

The Monk: Lost in Hollywood.

written by

Hiabu Hassebu

Address  
Phone  
E-mail

A MONK IN HOLLYWOOD.  
BY HIABU HASSEBU

EXT. UNDER A TREE - DAY

It's late in the afternoon. The sun is about to go down. In groups of three or four, we see dozens of mid and old age males, standing under a big Tree.

Sun's rays penetrates through the green leafs of the trees making different geometrical forms.

We can only see the action, not to hear their chats.

Two Nuns pass by and lean in close as they smile to the chatting groups.

Three young Monks also pass by the chatting groups.

CUT TO:

We see all white and colored pigeons, some flying and some zipping on the trees. We also see three NUNS age 25, feeding the pigeons and running after them.

NUN ONE

I wish I was one of the Pigeons.

Nun Two throws some grains to the ground.

NUN TWO

It's enough to be good to the pigeons. Don't you think so?

Nun three looks down on the ground to see dozens of Pigeons eating peacefully.

NUN THREE

Never to be mean to them.

NUN ONE

Pigeons are very sociable.

NUN TWO

They are an open reference of santity too.

EXT. MINI-LAKE - DAY

Fifteen yards distant from the Monastery building, there's a ten meters square mini-lake. All faithful come to wash their faces, as it's considered it's a holly water.

A MONK 35, (a known exorcist) from the Monastery is standing silently, near the Mini-lake casting his glances to the water. He takes a step back. The crowd are watching the move.

A twenty years old BOY handcuffed lead by two MEN 50, is stepping towards the Mini-lake. The Monk looks them and smiles. He opens his prayer book and reads allowed. The boy stares at the Monk blankly.

Again the Monk fixes his gaze on to the boy. The boy lowers his head down not to see the Monk.

The process of Exorcism follows. The Monk trying to get attention from the Boy he initiates a Geez song in a lower tone. The Monk unwears all his religious vestment to remain with his inner cloths.

With cross in his hands he enters deep to the water. He instantly stares at the boy and invites him to join him. The two men push him towards the water.

MAN ONE

Go inside the water.

MAN TWO

It's not cold.

The Boy resisted entering to the water.

Man one yells back.

MAN ONE

Go inside.

Half-way the Monk steps towards the boy.

He first blesses the boy with the cross and while reciting some prayers he drowns him three times. One more time the Monk calls Jesus name with authority.

The boy shouts loudly in minutes to get silent.

MONK

You see the Demon is out.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

The Monk's room is 3x3 meters square. The bed is messy. In the middle there's a big cross on top of an old wooden table. Two candle lights are set side by side, the big cross being in the middle.

The big bell of the Monastery is ringing loudly to wake all Monks for the early morning prayers. It's 4:00 in the morning and it's totally dark outside.

The Monk stretches his right hand to light the candles. Sits on the brink of his bed his feet laid on the floor.

MONK  
Wake up my body,

Collects himself wiping his eyes.

MONK (CONT'D)  
The night is over, let me offer  
the day for the Lord.

We see the ABBOT 50, stepping slowly on the corridor, reciting his rosary with a prayer book on the other hand.

The Monk sets out himself stepping down the corridor.

ABBOT  
The Lords blessings be upon you?

MONK  
Upon all of us.

All Monks file down the corridor stepping towards the church.

The Abbot looks backward. It's dim dark. He follows all the Monks stepping slowly, behind. All sit each on their seats. The Abbot leans towards a window facing the church.

ABBOT  
Well all looks good.

We see the Abbot stepping inside the church.

All eyes dart to the Abbot. He is more concentrated on himself. Sits at the back on a separate seat.

ABBOT (CONT'D)  
This's the day that the Lord  
has made.

All open their prayer books.

ALL  
Let our hearts raise to the praise  
of God.

All start to recite Psalm 23 in a low singing tone.

All stand with their standing sticks bellow their necks. Two MONKS 30, they step towards the big drums set down on the floor.

The Abbot smiles a holy smile. He initiates the praise song of the day as all follow him singing in a loud voice. The two drummers monks raise up with the drums, hanging up to their necks.

The Abbot stares at the drummers. He swings up the cymbal pointing towards the drummers to start drumming.

In the middle of the highly toned drum, six Monks line up in a group of three, with their sticks on their shoulders. The drummers stand in between the dancers.

All the church congregants stand before the dancing monks. The females in one voice, alluring the area with their tongues vibrating in their mouth.

A joyful atmosphere, clouds the church as it terminates the song.

The Abbot gives his last blessings by making a big sign of the cross, facing towards the congregants, as all at once they bow their heads.

EXT. CHURCH COMPOUND - DAY

We see a NUN 35, stepping out down the stairs towards the compound. From a distant she waves her hands to the Monk. He also forwards her a wave of his hands.

The nun exchanges a look.

NUN

What a good drummer you're?

He squeezes his shoulder lightly.

MONK

Really, did you like it?

She keeps her eyes him. She frowns.

NUN

I sure do, but I would have liked to dance.

MONK

Unfortunately, the dance is only allowed for the males.

