

40. EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD IN MONASTERY GROUNDS – DAY

The young novices have gathered up their cloaks and are running eagerly after the ball, which is made from scraps of material. Tin Win is standing at the edge of the dusty football ground with home-made goalposts, leaning on his stick and trying to make out what is happening in the game.

Now U May, walking across the area with astonishing confidence, comes up behind the boy. He stands next to him.

U MAY

Why do you not play with them?

Tin Win looks startled.

TIN WIN

Me? How could I play football, with my bad eyes?

U MAY

It appears that you have lost your eyesight, true. But that does not make you blind. You just see differently.

TIN WIN

(puzzled)

But I... I can only tell the difference between light and darkness. I do not see anything more.

U MAY

Do you not have a nose to smell with?

TIN WIN

Yes.

U MAY

Hands to feel?

Tin Win does not reply.

U MAY

Ears to hear?

TIN WIN

(quietly)

Yes.

U MAY

Then use them. What more do you need?

The ball comes rolling slowly across the football ground towards them. U May listens for a moment, and then he stops the ball expertly with one foot. A number of the players are gathered in front of the goal nearby, and some of them call out. U May kicks the ball in a huge arc. The players and the goalkeeper leap up, but the ball sails over them, as if it is going out. However, one of the players comes running up, chests the ball down and shoots it into the goal. Loud cheering. U May laughs happily. He turns and walks off with an almost childlike smile. Tin Win is left standing there, bewildered.