

Football God 281

Chapter 281 Home, sweet home [2]

'Home, sweet home...' Sam could not help but think as midnight approached.

Visiting home with his girlfriend after the end of such a grueling football season was just like he expected it to be, it was relaxing.

Away from the football pitch, away from rivals, from the boisterous energy of home fans and the hostile energy of away fans, away from all of this and at home with his family at last, Sam felt at peace.

As soon as the random cashier that his mom invited over for dinner left, Sam had a nice time with his family.

Together, the whole family watched an old movie, a classic in Madagascar, the old 2005 cartoon movie as they had a great time together.

After the movie, while the rest of the family, his mom, his girlfriend, and his sister stayed in the big sitting room, engaging in a gist among themselves, Sam left with his dad to the balcony where they had a man to man talk.

On top the balcony, Sam spoke with his dad about a lot of different topics, ranging from life in general to politics, to cryptocurrency, and then his career.

Talking of his career, Mr. Moses did not hold back as he spoke glowingly of Sam's premier league career so far.

When he helped his son as his agent sign the contract with Fulham, Mr. Moses expected great things from him but even he didn't expect this.

Sam's performances with Fulham blew away all his expectations, he adapted to the English premier league like a fish to water.

Despite the fact that this middle-aged man recognized his son's effort and sheer hard work in making all of it happen, still, it was clear that Sam's career trajectory was not taking the normal route that professional football players take.

It was clear that even when compared to the likes of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, even the recent Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland, his career achievements were still an anomaly.

Afterall, he was still just 19!

Mr. Moses took a deep breath, looking down the balcony as he allowed the breeze caress his face. "That thing," he sighed and looked at his son. "The system, you don't yet know its origins?"

Hearing that question, Sam froze a bit.

In the end, looking at his dad, with a sigh he shook his head. "I still don't know its origin, I just got it after the 2022 FIFA World Cup final".

Mr. Moses sighed, looking into the distance. "I love you son".

"I love you a lot and I can't help but worry," he pushed his arms into his pant pockets. "Life experience has taught me that nothing comes for free and it makes me wonder, why did the system come?"

"What is its origin?"

"And most importantly," he sighed. "Why did it choose you?"

In truth, Sam had thought of these same questions a lot of times in the past but he never tried to look too deep simply because his system was too mysterious.

Its origins, its powers, they were too mysterious and he was scared of losing the system due to probing too much so he stopped it, ignoring its anomalous existence. But now, with his dad bringing the matter up, he could no longer ignore it. He had no choice but to face the bitter truth.

"Dad, to be honest, I've asked myself these same questions countless times in the past but every single time, I never get a conclusive answer in my head".

"Did I get the system because I'm better than others out there?"

"Is it because I have more potential?" Sam shrugged. "I doubt, my potential rating when I just got the system was very low".

"Is it that I'm the strongest mentally? I doubt too". Saying that, Sam looked into the distance. "I don't know the exact reason but if I'm to guess, I'll say I got the system because I met certain parameters that were needed to get the system".

"I think one of them definitely has to be my mentality," Sam grinned. "I truly want to become the best, and I'll sacrifice anything to achieve my goal!"

"As for the other parameters, I don't yet know but one of these years, something tells me that I'll find out the reason why the system chose me".

He looked at his dad. "I'll find out the reason why I got the system".

"Are you sure?"

Sam shook his head. "It's just a hunch".

Mr. Moses sighed. "I trust you then".

The father and son duo stood silent for a few minutes, just taking in the breeze when suddenly thinking of something, Mr. Moses smiled. "About your contract situation..."

Immediately after the end of the 2024/2025 football season and Fulham were confirmed as the English premier league title winners, lots of football clubs around Europe lined up for Sam's signature.

Clubs from all top 5 European leagues gave him contract offers.

Of them all though, Mr. Moses narrowed the options to 3 interesting offers. "Your most lucrative contract offer among all the clubs asking for your signature is from Paris Saint Germain, they want to get you by any means possible".

"They're offering a base salary of 500,000 Euros per week, and that is without bonuses, not to talk of the astronomical signing bonus".

Seeing the disinterested look on his son's face, Mr. Moses chuckled. "Another enticing offer comes from Manchester City. They're offering you an outstanding base salary of 370,000 Euros per week, offering you a contract only below Erling Haaland's, Kevin De Bruyne, and Rodi's in the Man City squad".

He looked at his son again. "To me, the most interesting offer though is from Real Madrid. They're offering you a salary of 300,000 Euros per week".

Real Madrid was Mr. Moses' hated club, but the truth was undisputed that the Spanish capital club was the biggest club in the world.

When Real Madrid approaches a player, most never find the balls to refuse their contract offer, this was why he pitched the idea to his son.

He wanted to see how staunch his son was.

As soon as he was done speaking, Sam smirked and then he looked at his dad. "I think you forgot what I said earlier on," he chuckled.

"Barca or nothing".

Chapter 282 Home, sweet home [3]

"Barca or nothing, huh?" Mr. Moses looked into the distance, admiring the beautiful nightlife of Nigeria in Maitama.

As soon as Sam said that, he yawned and excused himself, going to sleep after a long and relaxing day. Sam loved sleeping, few things could disturb his precious sleeping time and his girlfriend already understood that.

With his son gone, Mr. Moses stood on the balcony, looking out even as a gentle smile caressed his lips.

He thought. 'Gavi, Pedri, Pau Cubarsi, Lamine Yamal..., very soon Sam,' his smile widened. 'I wonder what the future holds for FC Barcelona'.

Sitting down on the balcony, he opened a bottle of alcoholic wine, helping himself to it as he reminisced about how much his life changed in such little time.

'Life really can be a rollercoaster'.

...

While Sam retreated to sleep and his dad remained on the balcony, indulging himself, the 3 women were still engaged in conversation.

The conversation was gradually turning mischievous.

"Come on, tell me," Mrs. Moses said in a cajoling manner as she stared at Kayla. "What are the both of you still waiting for? Where is my grandson?"

"W-w-what...?" Kayla's face turned a bright shade of red even as she tried to sneak away immediately.

"Come on, don't run, tell me. I promise I won't tell anyone, who will I even tell? I have no close friends to tell such things to".

Kayla was blushing so fiercely that she could not say a word.

Sophia was no different as she blushed, occasionally muttering a curse under her breath. "Mother has started!" She grumbled.

In the end, despite how embarrassed she felt at this moment, Mrs. Moses was able to make Kayla feel comfortable enough to start talking.

"I don't think we're ready for marriage yet".

"Really? Why not?"

"I mean, we're still very young, Sam is just 19!"

"19 is just?" Mrs. Moses looked suspiciously at the girl. "19 is only small when other aspects that constitute a marriage are not yet in order".

"But you guys? You guys are more than ready already. Psychologically, you should be ready and there's no problem in terms of finance, so why not?"

Kayla chuckled awkwardly. "Mom, training children is not something that should be rushed so eagerly, it's a delicate subject".

Mrs. Moses sighed. "I understand where you're coming from but still...", she made puppy eyes. "I want to carry my grandson!" She nagged.

In the end, she relented. "Tell me what you want personally".

Kayla thought for a few seconds before answering. "Above all else, I want stability before deciding to give birth and raise a child".

Mrs. Moses' eyes widened. "You're telling me you're not stable? Tell me, is Sam not treating you right? That bastard, I'll kill him right now!"

"Mom!" Kayla complained, rubbing her temples. "It's not that".

"Not that?" She seemed confused. "Then what?"

"Right now, Sam's football career is still in a period of meteoric rise and his status and popularity keeps on increasing. It's something that we're not used to yet, and it's taking some getting used to".

"Besides, I've heard him talk, he's an avid FC Barcelona fan," she smiled knowingly. "I think he won't stay in Fulham much longer".

"If I'm not wrong, Sam may go to Spain soon".

"To do what?"

"..." Kayla looked at the middle-aged woman, thoroughly speechless.

