

STILL, YET AND ALREADY

1C. **Yet**, because of its grammatical function, usually goes in present/past perfect sentences. (This applies to questions and negatives only see 1A.)

2. **Yet** = **Sin Embargo** or **A pesar de todo**. In this case, it is usually placed before the subject of a sentence or clause (exactly like **still**).

- Have the Sea Gypsies saved the Thais **yet**?
(Han salvado a los tailandeses los gitanos de mar?)
- There is no Museo del Jamón in Koh-lepe. **Yet** Manolo prefers Koh-lepe.
(No hay un Museo del Jamón en Koh-lepe. **A pesar de todo**, Manolo prefiere Koh-lepe.)

STILL/YET: OTHER USES

SECTION THREE

1. You can also say **yet, still**...together to make a sentence more emphatic.

- **Yet, still** they...
- **Still, yet**...= X (incorrect)

2. There is a difference between **still** and **yet** as **todavía** (**no**) in negative sentences. The meanings are similar but **still** shows a stronger feeling of surprise.

- The women haven't finished beating the men **yet** (does not indicate anything unusual about not finishing).
Las mujeres **todavía** no han acabado de dar palizas a los hombres.
- The women **still** haven't finished beating the men (indicates that the action probably should have finished and shows a feeling of surprise).

3. **Still** also exists as an adjective or adverb with the meaning of **tranquilo** or **quieto**.

- The **still** waters of the blue lagoon.
(Las aguas **tranquilas** de la laguna azul).
- Be **still**!
(!Estáte **quieto**!)

LUCIA BOSÉ: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

the airport to his house in Principe street. He told his brother, Domingo, that he was going to seduce Lucia Bosé. Although Domingo was aware of²⁵ his brother's success²⁶ with women, he didn't think Luis Miguel would be successful this time. Luis Miguel loved a challenge²⁷. He made a bet²⁸ with his brother that not only would he seduce Lucia, he would also manage²⁹ to do it the very first night that he met her.

He began to
make

her. He decided that their meeting would be at a reception in the Cuban Embassy³³ in homage³⁴ to the cinematographic operator, Alfredo Fraile.

While Luis Miguel was choosing³⁵ the best bullring for the bullfight, an unsuspecting³⁶ Lucia was alone³⁷ in her hotel room thinking about her recent success



phone calls to friends and acquaintances. He turned the city upside down³⁰, preparing for his first meeting³¹ with the Italian actress. He discovered the whole program of events³² that had been planned for

with the most important directors such³⁸ as Michelangelo Antonioni and Luchino Visconti. Antonioni had told Lucia, when they were saying³⁹ goodbye to each⁴⁰ other, «Be very careful⁴¹ of Luis Miguel Dominguin, the bullfighter⁴²; he is the lover of Ava Gardner and his favorite dish⁴³ is film stars.» Lucia responded with tremendous disbe-



lief, «A bullfighter! How am I going to fall in love⁴⁴ with a bullfighter?».

Four days later, Lucia was surrounded⁴⁵ by friends at the reception in the Cuban Embassy. She was radiant in a beautiful silver⁴⁶ evening dress. Suddenly, there was a commotion⁴⁷ at the entrance. A tall handsome⁴⁸ man strode⁴⁹ through the door accompanied by his brother and an entourage of friends.



those people who fights⁵⁸ those creatures⁵⁹ with horns⁶⁰.» He answered with an expression that only someone from Madrid would say, «Yes, and also the boyfriends⁶¹ of beautiful women like yourself⁶².»

After the cocktail in the Embassy, we went to Valentin's for dinner. I was able⁶³ to escape Luis Miguel a few times. You see, women know very well when a man plans⁶⁴ to seduce her. After dinner, we went to La Pa-

I was talking with Juan Antonio, when Luis Miguel made his entrance⁵⁰. Although⁵¹ I had been warned⁵² about him, I was surprised⁵³, and almost shocked⁵⁴, by his appearance⁵⁵. He was wearing⁵⁶ a Spanish cape⁵⁷ and hat. A mutual friend presented him to me. I said, «Are you one of

rilla del Rex, and he finally cornered⁶⁵ me and said, «Miss Bosé, may I have the honor of dancing with the most divine Italian woman in Madrid.» Before I could say no, he took⁶⁶ my hand and guided⁶⁷ me to the dance floor⁶⁸. While we were dancing, he kept pulling⁶⁹ me closer towards



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him and holding⁷⁰ me tighter⁷¹. I kept trying to move back⁷² a little, defending myself, the way the girls of that era used to do.

