

Reclining Buddha

They thought that the Buddha was angry, or perhaps¹⁰¹ had a terrible toothache¹⁰².



PART TWO

The two explorers fall sleep again, now very weak¹⁰³ from lack¹⁰⁴ of food. Hours later, Lester awakes. He is extremely uncomfortable and irritated. He suddenly shouts angrily, "Where's the Xing pearl?"

"It must be further¹⁰⁵ down," replies Tito.

"Further down! The only thing that is further down is more water, and things that crawl¹⁰⁶."

"Like R-R-Rats," responds Tito unkindly¹⁰⁷, knowing Lester's terrible fear¹⁰⁸ of these dirty¹⁰⁹, black creatures.

"Rats! Good Lord¹¹⁰, it is a rat!" screams¹¹¹ Lester.

"I'm just joking¹¹² Lester."

"Are you¹¹³? And the Xing pearl that you thought was inside the Buddha.

Was this also one of your jokes¹¹⁴? We will never stop laughing¹¹⁵, it is so damn funny¹¹⁶!"

"Lester, don't be angry."

"The next time¹¹⁷ you imagine that a Buddha has swallowed¹¹⁸ a pearl, or you have some other crazy¹¹⁹ idea that I believe, I will do something outrageous¹²⁰."

"But Lester, what will you do?"

"I will marry a fat librarian¹²¹ and live in a little village in England, where it rains for ten months a year."

"Well, the next time you walk into my favorite bar in Barbate, and tell me that we are going on a little holiday to Burma, I will laugh, buy another drink, and say no."

"Tito, you would never do that!"

"Yes I would, and then there would be no more geographic explorations."

"I can't believe what you are saying, Tito. You're my best friend, you are like a brother to me!"

"Yes, but Lester, we have explored the world together¹²² for many years, and

we still haven't found any treasure¹²³."

"Don't worry Tito, we will. And when we do, we will be rich."

"Yes, Lester, but you've promised me this for so many years. I don't want to be rich. All I want is a little gold¹²⁴, or a few diamonds¹²⁵, or one big pearl."

"And what would you do with them?"

"I would buy a little bar in Barbate."

"Hey, that is a marvelous idea. We can be partners¹²⁶ in the bar."

"Partners! That could be a problem," replies Tito slowly¹²⁷.

"A problem! But Tito, what problem?"

"Well, Lester, you would drink all the supplies¹²⁸!"

They both laugh, and Tito continues, "We could retire¹²⁹ from this exploration business and sit in the sun. The lazy¹³⁰ life is what we need."

"Well, maybe you are right¹³¹," continues Lester, "I know that you believe that living the idle life¹³² is a virtue¹³³."

"I do."

"So does Ortega y Gasset."

"Who?" asks Tito.

"Well, he is Spain's greatest philosopher!"

"Ah."

"He writes that idleness and the love of life are the last important values¹³⁴ left over from Paradise¹³⁵. The Andalusians, you for example, are the only people in the West¹³⁶ who remain faithful¹³⁷ to paradise as a way of life¹³⁸."

"Very interesting," replies Tito, as he yawns¹³⁹ and scratches¹⁴⁰ his belly.

There is long silence before Lester says, "Tito, I feel¹⁴¹ so weak now. I'm having hallucinations."

"About what?" says Tito weakly.

"About Andalusia."

"Me too! You know, Lester...?"

"Yes."

"I don't mind¹⁴² dying so much¹⁴³, but I feel so guilty¹⁴⁴."

"Guilty," echoes Lester, "About what?"

"Well, the last time I went to church¹⁴⁵ was when my sister got married eight years ago."

"But Tito, I always see you in the processions at Easter¹⁴⁶. You wear¹⁴⁷ your best suit¹⁴⁸ and look so serious and devout¹⁴⁹."

"Yes, Lester, but that's all just show¹⁵⁰. I've usually had a few whiskeys in the toilet¹⁵¹ like everybody else¹⁵², before the virgin passes underneath the balcony of our house."

"That's what I like to hear," Lester whispers.

"And I thought I was the only one."

"Lester?"

"Yes."

"Can I have one last wish¹⁵³?"

"Anything you like¹⁵⁴."