In the end, staying patient, she explained. "FC Barcelona is a football club in Spain, one of the biggest clubs in the world. If Sam is to play for them, he won't stay in England anymore, he'll have to migrate to Spain and start staying there".

"Ohhhh!" Mrs. Moses nodded as she finally understood, but then she frowned. "That's so stressful".

"I know, right?"

"Why don't he just stay in Fulham then?"

"..."

Kayla felt like crying. 'Because Fulham is not a big club!'

In the end, she continued explaining. "Before settling to raise children, I want my career and Sam's careers to be stable first".

"I want to at least have completed my school first while Sam's career is stable in Spain. That way, we'll be able to build a harmonious and stable environment to raise a kid, your grandkid".

Mrs. Moses grinned excitedly. "Yes, you're right," she rubbed her chin in thought, already thinking of something else. "His name shall be Jason!"

"Huh? Why?"

"I've always wanted to name my son Jason, but I only got Sam".

Kayla laughed but then she added. "We don't even know if it's going to be a boy, anything can happen".

"It's going to be a boy!" Mrs. Moses added confidently.

An hour later, while the men were already long asleep with even Sophia asleep already, the 2 others stayed awake as they kept on conversing in the sitting room till it was midnight.

Mrs. Moses introduced Kayla to a bad habit of hers that night, too tired to stand up when they were done, they ended up sleeping on the sofa in the sitting room.

Sam woke up at night to find both of them sleeping peacefully.

He palmed his face. "Dammit!"

Returning to his room, he came back with warm blankets, covering them before sleeping on the sofa with them.

Sam didn't sleep immediately though. Picking up his phone, he went to WhatsApp as he started a conversation with 2 of his friends.

He chatted till it was late before sleeping again.

...

Ding! Dong!

The next morning, the whole Moses' household woke up late.

They were woken up by the loud ringing sound of the house alarm. Rubbing her sleep eyes, when Sophia walked up to check the CCTV camera to see who was at the door, her eyes widened into saucers.

"...!"

Throwing the cup that she held to the side, she bolted to the sitting room's door and quickly opened it as 2 familiar faces appeared before her.

"Hey babe!" Ian grinned.

"Ian!" She screamed, jumping into his arms.

Beside Ian was a familiar face, an Englishman, Emile Smith Rowe came to Nigeria for the first time in his life.

...

An hour later, in the dining room...

"This right here is called Owo soup, and this is called starch," Sam grinned as he demonstrated to his English friend.

Emile Smith Rowe looked at him, trying hard to hide his disgust. "You eat this?"

"Of course!" Sam grinned, not at all annoyed by the look on his friend's face. "It's highly nutritious food!"

"I know it looks somehow but just trust me and test it, thank me later". He smiled.

Though Emile Smith Rowe wanted to simply run out of this dining room at this moment, out of his trust for Sam, he decided to try the weird-looking food.

"Not like that," Sam corrected patiently. "You don't just pick it, you cut it as if you're cutting a wood. Like this," he demonstrated.

Cutting a wrap of starch, he dipped it into the soup and swallowed, making Emile Smith Rowe grimace a bit at the sight.

In the end though, closing his eyes, he did it.

Gulp!

As soon as the food went down his throat, he shuddered, fighting his instinct to throw up what he just ingested.

Silently, he waited, allowing his tongue to taste.

A second passed, and then Smith Rowe opened his eyes. His eyes widened as the sensation of the food that just passed through his throat registered in his brain, triggering a wave of dopamine in him.

"Wow!" He exclaimed, looking at Sam. "It's...", he hesitated. "It's delicious!"

"I know, right?" Sam laughed. "Now, eat the fish with it and be bamboozled".

Emile Smith Rowe did just that, picking from the giant Catfish on his plate and devouring it and from there, the Englishman never looked back.

Gulp! Gulp! Gulp!

Emile Smith Rowe ate so much, causing Sam to sweat on his forehead as he worried that if his friend stayed any longer in Nigeria eating like this, he would grow overweight before the holiday came to an end.

At the end of it all, Emile Smith Rowe finished the food, rubbing his stomach contentedly as he flashed a smile at Mrs. Moses.

"Ma'am, the food was splendid".

Mrs. Moses grinned. "An Englishman praised my food".

She maintained a polite smile on her face but smugly, she could not help but turn her face to look at her husband. "Your wife is the best!"

"Yes, yes," Mr. Moses nodded, not wanting to ignite trouble.

Watching from the side, Sam laughed.

He quickly noticed though that Emile Smith Rowe was struggling to move after eating such heavy food, he chuckled. "You remind me of when I was small, sometimes I can't even move from where I sat after eating too much".

Emile Smith Rowe looked at him pitifully, almost at the point of tears.

But then Sam chuckled again, suddenly thinking of something. "Do you want to play a game?"

"What game?"

Sam grinned. "When I was younger, I used to play football on local fields just like Brazilians play on the streets".

"There are local fields here in Abuja too".

Hearing that, Smith Rowe's eyes gleamed.

The atmosphere in this dining room quickly changed as eating fish, Ian stared at the 2 others guys, flabbergasted as he already realized their intentions. 'Don't tell me...!'

Kayla opened her mouth to interject. "Definitely no, he just got here!"

Sam laughed and jumped up. "Let's go play ball!"

Emile Smith Rowe followed him.

"Dad! Tell him...!" Kayla desperately looked to Mr. Moses to help.

Mr. Moses chuckled. "You can separate the player from football, but you can't separate the football from the player".

"It's something innate".

"Let them enjoy themselves, it's holiday period for them".

Chapter 283 Street football

Yes, it was Abuja.

Yes, it was the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria but still, it was not every day that you get to meet global superstars.

That evening in Abuja, in one of the local football fields at the Airport Road, the local football players welcomed 2 esteemed guests.

When the luxurious-looking car first pulled up at the side of the local field, it already attracted a lot of attention but the attention hit a crescendo when a white man came out of the passenger seat of the chair.

This Whiteman was not anonymous, his face was easily recognizable. Afterall, this was a gathering of local football players.

"Is that not...?" The avid local football players recognized Emile Smith Rowe almost immediately as their eyes widened into saucers.

'Am I dreaming?'

At first, the local players could not believe who they were seeing but once they did, they all had the same thought.

'Emile Smith Rowe is in Nigeria?!'

'If he is here, who brought him here?'

It didn't take a clever man to make the connection. Which Fulham player was close to Emile Smith Rowe and had a connection to Nigeria?

Their eyes widened even more. "Sam!"

The next moment, as soon as the driver's door opened and Sam stepped out, the players were already screaming his name but they respected him as they did not swarm in his direction, only admiring him from a distance.

Instead of the full field of players swarming him, rather, their local coach was the one who walked up to Sam instead.

The coach was all smiles as he approached. "Good evening sir".

Sam smiled. "You're the coach here, right?"

The middle-aged coach nodded.

Sam looked around at the local pitch, at the players playing. "Are you guys playing any important tournament?"

"No sir, this is just normal weekend football".

Hearing that, Sam smiled. "Then can you indulge us please?" He chuckled. "I and my friend here want to play football".

"With pleasure". This middle-aged coach said respectfully.

"But first," he grinned. "Can I take a picture with you?"

Sam chuckled. "Is that the requirement to play here?"

The middle-aged coach chuckled mischievously. "Kinda".

A few minutes later, Sam and Emile Smith Rowe geared up as they entered the pitch alongside the players.

It was unfair to the players of the other side but Sam and Emile Smith Rowe decided to play together for the first round of this game that lasted 10 minutes each half. This was local football...

...this was street football.

FWEEE!

The coach's whistle sounded to kickstart the game, and boy did it start.

Bam!

An exciting game started in this local stadium in Abuja.

Shortly after the game started, certain videos and pictures started circulating on social media, causing a storm online.

(Sam in our local football pitch! Image attached=)

(Sam and Emile Smith Rowe are in Abuja! And they're both playing football with my brother! OMG, I still can't believe it! Video attached=)

(Holy chicken! This is gods among men, Sam and Emile Smith Rowe?! Drop location, I'm coming right away!)