But the best part came later. After the music stopped, and people began to go home, he said, «Lucia, let's go back to your hotel room.» I couldn't believe it. I said angrily, «Who do you think I am Mister bullfighter? A bull?» Obviously he thought that I was an easy prey⁷³, and that after a few dances, I would give in and fall⁷⁴ down at his feet⁷⁵.

He realized⁷⁶ that his plan had failed⁷⁷, and that he was going to lose⁷⁸ the bet with Domingo. So he immediately began his backup⁷⁹ strategy. When we were leaving the La Parilla del Rex, he fell down the stairs⁸⁰ and twisted⁸¹ his knee⁸².

Two days later, I arrived at the Chamartin Studios to begin filming. Luis Miguel was sitting⁸³ next to⁸⁴ the cameras with his leg⁸⁵ in a new white cast⁸⁶. Although I was still a little angry⁸⁷, I felt⁸⁸ that I was obliged by good manners⁸⁹ to be

interested in his broken⁹⁰ leg.

He invited me to dinner in the Hogar Gallego, in the calle Mayor, the next evening. When I arrived, he was sitting at the bar, without the cast on! I looked at him in surprise, and he was smiling⁹¹. I said, «Do bullfighters always recover⁹² so quickly from broken legs?» He replied, «Only when the bull is young, Italian, and can dance!»

He fell down the stairs on purpose⁹³, to hide⁹⁴ his failure⁹⁵. He had to justify⁹⁶ to Domingo that he couldn't sleep⁹⁷ with me that night. He had already thought of a new bet, as well as how to win⁹⁸ it. His doctor friend, Manolo Tamanes, put his leg in a cast for a day. The new bet was that I would be the one to go⁹⁹ up to him and say hello. He won. Luis Miguel has always been very ingenious in conflictual situations.

Later on that night, I told him that I had to take care of myself, because I had a perforated lung¹⁰⁰ from an accident that I had had in Italy six months before. His attitude changed completely. He



stopped playing the role¹⁰¹ of a seducer and instead showed me the kind and sincere side of his personality. The next day, he took me to see doctor Tamames. Everybody in the studio warned¹⁰² me against Luis Miguel, and we all joked¹⁰³ about him. Even Bardem himself said to me during a break¹⁰⁴, «Be careful Lucia, the bullfighter is dangerous. Stay¹⁰⁵ away from him.» But his ingenuity, charisma, and beauty were breaking down all my defenses¹⁰⁶.

side¹¹⁰. I felt a strong physical and spiritual affinity with him. It was as if I had known him all my life. When we finished dinner he took¹¹¹ me back to the hotel alone. When I got into his car, before turning¹¹² on the engine, he turned to me and said, «Lucia, why don't we get married¹¹³?» I was so astonished¹¹⁴, that I said, «Yes.»

After having known each other for only twelve days, we decided



That evening, Luis Miguel was really charming¹⁰⁷ and attentive¹⁰⁸. I saw his sensitive¹⁰⁹ and human



to get married. A week later, I lost my virginity. I gave myself to him completely, and it was delica-

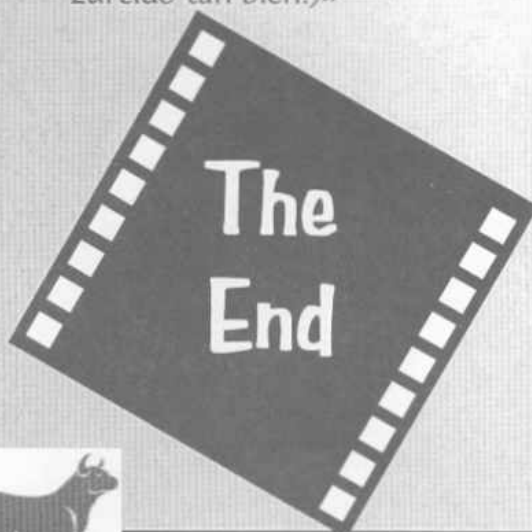
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te and beautiful. It happened¹¹⁵ in my hotel room in the hotel Castellana. We made love for three days, without leaving the room. I was radiant and sure¹¹⁶ of myself. On the third day, he left for an hour, and came back¹¹⁷ with a huge emerald¹¹⁸, which he gave to me with a kiss¹¹⁹.

