Getting Started with Pipe Smoking by Brendan

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Smoking a pipe is a subtle and delicate art that has recently been coming more and more into fashion again. Whereas smoking a cigarette is something that you do quickly and as a throwaway habit, smoking from a pipe is something that you can do gently and that you can enjoy while relaxing. This makes it a much more laid back pass time and because there's such a wide range of different tobacco you can smoke, this also helps to create a whole culture around the idea of pipe smoking that is akin to the culture surrounding coffee. Whether you want a sweet tobacco or a spicy one is up to you, but either way there are lots to try and it's great to do with friends or alone while musing.

Many people perhaps have not yet started to smoke a pipe because they are not sure how. However a quick visit to your local smoke shop makes it easy to get started and they will normally be more than happy to talk you through the process of smoking and to help you pick a pipe.

First of all you need to make sure that you pick a pipe that's right for you. This can be quite a personal thing, almost like picking your favorite pen â€“ it's all about how it feels in the hand. While you might find the look of one pipe more appealing, you may find another sits more comfortably in the palm of your hand. For those just starting out a curved pipe is often the best place to start for comfort.

You should also pick some tobacco and a cigar lighter. A cigar lighter is not crucial, but while you're in a smoke shop it's a wise purchase as it will make it much easier to light without burning your fingers â€“ the difference here being that the flame comes out the side rather than the top so that you don't get your fingers on it. (You may also want to pick up pipe cleaners from smoke shops while you are there to maintain your pipes).

To get started find a quiet place preferably indoors. At first you might struggle to light the pipe so don't worry if it doesn't come naturally right away. When loading the tobacco though you should think of the pipe bowl in thirds. You pack the first third lightly, the second third more tightly and you press down a bit harder on the last layer so that it's packed in but remains springy. When you breath through the pipe it should offer some resistance but not be impossible to suck â€“ almost like breathing in through a straw.

Now to light the tobacco you should use your pipe lighter. Tipping the pipe slightly can help, as can making sure that you move the flame around the whole of the top of the pipe. You can puff slightly on the pipe to help bring the flame down to the bottom of the bowl, but try not to inhale the smoke.

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Smoking a pipe is a highly relaxing way to unwind and gives you a range of delicious tobaccos to try. Follow the link for a a smoke shop, as a smoke shops will enable you to purchase what you need to get started.

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