



Let's science it out!  
 -Soumya Stuns & Shashank Shines  
**Soumya Singhal, XII I & Shashank Tomar, XII E, AIS Noida, Page Editors**



# Idhar chala, main udhar chala

Science suggests that we may have started out in the land of Zebras. So, the next time you feel like singing Hakuna Matata, remember; maybe it's you, maybe it's the Australopithecus within

**Soumya Singhal**  
 AIS Noida, XII I

"In a world where imaginary lines of colour, language, race and religion threaten to divide us, we could be a lot more alike than we think we are. As per scientists, all of us may just end up being...cousins?!" 'Ancient Human Displacement: The Misconstrued Notion of Differences', Laksh nodded at the title of his elder sister's history project. For someone who was inquisitive by nature, it wasn't surprising when his curiosity was left heightened by the time he had finished reading his sister's project. His quick resort to Google didn't prove much help, the sophisticated jargon confusing the 13 year old even more. Sighing,

he shut his laptop and went to the original Wikipedias of his house - his parents. "Everyone is equal, beta." His father nodded. Laksh's thoughts immediately travelled to his own Maths UT marks, and remembering his topper friend's performance, he almost interrupted his father. "But," his father continued, sipping his *chai*, "Millions of years ago, that wasn't the case. There used to be different types, or rather, species of humans. The earliest man was basically then replaced by a slightly more evolved, or better species, and this species by another, and thus it started, the cycle that led to us; the modern human. Or as those latin folk call it, homo sapiens."

*"Exactly, yes! And what's interesting is that some historians believe that the first humans originated from Ethiopia. Which would mean that there is a high chance that all of us could be Africans!"*

"Evolution," Laksh muttered, remembering the word that his sister had mentioned several times in her colourful file. "Exactly, yes! And what's interesting is that some historians believe that the first early humans originated from Ethiopia. Which would mean that there is a high chance that all of us could be Africans!" Laksh started laughing at this point, the sudden image of his father frolicking in the grasslands of Zambia filling his head.

"What are you telling Laksh, Rajeev!" Laksh

turned around to see his mother. "You're forgetting that there is a counter-argument! Some historians believe that early humans existed in many other places, not just Africa. They also believe these early humans developed into homo sapiens at different rates..."

"Wait, if they evolved at different rates..." Laksh started. "Yes, that's probably why there were variations in the appearances of the first modern humans." His mother nodded enthusiastically. "I don't think that's rig..." Laksh's father started. "Listen, maybe your relatives are related to Africans, but mine aren't," his mother

retorted, snatching the cup of *chai* from him. Sensing an argument, Laksh quietly slid back to his room. He opened his sister's project file again. Surprisingly this time round, some of the fancy words actually made sense to him.

Laksh's father had been advocating the 'Out of Africa Theory', whereas, his mother had been holding strong stance in favour of the 'Multiregional Hypothesis'. After a small trip to Google Baba, he was left with two theories, both equally convincing. It was now his turn to decide what he believed in. This dilemma had been a popular topic of dinner table arguments between scientists.

So the point is, we are dealing with the

possibility that all of us have a common origin in Africa, where the first fossils of Australopithecus (AKA the OG human, AKA the One Who Started It All) dated 5.6 mya, were discovered. Basically, expelling the science talk, we're all Africans.

However, before we start applying for Visas, it is important to note that we have evolved magnanimously from where we started. Add to it the fact that our ancestors never really stuck around in Africa. Both these factors reiterate how it's not really accurate to claim the grasslands of Africa as our home today. As Laksh lay awake that night pondering over the origin of humans, he realised how the stories of human evolution had changed over time. He wondered if these theories would remain unchanged when he shares them with his own children. 🇮🇳



Graphic: Kartikeya Bagla, AIS Noida, XII D

...And like that our idea of our origins changed, as did we.

## Diary of a Wimpy VIRUS

Illustration: Saniya Ray, AIS Noida, XI I

*Hello, listen everybody  
 This is my story  
 Of daring escapades  
 With a mere floppy disc  
 So enter at your own risk  
 CIA trembles at my name  
 Such is my fame  
 Buckle up and get ready  
 Here's my autobiography*

**Kartikeya Bagla, XII D & Arushi Gupta, XI C**  
 AIS Noida

May 21, 2078: During an archaeological excavation of the continent once known as Asia, various log books that resemble written memoirs were found in makeshift time capsules. All evidence indicates that these were, indeed, written by computer viruses. A thorough investigation is being conducted at the moment to ascertain the credibility of these records. Till then, GT presents an excerpt from one of the capsules exclusively for our readers.

\*\*\*

**The origins:** I was born to a Virus family with influential code lines, snuggled inside Nichrome

wires, in 1987 in West Germany. My ancestor, the first virus ever created, was christened Creeper, designed to study how software multiplied onto computers. She was quite harmless like our distant relative, Elk Cloner, who copied himself onto hard disks and who was, incidentally, the first one to 'spread'. We were named 'viruses' because of how rapidly we multiplied; infecting thousands of users in a minute, destroying files and taking complete control, leaving pure destruction in our wake. We were anarchists, a few lines of code that had the ability to create chaos across the world. What started off as 'fun' for a few computer science students gave birth to us, and ever since then, we've been on the internet, reluctant to ever leave.

**The inner workings:** Stephen Hawking once said, "I think computer viruses should count as life." A wise man, I must say. We, viruses, are made up of codes; a bunch of numbers, alphabets and symbols that constitute a computer language. We simply piggyback onto software. Once we are inside your systems, you may as well bid adieu to all your precious files, documents and other data. After all, we are relentless, we are viruses, and we are VIRAL.

**The military attack of 2009:** My life has been one heck of a roller-coaster ride and I have had my fair share of fun in making the CIA, and

the rest of the so-called intelligence crowd growl in defeat, as I made my way through their databases. When it comes to technology, the US government isn't as tech-savvy as it thinks it is. In the summer of 2009, us viruses (mainly agent.btz) infected the US military via a pen drive, creating backdoors in their systems, spooking the army as we crawled through the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network which is used by the Defence Department to send classified information. This whole mess took them 14 months to fix. Every time they think of agent.btz, I bet they get the shivers.

**Clickbait, the last laugh:** These past few years have changed the game. While anti-viruses have made it tougher to get into computers, teenagers and first-timers on the internet have made it easier. I get that having an iPhone is the

'it' thing, but do you really think people would be handing them out to you for free? Kids these days are so gullible, it's hilarious.

However, those days are behind me now. I prefer to do a bit of free-lancing for QuickHeal nowadays, helping humanity and all. Remember kids; use a safe anti-virus for protection while exploring the Internet. You know what they say, better safe than sorry. If you come across me someday, beware.

You never know when viruses like me might change their profession. \*cue evil laughter\*

\*\*\*

A rather surprising surge has been seen in the number of virus attacks on users. Despite the launch of the latest iPhone 98 that can teleport you all the way to Jupiter, preventing virus attacks is still tough. The history of viruses has always been vague, their origins unclear. At least now we know that they have a rather suave (and perky) sense of humour. Stay tuned to The Global Times for more updates!

