



The Anniversary of War



Ukrainians attend a rally in central Kyiv, Ukraine, on February 24 2023, anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. (Image source AP)

Matvey Maslov, Chair of Subud Ukraine, writes on February 24 2023 about what it has been like to live with war for a year...

February 24, 2002...

I will never forget this day. I'm sleeping in the kids room on the second floor of the kids' bed – my two girls wanted to sleep with mommy, so I had to move for 1 night.

I did not sleep the previous night – the war was in the air. 5 am in the morning, I woke up from sounds which I thought were coming from concrete trucks unloading on a construction site nearby, but the feeling was weird. I checked my phone – yes, the war started, these were sounds of distant missile explosions all over the city.

I quickly woke up my family and all the neighbours on our floor. The plan was simple – we had all the stuff packed in suitcases, the car was in the parking lot downstairs, next stop was Poland. The only problem was that everybody had the same plan. All the roads were packed with cars, traffic jams for hours. Meanwhile Russian missiles and planes were falling all around the city.

The parking was full of people, lots of kids playing together and running around. People took with >

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them food, water, even furniture to spend hours. Grown-ups are nervous and confused, everybody regularly goes outside and checks phones, the news is constant.

A Russian plane...

Was hit in one of the Kyiv's districts and it fell on a residential building, Russians are quickly moving all over the north, east and south. The siege of Kyiv will probably start soon. There are huge queues near the drafting offices – people stay for days to get into the army and fight the Russians.

I do not know what to do, totally lost – very agitated and scared. Occasionally we get up to the apartment to heat some food, the kids were very scared when outside parking and cry.

At some point around 3pm I decided that I should calm down and ask God what to do. In a few minutes there's a plan – the way to Romania is not so jammed, we can go. 7 pm – we start the trip. It's dark outside, Kyiv is very quiet. Outside Kyiv all the roads are full with cars moving, their trunks are packed with personal belongings – nobody knows if we could return. The stoplights make red lines like Christmas decorations up to a dark horizon.

12 am. The border is closed for men. We are halfway to Romania. Kids are peacefully sleeping in the back seats. Change of plans – go to co-workers who live in Vinnitsa. Arrived at 3 am. Totally exhausted.

Will Kyiv fall?

Then a few nights not sleeping but constantly reading the news – will Kyiv fall? What will happen to my wife's father and my mother who did not want to go with us? To our neighbours – a woman with two girls, one of which is my oldest daughter's friend – they did not want to go either?

Then volunteering, constantly looking for ways to purchase military and civilian equipment abroad – generators, tactical medicine, drones, optical sights, armours and casks, thermovisors – whatever was most needed, Susila Dharma calls on Saturdays.

Moved to a hotel near Vinnitsa for two months. Returned to Kyiv – it was very quiet at the end of April, maybe a third of residents left. The spring was beautiful, air crystal clear – not many cars. Air raid alerts during the nights are very loud with open windows, but you get used to them eventually. There's food, electricity, water – it's quite liveable.

Family goes to the Netherlands to stay with our Subud friends – Feodore and Regina. I'm alone. It's quiet. My wife constantly takes pictures – she hates doing that, but she wants me to see the kids.

They return at the end of summer – the school year is starting. Our school built a shelter so kids can study. Most of the schools in Kyiv prepared shelters.

Missiles strikes on electrical infrastructure in autumn – total blackout is possible. For a day and a half there's no electricity and water. We cannot even heat food – it's difficult to live in a block of flats with no electricity. We drive to my office – for some reason there's constant electricity there. The queues to shower are long – all employees are coming.

We adjusted...

The blackouts are controlled, electricity is available a few times a day. Ordered large batteries – but have to wait more than a month for them to arrive. Western anti-air defences are very effective in Kyiv – most of the missiles are downed, a few still hit their targets. Some people die, but not too many – it's hard to do "Mariupol" here with missiles only, you need cannons and bombs for that.

Life goes on. Stores installed generators and work constantly, people run to work in the morning and return home to dark apartments.

Fishermen sit on the new ice. On the other hand – people constantly die in the trenches, in buildings hit by Russian shells and missiles, many lost jobs.

More than 8 million Ukrainians (20% of population) live abroad and some of them will never return home. The wars are much easier to start than to end.

We will see what the future holds for us...

“ Wars are much easier to start than to end...”