NUN

Why's that?

MONK

The tradition.

NUN

You mean the androcentric traditions?

MONK

What do you mean by that?

NUN

I mean a male-centered one.

MONK

You know, myself I don't get into it.

The Nun leaves him on his own stepping back to the Nun's house.

CUT TO:

All the Nuns are in the dining room having their breakfast. Each one of the Nuns being in line they self-serve for the food. NUN ONE 35, with a plate full of food sits near another NUN 35.

NUN ONE

Did you enjoy today's church Service?

NUN

Somehow, but why we weren't included to the holly party?

NUN ONE

Don't push me to give you an answer.

NUN

Above all we're all with the same religious promises.

Beat.

The promises of chastity, Obedience and poverty.

NUN ONE

I hear you- but the one who raises up early commands the day.

NUN

What to mean?

NUN ONE

They were the first to show-up in the arena of the monastery life.

NUN

I feel the difference.

The SUPERIOR NUN 55, joins their conversation. She rubs her brow with her sleeves. She faces to both Nuns.

SUPERIOR NUN  
You don't seem happy today?

Nun One and the Nun see each other not saying anything for seconds.

NUN  
I've some questions to ask you  
my superior.

SUPERIOR NUN  
Here to hear you my dear.

NUN  
Right now I feel a sense of  
Inferiority.

SUPERIOR NUN  
In regard to what?

NUN  
Of our status, being a nun.

NUN ONE  
Really, I'm confused about all  
that.

SUPERIOR NUN  
Let me hear about the confusion, if  
I can ever help.

NUN  
God doesn't care about gender  
differences. Does he?

SUPERIOR NUN  
No, he doesn't.

NUN ONE  
Why we are not allowed to sing and  
dance together with the male monks  
of our church.

SUPERIOR NUN  
The first move always counts.

NUN  
What move?

SUPERIOR NUN  
God has created first-

NUN ONE  
Adam.



NUN

So?

SUPERIOR NUN

We've to follow the river.  
I mean, the male made tradition.

NUN ONE

We need to change the previous  
male's account and our planet is  
changing.

EXT. A TINY NATURAL WATER FALL - DAY

In between a big mountain and a small hill, we see a tiny water fall, gushing out from a naturally built rocks.

Under it on a green field there are two young SHEPARD (13-14) having fun with a traditional game "DEBO" (a game played with 13 tiny balls of stones) and "GEBETA" (a Monopoly kind of a play, played on a sand).

CUT TO:

Several male CHILDREN (10-12) are enjoying bathing under the tiny water fall. All are totally half-naked enjoying the fresh mildly warm water.

CUT TO:

A mixed of sheep and goats are grazing grasses on a hill top.

CUT TO:

The Monk's walking down a dwindling path alone with a bible in his hand and reciting his rosary. He reaches near the young two Shepards and sits on a big rock, saying nothing.

They interrupt their game and step towards the Monk, curiously observing him from top down.

SHEPARD A

Who are you?

MONK

The son of Mary.

SHEPARD B

You mean the brother of Jesus?

MONK

No, servant of Jesus.

SHEPARD A  
Where're you going?

MONK  
I'm on my way going to the  
Monastery.

Shepard B makes his attention to the big rosary.

SHEPARD B  
Oh, this looks like my Mom's  
beads.

SHEPARD A  
Is it an ornament?

MONK  
It's a tool.

SHEPARD A  
What tool?

MONK  
A spiritual tool.

SHEPARD B  
What do you do with it?

MONK  
I defend myself from the enemy.

SHEPARD A  
Who is an enemy?

MONK  
Oh, the Demon.

SHEPARD B  
How nice for you.

CUT TO:

The Old Monk walks away from the Shepards and join the Kids who are playing under the water fall, washing their bodies.

CHILD A  
Join us stranger?

CHILD B  
Have fun with us?

CHILD C  
What brings you here.

MONK

I just happen here for some drinks.

CHILD A

Do you have any container?

The Old Monk picks a small jar from his back and hands to Child A.

Child A rush with the jar to the water fountain. He fills it half-way and returns to the Old Monk. He starts to drink the fresh water. After he quenches his thirsty, he turns his face to Child A, with a wide smile.

CHILD B

Are you scared about us being naked?

MONK

Not at all.

The Old Monk reads out from the Gospel about Jesus and Children relationship.

CHILD C

Is this Jesus you are talking about is still alive?

MONK

Physically dead but spiritually alive.

CHILD A

Did you enjoy your life of being a kid.

MONK

Of course I did. I really miss it.

CHILD B

I like you. When I get old I want to be like you.

CHILD A

Where do you live?

He points his finger towards the top mountain half covered by thick white clouds.

CHILD B

All the way, how you're going to do it. How much time does it take to reach the top of the mountain?

MONK  
I don't know in time, but it takes  
me 150 Hail-Marys.

CHILD B  
150 Hail-Mary, what?

The Old Monk raises up his rosary in front.

MONK  
You see, three round of my rosary.

CHILD B  
It's interesting.

CHILD A  
Lost in time.

