

Thoreau Stopping and Shopping

[Part 1]

Narrator [Saanvi]: Here lives Henry David Thoreau in his natural habitat: Walden Pond. Today, he goes on his early morning fishing trip.

Thoreau: Today is a good day to fish. I find fish philosophically related to the concept of cannibalism.

Thoreau: As I was sayingWait a minute...This is a *big* fish.

[Struggling to get fish]

Thoreau: AAAAAAAAAHHH.

[Thoreau falls into the lake, resurfaces a couple of seconds later, lights turn off]

[Light back on]

Thoreau: Now I'm all wet. Let me get some new clothes from my cabin.

[Looks for his cabin but can't find it. Wanders off. Hiker (Charles) find and approach him]

Hiker (Charles): What's good unc! You look absolutely cooked! You fall into the lake or sum?

Thoreau: I'm not quite acquainted with your peasantry English. I have indeed fallen into the lake, and I can't pinpoint the location of my cabin.

Hiker (Charles): Oh, you mean the cabin over there?

Thoreau: Those ruins? That is not my cabin. My cabin is a small but sturdy dwelling.

Hiker (Charles): There hasn't been a cabin around here forever brohio. You sure you ok?

Thoreau: I am most certain that I am doing quite fine, and that my cabin is somewhere around here. For now, direct me to town so I can get my laundry done. I cannot walk around in these wet rags any more.

Hiker (Charles): Sure thing brotato. Town is (*point in any direction*) that way. Plenty of laundromats in that area. Your clothes will be dry and clean in no time. Just make sure you have money!

Thoreau: Thank you good sir. I have plenty of gold coins in my pocket that the townspeople will love. I shall see you another day perhaps.

Hiker (Charles): I didn't get your name.

Thoreau: Thoreau. Henry David Thoreau.

Hiker (Charles): He died over 150 years ago, big guy. Are you good in the head?

Thoreau: I am quite positive I am Henry David Thoreau. And what do you mean I was deceased 150 years ago? I'm standing right here!

Hiker (Charles): It is 2025 brochado. You have been expired for a long long time. Whatever. Let's assume you are actually Thoreau. Tell me something only he would know.

Thoreau: I once attended Harvard, and aspired to be an educator. I resigned after 2 weeks because I refused to hit the kids. My family also had a lucrative pencil business.

Hiker (Charles): You really are back! I don't know what on earth you're doing here, but welcome back from the dead I guess. Here's 5 bucks. Take it as a gift from someone who has read some of your works.

Thoreau: Thank you, good friend. I shall head towards town now. Keep the \$5. My gold coins shall be more than enough to buy whatever I want.

Hiker (Charles): Good luck in town!

[Part 2]

Narrator (Charles): Heading to town, Thoreau never expected to be greeted with the modernity of 2025.

Thoreau: Is that hiker absolutely sure that this is Concord? This looks nothing like the downtown I know. Why are the buildings so much taller? Where are the brick buildings? Where are the townhouses?

Bypasser [Saanvi]: Hey man. You look hella lost right now. Are you visiting or something? You look like you've come from the past 🤪. If you need, I'll quickly take you around town. It has some very rich history.

Thoreau: I just need to go to the house on 100 Sudbury Road. The people there do laundry very well.

Bypasser [Saanvi]: There's no house there anymore, good friend. There is however a big market where you can buy new clothes and food. It's called Stop & Shop. It's over that way.

Thoreau: Very well then. I shall venture to the [say awkwardly] Stop & Shop. Farewell good sir!

[In the Stop & Shop]

Thoreau: This is far more colossal than the markets I'm used to. Why are the aisles so elongated? What are these food items even supposed to be? What is a Twinkie?

[Employee walks by]

500Thoreau: Good Sir!!

Employee (Charles): What's up twin?

Thoreau: This is my first time *Stopping & Shopping*. What items do you recommend buying?

Employee (Charles): Those Twinkies in your hand are a good start. There's a lot of other good snacks on this aisle and the aisles next to us. There's produce on the left wing, and meat at the very back. You look kind of cooked right now, so you're probably only gonna buy some cheap stuff. This aisle is perfect for that.