...

(Comments:)

(Drop location!)

(Location pls...)

(Please, the location...)

(Please drop location!)

(100k for the first person to drop the location!)

(Done! Location: Angwan Gboko community field!)

A frenzy started in Abuja.

All over the federal capital territory, avid football fans who followed the premier league, those who had watched Sam and Emile Smith Rowe play, watching the S factor this season rushed to the local field where the 2 superstars played.

The first half of the game lasted only 10 minutes but by the end of 10 minutes, this local field was already bloated with a horde of spectators.

With excited looks on their faces and with countless cameras pointed at the field, they recorded the proceedings on the pitch as Sam and Emile Smith Rowe loosened up, enjoying street football.

Bam! Bam!

Even on the streets, the S factor struck!

The team on the receiving end of Sam and Smith Rowe's onslaught felt like crying as they were repeatedly cut open like a hot knife through butter.

The strategy of Sam and Smith Rowe's team became very easy as soon as both superstar footballers entered their team. The strategy was once you win the ball back, pass to either of the 2 superstars, they would do the rest.

And boy was this strategy scarily effective.

Bam!

Anytime that Sam received a pass, gasps of awe and chuckles erupted from the spectators as he dazzled with it.

Every chop of the ball that he took elicited reactions.

Every body feint, and the occasional roulettes, they elicited cheers and when he finally did the iconic elastico dribble, sending players to dreamland, they started chanting his name.

"Sam!" "Sam!" "Sam!"

Even on the streets of Nigeria, the Sam chant was being sang.

By the end of 10 minutes, 8 goals were already chipped past the opposition team as they only managed 1 goal in the same time.

5 of the goals were singlehandedly scored by Sam while Emile Smith Rowe scored 2 more, the original striker of the local team scored the 8th goal.

To the spectators, they were having a treat.

Half-time lasted 5 minutes and when they returned to the pitch, the onslaught continued as Sam scored 4 more goals, making it a hat-trick of hat-tricks!

Even Smith Rowe slapped him by the back of the head after he scored the 9th goal. "Calm down you freak, you want to demoralize them from playing football?"

Sam chuckled and rubbed the back of his head grievously. "But I'm enjoying myself".

"At the expense of others?" Smith Rowe glared at him. "We'll play again and this time, I'll play for the other team".

They did just that.

The first game ended with an incredible scoreline of 13-2, and in the next game, Sam and Smith Rowe played in opposing teams.

This was where the real drama arose from.

With both superstar players in opposing sides, the game became much more competitive as Emile Smith Rowe was forced to do more in this game.

The game became exciting!

To most of the spectators, this was the most exciting game that they've watched live as Sam and Emile Smith Rowe dazzled, bringing premier league football to the streets of Nigeria.

In the end, unlike the first game, the scoreline for this game was more normal as it ended 5-4 with Sam's team winning again.

Sam scored a hatrick while Emile Smith Rowe assisted all 4 goals that were scored by his side, the spectators got a treat that they won't forget quickly.

At the end of the game, Sam was finally swarmed by fans demanding autographs and signatures as he and Smith Rowe were forced to work.

After that, they finally drove back home.

Driving on the road, Sam opened the car windows, allowing breeze in even as he brought a hand outside, enjoying the scenery of Abuja.

"It's sooo good to just relax". He grinned. "I love this".

Emile Smith Rowe looked at him, smiling. "Me too".

Chapter 284 Birth of a dream

(Congratulations! Your YouTube channel 'MagicalSam' has been created successfully!)

(You can now start posting content to build and engage your audience!)

They say there are certain experiences in life that changes people's life.

They are right.

For Gregory, all it took was one dinner. One dinner with Mrs. Moses, Sam and his family for the cashier to become inspired.

Gregory was an avid football fan. He had a BSc certificate in computer science from the university but due to the economic state of the country, he had no choice but to work as a cashier in a supermarket to make ends meet.

At times, it was really hard but he was surviving.

Gregory had tried different means to turn his financial life around. When he was still in the university, he started a business that lasted only 2 months, and at some point, he even entered forex trading.

All of it resulted in losses that demoralized him. For a long time, the only thing that gave Gregory joy was watching football.

Every other thing seemed to only give him pain and disappointment, even his love life. Football was one thing that made him feel alive.

He was an avid FC Barcelona fan.

When he first heard the news of the young Nigerian midfielder who secured a contract with Fulham, he didn't pay attention to it, thinking Sam was just one of those players who got lucky with a European club.

This was what he thought until he was forced to watch a Fulham game due to all the noise that was surrounding the young boy called a prodigy.

The 26-year-old cashier watched Fulham's game against Manchester City earlier in the season and in that game, his heart was bought.

Gregory became Sam's number 1 fan!

'Gosh! The boy is good!'

'He's a monster, a freaking monster!'

'Damn!'

From that day, he began endorsing Sam, telling all his friends, including his colleagues about the young Nigerian footballer who originated from Delta State.

He already did his research, digging into Sam's history and origin after watching just one of his games and being impressed by it.

The more he learned about Sam's life, the more impressed he was.

Sam was not one of those rich kids who got to where he was due to his connections like he expected, rather, Sam was a Delta-bred through and through who rose from the ruins of the streets in Delta.

From the streets of Abraka, Delta State, Sam rose without the help of a football academy, climbing to the peak of Nigerian football before eventually securing the ultimate leap to the premier league.

Again, against all expectations in the premier league, Sam exceeded all limits that people automatically set for him, breaking countless records in England.

Sam singlehandedly dragged Fulham to the premier league title!

What other achievement was bigger than that?

Watching Fulham in the last matchday of the season against Manchester City as they did the incredible, putting so many goals beyond the previous reigning champions of England, in that moment, Gregory felt that anything was possible.

After that game, he became inspired, igniting a dream in him.

He didn't want to be a cashier all his life. Even as he failed to secure a good job in the city, he still worked hard, brainstorming on what to do with his life.

At some point in his life, he even entered novel-writing which still ended up flopping. But for some time, he had the idea of opening a YouTube channel.

The only reason why he was yet to open the YouTube channel was because of the simple fact that he was now scared of failure. After failing so many times, he developed a phobia for even starting.

Afterall, what were the chances that he would not just fail again?

This hesitation led to him procrastinating for a long time, until today, until the dinner that he had with Samuel Moses and his family.

That dinner so close to his hero changed the orientation of this 26-year-old.

'Dammit! I'm wasting my life!'

'If Sam can do it, I can do it too!'

While Sam was somewhere playing street football with Emile Smith Rowe, locked inside his room, Gregory accessed a video that he already made but was too scared to post since.

At first, Gregory had other intentions for his YouTube channel to focus generally on football but after that dinner, he tweaked his intentions, changing his mind to make his YouTube channel focus fully on making Sam contents.

Looking at the video, he sighed. 'It's now or never'.

Gregory no longer hesitated. As soon as he created the YouTube channel, he clicked it, uploading his first video.

(Congratulations! You have posted your first video in your YouTube channel 'MagicalSam')

(Samuel Moses- Volume 1: Rising from the streets of Abraka!)

"So help me God". He mumbled.

...

(Samuel Moses- Volume 1: Rising from the streets of Abraka!)

The video was a story.

It was perfectly edited to create an engaging story, highlighting various highs and lows of Sam's career from his struggles in the streets of Abraka, to fighting in Enyimba for place, to solidifying his status in England with Fulham.

With a perfect soundtrack that had 3 different themes, the first one hinting at desperation and survival, the struggle of Sam in the early phases of his career was perfectly highlighted till he got his first contract with Enyimba.

Even his game with Black Hearts FC was talked about.

After he got his first contract, playing for Enyimba, the soundtrack changed its cadence, smoothly transiting to jungle survival soundtrack.

The catchy beat and lyrics perfectly captured the emotions of Sam's struggle in Enyimba under Coach Yemi Daniels, fighting for his place in the team and eventually solidifying it, eventually leading Enyimba to glory.

