

combination of these two shades are beyond me. As you would have imagined my introduction to this fancy hue involved the feminine brain of my wife again. I don't remember the exact details, but certainly I must have exhibited my ignorance of this popular color in her world at some cloth store, that my wife was more than eager to educate me.

Having realized there are more colors in the color spectrum that I can understand or name, I changed my way of describing colors. My stronghold, the primary colors got modified in the process, it became bluish, greenish and reddish. Now I am technically correct. Any further detail will land me in trouble. It always helps to know your limitations. After all 'Perfect is the enemy of good'.

When you try to paint your house, the array of colors available is overwhelming. The shade chart shows hundreds of whites, blues and reds and all the colors in between. It certainly is a mammoth task to name all of them. The paint companies are certainly creative; they come up with sexy names like Tuscan Sand and Mediterranean Sea as the name of colors. Here I am not intimidated as all are equally ignorant. What really fascinates me is that, in spite of all the colors available, some do not find the color they want; they need more choices! In my experience, if the color of the walls you have now is what you like, in all likelihood you will choose the same color again.

I am sure you all have done the quizzes on Facebook. If you can identify President Kennedy and President Lincoln, they call you are a genius in history. Likewise the quiz on Geography will make you a genius if you know London is the capital of the UK and Tokyo of Japan. These are really a lure to get you to some advertising web sites. If you don't pay attention, you may end up on a website selling underwear. Still sometimes we do



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the quizzes as it feels good to be called good at something. I am sure there should be some term for this nihilism in psychiatric literature. But there are quizzes on colors, which I avoid with a passion. They are traps where you are asked to identify the lightest shade of pink out of three similar ones. Once you get there, the beiges, tans, maroons will strangle your thought process. It is not worth the risk to be called a genius in colors.

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Another education of colors happens when you go with your wife for saree shopping. Apart from the sadistic pleasure of making the salesman pull out all his wares into a huge pile for you to see, it is an excellent opportunity to learn about colors. The saree has a color and its border can have a different color. The proficiency of the shopper is seen when she describes the Peacock blue saree with Rani Pink Pallu to

be pulled out of the mess that has been created. The deliberate ease with which saree color and Pallu color are described will be mind boggling for the uninitiated. It was in one of those occasions I tried to show off my knowledge of colors. When a saree was being displayed, I remarked, "what a beautiful teal colored Saree". Suddenly the scene became silent (like a Clint Eastwood Western movie; the movie title music would be appropriate). Both the salesperson and my wife looked at me and declared "this is not teal, its Parrot Green". I was promptly put in my place.

When at home and we are getting ready to go out for a function or party, my input is always sought "how do I look?". My answer has been always "stunning", though I believe the question is more rhetorical than seeking the input of someone whose proficiency in colors and fashion, at best is questionable.

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