

AN INTERPRETATION<sup>1</sup> OF  
THE INSPIRATION/ASPIRATION DIALECTIC:  
“COOL RUNNINGS”, THE MOVIE<sup>2</sup>

Sunnie D. Kidd

**The Players:**

Derice Bannock	Jamaican Sprinter (whose father was an Olympic Gold Medalist—Sprinter)
Sanka Coffie	Jamaican Pushcart Derby Champion and best friend of Derice Bannock
Junior Bevil	(Rich) Jamaican Sprinter
Yul Brenner	(Poor) Jamaican Sprinter
Irving Blitzer	Bobsled Coach (former Two-time Olympic Gold Medalist in Bobsled Competition)

The Story Begins:

**The Jamaican Spirit**

Viewers are given an overview of the Jamaican landscape and a sense of The Jamaican Spirit, MIXTURES OF BRIGHT COLORED CLOTHING AND SURROUNDINGS, LIVELY JAMAICAN MUSIC, WARM WEATHER. FRIENDLY SPIRITS

Lively Jamaican music sounds are heard and colorful Jamaican scenes fade to focus on Derice Bannock, a well-known Jamaican 100 meter track sprinter who aspires to join the Olympic sprinting team (and follow in his father’s footsteps, a former Olympic Gold Medalist—sprinter).

Derice is preparing to do a practice run down a dirt path outlined by ropes tied to sticks in the ground, two rocks act as footrests against which he pushes off, racing toward a toilet paper finish line held by local Jamaican children. Derice runs on through the local town, where everyone knows everyone, receives encouragement from all Jamaicans.

The Annual Jamaican Pushcart Derby

A brightly painted pushcart named: “Rasta Rocket”—is pictured, with Sanka Coffie, the champion Pushcart Driver giving directions to his pushcart team of young Jamaican children.

The Annual Jamaican Pushcart Derby is preparing to begin.

Sanka, the champion driver, kisses his lucky egg and puts it in his shirt.

A chant goes up from the “Rasta Rocket” pushcart team members as they push off:

“FEEL THE RHYTHM,  
FEEL THE RIDE,  
...GET ON UP,  
IT’S PUSHCART TIME!!!”

The wild ride begins, brightly painted wooden pushcarts careening down the side of a hill on an unpaved dirt road with Sanka singing:

**“I Love Jamaica and Jamaica Loves Me!”**

The “Rasta Rocket” pulls ahead, loses direction, goes off the track and crashes into a roadside stand, dumping all team members onto the ground. Derice runs to the site, reaches Sanka:

Derice: “Sanka—you dead?”  
Sanka replies: “Yah Mon!!”

This exchange is repeated throughout the movie.

[Scene changes]

### Tryouts are Ready to Begin for the Jamaican Olympic Track Team

The official Olympic Committee is in place, competitors for the track events are standing around, judges are present, the spectator stands are filled with cheering friends, loved ones and relatives. The time has arrived.

**Derice Knows This Is HIS Time To Win!**

Final competitors for the 100 meter sprint finals line up, among them are:

- #6            Yul Brenner (whom Sanka names as “baldy”)
- #8            Junior Bevil
- #12          Derice Bannock

A banner flies above saying:

**“Unity Is Strength...Yes Jamaica, Together We Can!”**

The race begins...they run...suddenly #8, Junior Bevil, trips and falls, taking #6 and #12 down with him. As Derice Bannock hits the ground he looks up to see the winners cross the finish line, he watches his dreams to be in the Olympic fall with him.

[Scene change]

Derice visits the Chairperson of the Olympic Committee and is told that he is out of the Olympics, Jamaica has only two teams: Boxing and Cycling. Derice can not do either.

Derice looks at the picture on the wall, showing his father and his father's friend— and says to himself: “Well pop, what do I do now?” He asks the Olympic Committee Chairperson: “Who is the man in the picture with my father?”

