

THE SPIRITUALITY OF FOOTBALL IN THE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER, KYLIAN MBAPPE LOTTIN

A Spiritual Message From Football To All



**CHILOTA ELOCHUKWU, Maama,
DDL**

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Foreword

This publication is a completely different type of endeavour by Reverend Mother Chilota Elochukwu. It is as surprising as it is also a brave effort. One would not easily imagine that a cloistered Religious would hold such an interest in soccer, and indeed idolised one of its stars, Kylian Mbappe!

The publication is divided into nine chapters through which the author describes the various views of the spirituality of Mbappe. Well, the book does not tell us how this spirituality is expressed by Mbappe's faith, but it is more an expression of his trust in God. Football itself may not really have a spirituality of its own, but footballers often call on God for supplication. We see in their endless signs of the cross after a goal has been scored.

The author would weave the content from Letters of St Paul to series of Football definitions and epochs from varied countries of Europe, Influences on Mbappe's career path and on-going, with several postulations vouching for her idol's character finally culminating in Chapter 9 with 'appreciation to Mbappe's parents' and a declaration that he is her spiritual son, even though both mother and adopted son have not met.

This is at best, a work of a major admirer of Kylian Mbappe, not a biography or a book about football. It is the attempt by a cultural outsider to football, speaking in rather strange language unknown to the nuances of the sport. Mother Chilota has added her admiration in print and I hope the reader will find it useful

and also improve their perspective. I hope that young football enthusiast finds in the book, a small window to see the world of football and God's place in it.

Matthew Hassan KUKAH
Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Sokoto.

Introduction

God's amazing grace stands forever! One of the glorious things God has done was the creation of the world. The Almighty God created the world and decorated it with various athletic and artistic persons, among others.

In this part of this book, I will briefly recall God's art of creation and His intention of creating. The book of Genesis began with the creation of the world. God created heaven and earth; and every other thing that followed. It is good to note the order in which God created the world: Light was the primary thing in the world, for human person cannot do anything if everything were to be in darkness. After the Light, every other thing created fell in its proper place. And the statement which followed each day of creation was: *"God saw that it was good."*

God's love for humanity moved Him to create human persons in His image (Gen. 1:27). After creating human beings, God expected from what He made a response of total love and obedience to His intention of creating persons.

God actually wanted every one of His children to love Him in return. But no one has ever seen God except the One He sent (John 3: 13-14). This belief means that the knowledge of God, the love of Him, and the service of Him are to be accomplished in this world among His people here on earth, Christians and non-Christians

because He said: "whatever you do to the least of mine, you did to me" (Matthew 25: 31-46). In other words, God's demands from every human person are to be fulfilled in the context of everyday quality life among all God's children, using every form of endowments, gifts, talents and skills which God has given to him or her.

The career of Kylian Mbappe carried with it a great concern about Football. The theme of Football is important to Kylian Mbappe, as he repeatedly writes and discusses about Football. He hardly ended any of his interviews without joyfully expressing his special love for Football and how it has been his passion. The reality of Football is most important to Kylian Mbappe. The pride of place this French man places in celebrating Football motivated my interest in selecting this topic for research. This book, therefore, rose from my desire to produce an in-depth, but brief study of the Spirituality of Football in the Professional Football player, Kylian Mbappe Lottin. In other words, this small book moves to discover the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe; and also seeks to catch the motivating factor and the foundation for the exceptional love and zeal which Kylian has for Football; and the delight with which he plays it.

One of the great functions of the Prophets of Israel was to call the Israelites constantly back to the original reason for their existence as a nation. In the same way this book on *The Spirituality of Football in the Professional Footballer Kylian Mbappe Lottin*, is also out to let people know that Football has Spirituality. This is to say that Football we watch day after day, season after season, World Cup inclusive, provides more than entertainments. It has Spirituality which Kylian Mbappe helped to bring home to everyone. Thus, I will discuss the two leading words Spirituality and Football. Moreover, I will discuss Football and its advantages and as a preferred sport and why.

I will enlighten some spiritual and behavioural lessons from

Football. And discuss the sources and influences that were instrumental to Kylian Mbappe's interest in Football and its development. There will be a discussion on the discovery of the Spirit that propels Kylian Mbappe's extra-ordinary display of love and zeal for Football. This leads towards presenting how Kylian demonstrates the Spirituality of Football in him. Thus, leading to how the Spirituality of Football moderates his attitudes and actions in his Football activities. Then, I will recall the two strong promptings towards the writing of this book. This eventually leads to expressing of gratitude and appreciation to Kylian Mbappe and other significant persons, leading to some suggestions for Kylian.

One would be wondering why a Religious, a Rev Sister, is writing about a Football. Yes, I am writing on a Football because when I was in the Teacher Training College, Football and other sports were in our school Curriculum and I learnt about Football among other things. And that was the beginnings of my interest in Football. Therefore, I am writing on a Football because of my interest in it.

From 1979 the time when Football caught my interest properly, I started being the fan of many outstanding Football clubs like: Inter Milan, Juventus, Roma, Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Atletico de Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain, etc. I am also the Fan of the great Footballers such as Andrea Pirlo, Luca Toni, Francesco Totti, Thomas Muller, Xavi Hernandez, Thierry Henry, Jay Jay Okocha, Kanu Nwankwo, Uchechukwu Mbakogu, in fact, all Nigeria's Football stars, Didier Drogba, Zinedine Zidane, Carlos Henrique, Casimiro, Ricardo Kaka, Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Karim Benzema, Harry Kane, etc, and finally and presently, I am the Fan of Kylian Mbappe Lottin.

When I told some Football lovers in my country that I am planning to write a book about Kylian Mbappe Lottin, the response

I got was unanimous: "please go ahead for Kylian Mbappe is worth writing on". With this go ahead support I received, the push in me to write continue to increase. And the research on the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe eventually took off.

Preface

K ylian Mbappe, the elegant and the brave person whom God has planted in the family of Mbappe to provide unceasing joyful football entertainment for the people in the world, and to renew the face of football in the entire globe using his kind actions and the legacy of his spirituality of football. Kylian showed the attitudes with which football is to be played and understood.

Chapter One

EXPLANATION OF THE LEADING WORD SPIRITUALITY

This chapter one which is based on the understanding of the leading word spirituality will reflect briefly on the term Spirituality and gradually brings out the accepted meaning of the term and see how the understanding of it will be a source material to move on with.

1. The term Spirituality

Spirituality is a term that has not yet been defined or analysed to the satisfaction of anyone. This lack of accepted definition of the term spirituality pushed Water Principe to recall how the Italian historian, Gustavo Vinay expressed the uneasiness he felt after seeing unending debates about what Spirituality really means; and this made him to ask: "*Che casa é dunque questa spiritualità?*" Meaning: "*What then is this spirituality?*" Spirituality is often used today in a generic sense to describe what is common to all religions. For example, one hears of the spirituality of Hinduism, Confucianism, as well as Judaism and Christianity, etc.

Sheets (1993) holds that the word Spirituality is used to describe the content of religions that are radically different in their perception of the divine, creation, history, and the meaning of human person. In this book however, I will limit myself to the Christian Spirituality.

2. Quick history of the use of the Term Spirituality

The word Spirituality comes from the Latin Word "*Spiritualitas*" which means the nature of being spiritual. According to B. Secondin (1989, the term Spirituality was already present in its extract form in the patristic period. From the 9th and 11th centuries, Spirituality was indicated as the reality and the activity that does not come from nature, but from the grace of the Holy Spirit present in man or "*supernatural Life*".

From the 12th century on, the homogeneity of meaning began to disintegrate. On the one hand, the sense of "*supernatural*" remained, as a life in the life of faith and in opposition to the existence without grace, on the other hand, the term Spirituality was designated to that which is immaterial, in contrast to the tangible material realities.

Reflecting further, Secondin (1983) acknowledged that spirituality has known a particular fruitful period from the scientific point of view. Both as a theological discipline and as a Christian way of life, Spirituality has been subjected to a series of rethinking and opening to new horizons. In other words, Spirituality is seen as a discipline that involves experience. This means that Spirituality is primarily presented not so much as a system of ascetical norms, but rather as the narration of the integral lived spiritual life of Christ in human history.

M. A. McIntosh (1998) understood Spirituality as a discovery of true self, which happens in an encounter. In his understanding, Spirituality is the result of the encounter with God, it is the impression that the meeting with God leaves on the person or peoples while at the same time transforming their lives.

For S.M. Schneiders (2000) Spirituality is "*the experience of consciously striving to integrate one's life in terms not of isolation and self-absorption but of self-transcendence toward the ultimate value one perceives.*"

W. Principe (1983) in his effort toward definition sees Spirituality in the first place as the lived quality of a person. It is a way a person understood and lived. It is like a chosen religious ideal in the realm of the spirit or transcendence. For Christians such a life would be one influenced as St. Paul taught by the Holy Spirit incorporating the person into Jesus Christ as Head through whom he or she has access to the Father in a life of faith, hope, love, and service.

3. In letters of St. Paul

In the Latin translation of Pauline letters, one finds Spiritus and Spiritualis as translation of *pneuma* and *pneumatikos* respectively. In Pauline theology *Pneuma* or *spiritus* are set over against *sarx* or *caro* Meaning "*Flesh*." For St Paul, the "*spirit*" within the human person is all that is ordered, led or influenced by *Pneuma Theou* or *Spiritus Dei* Meaning: The Spirit of God, whereas *sarx* or *caro* "*flesh*" is everything in a person that is opposed to the influence of Spirit of God.

In Pauline intent, therefore, the opposition is not between the incorporeal or non-material, but between two ways of life; the "*spiritual*" person (*pneumatikos*, *spiritualis*) is one whose life is guided by the Spirit of God. The "*carnal*" person (*Sarkikos carnalis*) is one whose life is opposed to the working of guidance of the Spirit of God.

Also J. Aumann (1980) in his work sees Spirituality as an attitude or spirit from which one's actions flow. This concept of Spirituality is not restricted to any particular religion: it applies to any person who has a belief in the divine or transcendence. Christian Spirituality can then, be defined as the manner of living a totally religious existence, under the influence of the Spirit of God, in which the life of the Spirit of Christ in a person shows itself in a concrete daily life.

Professor Aumann in his explanation means that in the Christian

understanding, Spirituality is the way a person lives a totally religious life which is influenced and permeated by the Spirit of God.

Chapter Two

THE TERM FOOTBALL (SOCCER)

1. Quick History of Football in medieval and Early Modern Europe
2. Football and its form
3. Meaning of Football
4. Brief view of some advantages of playing Football
5. Football as the most Popular and a Preferred Sport in the World and Why

In this chapter in which the theme of football is discussed, I will briefly trace the history of Football in Medieval and Early Modern Europe. I will touch briefly on the early and modern beginnings of Football to help refresh the memory of some people, who have not had a complete knowledge of the history of Football. And eventually, I will say some words about Football and its form; I will give a short discussion on the meaning of Football. And I will give a brief view of some advantages of playing Football. Then I will proceed to touch on Football as the most Popular and a Preferred Sport in the World, and Why.

1. Quick History of football in medieval and early modern Europe

Following the historical outlook, foundation and description of Football, Football began to gain ground in the middle Ages. However, before medieval times, folk Football game had been

played in towns and villages according to local custom and with a reduce set of rules. In the middle Ages, therefore, there was a great rise in annual festivity of Football matches throughout Europe, especially in England and France.

The early reference to Football game played in Britain was from the 9th Century recorded in a work called *Historia Brittonum*, attributed to Nennius, which described a "*party of boys playing a ball*".

France

From the 12th century, references were made to a ball game played in Northern France known as *La Soule* or *Choule*, in which the ball was propelled by hands, feet, and sticks.

England

The early forms of Football played in England, sometimes referred to as "*mob Football*", were played in towns or between neighbouring villages, which involved an unlimited number of players on opposing teams, who would come together in mass struggling to move a ball to particular geographical points, such as their opponents. This game was played during outstanding religious festivals, such as Christmas and Easter. And the game would only stopped, only when a goal was scored.

A Document in Latin

There was also a document in Latin from the end of the 15th Century of football being played at Caunton, Nottinghamshire. This was the first description of a "*kicking game*" and the first description of dribbling: The game at which they had met for common recreation was called by some people the Football game. It was one in which young men, in country sport, propel a huge ball not by throwing it into the air but by striking it and rolling it along the ground, and they did that not with their hands but with their feet kicking in opposite directions. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/football>

Calico Fiorentino (The Florence Football)

In the 16th Century, the city of Florence celebrated the period between Epiphany and Lent by playing a game which today is known as "Calcio Storico (*"historic kick ball"*) in the Piazza Santa Croce (in the Holy Cross Square). During this game the young aristocrats of the city would dress up in fine silk costumes and embroil themselves in a violent form of Football. For example, Calcio players (Football players) could punch, shoulder, charge, and kick opponents. Blows below the belt were allowed. The game was said to have been originated as a military training exercise in 1580. This was sometime said to be the earliest code of rules for any football game. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/football>

2. Football and its form

This Football I am beginning to discuss here, of what does it made of? In other words, of what material does a Football made of? It is clear that the size, shape, and designs of a Football have changed over time. With the great rise in technology and its implementation in today's game of Football, there is a constant research and development towards improving the ever-evolving needs of the Football game. And since I am describing football, it is safe to say that a ball used in Football is round in shape and physically made of leather filled with compressed Air.

3. Meaning of football

Football is a lively spot in which two opposing teams of 11 players each defend goals at opposite ends of a field that has goal posts at each end. It is a game played on a rectangular field or large space, that is also called pitch, and that has goals at each end. And the objective of the game is to get ball over a goal line, into a goal, by running passing, or kicking the ball. www.merriam-webster.com Football is any of the various forms of team game involving kicking a ball. In a Football game, the ball can be maneuvered with various parts of the player's body without using his hands or his arms. But the game is primarily played with the feet. The game of

Football is also a game that demands much skill. This means that a Football player must be decorated with special skills. Football is a team sport played between two teams of 11 players each. And the work of these players at that moment is to set the ball into the other team's goal. The players of the opposing team will do all in their power to prevent their opponent from scoring a goal. The objective of Football game is to score more goals than the opposite team. The team that scores more goals wins the game.

Traditionally, the Football game is played for two 45 minutes for a total match time of 90 minutes; an extra time is added depending on the delay that occurred during the game.

4. Brief view of some advantages of playing of football

Since I am discussing Football, it will be worthwhile also, to touch briefly on some advantages of playing football as a sport. Here are some of those advantages:

a) Better sleep, a by-product of playing football

Exercises involve in sport's life such as football relax the human brain and body, and release sound sleep.

b) Football playing gives birth to a healthy heart

As a person plays sports such as football, the accessories in the human body rotate accordingly, and each organ in the body gets its benefits. And one of the vital organs in the human body, the heart, gets its own benefit, which is healthy heart.

c) Football as a sport generates functional lung

A person, who engages in playing football, gets a wonderful result of an improved lung function.

d) Football as a sport reduces hang ups in human body

A life of football playing in a person's life says good-bye to almost all the worries and over-works of everyday life struggles. In effect, playing football as a sport reduces stressful life to a manageable

state.

e) Playing football improves mental health

Research has shown that playing football and other exercises have the capacity of improving mental well-being of a person. When a person is physically active, his mind and his whole being are distracted from the stresses of the day. And during these physical activities the human body releases endorphins, the hormones that help to relieve pain, reduce stress, and improve a person's sense of mental well-being. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org>, www.webind.co, www.newportacademy.com.

5. Football as the most Popular and a Preferred Sport in the world and why

If one asks a question, how does the World regard Football? The answers will quickly run thus: Simply put, the World regards Football as the most interesting, most entertaining, and a preferred sport! Granted that the most popular sport in the World is a hotly debated topic. There are conflicting opinions on what most Popular sports might be and why they are so popular.

Everyone knows that there are also other interesting sports that have fans all over the globe. But we are looking for the most popular, preferred, and why. One needs to take a look widely around the World to see what is happening in the Land of Football, and he or she will take a decision regarding the position of Football in the World.

Reasons why Football is the most popular and a preferred sport in the World.

1. Football is the most watched game

Football (Soccer) is the much-watched game in the world, and it has unbelievable followers. This means that in the sports' industry, Football has over 3.5 Billion fans around the World. Football has gained such huge followers because of its trilling capacity.

2. Football has Fans all over the World

From the quick early history and the spread of the Football I have already analysed in this book, it is asserted that today millions of people enjoy watching Football games and played them on regular basis. Sport's industry also has many activities all over the world; however, Football proves to be the most dominant of all, because it has more fans in different parts of the globe than any other type of sport.

3. No Age Limits

Unlike other sports that have age limits, Football does not have any age limits because it accommodates everyone. Both children and adults can enjoy playing football freely without any limitation.

4. Unlimited Competitions

Football has more tournaments than any other sport. Because it has competitions throughout the year. This keeps Football fans entertained daily; and this has attracted more people to Football game. In fact, as some tournaments close in some seasons, others open. And more are preparing to take off. This keeps the sport active all the time. This is not only beneficial to sports' fans and people who get unending entertainment throughout the year. But it also keeps the online sports industry in business all the yearlong. <http://www.varsity.com>, <https://www.auproports.com>

5. Football is an easy game to play

Football is among the easiest sport one can ever play or watch. A person can easily understand the basis of Football game in a matter of a few minutes. This is not the same easy with some other sports which are not very easy to understand and play.

6. Football is not expensive to start

The fact that Football is not expensive to get started is one of

the main factors that contribute to its popularity. Among the primarily elements contributing to Football appeal is its low-cost entry. Football does not require much to start playing.

In fact, people start playing Football with whatever they could find, such as mineral plastic cans, juice plastic bottles. In some parts of Africa, for example, young people also make Football out of water-proof dust bin bags, some use garbage bags to make a Football and play them. And un-busy streets serve as Football fields with worn-out tires serving as goal posts.

7. Football is a Social Sport

Football is a social sport and this shows itself with spectators gathering together in stadiums and bars. In the third world countries, example Africa, fans also gather in streets, in market places, in villages, in private homes, where televisions are mounted and made available for them. Fans gather at these places mentioned to cheer on their favourite player, players and clubs.

CHARACTERISTICS PECULIAR TO FOOTBALL GAME

1. Football keeps fans and people on a steady alert during any game

The Football game with its unpredictable result makes fans and football lovers to be totally awake while a football game is on. This is because of its unsure outcomes.

This means that Football, while it provides thrilling mood and entertainment, is also a game that keeps fans and peoples restless until the end of a game. This is because immediately the game kicks off; every fan and every spectator will focus on the performances of his or her players. And this keeps the fans and peoples on the edge of their seats until the end of a game, when they will either celebrate a win, or mourn a loss.

2. A Jubilant Match day in Football

There is always a jubilant atmosphere in the hearts, minds, and faces of fans and football lovers on a Football Match day. The joyous mood that fans and spectators exhibit as they move to stadium or any Football arena on a Football Match day is always immense: The hearing of a Football Match day brightens the fans and peoples; and brings the message that Football is the giant of all sports!

In concluding the long debate, one would affirm that it is a well known fact, that whether a person is just a casual Football spectator or an enthusiastic player, there is no possibility of denying that Football is the greatest sport in the World.

These reasons presented above, are to aid someone to reach a decision for himself or herself for the motion which asserts, that Football is the most Popular and a Preferred Sport in the world.



Chapter Three

SPIRITUAL AND BEHAVIOURAL LESSONS FROM FOOTBALL AND INGREDIENTS TO ACCOMPANY A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER

With the open and natural eyes, it might seem a bit difficult to pin-point the spiritual benefits and other lessons one can learn from Football. But with an inward movement in deep search and reflection, the spiritual lessons and other lessons from Football will emerge. What I will do here, is to gradually trace the spiritual and behavioural advantages from Football, and also to suggest some essential ingredients that are to be in the bag of a professional Footballer.

In almost every country and regions in the world, millions of people follow and watch Football season after season and watch World Cup as well. This means that in addition to the entertainment and healing utilities persons and peoples derive from following and watching Football game, that there are some spiritual and behavioural lessons to learn from Football also. And below are some of those lessons:

SPIRITUAL LESSONS TO LEARN FROM FOOTBALL

1. Football is a way of fulfilling a vocation in life

It is appropriate to remember that God gave our first parents,

Adam and Eve, instruction to subdue God's creation and have dominion over it (Genesis 1:28). To subdue the earth means developing it to discover things that people created by God will use to develop themselves and the world.

Football is one of the precious gifts that God gave to His lovely children He created in His own image and likeness (Gen. ch 1:26-27).

Football is one of the outcomes of God's injunctions to Adam and Eve to subdue the earth, to have dominion over it. These God's instructions to Adam and Eve signified that a certified Footballer does not just play only to entertain people, but also an entertainment that moves towards fulfilling a vocation in life.

2. Football as an exercise of obedience to God's call

Football is one of the ways a person demonstrates his obedience to God's intention of creating. A professional Footballer, who is fulfilled and happy that he is a player, does this in obedience to God's endowments to him.

BEHAVIOURAL LESSONS TO LEARN FROM FOOTBALL

The behavioural lessons to learn from Football revolve more around the word character. The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary's definition of character states that character is about all the qualities and features that make a person, groups of people, and places different from others.

Football plays an important role in assessing the character and personality of individual player in the Football industry. This means that Football has the ability to test and display the characters of individual player. Now, I would like to present below some of the behavioural lessons one can learn from Football:

1. Football Teaches Patience

One of the behavioural lessons a Footballer will learn from Footballing is the capacity to wait for a player or players playing with him on the pitch, to take his turn or their turns in playing on the field without interference. He has to do this waiting without becoming annoyed, angry, or scolding.

2. Football Teaches Discipline

One of the benefits of Football is the lesson of discipline. It is very obvious that Football has the air and language of discipline because Football and its environments are surrounded by rules and regulations. The directors of Football clubs and coaches persistently teach and instruct the Football players that they are not only expected to be good and calm players on the field, but they are also required to be as good outside the Football pitch.

A Football player follows the rules and practices a quality set of behaviours that allow him to maintain self-mastery, and successfully achieve his aim on the field.

3. Football Teaches the Lesson of Forgiving spirit

A forgiving spirit carries with it, a beautiful basket of flowers full of kindness, love, generosity, consideration, and the like.

INGREDIENTS SUGGESTED TO ACCOMPANY A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER

There are some essential ingredients that are necessary to be present in the inner planning and execution bag, of any professional Footballer. These essential ingredients include:

1. Love for Football

It is of great importance that a Footballer has to demonstrate his interest and love for Football in his daily life, and while he is playing on a field.

2. Healthy body and healthy mind

Physical and mental fitness are essential ingredients that should be present in a Footballer. For any Football player to perform all the activities required by Football, he must be sound in health physically and mentally.

The player has to be whole in mind and body in order to carry out the balance and coordination that Football demands; and to withstand the lengthy 90 minutes that Football lasts.

3. Speed and use of feet: Acting fast and accurately

The two qualities that must be in the bag of a Footballer are speed and the use of feet. Here, I do not mean simply physical energy or running fast when he is on the pitch; but it means the capacity of the Footballer to use his faculties; from feet, back, chest, head and mind to achieve his aims on the field.

An effective Football player must be known for his speed and accuracy in feet and mind. If a Footballer's movements on the pitch are slow, it means that failure is knocking on the door of that Footballer.

4. Sharp movements of physical eyes and eyes of mind of a Footballer

This caption refers to a sharp disposition of the Footballer that allows him to see ahead, to observe the activities of his team and that of their opponents, and judges quickly which action to take.

It is a great value, if a Football player sharply glances at game's field, to see or to check if there is any quick decision he has to make towards a process of scoring a goal.

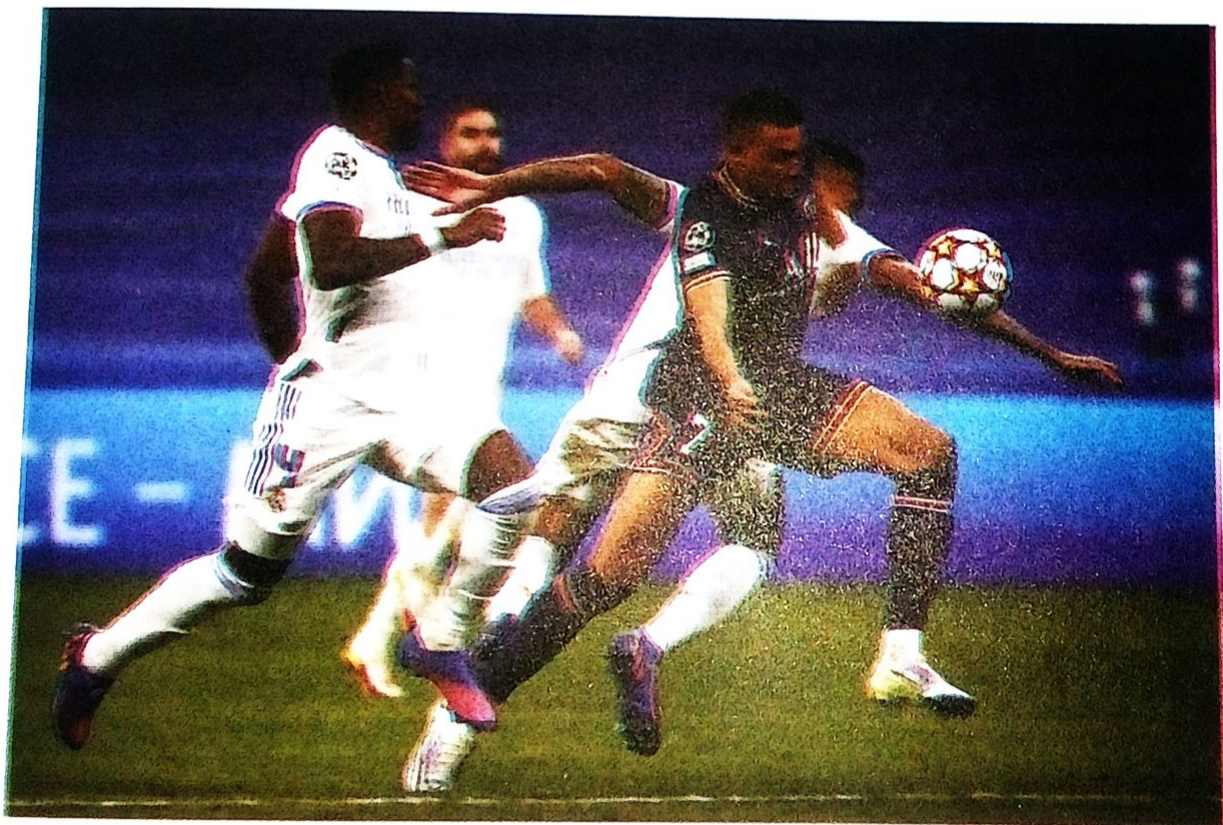
5. Moment-by-Moment glance at game's Rules

A moment-by-moment glance at game's rules, by this, I mean the mathematical and mental planning of the Footballer that motivates him to observe the Football boundaries, so that he will not invite Penalties, or scoring goals that will not count. In fact, it

is the ability of the Football player to access the situation on the Football field and to act accordingly.

6. Importance of Prayer in a Footballer

A prayer of a Professional Footballer refers to the recognition a Football player should have for his Creator, God. It is a worthwhile practice, if a Footballer acknowledges the importance of his Creator in his Football career. It does not matter whether the player is a Christian or non-Christian, the recognition of the Supreme Being, the Absolute, is one of the essential ingredients that must be present in the value bag of a Professional Football player.



Chapter Four

INFLUENCES ON KYLIAN MBAPPE'S INTEREST IN FOOTBALL

The child, Kylian Mbappe, when he was growing up was informed of football through various means. A child of one to three years is already aware of what is happening around him and he takes note of those happenings, even when he cannot give a clear explanation of them. Kylian also as a child took note of Football that was played around him while growing up as a child. The best thing to do right here is to go deep and sieve out those influences on Kylian Mbappe that helped to turn his interest in Football.

One truth which stands out clearly, is the conviction that there is no way to understand influences on Kylian Mbappe's interest in Football, unless one goes back to his origins.

In this chapter, therefore, I will investigate the context of France's tournament events, the context of Kylian's family, the context of persons, and journey with Kylian through these contexts mentioned in order to see how the experiences in them were fundamental in introducing him to the idea of Football.

This means that I will focus my attention on the influences of events, family, and persons who helped to inform Kylian Mbappe

of Football in his early life. In other words, I will select France's events, Kylian's family, and some persons, who helped to direct Kylian's interest in Football.

1. Kylian's early experiences of Football as they relate to life in society (French nation)

The achievements of France in Football, at least, from 1930 to the present day, through its national team's hard works were outstandingly enormous. The French nation, into which Kylian Mbappe was born, was and is a great power in Football in Europe. The grandeur of French nation is bound to influence positively any child born within any of the sections of these years of France's Football achievements.

The French nation's celebrations of the many wins of Football competitions will inform and impact much on a child growing up in that nation and its environment. Here, I would like to liken the above statements to the child Kylian Mbappe, stressing that France's winnings of many Football tournaments and the celebrations of them must have had much influence on the little Kylian. Moreover, the celebrations of some big names of France's Football stars must have also helped to awaken Kylian Mbappe's interest in Football.

2. Influences of the Sporting family of Mbappe on Kylian's interest in Football

Mbappe's family is a family gifted with athletic dispositions. Mr. Wilfried Mbappe, Kylian Mbappe's father is originally from Cameroon (a country in central Africa). He also has Nigerian roots. Wilfred Mbappe moved to France in search of better and greener pasture. At a stage, he worked as a Football coach and as a sport's agent. Mrs. Fayza Mbappe (Larmari) is of Algerian Origin and a former famous handball player. Kylian's mother, Mrs. Fayza Mbappe is a strong, kind and ever-smiling woman, who knows

how to keep her family together and happy.

This couple Mr. Wilfried and Mrs. Fayza Mbappe has two sons, Kylian and Ethan Mbappe. The couple also adopted a son, Jires Kembo Ekoko, who was also a professional Footballer.

Everyone knows the role of family in early childhood and beyond of any child. In fact, I am a certified teacher and I know from the psychology of childhood, that a baby starts its observing and learning experiences right from the first day of his birth Menkiti (2008). From what I have already discussed about Mbappe's family, it is clear that the little Kylian Mbappe grew up in a close well-fitted sporting family, a family of athletics. And this close net-work became a powerful influence on the growing Kylian. No wonder, it will not be difficult to conclude that Kylian had much light that guided and led him towards his interest in Football.

3. Influence of Kylian Mbappe's Nanny, Beatrice

Anyone who has ever worked with a nanny knew that a nanny is just like a mother to the child she took care of. Kylian Mbappe's Nanny, Beatrice Richardi; helped in her own way to open the eyes of the child Kylian towards Football. Indeed, all the members of the family of Nanny Beatrice were all ardent fans of AC Milan in Italy and Kylian and Beatrice, spent time with the family of Beatrice. At that stage, Kylian received Robinho's number 70 shirt, as a gift from Robinho, an AC Malian player. Kylian Mbappe later asserted: "When I was a child, I had an Italian Nanny and I spent a lot of time with her and the family". Kylian told this fact to La Gazzetta Dello Sport; Italian daily newspaper dedicated to coverage of various sports. www.gazzetta.it

4. Influences of some Football Legends on Kylian Mbappe's interest in Football

At this stage of events in Kylian Mbapp's childhood life, I would

like to look directly at some Football stars, which have inspired and influenced Kylian in the journey of his search towards becoming a Professional Football Player. The big names that vividly came up on top were, Zinedine Zidane, Cristiano Ronaldo, and Ronaldo, the Brazilian.

(1) Zinedine Zidane

Kylian Mbappe revealed that his biggest influence when he was growing up was Zinedine Zidane. Kylian affirmed that Zinedine was his Football idol. In fact, Kylian asserted that every French boy of his age, growing up, must have Zinedine Zidane as his idol. *"Well I've had phases: To start, as a child, it was Zidane, if you're a boy and you're French your idol is Zidane."* <https://m.youtube.com>.

(2) Cristiano Ronaldo

Kylian Mbappe himself, as a child, had a favourite Footballer in the person of the Professional Footballer, Cristiano Ronaldo. Cristiano Ronaldo's brilliant method of playing Football, and his other football styles fascinated Kylian, and he admired him. And this made Kylian to refer to Cristiano Ronaldo as his idol in Football.

This admiration of the Portuguese's elegant player, Cristiano Ronaldo, led Kylian to plaster his childhood bedroom walls with the posters of his hero, Cristiano Ronaldo. www.instagram.com

Kylian Mbappe stated that his inspiration by the above-mentioned Football legends came to him in phases. I have earlier displayed that of Zinedine Zidane. According to Kylian Mbappe, after Zinedine's influence came that of Cristiano Ronaldo, and Kylian said: *"After that, it was Cristiano Ronaldo, and I've been lucky enough to face him."* <http://breacherreport.com>

Kylian was lucky to have encountered Cristiano Ronaldo on the Football field. He was jubilant that he was fortunate to have played

Football with his idol, Cristiano Ronaldo.

Mr. Wilfried Mbappe, Kylian Mbappe's father, testified that Cristiano Ronaldo was Kylian's idol. He disclosed this fact when he told the France Football in 2016 that Cristiano Ronaldo was Kylian's idol; and that he spent time watching Cristiano Ronaldo's video on internet. He said: *"His idol is Cristiano Ronaldo. He used to spend hours watching videos of Ronaldo on the internet."*
www.sportskeeda.com; www.marca.com

(3) Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima

The next hero of Kylian Mbappe was Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima. His influence on Kylian Mbappe was his Football style. According to Kylan, Ronaldo Luis Nazario's Football style sent much messages to him. Everyone reading this book will recall that Kylian Mbappe asserted that his heroes' inspirations came to him in phases; and the last of the phases was Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima, the Brazilian Football star, whose style of playing Football was a bell in the ear, eyes, and mind of the child Kylian. And Kylian said: *"Then it was the Brazilian Ronaldo for the way he played."*
<https://www.m.youtube.com>.

Kylian Mbappe acknowledged and appreciated his Football stars, his role models, by affirming that if a person likes a player, he would want to do almost everything as he does. Kylian remarked: *"When you like a player, you want do everything just like them."*
www.goal.com



Chapter Five

THE BEGINNINGS OF KYLIAN MBAPPE'S INTEREST IN FOOTBALL AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

From the discussion that I have dwelt a little bit on above, it was seen how events, family and persons have awakened Kylians Mbappe's interest in Football. Here, I am going to look directly at how Kylian began to implement the interest in Football that he has been introduced into; and how he developed this interest.

KYLIAN MBAPPE BEGAN TO SHOW INTEREST IN FOOTBALL

Kylian's show of interest in football took various forms. I will briefly mention some examples of the gestures of interest in football shown by Kylian:

1. Kylian Mbappe carried about a Football and played it

As a small boy Kylian played with anything that looked like a Football he could find. Eventually Kylian got a real Football and he showed interest in Football he has been introduced to, by carrying about a Football. Kylian, as small as he was, would carry his Football; and from time to time kicked it and continued to do so as long as he wanted. Sometimes he would kick the ball in the air and ran after it. This was repeatedly done, until he reached his destination which was where he met his play-mates. There, they

would organise a mini match day, using any available space and materials to serve their Football needs that day.

2. Kylian's Constant presence at every AS Bondy's Game day

Kylian's interest in football prepared him to want to be around where Football was played. During every Game day of AS Bondy, the little Kylian of about four or five years old would walk in into the dressing room of the players and sat with them and listened to the team's discussions and instructions. At other times of the game, Kylian would come in into the dressing room of the players and sat in a corner in silence, to listen to what the manager would say before the game kicked off.

3. Kylian took night sleeps holding fast a football

Kylian Mbappe's interest in Football led him to take night sleeps holding a Football. This gesture of holding a ball while taking night sleeps was evidenced in his book *Je'm'appelle Kylian* (p.198) (2021).

KYLIAN MBAPPE BEGAN TO DEVELOP HIS INTEREST IN FOOTBALL

Kylian did not stop at only show of interest in football, but he went on to develop this interest. Here, are some steps he took towards moving further this interest in football:

1. Kylian moved to coaching programme at AS Bondy

Kylian Mbappe's interest in football and his eagerness to develop it came out clearly and gradually when he moved to AS Bondy to begin his early club career. This is another way of saying that Kylian Mbappe started as AS Bondy player. He joined the AS Bondy club. This was a youth club academy, where he began his Football training, at the age of six years. At this AS Bondy, Kylian's father, Mr. Wilfried, was one of the directors of the club. And he was a coach to his son Kylian at the AS Bondy.

2. Antonio Riccardi as Kylian Mbappe's Coach at AS Bondy

Antonio Riccardi, the under 13's coach at AS Bondy, asserted that Kylian Mbappe's father, Wilfried was like his second father, so he knew Kylian as a baby. But the first time he coached him was when he was six years old.

Antonio Riccardi, stated his experiences of Kylian Mbappe when he coached him:

The first time I coached him was when he was six years old. You could tell he was different. Kylian could do much more than the other children. His dribbling was already fantastic and he was much faster than the others. He was the best player I've ever seen in 15 years coaching here. In Paris, there are many talents but I'd never seen a talent like him. He was what we call a '*crack*' (the best). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/kylian_mbappe

Mr. Antonio Riccardi, held that kylian Mbappe had a special technique and vision in the Football game that most children do not have. According to him, Kylian has got eyes in the back of his head. He knew how to anticipate where the ball would go. Mr. Riccardi affirmed that Kylian never played Football for his proper age group, but always played with older children because there was no point leaving him with children of his own age, since his performances were above theirs. Kylian Mbappe's outstanding maturity started early.

3. Kylian at Clairefontaine Academy

Kylian left home at 12 years of age for Clairefontaine Academy, for further Football training. Clairefontaine is a French National Institution, own by a French Football Federation (FFF); which specialised in training French Football players. And it is only the best players that are trained there.

At the Clairefontaine Institute, Kylian Mbappe exhibited a lot of impressive performances, which attracted many French clubs to want him. And big and outstanding clubs in Europe like Real Madrid, Liverpool, Manchester City, Chelsea, and Bayern Munich made several attempts to sign Kylian, he had his plans.

In one of his interviews I watched, I saw Kylian talking about the hard works that must accompany success in life. Kylian said that it was difficult for him to leave his home for Clairefontaine academy, but he had to face it; because he was looking for the best for him in life. And Kudo to his parents for allowing him to leave home at such a tender age.

Kylian had to forfeit everything about home in order to arrive at the best for him. It had to be so because hard work gives birth to success; and he said in one his quotes that a person cannot stay around and does nothing. **"You can't sit around and do nothing."**
<https://www.brainyquote.com>

4. Kylian Mbappe Joined AS Monaco

Kylian, moved to As Monaco. At Monaco, Kylian began with his usual brilliance, and his outstanding performances which I will briefly summarise as follows:

Kylian Mbappe was brought in to AS Monaco by the coach, Leonardo Jardim, to be the most important person in Monaco's reserve team (B-team). However, the level of skill and maturity, Kylian demonstrated, led to his instant promotion to the main players from which a team is chosen for a particular match (squad). This promotion was carried out just within three weeks of Kylian's arrival in AS Monaco.

From this moment on, Kylian Mbappe started scoring and collecting goals. He scored his first goal for the AS Monaco's first

team, at the 17 years of age, and this brought him to be the youngest first team goal scorer in Monaco's history. Kylian did not stop scoring goals. His usual disposition of scoring goals, led him to bag three consecutive goals in a game (hat-trick) and this made him to be the first to score a hat-trick in Monaco's history. Kylian became the top Football goal scorer in UEFA Champions League; this made him outstanding while he was at AS Monaco.

5. Kylian Mbappe moved to Paris Saint-Germain

Here, I would like to quickly present the highlights of Kylian Mbappe's Brilliant performances at Paris Saint-Germain. There, at the PSG, Kylian Mbappe began and continued with the presentation of his impressive capabilities:

At PSG, Kylian started with his unending scoring of goals, beginning with scoring goals in his first appearance (debut). He scored and continued to score winning goals, leading to gathering various victories resulting to winning trophies, and Ligue titles. Kylian also engaged in scoring winning goals and outstanding victories over clubs such as: Manchester United, Barcelona, Belgian Side, Bruggin club, Istanbul Basaksehir, Bayern Munich, Manchester City, and nations.

It will be interesting to everyone who loves Football to know that the Stainless-Iron-French-striker, Kylian Mbappe, was four consecutive times Paris Saint-Germain top goal scorer in Ligue 1. These events took place in the following seasons:

Kylian Mbappe was the top goal scorer in 2018/2019, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023. It is good to know that outstanding awards to Kylian Mbappe, accompanied these his achievements.
<https://www.goal.com>

KYLIAN MBAPPE'S LOVE AND INTEREST IN FOOTBALL MOVED HIM TO INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ARENA

Kylian Mbappe asserted that Football is his "**Passion**". And his interest in Football, and his Passion for it, has moved him to International Football heights. At the proper International level, I would like to limit myself to the two most recent FIFA World Cups, Russia and Qatar. Kylian Mbappe carried with him all his Football endowments to the International forum; I will trace these amazing qualities as I move on:

1. Kylian Mbappe at FIFA World Cup, Russia 2018

In preparation for the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification, Kylian Mbappe's extra-ordinary exhibitions of talents in Football and goal scoring qualified him to feature for France at 2018 World Cup at 19 years old. Before the commencement of the 2018 World Cup, no one would accept that the 19-year-old boy, would play a significant role towards a triumphal end.

On 21 June, 2018, Kylian scored his first World Cup goal in France's 1-0 group stage win over Peru. This win, made Kylian the youngest French player ever to score in World Cup competition, and the youngest French goal scorer in World Cup history, at the age of 19 years. With this goal scored against Peru, Kylian brightened the face of France at the beginning of the World Cup in Russia, 2018. This victory led the French team to proceed and advanced to knockout stages. On 15 July 2018, in Moscow, Russia, Kylian Mbappe of France celebrated a huge victory following the FIFA World Cup final between France and Croatia; and France eventually won the tournament winning 4-2 against Croatia.

Kylian Mbappe became the second teenager, to score a goal in

a World Cup final. And with four goals in the competition, the prolific scorer, Kylian Mbappe, was greeted with the FIFA World Cup Best Young Player Award.

The agility with which Kylian moved about on the pitch in Russia, and the elegance with which he handled the ball on the Football field, convinced many to assert that Kylian has dominated the International Football industry. <https://www.mbc.min.com>

2. Kylian Mbappe at FIFA World Cup Qatar, 2022

Kylian Mbappe gave strong feet to French team during the 2022 FIFA World Cup competition in Qatar. Kylian played this role by leading the goals behind all the France's victories in Qatar against Australia, Denmark, Poland, England, and Morocco.

After all these France's victories over the nations mentioned above, then came eventually, the final stage, the world cup final, the contest between France and Argentina. And there was a kick off and the completion started in Ernest. But the Argentine team was leading in the contest with 2-0, with just only ten minutes remaining to the final whistle. And when it seemed that everything was over, Kylian Mbappe woke up and out of the blues surprised the World; and surprised every person watching live when he scored a hat-trick. Someone like me, who was watching from my country, Nigeria, jumped up and fell down with tears of joy running down my checks. God is great Kylian Mbappe surprised the world and every person watching live with his super performances on the pitch that day.

With all these brave displays; Kylian Mbappe became the second player in history to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final scoring three goals against Argentina in the 2022 World Cup final.

At the end of the competition in Qatar, 2022, the FIFA authorities

presented to Kylian Mbappe, the tournament's Golden Boot with eight goals, and Kylian became one of the top all time goal scorer in world cup history.

As Kylian Mbappe displayed his method of Footballing on the pitch, everyone will be looking out to see a very elderly Football player performing, but surprisingly, one will only see a very young man displaying these great and delightful scenes of entertainment and heart-warming Arts.



Chapter Six

DISCOVERING THE SPIRIT LEADING TO THE SPIRITUALITY OF FOOTBALL IN KYLIAN MBAPPE LOTTIN

In parts of chapters four and five, I tried to locate the beginnings of Kylian Mbappe's interest in Football. What I will do, here, in this chapter, is to devote time and reflective mind to gradually follow Kylian Mbappe in his Football career in order to see the possibility of sieving out the spirit that is directing him in the Footballing that he has laid almost all his whole life because the passion with which he followed and still following Football is not what someone will ever conceive that he would, at any point in time give up being a Football player, except at a retirement stage.

In other words, I am standing up to move down deep in search of the foundation of the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe. This means that I will work hard to discover the inspiring spirit to Kylian's incredible disposition for Football.

What I propose to do right here, is to turn inward towards the discovery of the spirit that leads and dominates Kylian Mbappe's Football career. This is to say that it is necessary to discover the spirit that propels Kylian as he pursued and still pursuing the treasure he found in Football. I will try to discover the spirit using the steps that will lead to the discovery.

I will start this journey of discovery with an important question that drives towards knowing who Kylian Mbappe is. I will also mention some of the early characteristics of Kylian Mbappe that stand him out in the midst of others:

1. Who is Kylian Mbappe Lottin?



It is something worthwhile to do that before I move into discussing the spirit behind the spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe, that I will first of all say some words about this Kylian Mbappe, who is occupying the Football scene in the world today.

Kylian Mbappe Lottin was born on 20th December, 1998. He was born in Paris France; and he was brought up in nearby City Bondy. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>.

Kylian Mbappe Lottin, is a French Professional Football player, who at the moment of writing this book, plays as a forward for Ligue 1 Club Paris Saint-Germain; and belongs and plays for France national team, which he is the Captain at present.

Kylian Mbappe , is the son of Mr. Wilfried and Mrs. Fayza Mbappe.

In writing on the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe, one needs to be particularly aware that Kylian Mbappe is a Professional Football star that rose from the soil of Africa and set finally in the soil of Europe, France. In any form a person looks at this brief historical section, Kylian Mbappe's Africa's origin must be in the fore. Kylian's origin is Cameroon, the Central Africa; and eventually his family roots is traced to the giant of Africa, Nigeria.

Kylian Mbappe has done something great by visiting Cameroon, the home land of his father Wilfried. This visit to Cameroon took place from Thursday the 6th of July, 2023 to 9th July, 2023. There in Cameroon, the Cameroonians showed their son, Kylian Mbappe that he is their illustrious son, the amount of love they showed to Kylian was outstanding. I watched and followed live, the programme of this Kylian's three-day visit to Cameroon. It was a heart-warming event.

In recalling these fore bearings, I am not in any way disputing the clear fact that Kylian Mbappe Lottin is a French man, a French Professional Football player, who makes a difference whenever he is on the Football field and beyond it. But I am only trying to remind the readers that it is important to remember the beginnings of this wonderful Iroko Tree, Kylian Mbappe, whom God has planted in Mbappe's family to put joyful smile in the hearts and faces of God's people in the world through his amazing artistic Football talents.

2. Kylian Mbappe's exceptional speed makes a difference on Football pitch

Kylian Mbappe, with his exceptional speed makes a difference on Football field. This expression of making a difference on Football pitch has stood beside Kylian Mbappe right from the beginning of his Football career. Referring to Kylian Mbappe's speed on Football pitch, brings to mind the expression of an Italian Football commentator, who, describing Cristiano Ronaldo's elegant

movement with a ball on the Football Pitch said: *"Ogni Volta Che Cristiano Ronaldo riceve un Pallone sul Campo da calcio diventa uno spettacolo da guardare"*. Meaning: *"Wherever Cristiano Roldaldo gets a ball on the field, it becomes a show to watch."*

In the same manner whenever Kylian Mbappe's leg touches a ball not meant to pass on, it becomes a cinema, because peoples' eyes would turn to him because the styles and dribbling skills with which he moves the ball on the Football Pitch fascinate everyone: Kylian will be running flying, kicking the ball towards the goal post meaning to make a good finish, and he finishes by scoring a goal. This makes it easy to call Kylian Mbappe a speedy goal scorer.

3. What is behind the unbelievable joyful disposition with which Kylian follows his Football career?

This question focuses on what is the motivating force behind the amazing disposition with which this Mbappe's son, Kylian, follows his Football profession. The answer to this question is not going to come so quickly and so easily. But I will approach the answer to this question, using the method which people use to know a person that they have never known before.

People know about a person that they have never known before by what people say about him or her, by what he or she says about himself or herself, by what he or she does, by observing the person where observation is possible, by reading his or her books, if he or she has written any etc. A reader of this book has to bear all these findings in mind, as I move on.

When John Paul II (Now Pope) was busy in the world giving witness to his faith and hope, people, journalists inclusive, called him all sorts of names: Some called him a statesman, some called him a media superstar, a defender of human rights, an intellectual, voice for the voiceless etc, G. Weigel (1999).

John Paul II himself, after seeing so many books, articles, and biographies written about him and their sole emphasis on his role as a statesman remarked: *"They try to understand me from outside, but I can only be understood from inside"* G. Weigel (1999).

John Paul II's reaction to people's opinion of him meant that he was sure of the driving force behind his life and his achievements. People tried to rate John Paul II from all the external things he was able to accomplish. But they failed to recognise that what propelled him towards anything that he achieved was from within. John Paul II, while he was on earth, focused all his attention to His Creator, God, the *"Redeemer of man"*, and the *"Dives in Misericordia, the Rich in Mercy"*.

John Paul II's reaction to people's opinion of him might be helpful as I search for the leading force to Kylian's Football career. Many achievement names are already attached to Kylian Mbappe such as: France Football superstar, an incredible dribbler, the Golden Boy, the exceptional speeder, FIFA World Cup Golden Boot Winner, infinite Chain scorer, FIFA World Cup winner, etc. All these glamorous names mentioned are true to Kylian Mbappe, but they are incapable of explaining the spirit behind the spirituality of Football in him. This means that all Kylian Mbappe's achievements so far, are not able to explain the spirit that propels the spirituality of Football in him. Therefore, I have to continue in my search for the motivating spirit leading the spirituality of Football in Kylian.

Now, recalling that every human person created by God has a duty to fulfill, because God, the Creator, has His intention of creating every human being. In other words, every created person is called by God to give a response that looks like giving an account.

This is to say, that all human beings created by God are called to live well, interact well among themselves in the world. And eventually, every person shares individually with the Creator, how he or she has used all the endowments received.

This means that the people of God, Christians and non-Christians each is using all the endowments, talents, and skills given to him or her by God to give response to God, each in his or her own way. Therefore, Kylian Mbappe is a Professional Football Player, who, listening to the Spirit of God in him, displays in his daily Football activities, the Spirituality of Football.

Listening leads the person who listens to act and behave according to the inspiration of the Spirit of God in him. The Spirituality in the sense that I am describing, is a way of life of someone who pays attention to the Spirit of God in him and acts accordingly.

Kylian Mbappe is such a person who listens to the inspiration of the Spirit of God in him. And it has been established that the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe has its foundation on the Spirit of God given to him by God, which he responded to.

Kylian listened, and he still listens to the Spirit of God in him, he allowed the Spirit of God in him to influence him, and the results of the influence are the love of God, and love of God's people, leading to his life of virtue exemplified in his attitude to people.

4. Spirituality of Football as an assigned task to Kylian

As the fact states, God has his intention of creating human persons. The most simple and fundamental questions the instructors and examiners often ask at catechism classes are: who created human beings? Answer: God created human beings. Why did God create human beings? God created human beings to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him in this world, and to be with Him

It is good to recall once again that God has His intention of creating people. He created persons and endowed each with different gifts to use in service of Him and of all humanity. This means that God has expectations from every person he created. In other words, God created every human being and expected each person to give an account.

It is not difficult to notice that Kylian Mbappe's Football career is imbued with the atmosphere of the Spirituality of Football. Kylian believes that the keynote of his Football career is to spread the Spirituality of Football. He also sees the dissemination of the Spirituality of Football as a felt need, something that has been an assigned task to him, something that is necessary to be done. So, from Kylian Mbappe's attitudes to Football, from his Spirituality of Football, people will see and learn the right attitude to Football, learn the spirituality of Football which means learning the spirit with which to play Football.



Chapter Seven

KYLIAN MBAPPE DEMONSTRATES THE SPIRITUALITY OF FOOTBALL

In this chapter seven, I will be presenting and discussing how Kylian Mbappe demonstrated and still demonstrating the Spirituality of Football in him.

This will mean that I will be stating themes, routes, and activities that will help to make clear the spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe. Here are some of these themes, routes and activities:

1. Kylian fulfills his vocation in Footballing

When God has created a person, and has decorated him with various gifts, and has established him within the community of the people of God in the world, these gifts are meant to be used by the receiver for service. The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, describes vocation generally in terms of a type of work, or a way of life that is suitable for a person. It is a belief that a particular type of work, or a way of life, is especially suitable for someone. It is a call by God to a person for a particular way of life.

In effect, one will assert that Kylian Mbappe is given the gift of Footballing by God. This means that Kylian is fulfilling his vocation in life by Footballing. In this sense, Kylian Mbappe uses his whole being, and all his talents in Football both endowed and

It is the function of Kylian, therefore, to demonstrate the Spirituality that Football should have. This is to say that Kylian Mbappe's right attitude to Football is one of the ways a person gives a response to the reason why he is created.

2. Kylian Mbappe is a Professional Footballer not to earn attractive money and prestige

In this world in which everyone lives and moves, it is noticed that people take up jobs only because of their lucrativeness, because of the large amount of money involved in them, and not out of like and love for the profession. Kylian Mbappe, on the other hand, is a Professional Football player because of his love for Football. Moreover, Footballing is a gift he received from the Creator, God. In other world, Kylian Mbappe did not embark on Football career in order to be in money or for prestige, but he is a Footballer to fulfill his love for the special gift he is endowed with, by God.

Kylian Mbappe is very focused on why he became a Professional Footballer. He asserted that he is a Professional Football player not to make money, not to earn big money and prestige, but it is a Profession he embarked on because of his love for it. His sole dream as a child growing up, was to be a Professional player. He disclosed this in his interview with WSJ: *"since I was a young guy I have only one dream to be a Professional player. That is the dream of my life"* Kylian used the word passion to describe his total love and zeal for Football: *"Football is my Passion"*.

Kylian Mbappe, also at one of his interviews with the Wall Street Journal Magazine insisted that he nurtured the dream of becoming a Footballer very early in his life. This means that Kylian is not a Professional Footballer by chance or accident. It is a Profession he received by providence, the Creator.

Kylian Mbappe speaking of his love for Football recalled that at the early stage of his life, his father, Mr. Wilfried was a coach in the club of his city. And his father would be coaching his big brother, Jires: and all the times he went to the Stadium to watch Football games, he would be wishing when he would be playing like them. All these testify that what was uppermost in Kylian's dream was to become a Professional Football player. And it was a dream that came true for him.

I have described earlier in this book, how Football a gift from God to Kylian. Although Kylian received the gift of Football as a gift, yet he accompanies the gift with super love. Kylian loves the gift of Footballing he has received. He has handled it well, and he is still handling it well, because he is conscious of his Spirituality. Kylian has to call to mind always the spirit that propels the Spirituality of Football in him. Kylian Mbappe is hundred percent sure that he is a Professional Football player not to earn fat money!

3. Kylian Mbappe has a kind heart for God's people

A human person with a generous and kind heart always looks for a way to let people feel the goodness. A human person who is kind, will always want people to experience the kindness. And Kylian Mbappe is such a human person.

Kylian is a young man with an amazing generosity. He has a soft heart for God's people. This soft heart is especially outstanding in children the under-privileged, who are in need; this is why he established a Charity Foundation for Children and people, and he spends fortune to keep the Foundation functional.

Kylian Mbappe's intention of Charity Foundation is to rehabilitate the poor and give unceasing help and support to the young under-privileged. Kylian's intention is to help both young girls and young

boys in every area of Paris and beyond, Africa inclusive. In fact, Kylian Mbappe wants to expose these children to the world, for them to experience the world, and to see other nations, and other children. He intended to help them to have the chance to learn and experience other mentality, to see how the world is. Kylian said that his intention was to give each child the space to become someone, to give them the opportunity to succeed in life. Kylian recalled that when he was growing up, he received helps from people, so he is determined to give the kids the same helps to enable them to move on.

According to Kylian Mbappe, he is spending much on the children not just only for them to succeed in life, because the human life is not only about success, but for them to have their values, such as becoming a respected person, becoming someone who follows his or her own dream.

Kylian's message to these children is that they have to open their minds and eyes to follow their dreams. They are to learn to live with others, just as the Footballers also learn to live with others in the club, they learn to live with teammates, and they learn from their different coaches.

Kylian encouraged these children to focus on the right ways and the correct ways of doing things, even when some people would prefer to do odd things; these children with the golden opportunity given to them by Charity Foundation, each is to focus on his dream or her own dream, and make it a reality.

The Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe disposes him to extend his kind heart to the care of people and children (A conversation complex interview with Kylian).

4. Kylian Mbappe is a person of integrity

Integrity is an excellent virtue which every human person should desire to have. People of integrity are still available in the world. And Kylian Mbappe is fortunate to be among those who have that virtue.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of current English, defines integrity as an adherence to strong moral and ethical principles. It means soundness of moral character, honesty. It is the state of being whole and entire. Integrity is the quality of being upright in character. Integrity is regarded as the honesty and accuracy of one's actions.

Kylian Mbappe is a personality of integrity because he is full of right decisions. He treats people well. Kylian is a person of integrity because people are important to him; and he does not in any way wastes people's time. One needs to recall his advice to players in one of his quotes, where he says that players are to be conscious that fans and people are waiting on match day, so players have to prepare well.

A person with integrity gives credit where it is due. Kylian Mbappe is one of those who give credit where it is due. I remember watching the video of one of his interviews, where his interviewer asked him his opinion on media's presentation that 2023 Balloon d'Or award would go to Lionel Messi. Kylian answering said that he would vote for Lionel Messi; that Messi deserved that Balloon d'Or award because it was only in 2022, that he received an award for the best player; so, the Balloon d'Or award should go to him. It takes a person of integrity to give such an answer to such a question. It is the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe that urges him to a peculiar characteristic of integrity that he displays.

A person of integrity is an authentic person. And a person who is

authentic in his being always lives a life according to his or her values. To put it simply an authentic person is true to his or her own personality, he is true to his or her values.

Kylian Mbappe is an authentic personality just as I have described above. He is not a personality to be jostled about. He is a mature person. In fact, Kylian has a maturity that seemed to be above his young age. He handles every decision, every question, and every interview in his Football career with excellent maturity.

5. Kylian Mbappe's Spirituality of Football is depicted in his personality and character

I have not known the star, Kylian Mbappe for too long, but the much I have known him was like I have known him for fifty year. Of course, he is a young man of 25 years of age. I observe Kylian Mbappe closely in his Football career exhibitions: I follow most of his interviews, I follow his inspirational quotes, I follow his conversation complex, I follow his quality social events, and his many awards celebrations, I follow many of his Football matches, I read his Instragram Posts, and I read the books written by him and those written about him by others, and I watch him on television and on the Football Pitch; all these means and routes give information about the personality, and character of Kylian Mbappe, and also part of his spirituality of Football.

Kylian Mbappe does not keep malice, but he frowns when he notices injustice in any form. He is a bold person. But he does not insult or disrespects anyone. Kylian rejoices and celebrates success of others.

Kylian Mbappe is a humble personality. He follows all his brilliant achievements with a humble attitude; of course, one is to remember that Kylian said in one of his inspirational quotes, that great players are the most humble. Kylian has reached several

heights of successes. But at them all he is like Saint Augustine of Hippo, who acknowledged that there is nothing we have on earth that we did not receive as a gift. Kylian puts in a lot of hard work in all he did and does, but he remains humble at them all.

Kylian Mbappe's personality and character, helped me to recall what the Head Coach of the Atletico de Madrid, Mr Diego Simeone, said about Kylian Mbappe, when the Football industry in the media world was busy trying to select the best Football player among other players, Mr. Diego Simeone Chose Paris Saint Germain player, Kylian Mbappe as his favorite player: Simeone described Kylian Mbappe as an extraordinary player who does everything well. <https://www.dailypost.ng>

In all these affirmations, Kylian Mbappe always has an eye on his Spirituality of Football. The Spirituality of Football in him alerts him to insist that everything is to be followed with humility.



Chapter Eight

KYLIAN MBAPPE'S SPIRITUALITY OF FOOTBALL MODERATES HIS ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS IN HIS FOOTBALL CAREER

In this chapter eight, I would like to look closely at the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe, to see how this Spirituality of Football in him has moderated, and has continued to moderate his attitudes and actions in His Football career. This means that as I go on, I will be selecting and discussing some attitudes and actions of Kylian Mbappe that will help to bring out how his Spirituality of Footballs moderates his attitudes and actions. Below are some of these attitudes and actions:

1. Kylian Mbappe's understanding of competitiveness on the pitch displays his Spirituality of Football

Kylian Mbappe is a person who is very conscious of what he says about anything. He (does not just say things for the sake of saying them. And anything he says, has a purpose, has a meaning and has a message.

Kylian Mbappe said boldly that he is too competitive: "*... sometimes in the life I am too competitive. But sometime in the life, you don't need to be this...*" A quick meaning of competitive stands out in this way: A competitive person is always eager to be particularly

more successful than other people. He is ambitious. He strives to do better in every activity, especially making effort to win a sports' activity. For a competitive person, it will be especially disappointing to see someone else win. A competitive person wants to be the best.

Competitiveness can be a problem when a person is over competitive. For a person, who is over competitive, winning at all cost is all that is important, all that matters. In his personal interview-conversation with the Wall Street Journal Magazine, Kylian asserted that sometimes in life, he is too competitive. But he went further to say that it is good to be competitive, because no one wants to be a loser. (Kmbapped interview conversation with the WSJ magazine).

The good news however, is that Kylian Mbappe is highly competitive on the Pitch in his Football career, but he is not driven by that competitiveness. This means that although he is competitive and wants to win a game, yet this win is not at all cost, it is not by all means. Let me recall once more that in the midst of his Professional Footballing, Kylian realised that sometimes in life he too competitive, although it is good to be competitive, yet one does not need to adopt that strategy all the time.

Kylian knows that human life is not only about win and success, although these are important, yet a person is not to be obsessed by them. Kylian in his conversation complex affirmed that he is not afraid to lose a game, and when such a loss occurs in a competition all that a team needs to do is to have patience and prepare better and win the next tournament.

It is clear that Kylian Mbappe does not belong to a one-man club, but plays in a team. Therefore, he mentioned one solid point that

must be present in a Football team for it to move towards win. He stated that the essential point in a team is a collective spirit. Collective spirit in a team is important, if the team wants to win, because according to him, a team might have the best players and the best teammates in the world, but if it lacks the same spirit, it will never win.

In all these suggestions and affirmations that Kylian is making regarding Football, one sees him bringing out the contents of Football, one sees him displaying the Spirituality of Football in him, and one sees how the Spirituality of Football in him moderates his attitudes and actions.

2. Kylian Mbappe respects People

Respect is important in every person's life. To talk about being respectful to others, means to talk about how a respectful person shows regard to others. It involves presenting how a respectful person values the worth of others. It also means how a respectful person values other people's time.

Kylian Mbappe knew that human beings created in the image of the Creator, God, deserved respect. He was aware that all the throng of people he has entertained and still entertains with his amazing and wonderful performances in this world were all created by God, the Unmoved-Mover, the One who has the explanation of the being of every person. Therefore, Kylian is very conscious that he is dealing with human persons, the people of God.

This is why he, in one of his inspirational quotes said that Football players are to prepare well, that they are to be aware that people are waiting, that the fans are eager to watch them perform. This means that there will be no delaying of any type.

As Kylian Mbappe recalled what should be the right attitudes of Football players, he is at the same time pointing at the Spirituality of Football in him. Kylian, here, presents the Spirituality of Football clearly; he makes it bold for everyone to see and learn.

3. Kylian Mbappe signs his autograph for fans and peoples

One of the things that give fans and Football lover's joy is to get the autograph of their favorite Football player. And many of these supporters struggle to get the autograph of Kylian, and Kylian is ever glad and ready to sign his autograph for supporters.

Kylian Mbappe's respect for people extends to signing his Football autograph happily for fans and peoples. One needs to watch Kylian signing his Football autograph for fans, adults, youths, and children. As soon as Kylian Mbappe ends any Football match, or ends any official Football events or ends a Football Training, he will come off the car, and move straight to the fans and peoples waiting and starts to sign his autograph on their books or on anything they present to him.

Kylian will be signing the autograph, and fans and peoples will be screaming his name and other names and expressions with which they address him, such as: "*Mbappe, Kyliaaa aa a a a a an, Kyky, Monsieur, Kylian Photo, etc*". And he will be signing the autograph, and distributing out his infectious smile, generating excitements and joy for fans and peoples. As Kylian does these things, his respect for people widens and becomes more obvious, and more pronounced daily.

This manner of Kylian's respect for people presents his Spirituality of Football. For he declared in one of his inspirational quotes that he learnt that the biggest stars are the humblest ones, the ones who respect people most: "I have learned that the biggest stars and the greatest players are the most humble ones, the ones who

respect people the most". <https://www.quotecollectorsclub.com>

4. Fans and Football lovers long to watch Kylian Mbappe on Football field

Fans and Football lovers long to watch Kylian Mbappe on the Pitch on Match days and beyond. One may ask why do people long to watch Kylian play Football on any match day? The answers to this question are simple. People look forward to seeing Kylian on the Football pitch, because of his impressive displays and his gentle and steady manner of doing things.

Moreover, Kylian Mbappe is an elegant player. The decorum and elegance with which he walks into the Football arena is enough to lure people to want to watch him play. Kylian's presence for a Football game carries a message of great joy to the hearts and faces of spectators.

Kyllan Mbappe plays to radiate joy. In one of his quotes, he was conscious that people gather and wait for players. Therefore, players need to be aware of that and work hard to give fans and people that fulfillment.

Watching Kylian Mbappe while he plays Football, one discovers that he is not a rough Football player, because he moves on the Football field with a calculated mind, intelligence, and with a fine face.

Kylian does not pick quarrels on the pitch. He is not a quarrelsome player. He does not pick quarrels with players on the field. Kylian is very conscious that a Football player should behave well on the pitch and off the pitch. This is why he said in one of his interviews that in one of his Football seasons, he took many Yellow Cards and he made a resolution to change the attitudes that brought him many yellow cards; **and he really changed the attitudes.**

Kylian Mbappe is a calm Football player; and he gives delight to people who watch him play. He is a wonderful player to watch. Kylian uses all his beings and all his talents both endowed and acquired to give joy to the world. The mention of Kylian Mbappe's name rings a joyous bell in the minds, hearts, and the faces of fans and peoples. Anyone who goes through all I have said and discussed in this theme will notice that the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe's life, actually moderates his attitudes and actions.

5. Kylian Mbappe's compassionate heart extends to a former Football Player Emiliano Sala

When a person carries within himself or herself a heart full of compassion and mercy, these virtues will continue to seek expressions!

Kylian Mbappe's compassionate and kind heart extends to the former Football player, Emiliano Sala, whose aircraft had gone missing.

Kylian in his very considerate attitudes donated \$34,000.00 to a crowd funding campaign to finance a private search for the missing aircraft. Later, Kylian donated further \$27,000.00, still to fund the search for the still missing pilot. This was one of the many examples of the good things that Kylian Mbappe does, looking at his Spirituality of Football. https://wn.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kylian_Mbappe

6. Kylian Mbappe's presence relaxes people

Everyone knows what balm does for an arching body and skin. Balm provides moisture and helps human skin to retain moisture. Balm nourishes and softens skin. Balm soothes symptoms of stress: It also helps a person to relax and boosts one's mood.

Balm relieves anxiety, ease insomnia, and sleep disorder. It also relieves minor muscle aches and pains by numbing the skin.

In the same way, the presence of Kylian Mbappe is like a balm that calms peoples' nerves. Kylian is a cheerful player. And his cheerfulness always stands to lubricate. The beaming smile with which he enters any Football environment brightens fans and peoples, and brightens the Football arena.

Whenever Kylian Mbappe is on the Football stage, all eyes are focused on him to see the next talents and skills he will display. Kylian is gifted with lightening pace, and unstoppable dribbling skills, and as he employs these skills on the pitch, people watch with interest and joy; and these bring cooling atmosphere and those watching are happy and relaxed.

Kylian Mbappe, as he demonstrates all these talents on the Football field, he shows the Spirituality of Football since one of the intentions of Football is to elevate jubilant spirit in fans and spectators.

7. Hard work is a big father to success

The Sspirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe teaches that hard work is a father of success. Kylian in one of his inspiring quotes said emphatically that a human person cannot just sit down and does nothing: *"You can't sit around and do nothing. You have to carry on"*. <https://.quotescollectionclub.com>

Kylian meant here that it is necessary for a person to move on daily. In other words, Kylian Mbappe insists that idleness is not a friend of anyone. This means that a healthy person needs to do something for himself or for herself, and also does something for others.

The Spirituality of Football in Kylian moves people towards a daily hard work for themselves, for others, and for the community and society in which they live.

8. Kylian Mbappe Hands Over Football to Young Children

It is something worthy to note that if a person has something good and precious that he would not like to extinguish, he or she must hand it over for posterity. In the same way, Kylian Mbappe would not want the treasure he found in Football to decay and die, without extending it; that is without handing it over to young ones for extension and dissemination; he therefore, hands over Footballing to young children.

One needs to see Kylian Mbappe organising Football playing and shooting of goals for these young children: Kylian would set children in their positions, and the youngest ones of three, four, and five years would line up first to attempt shooting of goals. Kylian would explain the process, setting out the manner the shooting would take. But each one of the children would start shooting without receiving a go ahead, that is, without waiting for a whistle.

At this point, Kylian would stop the whole process, and explained further the rules of the game to the kids. And the training and practice would start all over again. As these repetitions took place, Kylian would patiently beaming with his infectious smile. Any child, who shoot correctly on the target and scored, received a big round of applause from the rest of the children, and he received also a warm handshake and a carrying up from Kylian Mbappe.

Kylian Mbappe used the above explained methods to gradually handover Football. There might be other means of Footballing Kylian might have used to hand over Football, but I chose to use

that of children because I watched it live in Kylian's Instagram.

As I watched the video of Kylian Mbappe's hand over of Football to young children, I said to myself that this unstoppable-iron achiever, Kylian Mbappe, really has the spirit of Football. He is happy to hand over Football that has made him famous and the greatest Football player in the world at the moment.

9. Kylian Mbappe Refers to some of his Elders in Football

Kylian Mbappe made references to some Footballers, who were in the Football scene before him. Here, I would like to borrow the method of proceeding from the Jesuit Canadian, Bernard Lonergan. Lonergan in his great book, "Method in Theology (1972), suggested steps that Theologians need to take in order to produce results. Professor Lonergan mentioned among others, reference to those who have gone before them in the field of theology, to see how they went about it.

In the same way as Professor Lonergan suggested, it is appropriate for the people of this age to make reference to some of those who have started earlier to serve as Footballers, to see how they started, to see how they played, and to see how they developed in the career.

Kylian Mbappe seemed to have read the advice of Professor Lonergan, because he made reference to some Football legends, which, their Football skills fascinated him while growing up. Kylian made reference to big names such as Zinedine Zidane, Cristiano Ronaldo, and Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima. Kylian pointed out some areas of their skills that impressed him.

Kylian Mbappe's reference to the Football stars mentioned above does not mean that he would want to make a photocopy of their methods and skills of playing, but looking at these great players,

he would create and build his own methods and skills in playing. After all he said in one of his quotes that no one would be a copy of another in Football.