Be the Change You Want to See in the World

Ashwin Rajaraman writes about two Susila Dharma projects which he has recently visited in Kalimantan. The first of these projects is Permakultur Kalimantan Foundation...

Maybe you know the story about the poor and illiterate Mexican fisher boy and a great scientist walking the shore, who saw him throwing starfish back into the sea every morning and wondering if it would ever make a difference and the fisher boy replying after throwing another into the sea 'it made a difference to that one'.

The scientist then understood that instead of being a passive observer like him, the boy did what he could, where he was, to make a difference to those in the environment he lived!

We all want to change the world; we all want to make a difference; here are two sets of people who are quietly going about doing what they can, where they are, with what they have and making a difference and changing the world in their own way, in the only way they know.

When I met Jayadi Paembonan and he said the very same thing ([click on attached link of his interview at 19 minutes](#)) in a very different way – how he wanted to do something, for the local people, with the local people, and in partnership with them, instead of talking about changing the world.

It stuck a chord in me – after all, it was my role model, M K Gandhi in India who had famously said 'be the change you want to see in the world' and lived it all his life – and there was an Indian connection to Jayadi too, but I am getting way ahead. So, first things first.

Inspiring hope and planting seeds of change

Australian born community development worker Frederika and Indonesian born permaculture expert Jayadi Paembonan started Permakultur Kalimantan Foundation (in close collaboration with the local community) after stints in permaculture in India and Australia, over a decade ago and have never looked back since.

What struck me the most when I interacted with them was their passion, their firm belief in embracing local indigenous wisdom and culture into their permaculture and agroforestry practices. So they went about introducing permaculture to the traditional custodians of the local lands as the best possible way to support a more positive and sustainable future for the local environment and its people.

Though YPK was formally established in Central Kalimantan only in early 2014, the work had started more than a year earlier – the local Dayak indigenous elders, landowners and social issues facing the region all had to be tackled first in line with Jayadi's vision of collaborating with local partners.

Even to this day, this zeal and unflagging passion are seen in inclusive collaborations with local food partners in their recently opened (a couple of years ago) café on the premises. But more of that later.



The heart and soul of YPK - Jayadi & Frederika.



Integrated Permaculture, Agroforestry and Food Forest.

“ They have a firm belief in embracing local indigenous wisdom and culture ”

What I saw was an inspirational living example of permaculture philosophy and ethics in everything they do – be it the café or the agroforestry project or the coconut oil production or whatever. I saw too that the contribu- >

tions of the people involved were valued and were a vital cog of who and where they are today and what they have achieved so far.

So what do they do?

- For a start, they offer a 10-day intensive course on permaculture education and training for those interested, which covers among other things, compost establishment, maintenance and harvesting of worm juice.

- They have a more than 50,000 sq. ft. permaculture designed site called Learning Farm in Sukamulya village, which was transformed into an ecologically diverse multi-layered canopy food forest and flourishing organic ecosystem from conventional pesticide oriented agricultural land.

- They attract over 500 visitors each year for tours, workshops and events who are taught permaculture design, no-burn, no-dig regenerative carbon farming strategies and sustainable land management practices and techniques that can transform infertile or damaged landscapes.

- They actively reforest productive and ecologically significant trees and plants on their integrated land of agroforestry and food forest on a continuous basis to this day.

- They have developed a unique hands-on environmental education curriculum that links gardens, organic food production and conservation.

- By training hundreds of local indigenous farmers over the years, they have reached out to hundreds more by the ‘train-the-trainers’ approach, which had led to the establishment of several such peer groups and farmer training communities in even remote villages.

- Three offshoots of this sustained work has been the ability of the local community to grow enough food to meet their own needs (and selling the excess produce) on difficult terrains (by utilising swales on slopes and raised garden beds on concrete and compacted soil); to establish indigenous seed banks to sell, trade and barter among themselves; and the promotion of coconut oil production as an enterprise which has seen several such local companies sprout up nearby.

The Café

So where does their closed loop permaculture café Kedai Itah, fit into all this? What is its role? And why am I writing about it? Ah, therein lies the real story, dear friends ([click on attached link of her interview at 24 and 31 minutes](#)) – I was truly touched when Frederika told me, ‘*You know Ashwin, if all goes well, this year we won’t put in an application for a grant to SDIA*’.

Wow, this was the first time that I ever heard any project say any such thing (and which we in SDIA fervently hope to hear someday of every project)!

