 (USA) (3 June 2016)

While I don't usually watch kids movies, but I decided to give this movie a try. I'm glad I did because I found it to be an absolutely thrilling and enjoyable watch. The actions are fast paced and unlike some other movies the humour is kept alive in its action sequence. Keep in mind that this is a kid's movie, the acting is a bit goofy. The plot is simple and well explained. The problems the characters faces are easily resolved and before you know it one moves on to solve the next big thing in the Ninja's life. The story line is kept simple and rightly so. There are simple lessons to learn and a lot of laughs.

On to the criticism, I don't find Tyler Perry's acting convincing. And, even though it is an Alibaba film, the Asian characters in this movie are very lightweight, including the villain Shredder. I'm not familiar with the TMNT franchise, but his role is quite weak.

The moral of the story is accept yourself and don't change who you are, which is drowned by all the action sequences. But, who cares. This movie is fun.



- Pranjal Chaturvedi

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