

**“PRIMAL”: A MONOLOGUE
FOR OUR TIMES**

By Kenjiro Lee

PRIMAL

KENJIRO stands alone.

KENJIRO

OKAY, MOTHERFUCKERS, **LISTEN UP!** WE'RE ALL UNDER A LOT OF STRESS, OKAY? THERE'S A GLOBAL PANDEMIC GOING ON, WE'RE TAKING CLASSES VIA ZOOM, OUR PRESIDENT'S INCOMPETENT, AND LATELY IT FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING THAT *COULD* GO WRONG *HAS!*

Nothing I'm saying here should be news to you.

THE POINT IS WE'RE UNDER A **SHIT-TON** OF STRESS, AND WHEN I'M UNDER A LOT OF STRESS THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I DO! SOMETIMES WHEN I'M IN THE SHOWER I COVER MY EARS AND JUST COWER FOR A FEW MINUTES, IMAGINING THE SPRAY OF WATER CASCADING ONTO MY HEAD IS ALL THE TROUBLES IN THE WORLD GETTING DEFLECTED! MY HEAD'S A MAGICAL SHIELD IN THIS SCENARIO, BY THE WAY, WHEREAS IN THE REAL WORLD MY HEAD JUST SOAKS UP ALL THE TROUBLES IN THE WORLD AND I'M A BALL OF STRESS! AT LEAST IN THE SHOWER I CAN PRETEND OTHERWISE!

My hair's not very absorbent. When I exercise I'm covered in sweat.

ANOTHER THING I DO IS DRINK A LOT OF COFFEE! NOW, I'M ACTUALLY DIALING THIS BACK A LITTLE BECAUSE CONSTANT EXPERIMENTATION HAS PROVEN THAT DRINKING A LOT OF COFFEE IS ACTUALLY A TERRIBLE WAY TO DEAL WITH STRESS! USUALLY IT JUST EXACERBATES THE SITUATION! THIS ONE TIME I DRANK A PINT OF COLD BREW AND 32 OUNCES OF POUR-OVER COFFEE IN THE SPAN OF AN HOUR!

My teeth were literally chattering all afternoon.

ONE THING I *DON'T* DO IS DRINK ALCOHOL! WELL, THAT'S NOT TRUE, I ACTUALLY DRINK ALCOHOL A BIT BUT NOT A WHOLE LOT, ALTHOUGH I ADMIT IT'D BE VERY EASY TO HAVE IT ALL THE TIME GIVEN THE TIMES WE LIVE IN! BUT I MADE A DECISION AT THE START OF QUARANTINE TO LIMIT MY REGULAR ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION BECAUSE I REALIZED I DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME AN ALCOHOLIC DURING THIS PANDEMIC! NOT TO CRITICIZE ANYONE WHO *HAS* BECOME AN ALCOHOLIC DURING THIS PANDEMIC, I AGREE THESE ARE VERY TRYING TIMES! BUT IT'S EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOURSELF IN CHECK!

My favorite cocktail is an Old Fashioned with Makers' Mark bourbon.

SOMETHING I WANT TO DO BUT DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OPPORTUNITIES TO DO IS **SCREAM!** THE REASON I DON'T SCREAM A WHOLE LOT IS BECAUSE THERE AREN'T REALLY ANY SOCIAL SITUATIONS THAT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO SCREAM IN SUCH A WAY THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A CRAZY PERSON.

WHICH IS WHY I'M SHOUTING AT YOU TODAY! TODAY WE'RE GOING TO LET OUT OUR FRUSTRATIONS, OUR STRESS, OUR INHIBITIONS BY LETTING OUT THE SCREAM TO END ALL SCREAMS! AND WE'RE GOING TO DO IT ON MY MARK! READY? 1...2...

WAIT!!!!!!

OKAY SO I JUST REALIZED THAT PERHAPS YOU'RE IN A SITUATION WHERE IT MIGHT NOT BE ADVISABLE TO SCREAM AT THE TOP OF YOUR LUNGS WITHOUT WARNING. SO WE'RE GOING TO ADJUST THIS SLIGHTLY. TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO NOTIFY THE PEOPLE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE VICINITY THAT THEY WILL HEAR A SCREAM AND THAT IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE DOING THEATER! I'LL GIVE YOU 10 SECONDS!

Wait ten seconds.

ALL SET? GOOD! ALSO, IF YOU'RE WEARING EARBUDS OR HEADPHONES, IT *MIGHT* BE A GOOD IDEA TO TAKE THEM OFF WHEN WE SCREAM. YOU KNOW WHAT, LET'S ALL GET OFF MUTE AND TURN OUR CAMERAS ON, I WANT TO SEE YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACES WHILE WE DO THIS. I'LL WAIT.

OKAY, READY? THE SCREAM TO END ALL SCREAMS FOR FIVE SECONDS IN 3...2...1...
Property of Kenjiro Lee

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HHHHHHHH!!

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Pause.

Thank you for indulging me.

End.