Reply: “That is Irving Blitzer—a local Bookie!”

Irving Blitzer came to Jamaica 20 years ago, to develop a bobsled team because he had the crazy notion of using the fastest track sprinters to push a bobsled.

### **The Idea Of A Jamaican Bobsled Team Is Born!**

Derice asks to borrow the picture and runs out of the door.

[Scene change]

Derice sets out to organize the first Jamaican Bobsled Team as a way to get to the Olympics and to ask Irving Blitzer to be the Coach.

Derice goes to seek Sanka's assistance because he is—  
“The best pushcart driver in ALL of Jamaica.”

After Sanka finally agrees, they join forces to recruit Irving Blitzer to be their Coach and:

### **Sanka Names Blitzer: “Sled God.”**

Irving Blitzer refuses, repeatedly, saying he does not want anything to do with bobsledding. Derice shows him the picture: Irving Blitzer and Ben Bannock, saying he, Derice, is Ben Bannock's son.

Derice tells Irving that if he does not have what it takes once he sees him run, then he will give it up.

Irving tells him that his father ran the 100 meters in 10 seconds flat.

Derice replies that he runs it in 9.9 flat.

Derice finally convinces Irving by saying: “Twenty years ago you came to Jamaica to see if you could make Jamaican sprinters into a top bobsled team. I am your chance—TAKE IT!”

### **Persistence Pays Off**

Derice and Sanka adopted Coach; he really had no choice.

They have only 3 months to prepare for the Olympics.

[Scene change]

### Tryouts for the First Jamaican Bobsled Team

A banner is hung above the podium saying:

“See the world—Join the First Jamaican Bobsled Team”

Derice introduces Irving Blitzer, Coach.

Irving shows a movie to the attendees—including the crash scenes that happen in bobsledding—the room empties, leaving only Derice, Sanka and Coach.

Yul Brenner walks in: “Baldy’s here!” shouts Sanka. Yul Brenner wants to join the team in order to get out of Jamaica; that is the only reason. They walk over to welcome Yul Brenner to the team—he retorts:

“DON’T TOUCH ME”

(A phrase which is repeated throughout the movie).

The “Tripper” walks in—Junior—a rich young Jamaican whose father runs his life. He wants to join the team—he does not want to go to Florida to take the job his father has just found for him with the firm of Cohen, Cohen and Webster.

### **The Team Emerges**

Coach assigns each team member a place in the sled.

Second middle man—Yul Brenner

First middle man—Junior

Brakeman—Sanka—who loudly protests until all of the responsibilities for a driver are described—then Sanka volunteers Derice to be the Driver.  
Driver—Derice

“Say hello to the first Jamaican Bobsled Team!”

### **Individual But Differing Aspirations Bring Them Together**

[Scene change]

#### Training Begins

A stripped down wooden pushcart with wheels is the “sled.”

Coach says: “Winning a bobsled race is about one thing: The Pushstart! Pushing a 600 pound sled—5.7 seconds is a respectable start time!”

Repeated images are seen: the Bobsled Team in the pushcart rolling down the dirt road hill, halfway down, spilling team members into the dirt, over and over, back up the hill for another try.

“Sled God” keeps track of the time of each run down the hill:

15.7  
14.3  
13.5  
11.7

[Scene change]

#### Training Continues

The Team stands next to an ice cream truck with Coach, all eating popsicles, except Sanka...Coach opens the door, Sanka’s head pops out; he has been put inside to develop his “cold weather endurance!”

Finally one trip down the hill, the Team manages to stay in the sled but halfway down they swerve to avoid a woman and her two calves, the sled running wildly down the side of the hill until they hit the back of a stopped police truck.

Derice: “Sanka—you dead?”  
Sanka replies: “Yah Mon!”

The policeman asks: “Who are you?”

Reply: “We are the Jamaican Bobsled Team!”

Coach shows up: “8.9— YOU DID IT!!!— YOU DID IT!”