And in the 3rd phase of the video, the Fulham part, the soundtrack smoothly transited again, this time to a high-octane beat filled with energy.

The energetic beats highlighted Sam's feeling and status of a superstar now, simulating the feeling of being on top of the world.

In simple words, it was perfect, a perfect video.

Coincidentally, this video came out in a time when the term 'Samuel Moses' was trending again.

After uploading the video, Gregory slept.

He woke up to a shock as soon as he checked his laptop.

Ding! Ding!

(Congratulations! Your YouTube channel 'MagicalSam' has received 50 subscribers!)

(Congratulations! Your YouTube channel 'MagicalSam' has received 812 subscribers!)

(Congratulations! Your YouTube channel 'MagicalSam' has received 3,120 subscribers!)

(Congratulations! Your video 'Samuel Moses- Volume 1: Rising from the streets of Abraka' has attained the Hot tag!)

"..."

"..."

".....!"

Gregory's eyes widened. "What the hell!"

Chapter 285 Celebrity endorsement

Gregory woke up to the greatest shock of his life.

Ding! Ding!

(Congratulations! Your YouTube channel 'MagicalSam' has received 50 subscribers!)

(Congratulations! Your YouTube channel 'MagicalSam' has received 812 subscribers!)

(Congratulations! Your YouTube channel 'MagicalSam' has received 3,120 subscribers!)

(Congratulations! Your video 'Samuel Moses- Volume 1: Rising from the streets of Abraka' has attained the Hot tag!)

"..."

"..."

".....!"

Gregory... was simply flabbergasted.

For someone who had grown used to being on the wrong receiving end of life, who like a metal placed in an anvil kept on being hit with no care given to how long he could remain strong before breaking, to suddenly experience such a fortune, Gregory was just speechless.

'Is this really happening?'

Gregory could not believe what he was seeing. His eyes widened, confusion swirling in their depths.

So many questions were on his mind as he stared blankly at his laptop. 'How?'

'When?'

'What happened?'

'Oh my Gosh! How did this happen?!'

Despite the many rational questions that were in his head, in the end, all of it culminated into a simple exclamation. "What the hell!"

...

People's lives can change at any moment.

In Gregory's case, one video was all it took to change his life.

He poured his heart and soul into making the video as he was mesmerized by the individual named Samuel Moses, but that was not the main reason why the video blew up, shooting him to prominence.

Afterall, there were many other YouTube editors like him who were really good but were underrated, leaving their work to rot in obscurity.

That great divide between obscurity and popularity, most times, a catalyst was needed to bridge the great divide and Gregory got that catalyst early.

The real reason why the video blew up was because of Sam.

As soon as Gregory uploaded the video, an hour later, in the evening when Sam and Emile Smith Rowe finally returned to his family mansion in Abuja, Maitama after enjoying themselves and playing street football, his girlfriend showed something to him.

Sam almost expected Kayla to berate him for going against her wishes and going to play football on the street, or a nagging display even, but he didn't get any of that on arriving home. Rather, Kayla simply sat him down, gave him food to eat and showed him a YouTube video to watch.

The video's title?

>Samuel Moses- Volume 1: Rising from the streets of Abraka<

"A video about me?" Sam was surprised. "Who created it, you?"

Sam looked at his girlfriend only to see her shake her head. "You remember the cashier that mom brought back from the supermarket where she went shopping?"

Sam nodded. "It's him?"

"Yes, he created the video. After watching it, I could not help but feel that you should watch it too. Afterall, despite being your social media handler, there are still things I feel you should have real input on still".

Sam nodded again and then he took the iPhone, he mumbled under his breath. "I never knew he was a content creator".

"He just started".

"Huh?"

"This is his first video".

"Really?" At that moment was when Sam noticed the name of the YouTube channel.
"MagicalSam?"

"Wait, he created the channel, dedicating it all to me and my career?" His eyes widened in disbelief.

Kayla chuckled. "He's clearly not your normal football fan, he's a 'you' fan". She said with emphasis.

Suddenly interested, Sam clicked on the video and watched it.

Eminem said 'Lose Yourself!', 'Seize your moment!', well, Gregory definitely seized his moment because the video that he created was a masterpiece.

He poured all of his passion, experience, and skills into making the video.

Watching it, Sam did not feel like he was watching an edited video at all, everything was so accurate that he felt like he was re-watching his life all over again from a third person's POV.

From the mighty highs to the crazy lows, Gregory missed nothing, including everything in the video and that hit Sam's deepest spots.

By the time he finished watching the video, he could barely hold in his emotions. "The guy is good". He commented seriously.

And then, he looked at his girlfriend, smiling. "Let's endorse him!" He suddenly proposed.

This... was the catalyst that Gregory needed to blow.

Endorsing Gregory was exactly what Kayla wanted and was the reason why she showed her boyfriend the video in the first place. Once she got Sam's approval, she went ahead, reposting the link to Gregory's YouTube video in all of Sam's social media handles.

And that became the trigger for the frenzy that followed.

What greater catalyst to popularity than being mentioned by one of the most popular professional football players of the English premier league?

Within just minutes after Kayla posted the link in Sam's social media handles, Gregory's video started trending and the more people watched it, the more people realized how much of a masterpiece it was as it gave them a better POV of Sam's career.

Watching it felt like experiencing Sam's career. Gregory was able to perfectly execute the story-telling technique of show, don't tell.

It was literally perfection.

A lot of people appreciated it.

And from there came the comments, the appreciation messages, the recommendations, the continuous reposts, the gifts and request for a Patreon, the sending of links, and then eventually the rapid surge in subscriber count.

By morning, Gregory's subscriber counts in YouTube already rose over 50,000 subscribers!

Despite such a crazy surge, it didn't stop there even as it kept on rising rapidly.

And this was just the initial wave.

Kayla already contacted Gregory after receiving Sam's approval. From henceforth, any new video that he created on Sam's career, Kayla would personally endorse it, promoting it on his behalf.

"..."

"..."

".....!"

That morning, Gregory felt like he was dreaming.

"Damn!" He muttered, too emotional to control himself as tears flowed down his eyes. "Dreams really do come true".

"My life... has changed".

Chapter 286 A trip back to roots

In just one night, Gregory's life turned around.

While to Gregory, his whole life turned upside down for good, to Sam, it was just another day in his life as he woke up to meet a new day.

Yesterday, after the exciting street football that he and Emile Smith Rowe engaged on in the streets of Abuja, he felt alive.

After letting off some steam, he felt revitalized again.

That morning, waking up, the first thing that Sam did was to wake his best friend up even as both of them quickly left the mansion with their headsets on, jogging through the streets of Maitama.

In just about 40 minutes or so later.

~-----~

[You have completed System Daily Quest: Mentality Monster!]

[You have been rewarded with a low-grade physical conditioning elixir!]

~----~

Sweating profusely but not yet completely out of breath, Sam paid attention to the timer. "We've become really better at doing this, huh?" He chuckled.

"Yeah," Smith Rowe muttered amid deep breaths. "I think this should be one of our fastest times in completing our daily quest, right?"

"Yeah," Sam nodded. "It's approximately 40 minutes".

"Back then, we take mostly an hour and above to complete it, to think we've improved so much in such a short time".

Emile Smith Rowe chuckled. "You improved the most".

Already done with their daily system quests, Sam and his friend didn't see a reason to jog back home as they strolled through the streets of Maitama.

As they strolled, they discussed different topics.

Of course, Sam orchestrated the conversation as the anchor, mostly teasing Emile Smith Rowe as he asked when he would finally get to see his girlfriend.

To that, Smith Rowe could only laugh and blush, but in the end he promised Sam that it was only a matter of time before he meets her.

"Damn! You're even promising me, are you secretly dating already or you have a girl in your sights?"

"No, damn, no, stop it!" He complained.

Sam chuckled. "You can be so cute sometimes," he grinned. "Few people would believe that Emile Smith Rowe, the English premier league star is such a dunce when it comes to women".