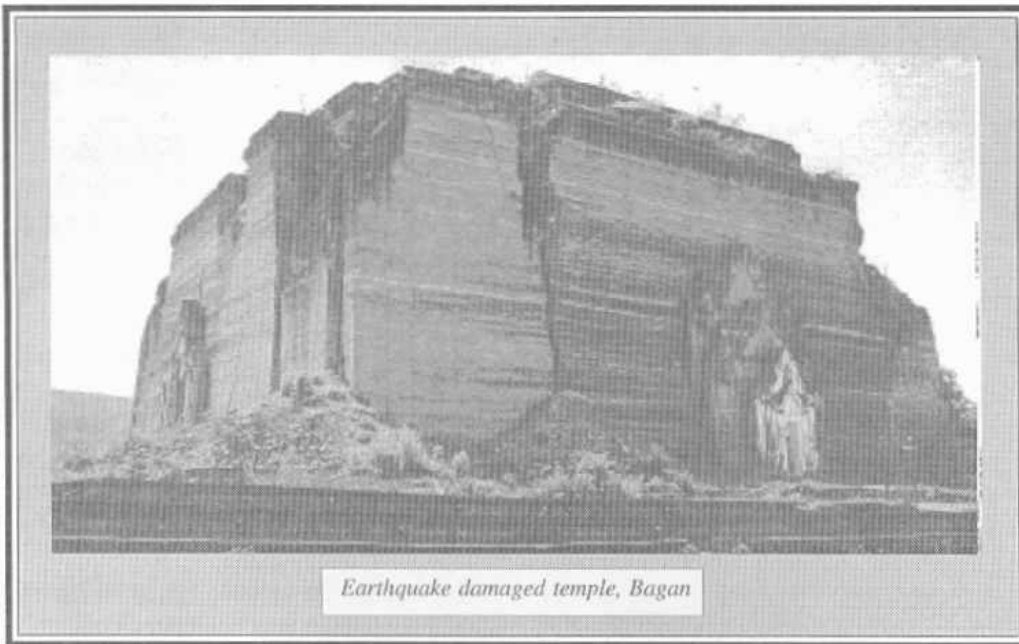
"Use the last match, and look at the object next¹⁵⁵ to your face. If it is the pearl, at least we will die as two rich explorers."

Lester agrees¹⁵⁶ and strikes¹⁵⁷ the sulphur match on the zipper¹⁵⁸ of his trousers¹⁵⁹.

"AAAAHH!" screams Lester. He faints¹⁶⁰ in fear. There is a big black rat ten centimeters from his nose.

"Lester! Lester, are you alive? Has the devil¹⁶¹ come..."

Suddenly, without warning¹⁶², the earth¹⁶³ begins to tremble¹⁶⁴, and then to violently shake¹⁶⁵. The Reclining Buddha comes off¹⁶⁶ its foundations¹⁶⁷. It crashes¹⁶⁸ back and forth¹⁶⁹ against the temple walls. Tito is ejected¹⁷⁰ from the throat and thrown¹⁷¹ on top of Lester. Parts of the



Earthquake damaged temple, Bagan

temple fall¹⁷² around the Buddha. A giant¹⁷³ rock collapses onto the Buddha's face. All over Bagan, the facades¹⁷⁴ of temples and stupas crash¹⁷⁵ to the ground. It seems as if an angry god is trying to destroy¹⁷⁶ his abandoned temples.

The earthquake¹⁷⁷ stops. Enormous clouds¹⁷⁸ of dust cover the sun. Goats¹⁷⁹ are bleating¹⁸⁰, dogs howling¹⁸¹, and villagers are prostrate¹⁸² in the fields¹⁸³. Some of the rickshaw drivers are buried¹⁸⁴, bleeding¹⁸⁵ or dead, under fallen¹⁸⁶ temples. It seems as if the whole world has ended¹⁸⁷. In 20 seconds, a city that was built during two and a half centuries, is left in total ruins.

Lester and Tito are lying¹⁸⁸ together. "Tito," groans¹⁸⁹ Lester. "Lester," groans Tito. They look around the ruined temple.

The Buddha is broken¹⁹⁰ in half. There, in the middle of the open stomach, is the rat. It fell¹⁹¹ and broke into hundreds of clay¹⁹² pieces. The brilliant white Xing pearl is in the middle¹⁹³. It looks like a new egg. Lester and Tito look at each other in amazement¹⁹⁴ and happiness¹⁹⁵. "Our bar in Barbate!" they shout together, as they reach for the pearl.

Once again, without warning, the earth moves a second time, as a small after shock¹⁹⁶ shakes¹⁹⁷ the area. A stone block in the roof¹⁹⁸ of the temple falls on top of the giant pearl, and crushes¹⁹⁹ it into white dust.