So, I was really intrigued and the story that unfolded was indeed a delight. I saw first-hand the café teeming with people of all hues and shades, the local food partners (families making traditional foods) they had collaborated with, the local food delivery mechanism and app they had created and the organic preparation and the permaculture way of disposing food waste – everything was integrated into the foundation’s project, and everything worked seamlessly in unison.

Kedai Itah, based on permaculture principles, is a low waste café, all rubbish is sorted and organic waste returns back to the permaculture farm on site, the local community collaborate on the project and sell their traditional foods at the café, and the project demonstrates how a permaculture farm



Local youth chilling out at Kedai Itah Café.



All hands on deck – Frederika helping in the café.

concept can successfully produce farm to table produce that is in demand from the local community.



And Kedai Itah is able to support much of the operational costs of YPK, apart from returning 25,000 USD to the local families in partnership with the cafe.

It has also enabled the couple to see a footfall of over 30,000 visitors last year to the integrated establishment, many of whom were exposed to and made aware of permaculture and its everlasting benefits. Ongoing programs and educational tours of school going children in hundreds have enabled them to plant the seeds of change.

[To see a video about this project including interviews with the founders click here](https://youtu.be/e8Y3SMrGfsk)



The cow is an integral part of the ecosystem.

Ashwin's Story Continues with the Second Project, Ransel Buku (Floating Library)...

Every movie that has a stirring message, has an iconic scene around which the story revolves – *Flawless*, starring Michael Caine and Demi Moore has one such scene. In it, the ageing MC asks DM: 'Are you a Giver or a Taker'?

As Demi ponders her answer, he says, 'I know that you are not a Taker' and proceeds to give her something which transforms her life into a great philanthropist (see the movie for brilliant acting by its lead cast apart from its great message)!

When I met Aini Abdul and her project, I couldn't help but think about *Flawless* and its Giver concept – here was one, surely, dedicating her entire life *to be the change she wanted to see*.

Ransel Buku, the newest SDIA Project member, was a delight to encounter and interact with – the 15-year-old project is a pioneer in the riverside community literacy movement in Central Kalimantan and the first of its kind promoting literacy and education through child friendly 'floating library' services, for underprivileged children living along its riverside villages.



Aini and Irawan have awards to show.

[A library can be anywhere!](#)

The concept of Ransel Buku is simple enough – *a library can be anywhere!* That is how the floating library concept was born and nourished and cherished – if there were willing librarians around (with books of course) and children to read them, it was enough – so RB encouraged children to read books at the village jetty, under a tree by the river, on someone's patio, in mosques or churches, anywhere. This then fuelled the mission to create a safe space for children to express themselves, to learn, to find out their potential and to be just children.

Today Aini Abdul and Mathew Conway have ensured that RB has two libraries along the river ([click on attached link of project video right at the beginning](#)) and a floating library (kelotok) as well servicing 5 villages along the river daily catering to 500



The library is right here.

children every day – a stupendous feat considering that they have limited staff (five to six) ably managed by their Project Manager Fery Irawan and Teacher Nikita.

And what is even more impressive is that in addition to being a library, the space and place are used to teach the children music, dance, arts and painting as well!

What are the challenges that they face?

For starters, gender equality is an issue. Many young girls have limited access to higher education. Early girl marriage is another societal norm here.

Quality teaching staff is second. Capacities to learn and hone new skills and then to teach them to young children is another. A third is capacity building and scale. How do you reach 50 villages? How many boats do you need? How many libraries? And how many books?

So what have they done?

Young girls are given scholarships to continue and further their education. Their parents are counselled against the girl's early marriage. Teachers are trained for six months in reputed schools in Bali to improve capacity in teaching / learning practices to deliver improved project outcomes. Fundraising to hire more teachers and willing librarians with enthusiasm for literacy development initiatives. The list goes on...

What did I find?

I found the children happy, excited, animated, well behaved, enthusiastic and full of questions. These are children who want to learn, who want to go to school, college and university.

These are children who have dreams – one wanted to be a doctor and to come back to the same village to build a hospital; another wanted to be a professional dancer; yet another a fashion designer.

Some wanted to be artists and painters, others wanted to work in a company. They were not shy when they welcomed us in the beginning with a couple of dance performances they had learned at the very library they were reading books.

