"thundering typhoons”,"[bashi-bazouk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashi-bazouk)", "[abominable snowman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abominable_snowman)”,"[kleptomaniac](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleptomania)", "[ectoplasm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ectoplasm_%28cell_biology%29)", "[sea gherkin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_gherkin)", "[anacoluthon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anacoluthon)", "[pockmark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acne_scarring)", "[nincompoop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nincompoop)", "[nitwits](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idiot_%28usage%29)", "scoundrels"!

Felt like heard any of this earlier? Yeah, its captain Haddock’s unforgettable swears! On the occasion of Tintin’s 90th birthday on 10th January 2013, I decided to write about my all time favourite comic character!

(For all those who are wondering as to who Tintin is, he was a fictional character starring in the 24 comic books created by the very famous Belgian writer, Georges Remi. Pictured as a Belgian reporter, Tintin, accompanied by his faithful dog snowy, go on adventures covering the entire globe, unfolding ancient mysteries in some countries and catching wanted criminal master minds in others. This series of books titled *The Adventures Of Tintin* became so popular in the 20th century, that it was translated into 50 other languages and has sold over 200 million copies in the years that have come.)

The side characters have hardly remained on the side in these books. Captain Haddock’s cynical swears, Professor Calculus’ innocent comical behavior, Thompson and Thompson’s hilarious encounters and instances and not to mention the occasional appearances of Bianca Castafiore, General Alcazar, Rastapapoulos etc have sent readers laugh so much that they had to struggle to pause for breath.

But amidst all this, Tintin was just any other newspaper reporter. Why did these comics become so famous all around the world? Why did Steven Spielberg make a million dollar movie venture out of this comic? Why does every child get introduced to this comic the first time his/her parents take him/her to the book store?

Tintin wasn’t a superhero. He didn’t have a red cape, laser vision, death ray, nor could he fly. Hell, he wasn’t even well built! He was just a lad in his twenties with a dog as his friend!

Unlike all the other superheroes who relied on superpowers or cool gadgets for their power, Tintin managed to become a hero in all of our eyes with his one and only asset. Curiosity.

Curiosity was the driving force behind all of his adventures. It made him travel to Egypt to uncover the secrets of the pharaoh , to land on the moon, to meet the kings of India and Scotland, to swim with the sharks in the world’s first personalized submarine, to capture drug smugglers in China and Japan, to foray into the jungles of the amazon and discover ancient civilizations etc.

Superman, Batman, Spiderman. All of them needed disguises and superpowers to be cool and win the hearts of the crowd. But Tintin didn’t need any of it. He showed every child that anyone can have an adventure .He showed us that wit, intelligence and a clean heart were all we needed to satisfy curiosity.

Here’s wishing my all time comic hero and my first crush a very happy birthday!

We still love you TIntin !