Coach tells the team: “I’ve seen bobsledders since I was 14. You can do it!

### **Recognition By Another Who Knows: They Can Make It!**

The Chairperson of the Jamaican Olympic Committee will not give the Team Olympic travel funds; he is afraid they will embarrass all of Jamaica.

### **Politics Throw Up A Roadblock.**

Coach asks Derice: “Do the words give up mean ANYTHING to you?”  
The answer: “NO!”

### **Refusal To Give Up Despite All Odds!**

Personal efforts begin to raise money to send the Team to the Olympics.

Derice—visits local businessmen, seeking a sponsors. He is met with laughter and disbelief!!!

Yul—arm wrestles the locals.

Derice—tries selling kisses to women at a kissing booth.

Sanka—seeks \$1 donations by singing the Jamaican Bobsled Team song in town—finally one man finally pays him \$1 to shut up!

Junior—comes through for the team by selling his car (his father thinks Junior has taken the position he obtained for his son in Florida with Cohen, Cohen, and Webster and loaned his sports car to a friend).

Derice at first refuses the money, saying they cannot take it.

Junior says: “If I hadn’t of tripped you, you would all be going. But I want YOU to have it.”

Derice says: “You mean you want US to have it.”

### **The Team Spirit Begins To Emerge**

#### **A Way Has Opened Up**

The Team Spirit now transcends to a national level, they are the first Jamaican Bobsled Team. A slogan is established, they will:

“Go to the Olympics and Fight for Jamaica”

[Scene change]

### The Flight

Palm tree to pine tree—from Jamaica to Calgary, Canada.

Arrival at the airport: The Team makes it all the way through the airport—foreign languages are heard over the broadcast system, a far cry from Jamaica—to the door: they stop COLD!! Sanka puts on all his clothes, they emerge into the blast of frigid air.

Temperature: - 25 degrees!

The next scene shows them all going shopping for cold weather clothes. All VERY COLORFUL.

[Scene change]

Coach goes to sign up the Jamaican Bobsled Team for the time trials. He cannot find the appropriate place, no one will stop and help him find his way. Coach runs into old team members and part of the U.S.A. Bobsled Team. Kurt, Irving Blitzer’s former Coach, will not even shake his hand. He talks to Roger, a former team member, asks to meet him later in a restaurant.

At the restaurant: Roger arrives. Coach asks Roger for a sled, any kind that the U.S.A. Team might have. Roger hesitates:

Roger says: “You came all the way to Calgary without a sled—and all you have is \$4,800!”

### **Leap of Faith**

The first Jamaican Bobsled Team went to the Olympics without a Bobsled!

Coach reminds Roger that long ago he did not turn him away when Roger asked for help. Roger finally concedes and agrees to get a practice sled for them.

They have a sled!

[Scene changes]

A variety of practice scenes begin...teaching them to walk on ice!

“Grip with your toes...Grip with your toes!”

A series of images are shown of all of them falling down, hanging onto each other, pulling each other down onto the ice, time after time, until they are run off the ice by the hockey teams coming out to practice.

[Scene change]

### Time for Bobsled Practice Runs

The Swiss Team is the model Team to which Derice aspires for his own Team. The sleek, fast, precision, professional image of perfection in his eyes, the Swiss, with their smooth movements, synchronous unity and the shiny red sled and bobsled uniforms.

[Scene change]

Coach introduces the Jamaican Bobsled Team to its “sled”—a gray, unpainted wreck. Derice says: “She is beautiful.” (In his eyes only.) The Jamaican Bobsled Team arrives at the practice area with the sled. They bring it into the arena with all of the other teams and their sleds—everyone freezes to STARE at them in total disbelief.

The East German team leader, Hans Groober, heckles Derice—calls to him, “Hey Jamaica.” Derice ignores him.

### First Time in a REAL BOBSLED

Coach gets everyone into the sled, tells them he is going to nudge them off down the course for the first practice run.