CUT TO:

The Old Monk leaves the children on their own as he slowly walk to the mountain. On his way almost half-way he sees a group of men having a meeting.

EXT. BAOBAB TREE -DAY

A dozen of male ELDERS (50-70), are holding a meeting under a baobab tree (a village court room place) to mediate a family litigation issue.

The chief MEDIATOR (70), (acting like a judge) stands in front of all sitting attendants.

MEDIATOR  
Welcome to the session.

ALL ATTENDANT  
With all our respect, we will  
follow your wise decisions.

Initiates the case, first by inviting the PLAINTIFF (50), to deliver his case.

MEDIATOR  
Okay, I first give chance to  
the plaintiff to present his  
case.

Referring to the Elders.

MEDIATOR (CONT'D)  
Your wise cooperation's, to  
solve the case is highly needed.

Beat.

Whether pleasant or unpleasant,  
the last judgment depends, on  
you guys.

Gives chance to the plaintiff, to deliver his case.

MEDIATOR (CONT'D)  
What brings you here today?

The plaintiff lowers his head and uncovers it.

PLAINTIFF  
The defendant intruded in my  
farming land.

MEDIATOR  
How?

PLAINTIFF  
He just let his animals to graze  
on my farm.

MEDIATOR  
What's the damage to the farm?

PLAINTIFF  
In terms of what Chief?

MEDIATOR  
In terms of local judgement.

PLAINTIFF  
Okay, there were 50 cows,  
2 donkeys and 20 goats.

PLAINTIFF (CONT'D)  
I don't allow anyone to control  
my life.

He turns his head 360 degrees to see all the Elders.

The place looks like a reality show, as all are sitting on stones,  
in a circle, wearing a cultural white vestment. The DEFENDANT 45  
raises up, to defend his case.

DEFENDANT  
I don't know! What a crazy damn  
thing he is saying.

MEDIATOR  
You are tough, Mr. Gebrat.

DEFENDANT

With all due respect, I fought in  
my life, all too hard, to get where  
I am now. He's just exaggerating.

CUT TO:

YOUNG CHILDREN (12-13) are playing hide-and-seek game not far from  
the baobab tree. A kid running away from his adversary intersects  
the elders and falls on the ground. The two kids they get into an  
argument with the Elders.

He stands before the Elder, thinking for a moment.

CHILD

What are you doing here, sitting  
all day under the tree?

ELDER

Well settling a case.

CHILD

What do you do out of it?

ELDER

As you are playing, to make a  
score, we also are dealing with a  
case, to reach a settlement.

CHILD

Okay, let me free to join my peers.

CUT TO:

We see the Monk passing by the green field where the Children are  
playing. They immediately stop playing as he's crossing the field.  
The Monk blesses all with his cross holding up to his chest.

CUT TO:

The Monk moves closer to the Elders who are standing to leave the  
area. All surrounds him and one by one kiss the small hand cross.

MONK

I'm sorry I have to go. I'll pray  
for you all.

All nod.

CUT TO:

He proceeds his way up to the mountain. Half-way he gets tired of  
walking and stays under a tree. Over the trees different birds are  
zipping and some are gorgeously singing.

He grabs a leather made water container and takes a long drink, frowns. He falls back against the ground and takes a little nap.

He wakes up by the sound of passing by monkeys. After a brief silent prayer he continues to climb the mountain top taking a long walking way down straight path.

CUT TO:

The sun is sinking down on the western tip of the mountain. The plain land is getting ready to greet the night in half an hour. The sun turned reddish before it's to fall beyond the mountain tips.

Around the monastery one can hear the sound of domestic animals and the smell of fresh and old dungs. All shepherds are in rush to locate their animals before it gets dark.

CUT TO:

Two young SEMINARIANS 16, are walking in rush towards the big bell tower. It's 7:00 PM. Seminarian A stumbles and falls forward to the ground.

SEMINARIAN B  
Are you Okay?

SEMINARIAN A  
I'm Okay, okay.

He gets up from the ground and both head towards the bell tower.

We see the movement of the Monks and Nuns all in rush stepping here and there. The two bells start to ring in a parallel rhythm of sound for (2-3 minutes).

All Monks are gathered on the back of prayer auditorium as the Nuns in the little chapel. Evening prayer as morning schedule follows.

CUT TO:

ELLA 45, is out door sitting on a concrete seat reading a newspaper. Her husband is doing an exercise jogging around the compound. In the middle she stops reading and calls by his name in a screaming tone.

ELLA  
Come on, I want to tell you  
something strange news.

MOSSE 50, Husband steps towards Ella his wife.

MOSSE  
I see you're awake reading.

She takes a deep breath.

ELLA  
I hope you're tired of jogging  
too.

MOSSE  
Come on, what did you read? What  
happened?

ELLA  
Have a seat, my dear.

She just allow him to read the news heading and he reads it loudly.

MOSSE  
"The Monk sued in the court".

Both giggle and laugh at the same time.

ELLA  
So my baby, since you didn't  
read the whole content, let me  
recite for you.