Richard Clarke



Lester Moores

Both, Neither and Either

BOTH/BOTH OF

SECTION ONE

1. Both/Both of + plural noun = ambos + sustantivo plural.

1A. Both refers to two people or things.

- Both Buddhas = Ambos Buddhas.
- Both people = Ambas personas.

1B. Both of must go with the, my, these, etc. before the noun.

- Both of the matches = ambas cerillas.
- Both of these people = ambas personas.
- Both of matches/people = X (incorrect).

1C. You can say **both** matches or **both of the** matches. In this case the meaning is exactly the same. We usually use **of + my, these, his**, etc, when we want to show possession or be more specific.

1D. You can use **both** alone.

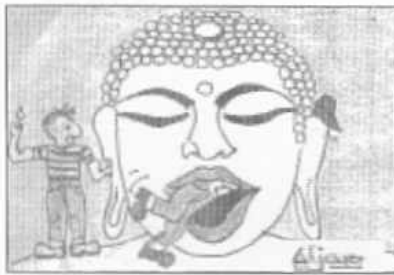
- Does Tito like diamonds or pearls? He likes **both**.
(¿A Tito le gustan los diamantes o las perlas? Le gustan ambos).

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2. Both of + us, you, them = Nosotros dos, vosotros dos, ellos dos.

2A. In these cases, **of** is necessary with **us, you, them**.

- Both of us will go down the throat of the Buddha.
(Nosotros dos bajaremos por la garganta del Buddha).



Both us, you, them = X (incorrect).

NEITHER/NEITHER OF

SECTION TWO

I. Neither + singular noun = Ninguno (de los dos).

1A. Neither refers to two people or things in negative sentences. It goes with a singular verb in the positive.

- Neither match works.
(Ninguna [de las dos] cerilla sirve).

1B. Neither of + plural noun = Ninguno (de los dos).

Neither of must go with the, my, these, etc, before the plural noun. It can go with a singular or plural verb. There is no difference.

- Neither of my matches work (or works).
(Ninguna de mis [dos] cerillas sirve).

1C. You can say **neither** rickshaw or **neither of** the rickshaws. The meaning is exactly the same. Like **Both of**, **neither of** is used to show possession or to be more specific.

1D. Like **both**, **neither** can go alone.

- Do you like diamonds or pearls? I like **neither**.

... us, you, them = Ninguno de nosotros (dos), vosotros (dos), ellos (dos).

- Neither of us have a rickshaw.
(Ninguno de nosotros [dos] tiene un rickshaw).
Like **Both**, **of** is necessary with **neither** in these cases.

EITHER/EITHER OF

SECTION THREE

1. Either + singular noun = tanto como, o uno o el otro.

- **Either boat** goes to Bagan, though the first one is slower.
(Tanto un barco como el otro va a Bagan, aunque el primero vaya más despacio).



1A. **Either** is very similar to **both**, but **either** is considering the two things separately, while **both** is considering them together (**Tanto como** es muy parecido a **ambos**, pero en **tanto como** se considera las dos cosas por separado mientras en **ambos** se las considera **juntas**).

3. **Either of** + plural noun = tanto como
Either of, like **both of** and **neither of** must go with **the**, **my**, **these**, etc.

Either normally goes with a plural verb.

Either of the boats go to Bagan.

You can say **either boat** or **either of the boats**, the meaning is exactly the same.
Like **both of** and **either of**, **either of** is used to show possession or be more specific.

Both, Neither and Either

1E. Like **both** and **neither**, **either** can go alone.

- Do you want the fast boat or the slow boat? **Either**.
(¿Quieres el barco rápido o el barco lento? **Cualquiera**).

BOTH AND, NEITHER/NOR, EITHER/OR

SECTION FOUR

1. You can say **Both... and ... = Tanto...como...**

- **Both** Lester **and** Tito shouted for help.
(**Tanto** Lester **como** Tito gritaron para pedir ayuda).

2. **Neither...nor... = Ni...ni...**

- **Neither** Lester **nor** Tito could find anything in the temple.
(**Ni** Lester **ni** Tito pudieron encontrar nada en el templo).

3. **Either...or... = ...o...**

- **Either** you search the belly **or** we leave Bagan without the pearl!
(!Registras el vientre **o** nos marchamos de Bagan sin la perla!).
Either in the above example is **not necessary**, but is used to **show emphasis**.

