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When Did Ordinary Become Less Valuable?

*A quiet reflection on bananas, value, and the things
we've stopped noticing.*

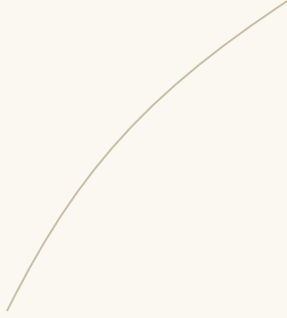
The Nourished Roots

GOODNESS WITHIN

By **Pooja Kothari**

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The Ordinary Banana

There is something interesting about a banana.

It is everywhere. Affordable, familiar and available almost all year.

We eat it without thinking much about it.

Yet put an imported apple, a box of berries or an unfamiliar fruit in front of us and suddenly it feels a little more special.

Why?

When did ordinary become less valuable?

Hardly Ordinary

The banana is hardly ordinary when you look closer. India is one of the major centres of banana diversity, with a long history of cultivation and many varieties beyond the familiar banana we see every day.

And the banana plant has been woven into everyday Indian life for generations. Its fruit is food, its flower is cooked, its leaves become plates and wrappers, and in many traditions the plant and fruit have a place in rituals and offerings.



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*Something can be everyday food
and sacred offering
at the same time.*

A Cheap Fruit?

So how did it become simply “a cheap fruit”?

Maybe this isn't really about bananas.

We do this with people too.

We are quick to notice what signals importance: the school someone went to, the job they hold, the way they dress, the circles they belong to.

What Cannot Be Read

But life is full of people whose worth cannot be read from the outside.

Maybe we have become better at recognising status than recognising value.

What Matters

The banana doesn't need to become exotic to have value.

And perhaps people don't need to look important to matter.

Maybe ordinary was never the problem.



*“Maybe we just stopped
looking closely.”*

Pooja Kothari

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Thank you for reading.

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