MOSSE  
Poor Monk! What would his crime  
be?

ELLA  
Not paying Tax.

He again laughs loudly.

MOSSE  
Do Monks pay Taxes?

She invites her husband to go inside the house in the living room.  
The room is adorned with mirror on the walls, a TV at the corner.

She puts down the newspaper on the table and steps towards the  
kitchen, walking barefoot. Walks back with hot water in kettle and  
an instant coffee. She pours the hot water into two cups and adds  
the instant coffee, stirring for seconds.

He senses a smell of the coffee.

ELLA  
I know you did not like the  
instant coffee. I see it in  
your face.

He tries to pick up the newspaper from the table, as she slightly  
snatches from him.



ELLA (CONT'D)  
Back to the news.

MOSSE  
Pick it up from where you  
left.

ELLA  
Um, ... um, ...

MOSSE  
Do the Monks pay taxes?

She gazes at his face to smile in seconds.

ELLA  
Yes they do. Aren't they  
citizens of the land?

MOSSE  
They already rebuked the  
land by their promises.

ELLA  
Which promise?

MOSSE  
The promise of poverty.  
They're exempted from all  
paying taxes.

ELLA  
But the Judge ruled against  
the Monk. Is it a right ruling?

MOSSE  
I don't think so, the Monks  
never posses land house of  
their own, like we do.

ELLA  
The Monk got his way in the end.

MOSSE  
What did he say?

ELLA  
The Monk said that he only pay  
tax to God.

MOSSE  
It's really funny to me.

CUT TO:

The Superior Nun is sitting on a wooden chair inside her office. Exhausted more by her emotions, closes her eyes as she enters into a deep thought.

SUPERIOR NUN  
Is not fair to be considered as  
a second citizen.

The door is half-open. The Abbot is stepping towards the office. He knocks.

SUPERIOR NUN (CONT'D)  
It's open, come on in.

The Abbot steps in.

She smiles side way.

ABBOT  
It's nice to be here with you.

SUPERIOR NUN  
It's good to see early in the  
morning the beloved soul of God.

He pulls a chair and sits across her.

ABBOT  
I could have been anywhere-  
but you see me here. It's of my  
choice to be here.

SUPERIOR NUN  
It's neither a surprise,  
Reverend. I'm paying a close  
attention to-

ABBOT  
Close attention to what?

SUPERIOR NUN  
In regard to our all service to  
God.

ABBOT  
Anything I'm not aware of?

She turns around frantically paddling, trying to flip into her concerns.

ABBOT (CONT'D)  
Is it a complaint or a concern?

SUPERIOR NUN

Both. Do you believe we should have such a difference in our status of being religious orders.

The Abbot chooses his words carefully.

ABBOT

What differences do you see?

SUPERIOR NUN

The male orders in contrast to the female ones.

ABBOT

The way you see it, I don't see any contrast.

SUPERIOR NUN

Look we don't become priests though our promises to be religious is the same.

Beat.

That's not the way of God.

ABBOT

I think you really had gone far away from the reality. If you feel thus, you have only to apply to the Vatican.

CUT TO:

We see the Monk walking down a street heading towards the bus station. The bus TICKET-MAN 25, is standing in front of the buses front door.

TICKET-MAN

Where are you going, gentle man?

MONK

Reverend, not a gentle-man.

TICKET-MAN

All the same, what's the difference?

MONK

There's a difference.

TICKET-MAN

What's the difference?

MONK

The way we lead our life is  
not the same.

TICKET-MAN

How?

MONK

Our choice is a promise we  
do to serve God.

TICKET-MAN

What promise?

MONK

The promise to follow God, in  
poverty, chastity and  
obedience.

The driver ASHERA 35, is following their long discussions being  
silent on wheel. The Monk moves to ride the bus.

TICKET-MAN

Oh, oh the man of God, you need  
to pay the fair to ride.

MONK

I don't have a dime to pay you.

The driver winks to the Ticket-man just to leave him alone.

ASHERA

Okay, come on in reverend.

The Monk steps in and sits in the middle seat.

The engine is running. The driver follows the Monk from the rear  
mirror.

Ashera puts a gear on the first, second and then third. The Ticket-  
man inserts a lay song into the tape recorder. The song dominates  
the bus. All the passengers start to entertain the songs.

The Monk gets irritated and tries to tap both his ears with his  
hands.

MONK

Please stop the song.

TICKET-MAN

Why?

MONK

It disturbs my mind.

All keep silence as the Monk controls his body.

The Monk in the middle stands up and attempt to preach.

MONK (CONT'D)

Wow to you who ever listen  
the wordly songs. The wrath  
is going to come to all.

A brief silence dominates the bus. In seconds we hear voices  
bubbling inside the bus. Two middle age FEMALE who are sitting side  
by side, raise their voice.

FEMALE A

Maybe this's a dream.

FEMALE B

My brain is whipped up by  
the way of the last minute.

The bus reaches its destination the capital city bus station.