ANY/NONE/ALL

SECTION FIVE

1. For more than two things we use **any**, **none**, **all** or **any of**, **none of** or **all of** with the same rules as **both**, **neither** and **either**:

Compare:

- We have two possibilities to escape. We can try **either** (of them). **Both** are dangerous and **neither** have much possibility of success.
(Tenemos dos posibilidades de escapar. Podemos intentar **tanto una como la otra**. **Ambas** son peligrosas y **ninguna** [de las dos] tiene muchas posibilidades de éxito).
- We have **several** possibilities of escape. We can try **any of them**. They are **all** dangerous and **none of them** have much possibility of success.
(Tenemos **algunas** posibilidades de escapar. Podemos intentar cualquiera de ellas. **Todas** son peligrosas y **ninguna** [de ellas] tiene muchas posibilidades de éxito).

ERNEST AND HIPOLITO HEMINGWAY

After our first day together, Tomás, my new chauffeur, drove me back from the war front² in the Casa del Campo. The following morning, he was unable³ to start⁴ the car. And each time something of the sort⁵ happened to us, he was unable to fix⁶ it, even though the car had been functioning perfectly the day before. The fear⁷ that Tomás underwent⁸ at the front, together with his small stature, intense patriotism and total inefficiency, caused many problems. It made my job of reporting⁹ back to the American newspapers much more difficult. Finally, we sent him back to Valencia with a note to the Press Office¹¹ saying that, although he was a man of noble feelings¹² and ideas, would they please send us someone a bit braver¹³. They sent us another driver with a letter; in it they assured¹⁴ us that he was the bravest man that the Press Office had at its disposal¹⁶.

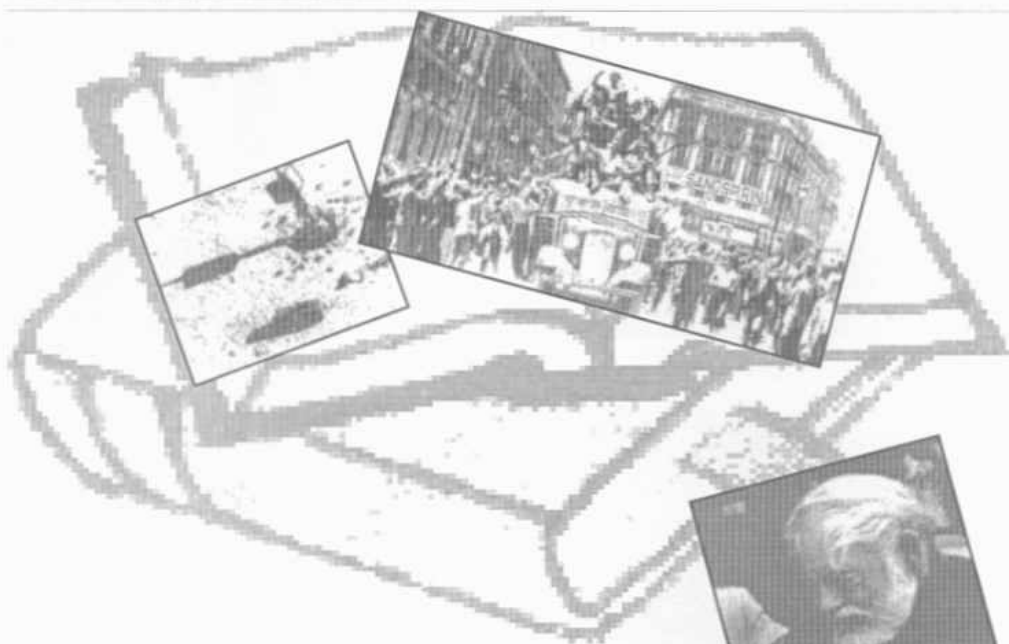
This man was a bit taller than Tomás, and he seemed to be a figure of granite¹⁶. When he walked, he moved his shoulders¹⁷

from one side to another¹⁸ and took heavy steps¹⁹; he carried a machine-gun²⁰ which reached²¹ halfway down²² his leg; he said «Cheers²³» in a strong voice²⁴; he was a driver-mechanic, and he had the habit²⁵ of showing²⁶ up ten minutes before the appointed²⁷ time.

He had participated in the taking²⁸ of the mountain garrison²⁹ when the Movement began and was a member of the U.S.F. from twenty years back³⁰. When asked what he preferred, he answered that he was for the Republic.