Smith Rowe looked at him defiantly. "I'd love to see the cheeks with which you will say that when you finally meet her".

Sam's eyes widened. "I said it! I caught you," he laughed, pointing at his English friend. "There's someone, right?"

Smith Rowe was stunned; he confirmed it himself.

Gritting his teeth, this Englishman grumbled. "You bastard, you baited me".

Sam chuckled, escaping before Smith Rowe could pounce on him.

In the end, after Sam managed to appease him, the focus of their talk finally deviated from other topics to football.

"So, what is your plan for next season?" Emile Smith Rowe looked up at the tall and dark Nigeria professional football player.

Hearing that question, Sam rubbed his chin even as he continued walking.

He thought over his answer before answering. "I don't know how much you know about my childhood but honestly, I've always had a dream from when I was 6". Saying this, a smile crept up Sam's face.

"I've been an FC Barcelona fan since I was 6, right after I watched the blockbuster UEFA champions league final clash between FC Barcelona and Man United back in 2011".

"Since then, I've never looked back".

He sighed. "I know, it's just 1 and half seasons so far since I came to Fulham but in that time, I feel that I've achieved enough already".

He looked at Emile Smith Rowe. "My plan for next season is based on only one thing, if FC Barcelona will come to knock or not".

"I have no intentions of going to any other football club".

"If Barca knocks, I'm definitely leaving".

"And if they don't, I'll stay put in Fulham, another season to create another legendary miracle is not a challenge that's too big". He grinned.

"So, what of you, what's your plan for next season?"

Smith Rowe took even more time in silence than Sam before answering, he chuckled. "I never imagined myself saying this," he looked at Sam. "But I intend to stay put in Fulham FC".

Hearing that, even Sam was surprised as he looked at him, waiting for an explanation and Smith Rowe did not keep him waiting.

Smith Rowe sighed. "I'm an Arsenal academy graduate; I literally lived all my life in the academy and the Emirates Stadium".

"You never played for an academy so I'm not sure if you can relate but being kicked out of Arsenal," Smith Rowe took a deep breath. "That was the hardest period of my life by a large margin".

"Nothing comes close".

"At some point, I felt that I would die. I even gave up on football entirely but then, Fulham came knocking".

"I won't lie to you," he chuckled, looking at Sam. "When Fulham approached at first, I was disgusted. To me, it was a small mid-table team".

"I felt that my talent deserved playing in a top team of the English premier league, not a mid-table team in Fulham".

"It was a pill that was incredibly hard for me to swallow," he sighed again. "But bless the day that I decided to swallow that pill". He smiled.

"I accepted Fulham's contract offer, and then my life changed".

"Playing with the likes of Iwobi, Jimenez, you, Adama Traore," he laughed. "I never expected to create the best memories of my career in a Fulham shirt".

"That is why I've decided". Emile Smith Rowe looked into the distance, a fire burning in his eyes. "I'll dedicate the best years of my career to Fulham!"

'Are you sure?' Sam wanted to ask this but he stopped himself as he noticed the look in his friend's eyes, Smith Rowe already made his decision and he was ready to stand by it. Sam respected it.

Smith Rowe looked at Sam, grinning. "I want to be a Fulham legend!"

...

The next day, after completing their daily quest again, having brought the suggestion yesterday, Sam finally embarked on a trip back to his roots.

Alongside Ian, Smith Rowe, his sister, and his girlfriend, they went on a trip back to Delta State, Abraka where his journey started.

His roots.

Compared to the last time that Sam came to Abraka, he was even bigger now.

He received a triumphant welcome in the city alongside Emile Smith Rowe. He took his English friend on a tour around the town where he grew up.

For this trip, prepared, Mr. Moses already hired military personnel who acted as his son's guards, protecting him and his friends through their stay in Abraka.

Sam took Emile Smith Rowe and his girlfriend to different memorable places of his life in Abraka, revisiting old memories that he thought he already forgot.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for him.

By the end of it all, they met Coach James, Sam's very first coach whose Black Hearts' team were to play an impromptu game to celebrate the return of their legend since they still believed that Sam came out of their team.

Sam, Ian, his sister, his girlfriend, and Emile Smith Rowe watched from the stands as 2 different teams played an exciting game in the Delta State university field, trying their best to impress the 2 superstars.

Sam was the one who provided the prize reward for the game.

The winning team was to win 5 million naira while the losing team would receive a compensation price of 2 million naira.

The top goal scorer would receive 1 million naira and if they were multiple, each of them would receive a million naira each.

The top assist provider would receive 800,000 naira, and the best player of the game and tournament would take home 1.5 million naira.

By the end of the game, Delta State University Abraka felt alive.

Sam also felt alive.

'Home, sweet home...', he thought.

Chapter 287 Reminiscing the past

(Daily 9ja News:)

(Samuel Moses back to his roots!: The English football superstar, Samuel Moses went on a trip back to his roots in Abraka, Delta State in one of his memorable stops during the holiday period. Images and videos are attached=)

...

(The Sun Newspaper:)

(Samuel Moses, the next Jay Jay Okocha?: The story of the premier league superstar is one filled with ups and downs, near-giving up moments and in all its complicated facets hide the resilience of Sam. He never gave up, read this article to learn the full story of Sam's career=)

...

(The Daily Guide:)

(Philanthropism in Abraka, Delta State: Samuel Moses goes back to his roots, organizing a charity football game to empower other teenagers like him who grew up in the streets of Abraka, aspiring to become professional football players like him. Details of the 1-game tournament are attached below=)

...

Like expected, the next day, just as each of Sam's actions since coming to Nigeria on his holiday were creating a storm, his visit to Abraka and subsequently organizing a charity game with Coach James also triggered a storm.

After the game, Sam, Emile Smith Rowe, Coach James, and Ian who later arrived in Abraka, joining them went to a restaurant to eat.

At the restaurant, they had a sumptuous meal, discussing different topics ranging from football to education even as Coach James was eager to speak, highlighting how much Sam's life changed in such a long time.

"He may not look like it," Sam chuckled, looking at Emile Smith Rowe. "But he is my very first coach".

"Stop flattering me". Coach James blushed. "I can barely qualify as a coach".

Sam shook his head. "I'm serious, that Christmas game that you organized back then literally changed my life".

"Without it," he relaxed on his chair, looking around at the other people in this restaurant. "Maybe my life would have never changed. Maybe, I would still be in an obscure corner of Abraka, reading and trying hard to secure admission into the university". He chuckled.

"On any other day, I would have never got the opportunity to play before a coach of Yemi Daniels' credentials at that point of my life".

"I just needed an opportunity to blossom and show my talent to the world, and Coach James gave me that opportunity".

"I won't lie, that Christmas game that you organized changed my life".

Coach James smiled. "That's enough praise for a guy like me; I feel like anymore praise would made my pride swell up". He joked, chuckling as the others laughed.

Coach James paid attention to Emile Smith Rowe. It took some time but he was finally getting comfortable before the Englishman.

He chuckled. "Don't pay attention to him, Sam carried me as a coach. I didn't even do anything that game, all I did was put him in the game and singlehandedly, he turned the game around, helping my team win".

"You're not the only one then," Smith Rowe laughed. "He still does that today, even in a league as big as the premier league".

"Stop it!" Sam poked Smith Rowe's arm, making him laugh.

At that moment, Ian spoke. "Talking of securing admission into a university," this scholar looked at his best friend. "Sam, you no longer want to go to school? At some point, you were really interested in getting a university certificate".

Hearing that, Sam looked at his best friend and chuckled. "That was then".

"Now, I'm pursuing my dream already".

He relaxed on his chair again. "Don't get me wrong, getting a university certificate is important but at this point of my career, I just want to focus and improve it to build a lasting legacy in football".

Sam sighed, looking at the ceiling of this restaurant as his gaze became distant. "Ian...", he hesitated. "I want to be great".

He sighed, smiling. "I've always wanted to be great".

"I never had a chance to do it but now, I got my chance through what I love the most in the world, playing football".

"So...", he looked at Ian again. "I'll seize my moment".

"20 years from now, I want to retire from football knowing that I was able to Lose Myself in the moment and seize glory with my 2 hands". He raised his hands, looking at them. "I truly want to be great".

"Damn, I can definitely hear Game of Thrones' soundtrack playing in the background," Coach James joked. "But I believe you can do it Sam".

"You can build a legacy in football and in the Nigerian national team".

"Just know that no matter what happens, you have people who've got your back in the highs and the lows".

"I'll forever be your number 1 Abraka supporter!" He boasted shamelessly, making the others laugh.

After that, they ate some more, fully enjoying their sumptuous meal before standing to leave. As they left, Sam typed Coach James' phone number on his Guaranty Trust Bank account, correlating it with the coach's bank account number.

He sent Coach James 10 million naira on the spot.

Ding!

When his phone pinged him and he looked at it, Coach James could not believe his eyes as they widened as wide as a funnel.

He thanked Sam profusely who accepted it.

After that, Sam requested of the local coach to help take Smith Rowe around the town and visit some places.

While Coach James readily agreed to do that, Sam finally had some much-needed alone time with his best friend as together, they strolled through the streets of Abraka.

"Just like old times, huh?" Ian chuckled.

"Yeah," Sam nodded. "Just like old times".

They took their time, walking from one spot to another even as they went through the memory lane, reminiscing about the past.

They continued till they arrived at a building that held a lot of memories for both of them, Abraka Secondary School, the school where they both went to and completed their secondary school course.

"Nothing changed". Ian muttered.

Sam nodded, smiling. "Do you still remember that day?"

Ian looked at him. "What day?"

"The day when scouts from FC Barcelona came to Abraka to organize trials that to meet up, I had no choice but to sneak out of school before closure".

Sam chuckled, looking at his best friend. "That day, you had to cover for me before later meeting up with me at the DELSU field where the trials took place".

"I never told you then but thank you man". He patted his best friend's back.

"In an ocean of unfamiliar faces, the mere sight of you among the sea of spectators gave me strength; strength to keep on going, strength to continue pursuing my dreams despite the daunting challenge ahead of me".

"That day, I put in a crazy performance to help my team win and you were the strength, the backbone that anchored me to keep me going".

"I truly appreciate all of it man".

"Stop being embarrassing," Ian chuckled. "You'd do the same for me, right?"

"Definitely". Sam said without hesitation.

They stood, looking at the old school, and then Ian muttered. "If that day didn't end in such a tragedy, maybe you'd be playing for FC Barcelona already".

Sam chuckled. "If that day didn't end in such a tragedy, I wouldn't have learned from adversity. Maybe I'd be some arrogant player whose ego is too high to even do the basics of playing elite professional football".

"It sounds crazy, it makes me seem like a masochist but Ian, I won't lie to you, I'm glad I faced all those challenges in life".

He smiled. "They... kind of built me".

"They made me strong to better confront life".

"Without them, I'm not sure I'd have the same mentality that I currently have, it was a big moment in my learning curve of life".

Sam sighed, looking ahead. "Life..., it can be such a rollercoaster at times".

"Agreed". Ian added.

And so, the 2 friends stood, looking at their old school in silence. After what felt like 2 minutes later, Sam broke the silence.

"Ian".

"Yes".

"Umm..., about my system..."

"It's fine," Ian said before Sam could complete his sentence as he turned to face his best friend, smiling at him. "I know what you want to say, just know that your secret remains between me, you, and your dad". He chuckled.

"You already confirmed it; you'd do the same for me so why won't I do it?"

"You keep being you," he smiled. "Fulfill your potential, become great".

"Afterall, the system choose you for a reason".

"If you were not worthy, I don't believe it would have chosen you".

Sam was tongue-tied, he didn't know what to say anymore so he simply smiled and hugged his best friend tightly. "I love you man".

Ian flinched. "That... sounds so gay".

Sam chuckled, shoving him. "You mother*cker!"

That evening, together, the 2 best friends finally left to Ian's original home in Abraka where his parents still stayed.

Sam had a nice time with his best friend's family.

And after taking permission from Ian ahead of time, Sam sent his best friend's family a large sum of money and completed the deed by buying them a house in Abuja, Maitama close to his parents' mansion.

The emotional couple could not control themselves as they let their tears flow, it was a humbling sight to behold.

Despite expecting this already and having braced himself for it, Ian was still emotional as he hugged his best friend excitedly after.

"Thank you Sam".

"Thank you for everything".

And then he grinned. "Don't worry, very soon I'll graduate and become a capable Doctor, the best in the world".

"I'll make sure you have access to the best medical attention when you're injured, I'll make you the fittest football player in the world!"

Sam laughed. "I can't wait".

Chapter 288 Transfer news

1 week later...

Sam and Emile Smith Rowe were still in Nigeria, and again, they made the news in Nigeria but it was not because of something that they did to enjoy their holiday, rather it was because of their career.

(Breaking News:)

(Emile Smith Rowe signs a contract extension with Fulham FC!)

(=Fulham have managed to come to an agreement with the English winger, coming to a 7-year contract agreement with him. Emile Smith Rowe is set to become a true legend of Fulham if he maintains his level.)

...

(Breaking News:)

(A summer of transfer speculation finally comes to an end!)

(FC Barcelona signs a 5-year contract with Sam worth millions of Euros!)

(Sam receives the no. 11 jersey!)

After the end of the 2024/2025 season, a chaotic period in the transfer market arrived but none of the news was as big as the one generated by Fulham.

After the legendary season that Fulham created in the 2025/2025 campaign, a lot of people expected the Fulham squad to be dissolved as big clubs would definitely come on a raid, looking to buy their star players.

The big clubs did come, but not all of them left.

Of them all, the most shocking one was Emile Smith Rowe's contract extension with the West London club.

It was no news that Emile Smith Rowe never wanted to make the switch to West London. The boy was Arsenal-bred through and through but since he was not in Mikel Arteta's plan, he was ruthlessly forced to leave.

Smith Rowe never wanted to go to Fulham but in his first season at the club, his fortune turned around completely as he won his first premier league trophy.

A premier league trophy!

Even for the Arsenal squad that he once played for, staying at the periphery of the team, this was a trophy that still eluded them.

As strong as that Arsenal squad was, the best they could do in the past few years was playing runner-ups to an imperious Manchester City side, a machine created by the coaching genius, Pep Guardiola.

In the one season that Manchester City finally faltered, falling off their ridiculous standards, Arsenal just had to fumble in that same season, losing the title race to Fulham of all clubs.

This was why winning the premier league with Fulham was so special to Emile Smith Rowe. They say sometimes, a disappointment can be a blessing in disguise.

His move to Fulham was a perfect example of that.

These memories, they stay for a lifetime.

And to preserve them and build even more memories, stacking them on top the existing memories, this was why Emile Smith Rowe decided to sign a 7-year contract extension with Fulham, tying the best years of his career to the club.

His peak years would be spent playing for Fulham.

Sam was the biggest of those that decided to stay put at Fulham FC, while Sam was the biggest of those that decided to leave the West London club after their legendary 2024/2025 campaign.

After years of professing his love for the Catalan giants, and months of speculation, it was finalized, Sam signed for FC Barcelona.

That morning, social media went ga-ga as football fans discussed with the main trending topics being 'Samuel Moses' and 'Emile Smith Rowe'.

Smith Rowe got a salary raise in Fulham but compared to what he was earning, Sam got far more in Fulham as he got an initial weekly salary of 275,000 Euros in FC Barcelona with a clause in his contract to raise his salary if his performances matched the price tag.

After Sam's first season in Fulham, due to his performances, he got a salary raise but even at that, his weekly salary at Fulham was approximately 50,000 Euros.

Just like that, Sam's weekly salary more than quadrupled!

But this was not what created the most frenzy on social media, what created the greatest frenzy was the signing money that FC Barcelona forked out for the Nigerian attacking midfielder as they were thoroughly convinced of his talent.