CUT TO:

The Monk proceeds his way towards the head office of the Monastery.  
On his way he sees CHILDREN (12-14) playing soccer on the asphalt.  
A kicked ball hits his lower body. He picks the ball and faces to  
the children.

MONK

That's a wrongful. You should  
never play on the street.

CHILD A

We're sorry.

CHILD B

We never meant to hit you.

He smiles at all and throws the ball to them. He turns away his  
steps and proceeds walking.

CUT TO:

Before he's to reach the Monastery he sees a dozen of ELDERS (60-  
70) sitting on the churches entrance stairs. He approaches them  
stepping forward.

MONK

What are you doing here?

ELDER ONE  
Just entertaining.

MONK  
The Hope is pregnant-but it  
needs help to deliver.

ELDER TWO  
Hope is pregnant?

ELDER THREE  
Needs help to deliver?

MONK  
Yes Hope is pregnant to  
deliver Love-but it needs  
help.

ELDER ONE  
Difficult to grasp your say?

MONK  
Confess never to sin again.

CUT TO:

The Monk cuts his way stepping towards the main gate of the  
Monastery. A thief is behind the door ready to rob the Monk.

The thief snatches the cloth made bag and runs away.

MONK (CONT'D)  
No money in my bag-

The thief searches the bag as he finds no money in the bag he  
returns to the Monk.

THIEF  
Here your bag- no money no  
honey.

MONK  
Don't worry I can give you my  
hat the thing I own.

The thief runs away in rush and disappears from the area.

CUT TO:

It's Sunday early morning. The Monk gets up tired and sore. He  
steps towards the shower room. It's the first time to get a hot  
shower.

MONK (CONT'D)

Oh Jesus, yesterday all day  
I had a rough time to deal  
with the city demons.

Takes his towel and rubs all his body to dry himself. He quickly wears all his religious vestment and sits on a chair. He pulls out his rosary from his chest and starts to recite silently.

He hears a knock at the door. It's GENERAL MONK 75 who's behind the door. The Monk opens the door to see the General Monk standing at the threshold.

GENERAL MONK

Welcome, to the city. How  
are you?

MONK

I'm fine, despite physically  
being weak.

GENERAL MONK

I feel you. How's life on the  
mountains?

MONK

It's good. Day fighting with  
the demons and night dreaming  
about them.

GENERAL MONK

I think you are here to meet  
me, isn't it.

MONK

Yes it's.

GENERAL MONK

So, I will meet you sometime  
tomorrow.

MONK

Okay, Reverend.

The General Monk retreats back to his office as he remains stand outside his room. In a large room some MONKS (25-30) are engaged in a chat. They get so loud to attract his curiosity.

He steps towards the chatting Monks in a tip-toe. Without being noticed he enters the room.

All get scared.

ALL  
Oh, the Ghost.

MONK  
Which Ghost? The holly or the  
Devil one?

MONK ONE  
Don't tempt us to guess.

MONK  
You see me, I'm one of you.

MONK TWO  
Okay, come on, join us.

He joins the chat by sitting at the corner of the seat.

MONK ONE  
A new face?

MONK  
Your brother from the mountain.

MONK THREE  
Good, you're one of us.

MONK  
Nods.

MONK TWO  
How's life on the Mountains?

MONK  
The same. Fighting against the  
same Demons. You against the  
city ones.

MONK TWO  
And you?

MONK  
Against the village Demons.

MONK THREE  
Is there any difference,  
between the city and village  
Demons?

MONK  
The same in character but  
different in substance.



MONK THREE

You mean there're two kinds of  
Demons?

MONK

No, one Demon but two struggles.  
Anyway we have only one tool to  
fight them all.

MONK ONE

Which tool?

He picks his Bible and lifts it up on the air.

MONK

The bible.

He steps out as all eyes dart on him.

CUT TO:

Two YOUNG NUNS (25) are in the kitchen preparing a meal for all the  
Nuns.

YOUNG NUN ONE

Oh, I miss the young Monk.

YOUNG NUN TWO

Young Monk who?

YOUNG NUN ONE

The supper preacher, who else.

YOUNG NUN TWO

I got you. He left for the  
capital city.

YOUNG NUN ONE

I hope they don't assign him  
there.

YOUNG NUN TWO

Me too.

CUT TO:

The time is ticking, seconds, minutes finally the last hour before  
the young Monk is to meet with the General Monk. We see both  
sitting across the table facing each other.

GENERAL MONK

I would like to know the  
motive of you been here.

He pulls a letter of recommendation signed by the Abbot from his pocket. He hands the letter to read. After reading the letter for quite time, he glances at him.

GENERAL MONK (CONT'D)

I see the content of the letter. Do you consent with the letter?

MONK

I do.

He lowers his eyeglass down to his nose, looking left and right.

GENERAL MONK

I see.

MONK

Did you read the letter thoroughly?

GENERAL MONK

I did.

He gets immersed into a thought again putting back his eyeglasses.

GENERAL MONK (CONT'D)

I guess your plan is to go to the USA?

MONK

Correct.

The Monk starts to confront the situation by himself. The Monk on his part he gathers all his opinions and spared nothing to win over to make him accept his decisions.