They were willing to exhibit their skills without inhibition and they were not shy when we had an interactive session with them at the end. They listened patiently, spoke when required, giggled and laughed and had fun.

And I found a passionate, driven, capable professional in Aini who would leave no stone unturned in her quest to find a lasting solution for these children. She has so far dedicated her entire life for the last 15 years, year after year, putting everything else on hold in order to pursue her dream to change their lives for the better.

And continues to do so...

It was a strange and eerie coincidence for me, since it reminded me of someone close back >



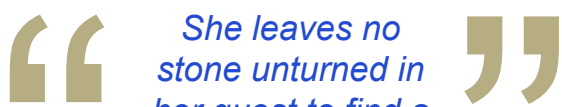
Eh, do you want to read me?



Here we learn dancing, too.



The kids were amazing – and they want to learn.



She leaves no stone unturned in her quest to find a lasting solution for these children...

And continues to do so...

home, who was striving to do something similar in the fishing community that lives on the sea behind our home - the same challenges, the same hopes and dreams of the children, the same societal norms and values, the same barriers to overcome and the same difficulties to even help them.

I almost broke down and shared my thoughts with the children, with Aini ably translating and reassuring them that they were not alone – there were other children too in a different part of the world, facing the same challenges that they had and with the same hopes, aspirations and dreams like them.

The children couldn't believe it and wanted to know everything possible about them, where they lived, how they dressed and whether they looked like them, etc, so much so that they all hugged me at the end, each consoling me and wiping away the tears that had begun to well.

Maybe all we have to do is, *be the change we want to see in the world.*

To see a video about this project click here <https://youtu.be/TPYZclUriCc>

All text, photos and videos by Ashwin Rajaraman.

I Love Ukraine

Emanuel Aronie who was responsible for bringing Subud to the Ukraine and who has been living in Cherkassy, Ukraine, writes that...

I have just spent 7 months in Ukraine and, due to unforeseen circumstances, I have to leave the country, soon, by March 22.

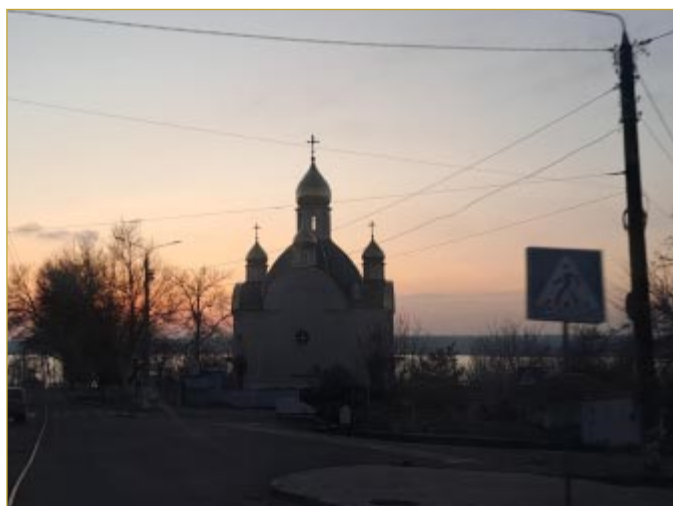
I came here with two intentions: 1. To support Subud Ukraine and Ukraine itself, more broadly, and 2. to continue writing a Sci-Fi Screenplay.

The 2nd intention got upended and put to the side, as poems, mostly political, but some philosophical, began to emerge.

Further, because of my imminent departure from here, I took a great opportunity to go closer to the war front here and visit, first Mikolaiv, and then, Dnipro, to Mikolaiv, by car, and Dnipro, by train.

From Emmanuel's recent poems...

I love Ukraine, this country, this land, every leaf, every branch, every twig, every field, every fence, every house and horse, chicken and pig, every animal, every fish, every stream and river, every chimney, every little garden, every tree, every stalk of grain, every bush, every road, street, highway, train track, stop light, stop sign, station, building, church, every kid, every doting parent, every teen, every IT geek, every wrinkled grandparent, the happy people, the sad people, the railroad workers, clerks, hairdressers, salespeople, engineers, soldiers in groups, alone, with worried wives, girlfriends, every dressmaker, drug addict, criminal, guard, prisoner, fool, dentist, teacher, mechanic, lawyer, doctor, priest and politician, even the drunks, everyone, everything, every last detail. I simply love Ukraine.



Church at sunset, by the Ingul River.



After latihan and group meeting at Dnipro.

World Congress News

The recent World Subud Council meeting in Rungan Sari, Kalimantan, was productive and constructive. In addition to a significant number of council participants, there were many observers from different corners of the world, including Ibu Yati and Ibu Ismanah who were present for a number of days. Obviously, full minutes of the meetings will be available, but some points concerning the coming World Congress can already be shared:



- The dates for the World Congress continue to be as formerly announced: January 4 – 15, 2024.
- Registration will open about 9 months before the event, as certain decisive factors have shifted following the WSC meeting.
- In line with the recommendations of the International Helpers, there will be no activities that conflict in scheduling with the major events (latihans, plenaries, etc.), where it is hoped to have all the participants in attendance.
- The event will be spread over venues in both Palangkaraya and Rungan Sari, but consecutively rather than in parallel.

The WCOT is in the process of preparing an extensive list of frequently asked Q & A. In the meantime, however, the team recommends against purchasing flights at this time, unless you have the possibility to change them; there could be eventualities (after all, we have just lived through a lengthy pandemic) that are beyond the organisers' control.

To keep up to date with Congress news go to: www.subudworldcongress.org

To view a presentation about World Congress go to:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10bK3JJrv6X4Mtk9bUQdFzuwh_ubN494r/view

Asia-Pacific Zone Conference

The Zone 1 & 2 conference which was held Rungan Sari, in February, was attended by the Australian committee councillor Bruce Ray who writes...

I have been in Subud for 10 years now and I have been committee councillor for eight of those, but this was the first time I'd been to a zone conference and the first time I'd been to Kalimantan.

I flew to Bali, and then onto Surabaya where I linked up with the Australian kejiwaan councillors Rasjad and Liliana Johnson and we travelled on together to Palangka Raya.

I was very impressed by the modern airport at Palangka Raya, the bustling traffic of the big city where fortunately we narrowly missed all cars, then an hour long drive out to Rungan Sari across very flat country mostly peat swamp.



During the Asian Zone Conference delegates visited the Subud Group in Palangka Raya.

At Rungan Sari I was given a joyous welcome by Amalya and Wayne Lerrigo with whom I stayed while I was in Rungan Sari.

[At the conference...](#)

My main task at the conference, which began the next day, was to present the Subud Australia proposal offering an alternative WSA Constitution which we are calling THE CHARTER.

This had been presented at the Subud Australia National Congress in January and now the zone conference agreed to forward it on to the WSC for consideration at World Congress

The zone conference had been organised by the zone coordinator Muchtar Rawlings. There were delegates from Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia including, Pak Irwan chairman of Subud Indonesia, along with Asian Area international helpers and also Indonesian national helpers. There were also delegates from Sri Lanka and India attending by Zoom.

How was my presentation received? Well to my amazement everyone was paying attention and not a single eye glazed over even when I mentioned the word "Constitution".

The work the Australian subcommittee had put into it was very well received and people were impressed by the amount of detail including so many quotations from Bapak.

Paloma De la Vina Ferrer presented her draft White Paper outlining the operation of Subud throughout the world. This seems to fit seamlessly with the Proposed Charter from Australia. She was a fantastic help with the Bapak quotes and will spread the news about our proposal when she travels.

[Other business...](#)

Muchtar Rawlings gave a brief summary of WSC. There was a basic thread throughout the meeting, encouraging increased integration and connection between the various aspects of Subud operations.

The International helpers provided invaluable support for delegates throughout the meeting. Extended silence breaks allowed delegates to reflect on the best way forward. WSA archives is moving ahead with reduced plans for the Canberra project and was very happy with the outcome. The issues in Subud India continue to be worked on with many WSA officers and International Helpers involved.

Mauricio gave a presentation about MSF. The resolution of the Amanecer transfer out of MSF responsibility has been beneficial to all parties. The locals are also happy to have a functioning latihan hall. There is a deadline for MSF applications - July 31, 2023. MSF will run grant application workshops online beforehand.

SESI reps Gaye Thavisin and Hammond Peak (via zoom) spoke about their willingness to review and support any enterprise proposals. Once again it became clear that most projects would involve Susila Dharma, SICA, SESI and other wings in order to achieve success, so integration was encouraged.

Member countries present gave their reports. The International Helpers reported that they have personal contact with some remote members in countries such as Iran and Vietnam.

