Acersecomic

Imagine never cutting your hair. How long could it grow? How much time would it take to brush that mane? How much money would you spend on shampoo each week? One whose hair has never been cut can be referred to as an acersecomic. The word comes from the classical Latin ‘acersecomes,’ a long-haired youth. This, in turn, was borrowed from an earlier Greek word that originated from ‘kome,’ the hair of the head, ‘keirein,’ to cut short, and the prefix *a-*, not. It was usual for Roman and Greek youths to wear their hair long until they reached manhood, and thus the word was used as a casual description for such youth.

Today it is pretty common for people to have regular haircuts, but there are the exceptional few with Rapunzel-like locks that grow and grow to limitless lengths. Hair as long as this becomes an oddity and attraction that most people cannot help but stare at. A few Guinness World Records are held by individuals like Asha Mandela, Dai Yue Qin, and Kazuhiro Watanabe. 50-year-old Asha Mandela holds the record for the world’s longest dreadlocks at nineteen feet and six inches, which she has been growing for twenty-five years. She washes her dreads once a week, using up to six bottles of shampoo, and taking about two days to dry. Dai Yue Qin from China holds the record for the world’s longest hair at around fourteen feet long. It takes her about two hours to comb through her tresses, and five to six hours every two weeks to wash. Kazuhiro Watanabe, a Japanese designer, broke a Guinness World Record for his 3 foot 8.6 inch Mohawk. It took three cans of hairspray, one large bottle of gel, and fifteen years to grow it out.

Beyond the world records, many long locks have stories to tell. Brazilian twelve-year-old Natasha Moraes De Andrade, whose hair once reached 5 feet 2 inches, sold her locks for five thousand dollars to help her family with some financial issues. They plan to build themselves a new house with the money. There are also those who grow their hair to compete in ponytail competitions like the 6-foot-haired Terelynn Russel, and those who plan to donate to charity like the 3-foot-6-inch haired Aimee Chase.

Even in the nineteenth century the hair of the Seven Sutherland Sisters became a huge attraction. Sarah, Victoria, Isabella, Grace, Naomi, Dora, and Mary had about thirty-seven feet of hair between them, and they all sang and played instruments. Because Victorian women coveted long luxurious hair, these girls became superstars of the day and struck it rich.

Though there are the exceptions, most hair grows about a half an inch per month, and because we are constantly shedding old hair, the average person’s hair cannot grow past three feet. So, if you do happen to be an acersecomic, but have yet to reach epic hair length, that is totally normal. No need to worry about becoming Cousin It, straight out of the ‘Addams Family.’ Let those locks flow however they’re meant to!

Sources:

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