


The Leacock Medal for Humour

Canada's Award for Literary Humour

Awarded annually by Stephen Leacock Associates

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The Eighth Wonder of the World

by

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Tied Third Place Winner in the 2023 Student Competition

What was once a beautiful paradise of nature, now stinks to high heavens. This stunning 6560m mountain of garbage is the newest tourist sensation of the nation. Visitors planning to make a visit to the site should come prepared, and are advised to bring sunscreen, sunglasses, a pair of odor masks, boots, gloves and have their shots. For more info, tune in this morning at 10am with CBC news.

“Good morning, folks, I’m here with you today from CBC with a special broadcast. Live from the one and only, the magnificent Mount Enviro Premium, the newest tourist sensation of the nation. With a height of 6560 meters, it officially makes it the tallest mountain in Canada. Dubbed a national treasure, it’s a must go-to for those visiting the area.”

Fanning his face with a grease-stained *Exploration to Mars: 2050* magazine, the news reporter takes a big breath and coughs nervously. “There have now been several expeditions with the ambitious goal of reaching the summit of Mount Enviro Premium. However, the blistering winds of trash fumes are no joke. I have with me a fellow Canadian Jonathan Bork, also known as the Conqueror of the Beast, Leader of the Iced Toasted Vanilla Oat Milk Shaken Espresso Petitioners, and the only one still alive to tell the tale. Tell us about your experience, Mr. Bork.”

“Well, after Mount Everest, I thought that climbing Mount Enviro Premium would be a similar challenge, but—”

“But, you underestimated the 6 trillion pounds of garbage.”

“Yeah. This, by far, has been the hardest thing I’ve ever attempted in my lifetime,” exclaims Mr. Bork, tears streaming down his face.

“Oh, don’t cry,” the news reporter says in reassuring tones.

"I'm not crying," snaps Mr. Bork. "My eyes are burning."

"Oh, I see. Of course. How are you enjoying your newfound fame?" asks the news reporter.

"Magnificently! I have to say, though, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mememe, where I posted memes of my journey under the Instatrash hashtag; it's the most used tag since Mememe was created," Mr. Bork gushes.

"Oh, yes, you now have the most followers on that platform, isn't that right?"

I heard that the meme of you standing on top of Mount Enviro Premium was shared 4.7 billion times, becoming the most shared picture in mankind."

"That's right," Mr. Bork declares. "I must say, though, I owe all the thanks to the people who made Mount Enviro Premium. I wouldn't be here without them. So, to whoever's out there, I appreciate it."

"But please, don't leave us in suspense. Tell us about all the interesting things you saw up there. There's been so many rumors about Mount Enviro Premium, ever since it started. Some people think aliens brought this glorious creation to the Earth, and some think the mountain is sentient. Having been the only person to brave its treacherous terrain, what do you think?"

"Well, I don't know about aliens, but I have seen lots of strange creatures up there. There are flies, rats, racoons, and," Mr. Bork shudders, "there are even humans."

The news reporter gasps. "Humans? Living there?"

Mr. Bork nods, expression grave. "That's right. There's a whole group of them up there. Apparently, they were...they were..." Mr. Bork shudders. "Oh, the horror! They called themselves thrifters! Sifting through the mountain, looking for things they proclaimed were perfectly reusable. One of them had the nerve to say that they were doing the world a service by taking things from the mountain, and not adding to it. The nerve!" Mr. Bork pauses dramatically. "And what's even more disturbing, they made themselves at home on the mountain. Everything they need, the mountain provides. And what's even more horrifying, they said that they were cleaner than the rest of the world."

"Such savages," the news reporter exclaims. "And then? There has to be more."

"Well, they've been wanting to come down ever since they found out that the mountain was becoming a tourist site. Can you believe it? They're a part of the mountain now as savage as they are. The government owns Mount Enviro Premium as it is, and everyone has the right to see it in its full glory."

"Exactly. They don't have the right to just up and leave."

Mr. Bork huffs. "There's a lot of them, and they're hard to see; they blend right in."

"Fascinating. According to the Environmental Fair, Mount Enviro Premium is generally recognized as the most impressive achievement of mankind. It was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site just last year, and there are new rumors of something big happening. Have you heard anything about that?"

"Well," Mr. Bork leans in conspiratorially, "don't say you heard this from me, but I found out that there's going to be an Eighth Wonder of the World very soon. Never in my life have I been prouder to be a Canadian. I'm glad Canada is finally getting the attention it deserves; we're just as good as the rest of the world. As a matter of fact, everyone else should watch out: Mount Enviro Premium is growing rapidly, and might just become the tallest mountain in the world."

"Well, I bet," the news reporter chuckles. "And-"

Mr. Bork shrieks, and points to the sky. "A dead bird just fell from the sky, right into Mount Enviro Premium!"

"Well, yes. The government of Canada environmental statistics shows that more and more birds have dropped over Mount Enviro Premium, especially birds in migration." The news reporter sneezes. "Sorry. My sinuses are acting up. Anyways, they think it has something to do with the unique aroma of Mount Enviro Premium; nothing like they've ever smelled. Lucky birds. They get to be honored as a part of the mountain. I'm jealous."

Mr. Bork nods. "It's an honor. I would give my right arm to experience that glory."

The news reporter smiles. "I get what you mean. You're already a legend, though, aren't you?"

Mr. Bork shrugs. "More never hurts. In fact, I might just be making a second trek up the mountain someday. I'd do anything to experience that moment, standing on top of the mountain. And the air has never been cleaner."

"Well, that's all for now, folks. Tune in next week for more." The news reporter laughs, crumples up the magazine, and tosses it towards Mount Enviro-Premium.

Well, what an interesting report. Mount Enviro Premium has certainly lived up to its name; the Prime Minister is in town and will be paying a visit to this sensational, humongous abomination of a- ahem, excuse me, I meant trash, come Wednesday. Humanity has really outdone itself this time. And although the origin of Enviro Premium still remains a mystery, what we do know for now is that the mountain towers over the country and is growing faster than ever. What's more, countries all over the world are now working on their own version of 'Mount Enviro Premium', which only means more pay days for the tourist industry.