There is a lot of commotion getting into the sled and Yul Brenner yells at Sanka “DON’T TOUCH ME.”

Sanka asks him: “You want to kiss my lucky egg?”

Reply: “NO.”

They scramble into the sled.

Everyone stands and stares—

Junior says to the Team members in the sled: “I think they don’t like us very much.”

Yul Brenner replies: “We are different. People are always afraid of what’s different.”

### **Being Different But Staying With It**

There is a confrontation between Derice and the East German Team leader, Hans Groober, who keeps taunting him.

Coach breaks in and tells Derice:

“Don’t listen to them, listen to ME—right here”— he points with two fingers to his own eyes. Coach says to Derice:

“Hands soft...  
Mind clear...  
High in...  
Low out...”

The first time the First Jamaican Bobsled Team is in a REAL bobsled is at the Olympic practice runs.

All the way down the course Sanka is screaming as they fly through the turns—with Sanka shouting—“Slow down...Slow down...Slow down...”

At the end of the run:

Derice: “Sanka—you dead?”  
Sanka replies: “Yah Mon!”

[Scene change]

### In the Hotel Room

#### **Team Members Challenge Each Other’s Aspirations**

Sanka is cooking on a hot plate. Yul Brenner challenges him to which Sanka responds. Yul Brenner then tells Sanka: “You’re going nowhere Sanka and you are thrilled to death about it!”

Sanka retorts that Yul Brenner is not going anywhere either, he will be on that island (Jamaica) just like every other poor boy.

Yul Brenner retorts that he will not, he pulls out a tattered picture and says that someday he will live here! He holds up the picture, Sanka howls in

laughter, saying it is Buckingham Palace. “If you are going to live here, you are going to have to marry the Queen!”

Junior breaks in, telling the story of his father who started in Jamaica in a one-room hut and who now lives in the largest house in Kingston. He says of Yul Brenner to Sanka:

“If he knows what he wants and works hard—if he really wants it, he’ll get it!”

### **It Is Possible To Achieve One’s Aspirations**

Junior goes on to say that: “The more Yul Brenner’s we have in the world, the better off we will be, especially for Jamaicans.” Junior hands the tattered photo back to Yul Brenner and says: “Here you go Yul Brenner, go get your Palace.”

[Scene change]

Back at the bobsled course practice run site.

Sanka has a hot water bottle under his sweater. Coach pulls it out and throws it over his shoulder, pushes the Team forward.

Another embarrassing start down the run by the Jamaican Bobsled Team.

[Scene change]

### Back in Jamaica

The local Jamaican newspapers run embarrassing photos of the of the Jamaican Bobsled Team desperately and disjointedly trying to get into the bobsled...finally chasing it halfway down the run, dragging Sanka behind.

Junior’s father sees Junior in the newspaper photo.

[Scene change]

Larry, a member of the U.S.A. Bobsled team, informs Derice that Coach is a cheat...during the 1972 Winter Olympic Games, Irving Blitzer hid weights in the front of his sled so that he would go faster. As a consequence of cheating Irving Blitzer had been stripped of his Two Olympic Gold Medals.

Coach walks up at that time and challenges him by saying: “Taking good care of my boys are you?”

[Scene change]

In the Hotel Room

A knock at the door.

Yul Brenner opens the door. It is a telegram for Junior from his father, ordering him to return to Jamaica immediately.

[Scene change]

At a local Western type bar, Western music playing, everyone wearing Western clothes and dancing.

Junior and Yul sit at the bar discussing whether or not Junior should return home per his father's instructions. Junior says he must go home...Yul Brenner tells him: "If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't be here right now!" Yul encourages him to stay.

Junior implores of Yul Brenner: "What should I DO? What should I DO?!" The loudness draws the attention of the East German Bobsled driver again, Hans Groober. He calls out, "Hey Jamaica—why don't you tourists go back home where you belong— You have no business here."

Yul Brenner grabs Junior and takes him into the bathroom, faces him in front of the mirror and says to Junior:

"Tell me what you see."

When Junior cannot say, he asks Yul Brenner: "What do YOU see?" Yul Brenner tells Junior: "It's not about what I see, it's about what YOU see!"

Yul tells Junior, I see:

**"Pride**

**Power**

**A bad ass mother who don' take no crap offa no one!"**

He grabs Junior and says it again—encouraging Junior to say it for himself, which he finally does with great conviction.

They return to the bar area and Junior confronts the East German, Hans Groober, Yul Brenner steps up to defend him and a fight begins when Junior tells the East German Bobsled Driver: "You Pushed MY teammate...we have to push BACK."

### **Team Mates Are Forged**

[Scene change]

Coach arrives at the hotel room where the Team is gathered. Coach blasts them good after Sanka says: “Sled God does it again!”

Coach tells the Team he took care of the matter but: “They hate me, they hate you, they hate us.” He tells the Team they will have to search deep down inside and find something within themselves to decide how to continue. Then he leaves.

But before he goes he says: “I didn’t come all this way to get my butt whipped.”

### **Shift In Team To Working Together As A Unit**

[Scene change]

The next morning the Team is together and awakens Coach, “rise and shine!” Off into the cold to practice, run and to condition themselves through exercise. They snowball each other, lift weights, pump iron and do chin-ups—strengthening themselves for the final runs down the bobsled course.

The Team is shown sitting in the bathtub in the hotel, leaning to one side as a unit, then leaning to the other side, moving from side to side as they imagine themselves going through the sequence of turns in the bobsled course.

Viewers hear the Jamaican music with a song being sung, repeating the phrase, “Rise above it...Rise above it...Rise above it...”

### **New Common Commitment**

[Scene change]

Again the Jamaican Team watches the bobsled time trials as the Swiss team of perfection calls out their cadence, preparing to board the sled, “Einz, Svie, Drie”...Derice repeats and watches as they effortlessly glide into their sled...

As the Jamaican Bobsled Team prepares for their time trial runs, they learn from Kurt that the qualifying time has been changed to a shorter time.

### **Politics As Another Stumbling Block**

[Scene change]

The Jamaican Bobsled Team meets again where the sleds are kept, they have painted their own sled and are toasting the new gleaming sled with cokes. The jubilant Team now has official Bobsled jumpsuits provided by Coach, a gleaming sled reflecting yellow and green colors for Jamaica and they are in a wonderful frame of mind.

The Team considers a name for the sled. Junior suggests: Tallulah. Everyone laughs, pokes fun and finally Sanka says: Tallulah— that sounds like a two-bit hooker!” Junior says: “It is my mother’s name.” Laughter stops. Talullah, yes that is a nice name. Everyone agrees: Tallulah it is.

“Follow your dreams”

“Sprinters make the best bobsledders”

These pronouncements are a part of the celebration.

The question comes up:

“What are people gonna be screaming when Jamaicans take the hill?”

Derice says:                   **“Cool Runnings”**

What does that mean?   **“Peace Be The Journey”**

Everyone agrees, that is what people will scream when Jamaicans take the hill—Cool Runnings it is!

A messenger arrives with a message from the Olympic Alliance. The Jamaican Bobsled Team has been officially disqualified.

[Scene change]

### Olympic Alliance Roundtable

Coach enters the Board room of the Olympic Alliance and pleads a case on behalf of the Team, indicating that he regrets the mistakes that he himself made and implores the Alliance and Kurt, his former Coach, to not make the same mistake as he.

The rules were changed—because the Alliance was afraid that the Jamaican Bobsled Team would be an embarrassment to the Olympic Games. Coach argues that to deny the Jamaican Bobsled Team of their chance to carry their county’s flag at the Olympic Games would be to deny them they right to national pride.

[Scene change]

Back at the hotel

Coach and the Team are back in the hotel room; the phone rings, Coach answers, responds to what is being said without emotion, matter of factly. Hangs up: Well...

**The Jamaican Bobsled Team Is Back In The Olympic Games**

[Scene change]

Back in Jamaica

All of the local townsfolk are gathered around the television set in the common meeting establishment. All participants are filled with Pride for their first ever, Jamaican Olympic Bobsled Team.

**Fellow Jamaicans Filled With Pride For Their Team**

[Scene change]

Back in Calgary

The Team is shown moving into their “new” lodgings inside the Olympic hotel, standing in front of the Olympic Flame, amazed that they are a part of this historic event.

Inside, Coach prepares to give his Team a pep talk for the final competition. He says he should probably give them a talk like “Win one for the Gipper,” instead he comes up with a:

**Psalm Of Inspiration**

“Our Father,  
Who art in Calgary,  
Bobsled be thy name,  
Thy Kingdom Come,  
Gold Medals won,  
On earth as it is in Turn Seven,  
Liberty and justice for Jamaica  
And high...”

[Scene change]

Back in the Hotel Room

Junior's father arrives at the door, prepared to take Junior back home to his job with Cohen, Cohen and Webster in Florida.

Junior resists. The father insists.

At the elevator, Junior asks his father.

"Father, when you look at me what do you see?"

The father responds that he sees a scared little boy who is going to do what he is supposed to do, come home.

Junior says: "No! I am NOT a scared little boy, I am a MAN."

**"I Am An Olympian..."**

"...and I am staying right here!"

### **Self Transcendence And Authenticity**

Yul was watching this from the doorway of the hotel room and congratulates Junior (his former nemesis who tripped him at the sprint competition and ruined his dream of getting off the Island of Jamaica).

### **Unity Inbetween Former Disunity**

[Scene change]

#### The Event

The time has come for the Olympic competition.

Television cameras are around, announcers, the festive Olympic Park is pictured with the bustling crowds and the excitement building.

#### Back in Jamaica

All the Jamaicans are at the common meeting ground, great anticipation building as children stand on boxes next to chalkboards to chart the progress and record the Bobsled run times.

Derice again watches the smooth, gliding movements of the Swiss Team and continues to see emulating them as the model to follow.

The Jamaican Bobsled Team is the last team to run. The announcer says: "Jamaica: A tiny little island; they came out of nowhere!"

### **Unexpected And Surprising**

[Scene change]

### Time for the First Run

The Jamaican Bobsled Team starts out by modeling their start after the Swiss: “Einz, Svie, Drie...”

It is an embarrassing start, the Team is disjointed, barely scrambling into the sled as it slides down the course. A Terrible Run!

### Back in Jamaica

The Jamaican supporters are doubtful about the hopes and success of their Team.

[Scene change]

### Back in Calgary

Coach addresses the Team in the hotel room. He tells them:

“You choked...you choked, you have all the skills, you know what to do, but you choked.”

He told the Team:

“You gotta figure out how to STAY LOOSE out there. I can’t tell you how to do that.”

### **No One Else Can Tell You How To Do It**

The Team talks amongst themselves and Derice brings up how the Swiss Team does it.

Sanka protests: “Einz, Svie, Drie...” He tells Derice just to shut up about the Swiss, that all that Swiss stuff is what is making him nervous, that they can’t copy the Swiss or anybody else’s style, we have OUR OWN STYLE, Jamaican STYLE.

### **Must Take It Up In Your Own Way**

Sanka tells Derice: “I didn’t come here to forget who I am and where I came from.”

Derice replies: “Neither did I, I’m just trying to be the best I can be.”

### **Being Be the Best You Can Be**

Sanka says: “We gotta Bobsled Jamaican!”

### **Stick With Your Own Style**

[Scene change]

#### At the Competition Site

It is the second day of competition and the scenes reflect the judges again, the surroundings, the hustle/bustle and the Teams preparing for competition.

The Jamaican Bobsled Team arrives on the back of a flatbed truck with lively Jamaican music blasting from speakers on the truck...

### **The Jamaican Spirit Arises Again**

It is time for the Jamaican Bobsled run!

Sanka kisses his lucky egg.

The First Jamaican Bobsled Chant fills the air:

“FEEL THE RHYTHM  
FEEL THE RIDE,  
...GET ON UP,  
IT’S BOBSLED TIME!

COOL RUNNINGS!”

There is a total shift in performance, the Team is together, in unison, in sync. Everything is smooth, in harmony.

The announcers shout: “This is NOT the same team as we saw yesterday!”

This run is fantastic, beautiful.

Their run time improves to 56.53 to move them from last place to into Eight Place!

### **Shift to Excellence in Performance**

[Scene change]

#### Back in the Hotel Room

Derice is in the hotel room alone, studying the turns of the bobsled course. Coach arrives.

Derice wants to know...Coach says: "You want to know why I cheated."  
Reply: "Yes Coach, I do."

Coach explains that he HAD TO WIN and that when you make winning your whole life, you must keep on winning, no matter what. You are not enough without winning.

Coach tells Derice: "A Gold Medal is a wonderful thing but: If you aren't enough without it, you'll never be enough with it."

Derice wants to know: "Coach, how will I know if I am enough?"  
Coach says: "When you cross that finish line, you will know."

[Scene change]

### Back in Jamaica

Everyone in town is assembled at the common meeting ground, gathered around the television...the mood tense, full of anticipation.

### The Last Day of Olympic Competition

The fans and announcers are jubilant about the previous performance of the Jamaicans.

"Respect"—says Yul Brenner and he kisses Sanka's lucky egg!

"See you at the finish line" says Coach.

### **Earned Respect**

The Jamaican Bobsled Team boards the sled in the fastest start time of all competitors...the announcers yell: "*Go Champs*" and display the Jamaican Bobsled Team sweatshirts they are wearing under their coats in support of the team.

Almost three quarters of the way down the bobsled course the old, practice sled begins to come apart, and the Team crashes. When the sled grinds to a halt with the sledders' heads dragging against the side of the course banks, you hear:

Sanka says: "Derice—you dead?"  
Derice replies: "Nah Mon, I'm not dead!"

This is a reversal of the inquiry.

Derice looks up to see the finish line...and says: "I have to finish the race..."

The Jamaican Bobsled Team slowly drags themselves from the sled, hoists it up over their shoulders and begins to walk, slowly carrying the sled toward the Finnish Line.

Total silence. The crowd is stunned.

The East German driver, Hans Groober, who taunted, harassed and ridiculed the Jamaican Team from the start, begins to clap his hands...the crowd catches on and begins to cheer the Jamaican Team as they dauntlessly continue to carry their sled toward and over the Finish Line.

Junior's father's face appears in the crowd...he beams at his son and opens his coat to reveal a Jamaican Bobsled Sweatshirt underneath...he is proud of his Jamaican Olympian son.

Cheers go up from the crowd!

### Back in Jamaica

Cheers abound at the common meeting ground for their CHAMPIONS IN SPIRIT.

### Back in Calgary

The East German Driver, Hans Groober, slaps Derice on the back and says: "You did good Jamaica, SEE YOU IN FOUR YEARS!"

## **Success—The Fulfillment of Aspiration**

[Scene change]

A Team picture is snapped with Coach and his four Jamaican Bobsledders, the first in all the world.

### Back in Jamaica

On the wall of the Olympic Committee Chairperson in Jamaica hangs a new picture—The First Jamaican Bobsled Team.

### Four Years Later

The Jamaican Bobsled Team returns to compete in the Winter Olympics.

