

BUDDHA BOOT CAMP

Mark Miller

OVER DARKNESS

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The American soldier benefits from the most technologically advanced weapons systems on the planet. But what about the internal human system? Today's Marines have been hard at work on that, too.

EXT. MARINE CORPS BASE - DAY

A group of uniformed Marine recruits, with rifles, is standing at ease, talking among themselves.

SERGEANT ROCKNE (V.O.)

Ten-hut!

The recruits snap to attention. SERGEANT ROCKNE crosses in front of them. He is an angry, bellowing, in-your-face drill instructor.

SERGEANT ROCKNE (CONT'D)

Listen up, you slimey worms. My name is Sergeant Rockne. For the next three months, while you're stinking up my platoon, I'm gonna be your worst nightmare. I expect to lose at least three quarters of you along the way. Those that remain, by the time I'm through with you, you're gonna wish you were never born. I am the meanest, angriest, most sadistic meditation drill instructor in the Marines. My mission -- to help you balance the stress of Basic Training with the wonder of inner peace. Your mantra for today will be "Ommmmmmmm." Now, sound off!

RECRUITS (IN UNISON)

Ommmmmmmm...

SERGEANT ROCKNE (SING-SONG)

I can't hear you!

RECRUITS (IN UNISON, LOUDER)

Ommmmmmmm...

SERGEANT ROCKNE

I know this is going to come as a shock to some of you ladies, but

(MORE)

SERGEANT ROCKNE (CONT'D)
 this is not a tea party. This is the
 United States Marine Corps Boot Camp.
 Now, I want you to shout out those
 mantras so loud that your girlfriends
 back home, or boyfriends, as the
 case may be, will hear them!

RECRUITS (IN UNISON, STILL LOUDER)
 Ommmmmmmmmm...

SERGEANT ROCKNE
 You are without a doubt the most
 pathetic platoon I've ever had the
 displeasure to encounter. All right,
 you scuzzy pukers, double-time in
 place, pumping your rifles over your
 heads and going deep into that warm,
 womb-like center that nurtures the
 cosmic "I"!

All the recruits except SOLDIER #1 begin running in place,
 pumping their rifles up and down over their heads. Soldier
 #1 is frozen with fear. Rockne addresses him.

SERGEANT ROCKNE (CONT'D)
 When I give an order, Slug, I expect
 100% effort 100% of the time! You
 just added forty-five minutes to
 your platoon's yoga drill.

The others react, displeased.

SERGEANT ROCKNE (CONT'D)
 Now, what the hell is your problem,
 Maggot?!

SOLDIER #1
 I-I'm scared, Sergeant.

SERGEANT ROCKNE
 Better stop eye-balling me, boy! You
 haven't earned the right to look me
 in the face. What are you scared of?

SOLDIER #1 (MUMBLING)
 Scared I won't be able to...

SERGEANT ROCKNE (SING-SONG)
 I can't hear you!

SOLDIER #1
 (LOUD AND IN MONOTONE,
 AS IF BY ROTE)
 Scared I won't be able to attain a
 true meditative state so I can begin
 (MORE)

SOLDIER #1 (CONT'D)
 enjoying the tranquility and rich
 reservoir of peace that lies within
 me, sir!

SERGEANT ROCKNE
 Don't you be calling me "sir"! I'm
 not a commissioned officer. You see
 these stripes? I work for a living,
 Worm!

ROCKNE gets right up in the recruit's face.

SERGEANT ROCKNE (CONT'D)
 You listen to me, Squat for Brains,
 and you listen good. You came in
 here an uptight, nervous, scared,
 stress-filled, competitive excuse
 for a human being. But by God I swear
 on your sweet whore of a mama that
 by the time I'm through with you,
 you're gonna be able to let your
 consciousness expand beyond your
 body and bring you to a miraculous
 place of pure, pristine, zen-like
 bliss! Now, is that understood?

SOLDIER #1
 Yes, Sergeant Rockne!

SERGEANT ROCKNE
 (SOTTO, DEAD SERIOUS,
 TO SOLDIER #1)
 I'm gonna be watching you, boy.
 (BLOWS HIS WHISTLE)
 Ten-hut!

The soldiers snap to attention.

SERGEANT ROCKNE (CONT'D)
 You will now double-time it over to
 the Krishna Concourse for the 1400
 hours Focussing on the Breath
 Workshop. Forward, march!
 (LEADS THEM OFF)
 Left, left, left, right, left...
 (STARTS THE ICONIC
 CALL AND RESPONSE
 MARCHING CHANT)
 I don't know but I been told...

PLATOON
 I don't know but I been told...

SERGEANT ROCKNE
 Inner peace worth more than gold.

PLATOON

Inner peace worth more than gold.

SERGEANT ROCKNE

We can say with no hesitation...

PLATOON

We can say with no hesitation...

SERGEANT ROCKNE

Marines do better with meditation.

PLATOON

Marines do better with meditation.

SERGEANT ROCKNE

Sound off.

PLATOON

Ha-re.

SERGEANT ROCKNE

Sound off.

PLATOON

Krish-na.

SERGEANT ROCKNE

Left, left, left, right, left...

As the soldiers march off, a HIGHLY DECORATED SOLDIER in Marine Corps Dress Blues, laden with medals, enters to stand at attention before a huge American flag. He speaks with an East Indian Accent.

HIGHLY DECORATED SOLDIER

I credit my Marine Corps meditation training with having given me the spiritual centering necessary to help make me the most decorated soldier in Marine Corps history.
Namaste.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The New U.S. Marines -- state of the art technologically, state of the art internally.

SFX: "MARINES HYMN"

The Highly Decorated Soldier salutes proudly and marches off.

FADE OUT: