

Weekly Column
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Melvin University
and Me

Myanmar's "mystic ball"

I once saw it on TV as a documentary, and it was probably EBS (educational broadcasting). It was about Myanmar's "mystic ball", and it was like a kind of sport where a few people stood around and played with a ball. I was really impressed by the content. In particular, the story of a female player who is very good at "mystic ball" and a man who eventually became an athlete after coming to learn from Canada every year was interesting and impressive.

Anyway, the "mystic ball" were conducted in small groups. It was not a sport played by dozens of people, but by 6-7 people. And this was not a game of winning or losing, but a sport that showed their skills to the fullest. It was kind of like art to show by honing harder skills.

However, it is not good at it alone. It seemed to have unity in preventing the ball from falling to the ground and caring for the opponent. In other words, it is displaying a wonderful art.

It was similar to JOKGU (aka, foot volleyball) especially in the military in Korea. It is a sport in which four players (a total of eight players) from each team (right-handed, left-handed, setter, and striker) exchange defense and attack using only their feet and head (below the knee, more than chin) with the net between them, and it is the first ball game that began in Korea. Similar sports are said to be football tennis, which arose in the 1920s in Central Europe, and Sepaktakraw, which originated in Malaysia.

In any case, the more difficult the technology in "mystic ball", the more enthusiastic people were. There was no debate, timing, jealousy, or arrogance.

There was only effort to look good. They also took the chance to develop more difficult technologies and demonstrated creativity.

Seeing the story reminded me of the appearance of a small group again. Wouldn't it be like this to work as a partners or to work as a group? If you do it alone, you can achieve it quickly and instantly (because you don't have to discuss it with anyone), but you can't do big things. However, it takes time (because several people have to discuss it) in a group, but it becomes long-term and big things can be done. Group work is a little cumbersome because there is a process of "trust> conflict> dedication> responsibility> outcome", but it is still better than doing it alone. As the saying goes, humans are social animals, so we shouldn't be alone. A group should have four key members, like a "mystic ball". Jesus also had four core members, along with Peter, John, and James. This is because adventure and creativity must start with these four.