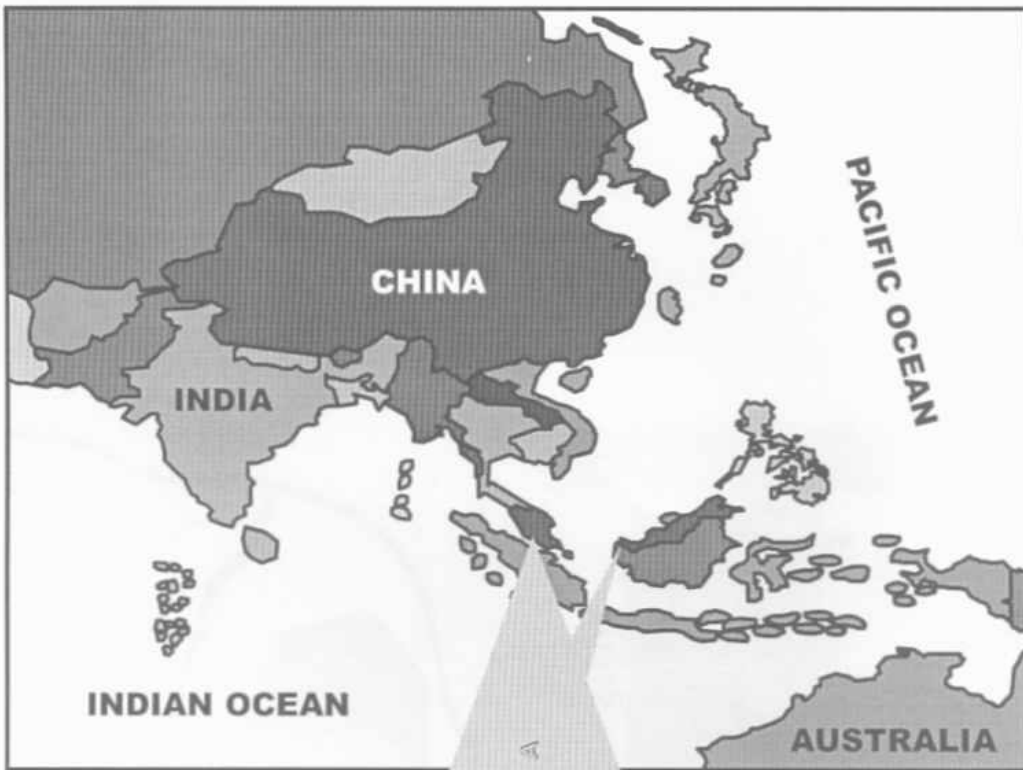
After I finished the film, I went back to Italy and told everyone. It made quite a scandal, and many of my friends reproached¹²⁰ me for wanting to marry a perfect stranger¹²¹. Antonioni was so angry that he didn't speak to me for ten years. I was his muse¹²² at that time. Many of them said that I was crazy¹²³. All they knew about Luis Miguel, was that he was a bullfighter and lover of Ava Gardner.

But I didn't care¹²⁴. I had met the man of my dreams¹²⁵, and I decided to have a party in my house in Rome in order to introduce Luis Miguel to everyone. They all came: Luchino Visconti, Valerio Zurlini, Mauro Bolognini and Franco Zeffirelli. They were the most important movie directors at the time. When they met Luis Miguel, they were

captivated by his beautiful and athletic body¹²⁶. They began to ask him questions about his profession. When he explained to them about the wounds¹²⁷ that bulls inflict¹²⁸ on bullfighters, he took off his shirt¹²⁹ and his trousers¹³⁰. He was almost naked¹³¹. He had realized that some of the directors were homosexual, so he showed¹³² them the wounds on his legs and his back¹³³ in a very provocative way¹³⁴. They were all very impressed and fascinated. One of the directors, Alfredo Bianchini, said something that can still be heard in the artistic circles of Rome today. He exclaimed: «They have gouged¹³⁵ him. But they have gouged him so well! (Le habrán zurcido. Pero le han zurcido tan bien!)»