GENERAL MONK

I'm a little bit perplexed.

MONK

I know it's unexpected decision.

GENERAL MONK

You didn't make a second thought?

MONK

No, I didn't.

GENERAL MONK

I see all your good intentions. At the same time I don't want to dictate your choice.

MONK

Just give me chance. I know my choice might be strange for the time being.

GENERAL MONK

By the way, what to do in America?

MONK

To cast and destroy the American Demons.

GENERAL MONK

That won't be easy. By the way where in America?

MONK

Hollywood.

GENERAL MONK

Hollywood?

MONK

Yes, Reverend. Don't get me wrong, I myself am not taking the pleasure to be there-but.

GENERAL MONK

But what my dear?

MONK

I have been negotiating for long with my conscience and I feel it's the right one.

GENERAL MONK

I don't want to convince you for long.

CUT TO:

The next day the General Monk orders to all Monks to organize a farewell for the Monk. All Monks are together in auditorium hall not knowing whose farewell it is. All kind of food and drinks are laid on the table ready to be consumed.

That day the Monk was making ready by being inside his room.

MONK

Life's short, I have to hurry up and get it done.

Collects all he needs in a small bag pack and steps towards the Hall. He sits on one of the chairs as all are following the Monks move.

The General Monk stands in the middle gazing at the Monk sideways.

GENERAL MONK

The time I managed to spend  
with our brother the Monk from  
the mountain, it seems very  
short. All in all I realize  
it was fruitful for both of us.

Beat.

I gave him a recess of a  
Sabbatical year. The young Monk  
is leaving for America. We  
wish him all success in his  
endeavour mission.

Again he glances at all.

GENERAL MONK (CONT'D)

Get ready to offer him your  
goodbye.

All line up to give the Monk hug and kiss.

Here's the Monk's last word.

MONK

No matter how hard it'll be,  
no matter what the future will  
be, I have to be where I have  
to be. Keep me in your prayers.

All in a joyous air they consume their food.

The next day of the Monk's departure to America the General Monk makes ready the mini-bus of the congregation. A YOUNG MONK (25) who is the driver of the truck and the General Monk ride seated in front. The Monk sits at the back.

YOUNG MONK

What time is the departure  
of the flight?

MONK

Exactly 10:30 am.

GENERAL MONK

We'll be on time. Nothing to  
worry.

YOUNG MONK  
Transit or straight flight?

MONK  
Transit.

YOUNG MONK  
Where?

MONK  
Via Roma-Italy to LA.

YOUNG MONK  
How many days of transit?

MONK  
Three days.

YOUNG MONK  
So you have time to see the  
Pope.

MONK  
I wish.

They reach Asmara-International-Airport. The General Monk goes down of the car and stands in front of the door. The Young Monk drags out the mini bag from back trunk.

They all greet each other in a religious language.

CUT TO:

We see the Monk walking towards the big gate of the Airport entrance. He falls under the eyes of the Airport workers and the Passengers. He stands at the back line of passengers breathing deeply.

A minute later he feels a tap on his shoulder. A MALE SECURITY (25) is standing behind him.

MALE SECURITY  
May I help you, Reverend?

He turns his head around and grins. He follows the security till metal detector machine. As he passes through the detector it rings.

MALE SECURITY (CONT'D)  
Do you have anything metal under.

He takes out a small hand cross from his pocket and hands to him.

MONK  
Yes I have.

Again he tries to pass through the detective. Again it rings.

Stepping slowly as all airport workers and passengers down on a tarmac.

As he reaches the last steps of the stairs, before he is to enter the plane, he turns his face towards them and waves his hand on the air.

CUT TO:

After 5 hour of flying the plane lands at FIUMICINO International Airport Roma.

CUT TO:

The Monk walks out to the Taxi area, to see already lined up Taxis to pick up customers. A Taxi driver parks in front of the building, he HONKS.

The Monk rolling down his little bag, reaches the Taxi. By chance, he finds the TAXI DRIVER (35), is an Eritrean. His name's Yoni.

The Monk as he notices, the identity of the taxi driver, he greets him in the local language.

MONK (CONT'D)  
"SELAMAT".

TAXI DRIVER  
"SELAMAT".

The taxi driver smiles, as he remains astounded. The Monk sits at the back seat.

Taxi Driver stretches his hand to give him a hand shake.

MONK  
Your look is, from East-  
Africa, I mean Eritrea.

Taxi Driver smiles, looking at him sharply, then looks back through the front mirror, both hands on a wheel.

TAXI DRIVER  
Exactly! From the trouble  
making country.

The Monk looks down at his hand and then a quick glance through the window, taking out his little cross. Stretches forward the cross towards the Taxi Driver face. The Taxi Driver kisses the cross three times.

MONK  
Where exactly?

TAXI DRIVER  
Keren Town. And you?

MONK  
Emba-Selasie.

TAXI DRIVER  
From the Mountains around  
Keren town?

MONK  
Yes.

TAXI DRIVER  
Welcome to LA.

MONK  
To Hollywood.