FC Barcelona priced Sam away from Fulham for a ridiculous amount of 80 million Euros!

After the end of the 2024/2025 season, on the wake of leading Fulham to an unprecedented double of the English premier league and the English FA Cup, Sam's transfermarkt value rose exponentially again.

From 60 million Euros, his transfermarkt value doubled to 120 million Euros.

This was how much he was valued.

But due to his love for the Catalan club, Sam imposed his authority as soon as FC Barcelona came knocking, helping his dream club save an upward of 40 million Euros as they managed to secure his signature.

The caveat in that though was, where did FC Barcelona get the money?

Afterall, the fact of FC Barcelona being broke and deep in dept was no longer news in the footballing world.

It was a reality that had followed the Catalan club for the past half a decade, forcing them to focus on and rely more on their academy players even as the incredible La Masia academy kept on producing first-team worthy talents.

A lot of football fans attacked FC Barcelona after they secured Sam's signature, accusing them of signing the Nigerian attacker through dubious means, demanding an investigation to be made by the Spanish football authorities.

In the end, when FC Barcelona eventually released a statement after Sam's signature was secured, all the doubters were temporarily silenced.

Joan Laporta, the FC Barcelona President was under a lot of pressure as he led a bankrupt club who was still striving to remain at the top of European football.

The FC Barcelona fanbase did no care that their club was bankrupt, they were the demanding type that wanted trophies nonetheless.

This was why the President was under a lot of pressure.

In the previous season, more controversy was created due to his inability at some point to register the likes of Dani Olmo and Pau Viktor after securing their signatures earlier but somehow, the shrewd President did it.

Due to this and a lot of other reasons, FC Barcelona fans refused to get their hopes high in the prospects of securing Sam's signature until it happened.

It was a Joan Laporta masterstroke.

And just like that, Sam was no longer a Fulham player.

Sam was now an FC Barcelona player.

'Finally!'

That night, he drank and merried with family and friends.

Chapter 289 PFA Awards ceremony

It was a rare holiday period for professional football players, the perfect time to rest, relax, and recover from the stress of a grueling 38-matchday football campaign.

The season was scheduled to start again on 16th August, 2025.

Time moved fast...

While the outside world kept on running, Emile Smith Rowe spent over a month in Nigeria with his friend and his family before finally returning to England to start preparations for the new season.

Sam stayed for 2 more weeks in Nigeria before finally making the trip to Spain, Barcelona with his dad who also dubbed as his agent.

With his dad accompanying him, Sam quickly completed his medicals with the Catalan club and on his birthday, August 6th, FC Barcelona finally presented their newest star to their fans in a packed Spotify Camp Nou stadium.

By now, every FC Barcelona fan already learned about their new signing, Sam.

To most of them, Sam was a literal superhero.

Watching his highlights on YouTube never failed to fascinate them, the boy was just too good. And anytime that they heard of and discussed his achievements, they always had goosebumps, Samuel Moses was that good.

And he was not just good, he had the Black Mamba mentality.

The boy was a winner!

Long before the unveiling, they were all already hyped, anticipating the day when Samuel Moses would finally be presented to the Spotify Camp Nou stadium.

After a long period of renovation, the real Spotify Camp Nou was finally back.

Sam's unveiling before the fans was done in the real Spotify Camp Now.

With a capacity of 105,000 now, it further solidified its status as the biggest stadium in all of Europe. And Sam's unveiling was done in a packed Spotify Camp Nou stadium.

After doing the customary ball juggling, displaying his perfect control and mastery of the ball to the cheers of the fans, Sam finally addressed them.

He was all smiles. "Por favor perdona mi ingles". He grinned as he spoke the Spanish that he managed to learn in his little time, begging the fans to excuse his English for the time being.

"My Spanish is not too strong yet, but I promise to learn soon". He laughed.

His smile widened as he faced the fans. "This moment, facing you guys, everything, it's a moment that I've lived in my dreams countless times before now".

"To finally live it in reality, its literally the best moment of my life!"

He touched his jersey, grabbing the FC Barcelona badge. "I vow to give my life for this club!" He grinned again.

"I'll give my all to strive towards our collective goals!"

"We shall hit the height of glory again!"

In that moment, with a big smile on his face, Sam finally said it. "Visca Barca!"

"Visca Catalunya!"

BOOM!

The 105k+ fans in the Spotify Camp Nou erupted, bringing the Sam chants to this iconic stadium even as they sang his name at the top of their lungs.

Just like that, Sam was introduced to Spain.

But before playing his first game on an FC Barcelona jersey, Sam went on a trip back to England to attend an important ceremony in English football, the 52nd edition of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) that was held at the Manchester Opera House in England.

Sam attended the PFA Awards' Ceremony alongside other iconic names of English football, it was the annual award ceremony of the English premier league.

After Fulham's iconic 2024/2025 season, a lot of their players, old and new came for the award ceremony as they proudly represented the West London club.

In the ceremony, Sam got to reunite with his old teammates.

In the big gala ceremony that had a lot of importance in England, Sam enjoyed himself in the high-end atmosphere as the awards started being handed out to the deserving players.

(PFA Players' Young Player of the Year (Male): Amad Diallo)

...

(PFA Players' Player of the Year (Male): Samuel Moses)

Despite the fact that Manchester United concluded the season in lukewarm fashion, it took nothing away from Amad Diallo's clutch performances for the Red Devils through the season as it secured him his first PFA award.

Amad Diallo climbed the podium with a big smile on his face to claim the award, it was the recipient of the main award though that turned heads.

A lot of people present today already knew who won the award but still, when his name was called, there was a deathly silence before a loud round of applause as Sam rose up to collect the individual award.

Taking the award, he could not control his emotions as they cascaded.

He chuckled, smiling amid tears.

In the end, he said only a single sentence. "It's an honor".

With that, despite spending only 1 and half seasons in the English premier league, Sam managed to engrave his name in English footballing folklore with this win. He was a premier league legend.

A lot of the big players present congratulated him on his win, including his teammates, and then his ex-coach.

Sam hugged his coach. "I'll miss you coach".

Coach Marco Silva snapped. "If you truly missed me, you'd have stayed put!"

"But coach..."

Seeing how flustered he was, Coach Marco Silva chuckled. "Just joking".

Sam laughed. "Phew..., you almost got me there".

And then, the team of the year was also announced.

(PFA Team of the Year:)

(Goalkeeper: Alisson Becker)

(Defender: Antonee Robinson)

(Defender: William Saliba)

(Defender: Virgil Van Dijk)

(Defender: Trent Alexander-Arnold)

(Midfielder: Samuel Moses)

(Midfielder: Emile Smith Rowe)

(Midfielder: Alexis Mac Alister)

(Forward: Alex Iwobi)

(Forward: Mohamed Salah)

(Forward: Raul Jimenez)

5 Fulham players made the list!

Bernd Leno missed the list by just a tiny fragment due to Alisson Becker's clutch comeback performances towards the end of the season.

Despite Bernd Leno's exclusion, this was another record-breaking moment in the history of the West London club. Fulham fans were going through the best period of their club's history.

With that, the PFA award ceremony in England finally came to an end.

Apart from the PFA award, the other awards of the English premier league were already announced earlier as soon as the season came to an end.

(Premier league player of the season: Samuel Moses)

(Premier league young player of the season: Amad Diallo)

(Premier league save of the season: Emiliano Martinez)

(Premier league playmaker of the season: Samuel Moses)

(Premier league manager of the season: Marco Silva)

(Premier league golden glove: Alisson Becker)

(Premier league golden boot: Mohamed Salah)

While Sam scooped most of the individual awards in the English premier league from Mohamed Salah, the Egyptian King literally did a clean sweep of the champions league awards, cementing his legendary season.

The 2024/2025 season was an unforgettable one.

Chapter 290 Barcelona

The PFA Awards ceremony was just one segment of Sam's life, a closed segment of his life that was tied to England.

Attending the PFA Awards ceremony was him saying goodbye to the English premier league, its fans, including his old teammates and old rivals.

