

Audition Sides - King, Chulalongkorn

TUPTIM, LUN THA

TO KISS IN THE SUNLIGHT
AND SAY TO THE SKY:
BEHOLD AND BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE!
BEHOLD HOW MY BELOVED LOVES ME!

LUN THA and TUPTIM hold their positions, their faces and bodies betraying their feelings as they draw closer to each other. LADY THIANG enters, sees them, backs off, comes back onstage to be sure and backs offstage again, unseen by LUN THA and TUPTIM. LUN THA is about to kiss TUPTIM. Suddenly, she breaks away.

LUN THA

What is it?

TUPTIM

Someone was here!

She looks around fearfully.

I had a feeling someone was watching us... Please go! Please!

LUN THA exits.

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AND SAY TO THE SKY:
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TRACK 9: CHANGE OF SCENE

The same palace corridor, immediately following. The CHILDREN and their MOTHERS cross through the corridor, marching formally.

BEGIN

KING

Chulalongkorn!

The KING gestures to CHULALONGKORN to step out of line. The PRINCE obeys. The other CHILDREN continue offstage.

CHULALONGKORN

Father, I shall be late—

KING

(folding his arms)

You wait! Show me what you have learned today.

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CHULALONGKORN

(assuming the KING's stance)

We wrote this proverb twelve times in our notebooks: "A thought for the day: East or West, home is best."

KING

East, West, home best. Home! Means house.

CHULALONGKORN

And we are taught that the world is a round ball which spins on a stick through the middle.

He looks at the KING to see the effect of this outrageous statement.

Everyone knows that the world rides on the back of a great turtle, which keeps it from running into the stars.

KING

How can it be that everyone knows one thing, if many people believe another thing?

CHULALONGKORN

Then which is true?

KING

(decides hesitantly)

The world is ball with stick through it... I believe.

CHULALONGKORN

You believe? Does that mean you do not know?

His father does not answer.

But you must know, because you are King.

KING

Someday you too will be King and you too will know everything.

CHULALONGKORN

But how do I learn? And when do I know that I know everything?

KING

(not sure of himself)

When – you – are – King. Now leave me.

CHULALONGKORN exits. The KING soliloquizes:

When you are King. But I do not know. I am not sure. I am not sure of anything.

END

TRACK 10: A PUZZLEMENT

(KING)

WHEN I WAS A BOY,
WORLD WAS BETTER SPOT.