

Script:

[Thoreau enjoys his day observing the pond]

[Thoreau walks out of his “house” (really built out of us) and towards the lake.]

Thoreau: Oh such a beautiful sunset bestowed upon the lovely world! I must bathe today.

[Rohan makes bird noise]

Thoreau pauses and looks to the side: “I rejoice that there are owls. Let them do the idiotic and maniacal hooting for men.”

Thoreau, while walking slowly around the pond: “Ah, the crisp evening air and gorgeous blue depths of the pond truly bring me joy”

[Thoreau, while walking into the pond, slips and falls into the pond. The stage lights turn off and there’s a vague phone call to 911.]

Hari: “911, there is a weird bearded man passed out in a trash can next to the dove men irresistible odor poster in times square”

[When the stage lights turn back on, Vishal is lying on the ground. Rohan and Vasu come in with the ambulance. Rohan and Hari pick up Vishal and goes back to the ambulance, and they walk off the stage,]

[Thoreau comes to the hospital.]

Doctor: Good morning, sir. How are you feeling?

Thoreau: Where am I?

Doctor: You’re at Mount Sinai West hospital in New York City. You were brought here after you were found passed out in Times Square.

Thoreau: Times Square? Mount Sinai West Hospital? Why are the lights so bright? What is everything around me? What are all these implements? How am I in New York City? Why does it look like this? I was just taking a stroll around Walden Pond, and...

Doctor: Sir, please calm down. What’s your name?

Thoreau: My name? I am the great, admirable, meritorious, divine Henry David Thoreau.(get louder as u say it)

Doctor: [Looking him up on her phone] Like the famed, and redundant, author of *Walden*? Henry David Thoreau?

Thoreau: Yes, exactly like him. That is I, after all. Also, what is that...contraption in your hands?

Doctor: This is a phone. You can use it to access the internet and post snippets of text. How do you not know what this is? They've been around for over fourteen years now.

Thoreau: Uh.... I was just testing you.

Doctor: Anyways, sir, that's not possible. Henry David Thoreau died a long time ago.

[frame freeze]

Thoreau: (self talk) What is this 0 IQ imbecile talking about, I am well and alive. Why does the hospital look like this?

[back to normal]

Doctor: I'll write you down as "Disturbed" in your file. It clearly seems like you have some issue, I guess that one thing you and Thoreau have in common.

Thoreau: No, doctor, please! I'm not! I was just amusing myself. My given name is Henry David Thoreau, but I am no author. I was simply named after him.

Doctor: Okay, I understand that. I'll simply mark you down as amusing then.

Thoreau: Thank you Doctor. When can I be discharged?

Doctor: I just need to confirm that you're all healthy, and then you can go. Do you have the Covid-19 vaccine?

Thoreau: What in the world is Covid-19?

Doctor: Covid-19! The world-famous pandemic that struck just last year.

Thoreau: Ah yes, I understand. I do remember that [chuckles nervously].

Doctor: You have them then? The injections that give you immunity to diseases like polio and chicken pox?

Thoreau: [loudly] What? No, that's preposterous! No man-made invention can provide a resemblance of immunity to nature.

Doctor: Sir, there are many studies showing that-

Thoreau: No! I will not hear it. I would like to leave, please.

Doctor: Okay then. I'll sign your release papers: you just have to do that too, and then you can go free.

Thoreau: Thank you.

[The doctor brings him the papers and they sign them.]

Thoreau: So I can go now?

Doctor; Yes, sir. Have a great day.

Thoreau: Do not say that with so much glee; the Oversoul will take care of me.

[Thoreau leaves and sees [store] near the hospital.]

Talks to self: What has happened to such a beautiful world , now it is filled with off track trains, so much pollution. We are cooking ourselves!!! Such morons! Do they realize technology is the end of us?

[walks for a sec]

Thoreau: Ah! Perfect. A marketplace. I can acquire a new in hoe! I couldn't find my old one, someone must've been using it.

[He walks inside and looks around.]

Thoreau: Ah, the garden tools! Perfect.

[He looks around and sees more interesting things.]

Thoreau: Fertilizer? It makes plants grow better? Pesticides? This gets rid of disease and bugs? I need all of this!

[Thoreau grabs a few things and goes to the cashier.]

Thoreau: Hello, good sir. I would like to purchase these items on this day.

Cashier: Uhm...like....sure man.

Thoreau: Thank you.

Cashier: The total will be \$87.10.

Thoreau: Interesting, the machine does the calculations by itself.... Wait, what!?!?!?!? That's ten times what I have! That's simply ridiculous!

Cashier: I dunno whatta tell ya man.

Thoreau: Fine. What can I afford? I have \$8.71.

Cashier: Totally Rad Dude. Man, the only thing ya can afford is this Vicks Vaporub value pack bro.

Thoreau: That's....okay. What does it do?

Cashier: It makes your nose runny to clear congestion while you're sick.

Thoreau: Interesting. I'll take it.

Cashier: The Vicks is \$8.00, but tax makes it \$ 8.70 bro, that chill right.

Thoreau: What! I refuse to pay the tax. Take \$8. I'm not giving you a cent more!

[Thoreau puts \$8 down, takes the Vicks, and runs]

Cashier: "Police! Catch him!"

[The police officer, who was eating a donut with pink frosting and rainbow sprinkles, hops up and starts chasing Thoreau.]

[Chase scene.]

[Thoreau escapes from the police officer finding himself in Central Park]

Thoreau: Oh my, it seems I have stumbled upon a park. How I would love to write a poem here.

[He looks around and notices an apple tree]

Thoreau: Oh my, I had not realized how hungry I have been. I should indulge in an apple.

[Thoreau sits down after picking an apple, he looks for something to write a poem]

[Thoreau starts writing]

[Joggers come by with loud music]

Thoreau: Argh! I can't anymore with these joggers! They're so irritating!

[Thoreau starts coughing]

[A jogger comes back on stage and stares at Thoreau for a few seconds]

Jogger [Vasu]: Hey man. Looks like you have Covid. Might want to get tested.

Thoreau: What? Absurd!

Jogger: I dunno man. Just lettin' you know.

[jogs away as Thoreau coughs more]

Thoreau: That's a preposterous idea.

[Thoreau picks up the apple and takes a bite]

Thoreau: I can't taste the delicious nectar of this gorgeous crimson apple!

Hari: u can't taste the apple????? I think you have COVID

[music]

Thoreau: Maybe he's right....I should get tested.

[Thoreau returns to the hospital to get tested, coughing along the way]

[He goes to find the doctor (Sami)]

Thoreau: Doctor!

Doctor: You again?

Thoreau: Yes, me. I believe I have fallen ill with...the uh....the devilish curse that plagues these lands!

Doctor: Devilish curse?

Thoreau: Yes! The sickness with which many have fallen!

Doctor: Do you mean Covid-19?

Thoreau: Yes, that.

Doctor: Put on a mask then! Let me test you now.

Thoreau: Of course.

[does the test]

Doctor: The rapid test came back positive. We've sent a sample to the lab, but the results won't be back for three or four more days.

Thoreau: Oh, woe is me! Will I fall to this devilish curse? Although I complained and whined about the atrocities of technology, it really has benefitted me! Like in this hospital, I may not have woken up without their tools. The large buildings all around as well; they can help so many people eat and sleep! And in the store! That strange machination the cashier used did the math for him! He didn't even have to do anything! And at the park, the joggers enjoyed their music as they were moving. Imagine what I could do if I could listen to the beautiful sounds of Walden Pond all day!

Thoreau: Of course it won't. May I receive the vax...vacuum.....vaccine! That's the word. May I receive the vaccine now?

Doctor: Yes, I have one right here for you.

[Thoreau gets the vaccine]

Thoreau: Thank you! Please lend me your phone.

Doctor: Uh....sure I guess?

Thoreau: Remind me of the name of the vaccine, please.

Doctor: It's the Moderna vaccination.

Thoreau: Thank you.

Thoreau: Maybe technology isn't so bad after all! After all, "I...experienced.....moderna-tea."