Kylian Mbappe has laid down for posterity the legacy of reference and appreciation of those who have been in the Football industry and in the Football scene before him. This Kylian's gesture of reference to those who have gone before him in the field of Football pointed to how the Spirituality of Football in him moderates his attitudes and actions.



Chapter Nine

CONCLUSION APPRECIATION OF KYLIAN MBAPPE AND TWO OTHER SIGNIFICANT PERSONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR KYLIAN

In this chapter nine, the last chapter of this book, and its concluding part, I would like to recapitulate briefly some of those things that helped to make this work a reality.

Throughout this study of the theme of the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe, I have traced Kylian's foundation for Football, and the beginnings of his interest in it. I touched on his development of Football, and his eventual reaching of the international heights in it.

Now, I would like to recall the reason behind the existence of my book on Kylian Mbappe. I would also like to recall the reason why this book is written. In other words, I am set to bring to mind what prompted the writing of this book. When I must have stated why this book is written, then, I will dedicate some words of gratitude and appreciation to Kylian Mbappe Lottin. When I have done this, I will single out two significant persons who deserved my big words of thanks. And finally, I will give some suggestions for Kylian Mbappe. At the moment, I will gradually state the promptings leading to the production of this book. Below were the promptings:

PROMPTINGS LEADING TO THE WRITING OF THE BOOK ON KYLIAN MBAPPE

I have two strong promptings leading to my interest in writing this book about Kylian Mbappe: After 2018 FIFA World Cup, and After 2022 FIFA World Cup

1. After the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia

After the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russian, I began to follow Kylian Mbappe closely in his Football activities. I started to pay attention to his game days, to his match days, to his outstanding competition days, and to his Football Training sessions and moments; and I receive information also on television, on internet, on instagram, etc.

2. After 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar

The throng and throng of people in the world and around the pitch environment in Qatar screamed with joy and extreme excitement at Kylian Mbappe's incredible performances. The screaming of joy of the throng of people in the World cup arena in Qatar and from fans and people watching from homes in their countries did not stop!.

One needs to flash his or her mind back to the most recent FIFA World Cup 2022 tournament in Qatar to recall how Kylian Mbappe's brave performances thrilled the whole world. Those who were able to be physically present in Qatar for the FIFA World Cup tournament were present live. And those who were unable to be physically present in Qatar stayed in their countries and watched from there. In countries where television and other internet facilitates were not available in homes, people moved to where television and other internet gargets were available, in order to watch in particular, the France's national team in all the

rounds of the competition, especially the FIFA World Cup Final in Qatar.

I singled out these two recent FIFA World Cups, because these were the scenes where Kylian Mbappe's amazing braveness, his sharpness, his swiftness, and all his artistic talents and skills were outstandingly displayed.

After watching the 2022, FIFA World Cup in Qatar I made up my mind to write on Kylian Mbappe, and to research on the spirit that pushes him to do what he does in Football. That is to discover the reason why Kylian is so dense in Football. I started the work gradually, and eventually arrived at the discovery of the meaning of the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe, and the spirit that propels him in his Football career.

The search for the meaning of the Spirituality of Football in Kylian Mbappe and the spirit behind Kylian's zeal and love for football began, and I began the search for the foundation of Kylian's special disposition for Football. The search continued to direct that Kylian's zeal for Football was based on the intention of God in creating human beings. The study revealed that God's intention of creating human persons needed a response from those He created. The search continues to reveal and instruct that Kylian Mbappe is just responding to the Creator's demands on the persons He created. This is a response everyone should give according to his or her call and gifts. Based on this ground and findings, Kylian Mbappe is a Professional Football player, who listened to the Spirit of God in him, and standing on that Spirit, he demonstrated the Spirituality by which Football is to be known, played and understood.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO KYLIAN MBAPPE LOTTIN

How would one begin the gratitude and appreciation of Kylian Mbappe? I think it will be appropriate to begin by briefly gathering all those things that he has done well so far in his Football activities.

I would like to bring home once again, the scene of 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. I believe that going through that competition will help everyone to see vividly one of the brilliant and brave performances of Kylian Mbappe, that touched on some of the reasons why the appreciation of him.

It is important to remember that the FIFA World Cup is the highest of all soccer competitions, because it involves almost every country in the world. And Kylian Mbappe has meritoriously won the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia and almost carried the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Although France eventually lost the 2022 FIFA World Cup tournament, yet the amazing displays of Kylian Mbappe at that FIFA World Cup in Qatar will ever remain indelible in the history of World Cup, and it will ever remain unforgettable in the hearts and minds of fans and peoples in the world.

In presenting the gratitude and appreciation, to Kylian, I would like to thank him for the way he has honoured God's will, by his unflinching dedication to his call to be a Professional football player.

In presenting the appreciation wordings, I would like to say a big thanks to Kylian Mbappe for using his Football career and activities so far, to tell the world that Football playing is not just only about entertainments, scoring many goals, and winning

many different titles and trophies, but that Football also has Spirituality. And Kylian Mbappe brings out this Spirituality of Football which he has demonstrated and he is still demonstrating in his Football career.

It will be something great to recall how Kylian Mbappe's Charity Foundation has been a source of survival and strength to many children and adults too.

It is worthwhile also to remember how the generous, merciful and compassionate heart of Kylian has helped to lift many needy children and people up for good and keep them ever smiling and happy. The handicapped people too, celebrate Kylian Mbappe's compassionate action which reaches them daily in their homes and environments. They can never forget their experience of playing Football with Kylian Mbappe.

Kylian Mbappe is to be thanked for he is busy scoring goals, winning titles, and winning many different trophies. As he achieved all these and he is still achieving them, he is using his God's given talents to disseminate and to provide unceasing entertainments to France, to Africa, to Europe, and in fact, to all the five continents of the world. Kylian Mbappe with all these winnings, he continued to spread and brightens the face of Football in the world.

In concluding the gratitude and appreciation of Kylian Mbappe Lottin, I am strong in affirming that the words of the appreciation of Kylian must be a special high-sounding appreciation to him for using his highest God's given gift of Footballing to entertain the world, and the people in the world, and to alert the people in the world that Football is not just only about entertainment and other utilities that accompany it, but that Football has spirituality that gives professional Footballing its true face.

From the daily assessments of Kylian Mbappe, and the rankings of the world media Football Industry and history, Kylian Mbappe is regarded as one of the best players in the world at present. But from my own readings, watching and following Kylian Mbappe in his Spirituality of Football, from the judgments of many, and from my own judgement, I am strong in my opinion and assertion, that Kylian Mbappe is the best player in the world at the moment; Le Meilleur Joueur du Monde. Kudos to Kylian Mbappe Lottin!

APPRECIATION OF TWO SIGNIFICANT PERSONS

There are two significant persons in this book that deserved some words of appreciation: These are Kylian Mbappe's Parents:

Kylian Mbappe's Parents, Mr. Wilfried, and Mrs. Fayza Mbappe

God, the Almighty, gave to the world the incredible son, Kylian! God gave this gift to the world through Mbappe family, Mr. Wilfried and Mrs. Farza Mbappe. It is a big special thanks to Kylian's parents for the love with which they nurtured Kylian and showed him the way to generous and kind life.

I have several times heard Kylian Mbappe admitting and expressing his gratitude and appreciation to his parents for their dogged and unceasing support to him as he lives, and works in his daily life as a certified Professional Football player.

The Mbappe's son, Kylian, knows that appreciation to his parents is something worth doing, and he does it often.

I am joining Kylian Mbappe in saying kudos to Mr and Mrs. Wilfried and Farza Mbappe for their steady support to their son, Kylian.

SUGGESTIONS FOR KYLIAN MBAPPE LOTTIN

Kylian Mbappe is my spiritual son, and I have a few suggestions for him. Even though Kylian, and I have never seen face to face, yet he is my spiritual son. And as my spiritual son, I have a duty towards him: It is my function as a spiritual mother, to suggest to him some things that I know will be helpful to him.

As the spiritual mother of Kylian Mbappe, my work is to pray for him unceasingly. I will be praying and asking God to direct Kylian always, so that he will hold on to his faith as he exercises his renowned profession, the Professional player.

Kylian Mbappe is already merciful, kind, and compassionate to people, it is good that he continued to live these virtues which he has already acquired.

I am also praying and begging God to direct Kylian Mbappe to choose and marry a good and humble wife that will care for him and his children, and care for the whole family of Mbappe, and the people of God.

I am indeed praying and telling God to bless Kylian Mbappe as he renews the face of Football with his Spirituality of Football.



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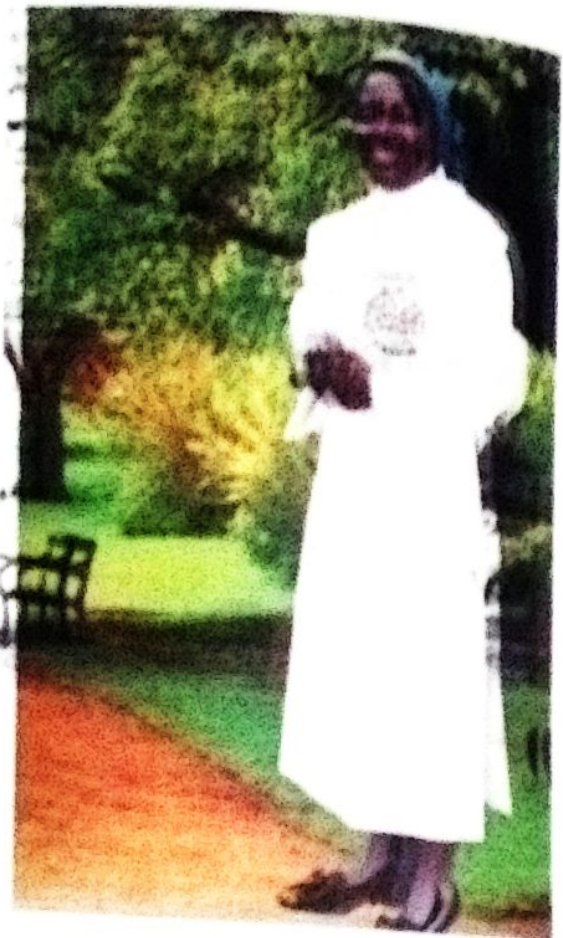
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Kylian Mbappe, the elegant and the brave person whom God has planted in the family of Mbappe to provide unceasing joyful football entertainment for the people in the world, and to renew the face of football in the entire globe using his kind actions and the legacy of his spirituality of football. Kylian showed the attitudes with which football is to be played and understood.



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