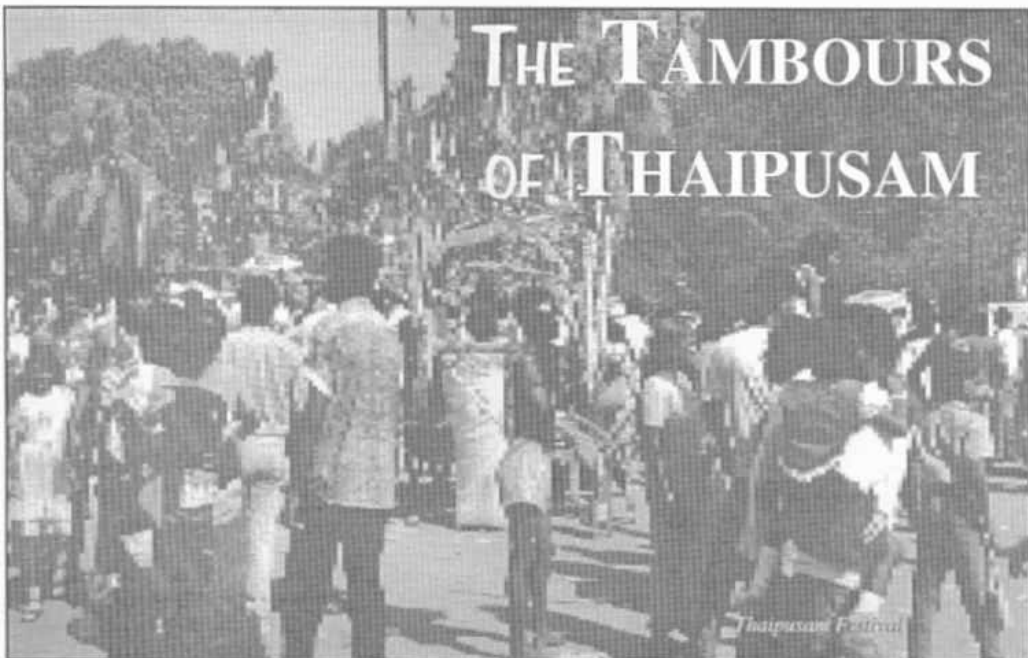








THE TAMBOURS OF THAIPUSAM



CHAPTER TWO

«Malaysia, located¹ in the heart² of Southeast Asia, offers its visitors dense, virgin jungles³, kilometers and kilometers of spectacular beaches, an incredibly versatile cuisine, and a fantastic array⁴ of cultures. Malays, Chinese, Indians, and other ethnic groups, each⁵ with a different religion, convert Malaysia into the 'land⁶ of celebrations.' Almost⁷ every day a festival is celebrated, and New Year alone⁸ accounts for⁹ four days a year, because it is celebrated once by each ethnic group. Of the more fascinating festivals, such as Mooncake¹⁰, Deepavali, and Harvest¹¹, Thaipusam is the most mystic and perhaps¹² the most tragic.»

-Lester Moores Travel Diary, 1989



PART ONE

Lester is awake¹³, listening to the noise¹⁴ of hundreds of drums¹⁵. He is in the house of two friends, Lup and Lamu. The house is in a village¹⁶ in Malaysia, near¹⁷ the capital of Kuala Lumpur. The religious Hindu festival of Thaipusam begins¹⁸ tomorrow. The participants are preparing for the procession to the Batu caves¹⁹. They are doing penitence. Each person has asked²⁰ for a favor or made a promise to the gods. During²¹ the festival they keep²² their promise by penetrating their bodies with hooks²³ and metal bars. They then²⁴ walk three kilometers to the Batu caves, in a religious trance. They are accompanied by hundreds of thousands of spectators and family members. Inside²⁵ the caves, they stand²⁶ in front of the image of a god²⁷. They give²⁸ the god the