Thoreau: I may seem poor, but my pockets are filled with gold. Do not underestimate my wealth, young man.

Employee (Charles): Whatever you say, unc.

[Thoreau continues shopping, yaps while doing so]

Narrator [Saanvi]: As Thoreau is peacefully shopping, a storm is brewing. News that Thoreau is back spreads like wildfire. Many are interested in his return, particularly a young fanatic who has grown up addicted to his works.

[Thoreau finishes shopping, gives employee gold coins]

[Thoreau is walking back to his cabin near Walden Pond and approached by the young fanatic around the road]

Thoreau: This modern world really is something. So many commodities in one location!

[Thoreau opens up Twinkie and eats it while avid fan runs towards him]

Thoreau: These Twinkies have a taste that's most agreeable. It enchants my taste buds. Such a shame these did not exist back in my time.

Fan: Thoreau! Thoreau! You're really alive! OMG! I've read all about you! Is it really true that you spent two years in the woods near Walden Pond?

Thoreau: Yes, around that amount of time. It is a most enlightening experience.

Fan: I really want to do that some time! I know all about the minimalist lifestyle! I'm preparing my own journey into the woods! I've sold all of my stuff. My house, my car, everything. I can't wait to become just like you...

[Fan sees groceries]

Fan: What is that in your hand??

Thoreau: Ummmm....some groceries??? Some pastry I think they labelled a twinkie???...

Fan: You lied to the world this whole time. I sold everything for this false dream you promoted...

Thoreau: I can explain!! Minimalism does work!! Trust me! Your dream is still achievable!!

Fan: Now I understand. The constant trips to your mother's house. I wrote it off as you just strolling to town every now and then. But no, you were actually buying things. You aren't a minimalist. You're a hypocrite!!

[Thoreau starts running off]

Thoreau: It...it's just a misunderstanding!

Fan: My entire life is ruined! Get back here!

[Richy and Abhi run off stage]

Narrator [Saanvi]: As Thoreau and his no longer avid fan play a game of cat and mouse, a lone hiker decides to take a short break.

Hiker [Charles]: I'm tired as heck!! I've walked 5 miles on this trail, and my legs are about to collapse! A short break won't hurt anybody.

[Hiker opens Clash Royale on max volume, Thoreau bursts onto stage]

Thoreau: Good sir!! You have to help me! There's a maniac trying to kill me! I can't go on for much longer!

Hiker [Charles]: Yo dude, calm down. I'll help you if that maniac comes, but for now just watch me cook.

Thoreau: This moving picture looks quite profound. What is it called??

Hiker [Charles]: This is called an iPhone. The thing I'm playing right now is Clash Royale.

Thoreau: Very...intriguing

Fan: There you are, you filthy hypocrite! Get over here!

Thoreau: That maniac is here! Cover for me, I've got to skedaddle!!

[Richy runs off stage]

Fan: Where is that scoundrel?!

Hiker [Charles]: idk dude. I think he ran that way?? [points in random direction → direction should be opposite of where Thoreau runs]

[Charles slowly wanders off backstage, still playing clash royale. Abhi runs offstage, Richy gets back on stage, eating a twinkie]

Thoreau: Finally, that maniac is gone. Mayhaps I can find peace in this twisted world.

[Abhi runs on stage]

Fan: Can't hide from me forever punk! Smelled your hypocritical stench from a mile away! We can do this the easy way or the *hard* way. Your choice ya hooligan!

Thoreau: I won't ever submit to the likes of you, maniac. Adios, mi amigo.

[Falls off the stage]

[Abhi enters]

Fan: NOOOOO!!! WHERE'D HE GOOOOO?!?!?!

[Abhi exits]

Narrator [Saanvi]: Now back in his own time, Thoreau reflects on his experiences, and comes to a final conclusion.

Thoreau: I'm back home finally, to a cabin that is not ruined. [Waits a few seconds]. Perhaps the fan was right. Maybe I am a hypocrite. Maybe I do preach something I go against. Maybe minimalism isn't achievable after all. I need to change my ways...[finishes Twinkie], and this Twinkie agrees with me.

THE END