He was our driver in Madrid and at the front during those nineteen days that the bombing³¹ of the capital lasted³²; a bombing too confusing³³ to be described. All the time that he was with us, he was as firm as a rock, solid as the bronze of a good bell³⁴ and as constant and punctual as a railroad³⁵ clock³⁶. His personality made it clear³⁷ to us that Madrid could not be conquered³⁸ even if³⁹ all the odds⁴⁰ were against it.





Hipolito and thousands of men like him were capable⁴¹ of defending every street and every house as long⁴² as they were alive⁴³, and these men would have set⁴⁴ the capital on fire, rather than have it captured. These are tenacious and efficient men; these were the Spaniards⁴⁵ who discovered and conquered the New World. They do not boast⁴⁶, they are not afraid⁴⁷ of death, nor are they romantic like the anarchists, nor do they talk without stopping about any predicament, like the Italians do. These are men of action, and they do not need to speak many words.

Three hundred projectiles of artillery fell on Madrid⁴⁸ in a single day; the main streets were covered with

broken⁴⁹ glass and brick⁵⁰ dust and turned⁵¹ into a smoking⁵² ruin.

Hipolito had parked the car next to a building in a backstreet⁵³ beside the hotel, an apparently safe⁵⁴ place, and was seated⁵⁵ in the room next⁵⁶ to the one in which I was working. Tired⁵⁷ of being there, he went out onto the street and sat down⁵⁸ in the car. Ten minutes had not gone by⁵⁹, when a six-inch⁶⁰ projectile fell in front of the door of the establishment. It did not explode. But had⁶¹ it exploded, not enough would have remained⁶² of either Hipolito or the car to take a picture of, since he was about fifteen feet⁶³ from where the projectile had fallen. I looked out the window, saw



that everything was normal, and walked out onto the street.

- How are you? -- I asked him.
- Fine.
- Park the car further⁶³ away from the building.
- Don't talk nonsense⁶⁵ -- Hipolito replied -- Another one won't fall here in a thousand years. Anyway⁶⁶ this bomb won't explode.
- Park the car farther down the road! -- I insisted.
- What's wrong with you? Are you scared⁶⁷?
- We have to be more careful!
- Go mind⁶⁸ what you're doing and don't worry⁶⁹ about me!

The circumstances of that day are not very clear because, after nineteen days of the intense artillery fire, to which the capital was submitted⁷⁰, dates⁷¹ get mixed⁷² up. At one o'clock in the afternoon the bombing stopped, so we decided to have lunch in the Gran Via Hotel six blocks down the street from where we were. We decided not to walk directly down the Gran Via, and instead⁷³ to take a longer but safer route⁷⁴. When we walked past the car, Hipolito suddenly said:

- Where are you going?
- To eat.
- Climb into the car.
- Are you crazy⁷⁵?
- Climb in⁷⁶, I'll take you down the Gran Via. The bombing's stopped because it's

lunchtime⁷⁷ for everyone.

My three co-workers⁷⁸ and I made ourselves comfortable in the vehicle, and we drove slowly down the Gran Via; it was covered with glass, its sidewalks⁷⁹ were full of holes⁸⁰, and its buildings had suffered damage⁸¹. In order⁸² to enter the hotel, we had to pick⁸³ our way through a pile⁸⁴ of rubble⁸⁵, and a fallen⁸⁶ balcony. No one was to be seen on the sidewalks of the main street, which had always been a cross⁸⁷ between Broadway and Fifth Avenue. There were many victims, and our car was the only vehicle to be seen there.

Hipolito parked on a side-street; we went to eat together in the basement⁸⁸ of the hotel. He finished before us and walked back to the car. Shortly⁸⁹ afterwards⁹⁰, the thunder⁹¹ of new explosions resounded⁹² in the basement of the hotel. It sounded like the dull⁹³ noise⁹⁴ of a drill⁹⁵. Once we had eaten white bean⁹⁶ soup with 'chorizo,' some paper-thin⁹⁷ slices⁹⁸ of cured⁹⁹ sausage and an orange, we walked back up to the ground¹⁰⁰ floor. As we were climbing¹⁰¹ over the rubble, there was a huge¹⁰² explosion next to the hotel. We dived¹⁰³ for cover¹⁰⁴, as bricks and glass fell from the building. When we got back up again, the street was full of smoke¹⁰⁵ and clouds of dust¹⁰⁶, and there were new piles of rubble on the sidewalk. I looked towards

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