The Themes<sup>3</sup> displaying:

AN INTERPRETATION OF  
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“COOL RUNNINGS”, THE MOVIE

**The Jamaican Spirit**

**“I Love Jamaica and Jamaica Loves Me!”**

**Derice Knows This Is HIS Time To Win!**

**“Unity Is Strength...Yes Jamaica, Together We Can!”**

**The Idea Of A Jamaican Bobsled Team Is Born!**

**Sanka Names Blitzer: “Sled God.”**

**Persistence Pays Off**

**The Team Emerges**

**Individual But Differing Aspirations Bring Them Together**

**Recognition By Another Who Knows: They Can Make It!**

**Politics Throw Up A Roadblock.**

**Refusal To Give Up Despite All Odds!**

**The Team Spirit Begins To Emerge**

**A Way Has Opened Up**

**Leap of Faith**

**Being Different But Staying With It**

**Team Members Challenge Each Other’s Aspirations**

**It Is Possible To Achieve One’s Aspirations**

**“Pride**

**Power**

**A bad ass mother who don’ take no crap offa no one!”**

**Team Mates Are Forged**

**Shift In Team To Working Together As A Unit**

**New Common Commitment**

**Politics As Another Stumbling Block**

**“Cool Runnings”**

**“Peace Be The Journey”**

**The Jamaican Bobsled Team Is Back In The Olympic Games**

**Fellow Jamaicans Filled With Pride For Their Team**

**Psalm Of Inspiration**

**“I Am An Olympian...”**

**Self Transcendence And Authenticity**

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**Unexpected And Surprising**

**No One Else Can Tell You How To Do It**

**Must Take It Up In Your Own Way**

**Being Be the Best You Can Be**

**Stick With Your Own Style**

**The Jamaican Spirit Arises Again**

**Shift to Excellence in Performance**

**Earned Respect**

**Success—The Fulfillment of Aspiration**

### Reflective Synthesis:

This is an *inspiration/aspiration dialectic*, the occasion for a mutual interflow. The following three aspects describe the dynamics of this experience:

#### i. *Aspiring*

The inspired person comes to the shared situation in a readiness to be present and an openness to discover new meaning. Neither a passive recipient nor as one overwhelmed by the inspiring other against one's own nature, the inspired person comes to self-understanding as already-disposed toward personal meaning. The inspired person's *aspiring* nature reveals who one has been, who one presently is and who one aspires to become.

#### ii. *Authentic Moments*

Being-with an inspiring other calls the inspired person to the meaning of personal existence in a way which is, through time, decisive. Responding to this appeal opens the inspired person to reflective questioning and wondering. The inspired person's reflection reveals aspirations as one's own possibility. This is experienced as "I am able to." *Authentic moments* stand out in experience, offering new possibilities which until this time remained dormant.

#### iii. *Breaking Through Boundaries*

Acts of self-transcendence arise from the inspired person's affirmation of a personal possibility found through being-with the inspiring other. The inspired person experiences this as being freed for options which are not limiting and taken-for-granted experiences of self in the past. Movement by the inspired person into unfamiliar territory is experienced as *breaking through boundaries*.<sup>4</sup>

### Notes

- 1) Sunnie D. Kidd and James W. Kidd, *Experiential Method: Qualitative Research in the Humanities Using Metaphysics and Phenomenology* (Bern: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 1990).
- 2) Sunnie D. Kidd, "Experiential Montage: The Interpersonal Self", *Migrant Echo*, X, no. 2 (May-August 1981).

- 3) Sunnie D. Kidd, “Experiential-Cinematographical Montage: Hermeneutics in Play”, *International Journal of Philosophy, Psychology and Spirituality*, 2, no. 2 (1993).
- 4) Sunnie D. Kidd, “The Dynamic Aspects of Inspiration: An Essay on the Phenomenon of Authentically Being Inspired” *Yearbook of the Research Center for Greek Philosophy at the Academy of Athens*, Athens, Greece, no. 23-24, 1993-94.