Sam spent just 1 and half seasons in the English premier league but to a lot of premier league fans, it felt like he was playing in the league for 7 years already.

His impact in just 1 and half season was more than the impact that most premier league legends achieve in a decade!

This was how highly rated Sam was in England.

But Sam already put all of that behind him.

After 3 seasons since he became a professional football player, at the age of 20, he finally made the switch to his dream club. A club playing in the elite competition of Europe, the UEFA champions league.

This club was FC Barcelona.

Sam's life and career was about to experience a crazy change but he was ready for it. At the very least, he was determined to face any challenge and obstacle that creeps up with an unyielding defiance.

After the PFA Awards, he bid farewell to England as he returned to Spain, finally settling into the mansion that he bought in the city of Barcelona.

...

Barcelona, the vibrant capital of Catalonia in Northeastern Spain...

The city of Barcelona was unlike Fulham where Sam had spent the last year and half of his life. Barcelona is a city where history, culture, and modernity blend seamlessly, far more than Fulham was.

Situated along the Mediterranean coast, it boasts a unique character defined by its architectural wonders, artistic heritage, and lively atmosphere.

When Sam first arrived in Barcelona, the first thing he did was something that he always wanted to do, he went on a tour around the historic city.

Barcelona is framed by the Serra de Collserola Mountain range to the west and the Mediterranean Sea to the east, offering a picturesque mix of urban and natural landscapes.

The city enjoys a Mediterranean climate with mild winters, hot summers, and abundant sunshine year-round.

Barcelona is renowned for its architectural brilliance, particularly the works of Antoni Gaudi, the Catalan architect and designer known as the greatest exponent of Catalan Modernism.

Sam left nothing untouched, he toured everything.

The city's skyline is adorned with the legendary architect's masterpieces such as the La Sagrada Familia, an iconic basilica that remains under construction, showcasing intricate, otherworldly designs.

There is the Park Guell, a whimsical park filled with colorful mosaics, organic shapes, and panoramic views of the city.

And then the Casa Batllo and Casa Mila, stunning modernist buildings on Passeig de Gracia. Also the Gothic Quarter with its narrow medieval streets, Roman walls, and historic churches which reflects Barcelona's ancient past.

Born and bred in Nigeria, used to the African culture and architecture already, Sam's eyes were exposed to a treat different from the one he experienced at first on arriving in London.

The culture and lifestyle in Barcelona were also an exuberant one. The city was well-known as a cultural powerhouse, famous for its art, music, and cuisine.

Museums like the Picasso Museum and the Joan Miro Foundation, and venues like the Palau de la Musica Catalana, all of them presented an eye feast for Sam even as he could not visit everywhere that he wanted to visit.

As for its cuisines, the city offers a culinary feast from traditional tapas to avant-garde dishes. Local specialties include pa amb tomaquet, calcots, and seafood paella.

The dump of new information was overwhelming for Sam at some point.

'I feel like a baby again'. He thought.

Coming to Barcelona presented such a drastically different world view and culture from what he was used to that he felt like a child learning everything anew.

'I wonder how mom will react to all these food'. He thought, and then he grimaced as he could already imagine her reaction.

"That woman!" He chuckled.

"I wonder if they have an African restaurant where I can eat around here".

Sam continued his tour.

Barcelona also had a vibrant urban life. The ancient city pulsed with energy, from bustling markets like La Boqueria to the nightlife in neighborhoods like El Raval and Gracia. Its blend of cosmopolitan flair and deep-rooted traditions mesmerized Sam, it was an unforgettable experience for him the first time.

Despite all these myriad aspects that makes the city unique, a perfect tourist location, in the end, Barcelona was synonymous with one thing, sports.

More precisely, Barcelona is synonymous with football, home to FC Barcelona and the iconic Spotify Camp Nou stadium.

Most people don't know about Barcelona but they know about FC Barcelona.

That was how popular the city's main football club was.

The Spotify Camp Nou...

Located in the Les Corts district of Barcelona, the Spotify Camp Nou is the largest stadium in all of Europe and an architectural symbol of football culture.

It was a stadium that was well-known by most football fans across the world.

And of course, it was a stadium that Sam was extremely familiar with despite the fact that he only visited it for the first time after signing for FC Barcelona.

For Catalans in the city of Barcelona, the Spotify Camp Nou goes beyond just football; the stadium is a symbol of Catalan identity and pride, often hosting significant cultural and political events.

The stadium was a giant structure of architectural excellence.

Its iconic bowl-like structure ensures excellent visibility from all seats. And after the renovation that was completed just a few months ago, the stadium now had a retractable roof, integrating cutting-edge technology in its design.

During his unveiling a week earlier, Sam visited the stadium facilities, most memorably the Barca Museum that showcased the club's illustrious history.

There, he got to admire all the trophies that FC Barcelona had won in its history.

Unlike Fulham, FC Barcelona's trophy cabinet was star-studded.

Ranging from multiple champions league trophies to countless La Liga titles, it created a rich and impactful display to any tourist but none of the trophies in display impacted Sam as much as those of a certain type.

He was most impacted by the Ballon D'or trophies in display.

The Ballon D'or award trophy..., it was the most recognized and respected individual award in the world of football.

There were 7 Ballon D'or trophies in the FC Barcelona Museum, and all of them were won by a certain FC Barcelona legend.

'Lionel Messi'. Sam lingered, looking at the trophies with longing.

14 years ago, as a 6-year-old, Sam watched the iconic FC Barcelona team anchored by the likes of Lionel Messi, Xavi Hernandez, and Andres Iniesta take to the pitch in Wembley Stadium, demolishing a frightening Manchester United side.

To think that he would be standing in this stadium now, looking at the trophies of that FC Barcelona side, admiring their achievements so closely.

'I'm living the dream!' Sam thought, feeling emotional.

He focused on the Ballon D'or trophies again.

Last season, after what he managed to achieve with Fulham, a lot of avid Fulham fans endorsed him for the Ballon D'or award but Sam was realistic.

Yes, he had a record-breaking season.

Yes, he won trophies but the fact remains that he didn't play in the elite competition of European clubs, the UEFA champions league which always plays a big role in who wins the Ballon D'or award every year.

'I can always go again this season'. He clenched his fist, feeling pumped.

He turned to follow his guide, continuing the tour round the stadium even as he thought. 'I'll carve my own legacy in this club!'

Apart from the Barca Museum, he visited other facilities of the stadium like the VIP lounges, the restaurants, merchandise stores where he signed autographs for excited FC Barcelona fans.

And then, he entered one of the state-of-the-art locker rooms where locker rooms of legendary FC Barcelona players were archived.

There, he saw the locker rooms of FC Barcelona legends like Rivaldo, Ronaldinho, Neymar Jr, Luis Suarez, Lionel Messi, Xavi Hernandez, Andres Iniesta, Jordi Alba, Dani Alves, Sergio Busquets and others.

It was a locker room filled with lockers of legendary football players.

'I wonder if my own locker will be here someday'.

By the end of the tour, Sam felt fulfilled like a man who achieved everything in life. He felt immense satisfaction.

The 2025/2026 La Liga season in Spain already started and FC Barcelona already played their first game of the season, taking on Celta Vigo in an away game where they totally demolished the home side 5-1.

Sam didn't play that game.

But after the PFA Awards in England, after touring Barcelona and retreating to his mansion in the city, Sam slept early with satisfaction.

He slept early so he could wake up early the next day.

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Ding! Ding!

Sam's alarm woke him the next day in Barcelona.

Waking up, he brought his age-old tradition to Barcelona, quickly brushing his teeth, wearing his work-out clothes and jogging out of his mansion and through the streets of Barcelona.

He completed his mentality monster daily system quest.

As soon as he was done, Sam took his bath, getting ready on time as he drove to his first training session in the Spotify Camp Nou.

He arrived 35 minutes before time, he was the 2nd player to arrive.

A player arrived before him, the Polish striker, Robert Lewandowski.

"Hola". Lewandowski waved at him.