TAXI DRIVER  
Any address, any residence  
where I can drop you.

MONK  
For now no address and no  
residency.

TAXI DRIVER  
I don't want the Hyenas of  
the Hollywood eat you?

MONK  
Are they worse than ours?

TAXI DRIVER  
They're well-fed.

The Taxi Driver takes the Monk to his house.

CUT TO:

The Monk got a few hours sleep before dawn. He hardly feel tired as he gets up from the bed. It's 6:00 in the morning. He puts on all his religious vestments. Turns off the room light and heads for the door. He walks for half a mile and rides a city bus heading to down town.

He sits on the front row seat with another black FEMALE 50. Her eyes turning to red in early morning, she stares at him. She blinks. Her phone rings loudly. Picks it up at the third ring. She quickly gets into argument.

Before she's to hangup the phone she gazes at the Monk.

FEMALE

It's early for that.

She sets the ring volume to mute. She takes a big and shaky breath.

FEMALE (CONT'D)

Sorry, did I disturb you?

The Monk yawns. Tries to cover his mouth. Pulls from his back the prayer book and his rosary. He silently recites the rosary as his lips are vibrating up and down, left and right.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

We see the Monk standing alone in the courtyard of the homeless in LA. The sun is sinking behind the horizon. A middle-aged MALE and FEMALE homeless are moving here and there as he bows his head to view the scattered tents.

MONK

What does it feel to be a homeless?

FEMALE HOMELESS

Compelling.

MALE HOMELESS

Depends on how one handles it.

FEMALE HOMELESS

It's our destiny.

MALE HOMELESS

I hate the word "Destiny".  
Here's the same slippery  
issue.

The Monk glances upward. Both watch him sideways. He again looks downward.

MONK

I realize how terrible it's to  
be a homeless in America.

MALE HOMELESS

Now you know. By the way do  
you have homeless in Africa?

Both the homeless guys exchange a look.



MONK

We have poverty that anyone  
can handle, but not the  
homelessness.

She licks her lips and he frowns.

MALE HOMELESS

How can one handle poverty?

MONK

I myself am a Homeless-

FEMALE HOMELESS

A homeless?

MONK

Yes, as a Monk since I don't  
own a house of myself-but not  
the American one.

MALE HOMELESS

That's ridicules.

MONK

You got to know me. Who I'm?

FEMALE HOMELESS

Tell us who you are?

The Monk glances at the big building tower. He sighs.

MONK

I'm a religious man.

FEMALE/MALE HOMELESS

So, we're. What's the difference?

MONK

I profess three vows, that you  
don't do.

FEMALE HOMELESS

What are the three vows?

MONK

The vow of Poverty, Chastity and  
Obedience.

MALE HOMELESS

We profess the same vows.

MONK

You live to be poor but me  
voluntarily I profess it.

MALE HOMELESS

Kind confused.

FEMALE HOMELESS

Clarify?

MONK

Practically, you as being  
poor and being obedient  
I can digest it- but

FEMALE HOMELESS

But what?

MONK

You can't handle that of  
Chastity.

MALE HOMELESS

Why?

MONK

Because you're married couples.

CUT TO:

LA TV caster mini-bus well-equipped pulls at the side of the street  
and parks. The monk is standing besides a crowd of Hollywood  
crews. He is in his stunning yellow garments.

MONK (CONT'D)

I've got news to tell you all.

A YOUNG LADY 25, steps forward and stands before the Monk.

YOUNG LADY

Good or bad news?

MONK

Good and bad.

YOUNG LADY

Are you here for something fun?

A PRODUCER 40, sprints out from the crowd as the camera MAN 25  
starts to shoot from an angle.

PRODUCER

Hi there.

The Monk nods, but his attention is elsewhere, looking instead to the crowd.

PRODUCER (CONT'D)  
I think God must be a producer?

MONK  
He's a creator as well a producer.

PRODUCER  
So, what brings you here?

MONK  
The Demons.

PRODUCER  
The Demons? What? Oh, excuse me.

Both stare out across the hill where the script "HOLLYWOOD" is standing. Still the Monk gets more attention from the silent crowd.

PRODUCER (CONT'D)  
Are you a screen writer?

MONK  
No, I'm a preacher.

The Producer gets startled and backs towards the crowd.

The Camera man gives a thumb up, just wondering.

CAMERA MAN  
I hope you get to watch it at the TV live this evening.

PRODUCER  
It'll be interesting.

CAMERA MAN  
The viewers will be more curious I guess.

The Camera Man packs his tools into a box and steps towards the Mini-bus as the producer follows his footsteps.

CUT TO:

The Monk stands cool, he checks his sarcasm with a growling sigh. His stare crosses into a dark field. He touches his strange hat rolled on his head high above.

Again he pulls his little cross up front. Backs towards the elevated stairs.

MONK  
I'm here to testify.

From the crowd a MALE 25, steps forward getting worried about the preaching of the Monk.

MALE  
Is it the end of the world?

MONK  
If you don't confess-

MALE  
Confess to whom?

