

À CUP OF TEA

Script

This script merely describes the actions taking place. It is not final and can be developed further at any time.

Act 1: The empty teapot

Late one afternoon:

An old Chinese man sitting in front of his hut. He grabs a teapot standing besides him and wants to pour tea. But only a single drop comes out of the pot. The old man lifts the lid of the pot and peers inside. He turns the teapot upside down but nothing comes out. The Chinese man decides to make new tea, takes a deep sighs puts the teapot aside and takes a bowl to fetch water.

Act 2: Fetching water

Slowly the Chinese man walks with a cane, carrying the bowl under his armpit towards a winch to which a bucket is attached. He puts the bowl down on the floor and undoes the knot to let the bucket down. When it is filled with water he starts pulling it up with an effort. The old man knots the rope loosely and tries to grab the bucket with his walking stick. By the time he reaches the pail with the stick, the knot loosens and the pail races into the depth, almost dragging along the man.

The bucket hits the water. From the impact a bit of wood is smashed out of the bottom of the bucket. Once again the old man strives hard to pull up the pail. Unexpectedly a raindrop hits the brow of the Chinese man. He looks up and detects a bank of clouds piling up. Suddenly a downpour starts. Hastily the Chinese man tries to pull up the bucket in order not to get too wet. During the process all the water from the pail flows back into the river. When the Chinese man has lifted the bucket one more time, he ties the rope and pulls the bucket towards him. He peers into it and discovers the hole in the bottom. Furiously he stands there in a mounting rage. He plucks out gras from the lawn to plug the hole with it. Again he lets down the bucket into the depth to draw water. But his strength is exhausted and he is not able to pull the bucket to the top of the mountain. The rope slides through his fingers and the bucket as well as the rope rush down. Drenched and exhausted he stands there.

Raindrops fall down on him and, totally spent, he sighs. While standing there he hears something splashing. He turns around to see where the noise comes from. There is the bowl - filled with rainwater.

Act 3: End

During the closing sequence one can hear the Chinese man making his tea. After the credits you see him cosily sitting in the sunset drinking »A Cup of Tea«.