MONK  
Confess to God.

MALE  
We have nothing to confess.

MONK  
Unless you're lost in time-

MALE  
Lost in time what?

MONK  
I mean losing the future.

MALE  
We're already engaged on the Present.

MONK  
The present isn't yours either.

The Monk raises his cross high into the air. All get astounded.

MONK (CONT'D)  
America's on fire. Clean your hearts.

CUT TO:

An LA police car pulls at a side street. All the crowd walk away from the place. We see TWO COPS 35, getting out from the truck, with the lights still rolling.

Cop One starts to speak. The Monk just raises his hand with cross in his hand.

COP ONE  
Who are you?

MONK  
A preacher from Africa.

COP ONE  
You came all the way from  
Africa to preach?

MONK  
Nods.

COP ONE  
I think you are a Roman  
Catholic?

MONK  
Yes, but Eastern right.

Cop Two stares at the Monk, his pen and notebook in his hand.

COP TWO  
Rome and Vatican they relate  
each other.

MONK  
To certain extent, you're right.

COP TWO  
Los Angeles and Hollywood they're  
related too.

COP ONE  
Despite freedom of faith, no one  
is allowed to preach on the open  
air. Do you agree on that?

Many cars are crisscrossing the street. Unbearable noise.

MONK  
No I don't. The word of God  
shouldn't be locked only inside  
the Church.

Beat.

As Jesus was preaching  
outside on the air, I'm practicing  
the same.

Cop Two rubs his wrist in wonder. Then stares at the Monk.

COP TWO

Do you possess a license to preach  
outside.

MONK

No I don't have.

He pulls out his cross from his pocket.

MONK (CONT'D)

This's is my license.

COP ONE

By the way do you have your ID?

He again lifts the cross up over his head.

MONK

This's my ID.

COP ONE

You're under arrest, the  
preacher.

Cop Two steps forward to handcuff the Monk. The Monk obeys. They  
lead him to the police car.

INT. POLICE OFFICE ROOM - DAY

A POLICE OFFICER 30, is opening his office using his batch code  
opener. In seconds the door opens. He invites the Monk to step  
inside. The Monk's sitting on an iron long bench.

The Monk steps in.

POLICE OFFICER

Son of God, did I say it  
right?

MONK

Nods.

He leads the Monk towards a computer monitor. He tries to take an  
ID photo of the Monk.

POLICE OFFICER

Okay, open all your ear.

The Monk resists not to open.

MONK

For me it's a disgrace to open  
my ears.

POLICE OFFICER

Why?

MONK

Our ears are covered for a reason.

POLICE OFFICER

For what reason?

MONK

For a reason not to hear the wordly things.

Beat.

I wouldn't let my head be naked.

POLICE OFFICER

I hear you-but I have to do my duty. I've to follow the rule of the country.

The camera flushes on the Monks face and Immediately a photo of the Monk is placed on the monitor.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

We see inside the small immigration court room, the Monk with his LAWYER 40, sitting on a chair. The lawyer stretches all case document up front on the table.

The court session starts. All eyes dart on the Monk. A FEMALE JUDGE, 50 is presiding the court order.

The Female Judge stares at the Monk for seconds.

FEMALE JUDGE

What's you name?

MONK

(mentions his real name)  
WELDEAB.

FEMALE JUDGE

What to mean your name?

The Lawyer intervenes.

LAWYER

Son of God.

She repeats.

FEMALE JUDGE

Oh, Okay the Son of God. It's  
a beautiful name. Your last name  
please?

The Monk looks at his Lawyer side way.

MONK

(mentions his last name)  
WELDE-MARIAM.

Again the Lawyer intervenes.

LAWYER

Son of Mary.

FEMALE JUDGE

Hello, Son of God and Son of  
Mary. Today's a good day though.

MONK

Nods.

FEMALE JUDGE

Son of God, your status please?  
Single or married?

MONK

Monk, single not married.

FEMALE JUDGE

Do you have Children?

MONK

Yes I have, but not of my own.  
I've God given children.

FEMALE JUDGE

How many of them, the God given  
children?

MONK

Uncountable.

FEMALE JUDGE

The reason of you being in  
Hollywood?

MONK

To preach. Fight the Demons of  
the Hollywood.

She laughs as he gets nervous.



FEMALE JUDGE

What? How?

MONK

You too, you're my child in Christ.

FEMALE JUDGE

Your work, business I mean?

MONK

A preacher.

FEMALE JUDGE

I like your yellow uniform. Does it have any meaning?

MONK

It means "PEACE".

The Judge reaches a verdict as the Monk looks down to the floor.

FEMALE JUDGE

(reciting the verdict)

Here follows the verdict the decision of the court.

Gazes at the monk.

I have found enough innocence on the part of the Monk the defendant. My decision for the defendant is no jail time. You're free.

Again gazes at the Monk.

FEMALE JUDGE (CONT'D)

Do you have anything to say?

MONK

I was only struggling, to save you guys, before the evil day comes.

He raises his cross and facing East, West, North and south he makes the sign of cross to bless the world.

END