Rusdi Bustillo reported on developments with World Congress. Modern hotels in Palangka Raya can house visitors to Congress in good quality accommodation and not too expensive. Local police permission has been granted to hold the Congress in January 2024 and permission is now being sought further up the chain of command. Final announcement about the precise dates of Congress >



Muchtar Rawlings from New Zealand. The Asian Zone Coordinator.



Amalia Lerrigo with a portrait of Bapak.

are expected to come by April.

We also investigated the possibility of whether Subud Australia could provide low-cost accommodation in the Eco Village for visitors to world Congress and at other times.

“ *I went around in my own little bubble of joy...* ”

I was welcomed...

I accompanied the Australian kejiwaan councillors on a river trip to see the orangutans who are being rehabilitated to the wild on an island near the village of Sei Gohong.

I twice went to visit Frederika and Jayadi, who have set up a permaculture project in Kalimantan. This includes a demonstration permaculture plantation to demonstrate the potential of this system for locals. They have also started an extremely successful café and Frederika has had outstanding success selling chocolate brownies. When I complimented her on a new car she told me it all come from selling the brownies.

I was welcomed everywhere I went. I went around in my own little bubble of joy. I sang a couple of songs at Mustafa's house and within an hour I had people calling me up to come and sing at their place and I was also invited to sing at the wedding of Atika and Noko in Rungan Sari. I learned that news spreads very fast in Kalimantan.

Subud Australia

PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS CONSTITUTIONAL WORKING PARTY AT THE 2024 KALIMANTAN SUBUD WORLD CONGRESS

1. Reviewing the Democratic and Representative Principles of Our Association

Subud Australia proposes that the national delegates and councillors at the 2024 Kalimantan World Subud Congress review the organizational framework and democratic, representative and consultative principles of our association in line with the guidance of YM Bapak Muhammad Subuh, the founder of our international Subud Association.

In support of this proposal, we present to Congress Subud Australia's 'Review of Bapak's Descriptions of the Organizational Framework and Principles of our Subud Association'. We also present for consideration by the delegates and councillors, a proposed alternative to the current Constitution, a 'Charter of the World Subud Association', that embraces the organizational framework and principles described by Bapak.

2. Incorporation in a Neutral Country

Subud Australia proposes that the World Subud Association establish an incorporated entity and office of the WSA in a neutral country, so that the way is open throughout the world for our Subud organization to engage in cordial relations with governments and social institutions in every country where Subud is established.

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/WSA-Constitution-Subcommittee-proposals-to-Perth-Congress.pdf>

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Review-of-Bapaks-Descriptions-of-the-Subud-Association.pdf>

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2024-WSA-Charter.pdf>

Asking Forgiveness

Asmaniah Fraval, a former chair of Subud Australia and a former international helper, recalls an experience in Wisma Subud in Ramadan. From an interview with Genevieve Hayward for Our Subud Story...

When I was about 20, I went to Indonesia for Ramadan. I had three weeks off work. Ramadan had already started so I was here for the end of Ramadan.

This was the first time I'd been to Indonesia and at the end of Ramadan there's Idul Fitri and in Indonesia it's a really big thing across the whole nation. Families travel, usually to be with the oldest members of the family.

The way they ask for forgiveness in Indonesia is called *sunkum*, where you kneel and you put your head on the knee of the elder and they give you their blessing. I didn't know any of this and at one stage in the evening people started lining up to go to Bapak and Ibu Sumari who were sitting in chairs.

When people got a little distance away, they got onto their knees and basically moved forward on their knees. So I followed and took my turn, having no idea about anything.

I put my head on Bapak's knee and he put his hand on my head and said "Ya, ya" and I can only say it was like when Jesus forgave people their sins like you hear about in the Bible. It was just like my whole being had been wiped clean. It was just the most amazing experience and something I have never forgotten.

It was such a confirmation, well I didn't really need confirmation, but it was I suppose my own experience of the real Bapak and who he was.

During that time I also saw the other side of Bapak, where he walked around in his singlet and joked and teased Ibu Sumari and was very normal. But when he was in that other state he was very extraordinary. He always said, "I'm an ordinary man" and yes, he was, but he was also very extraordinary.

Ramadan talks by Bapak and Ibu Rahayu are available from www.subudlibrary.net



A dancer in Javanese costume doing sunkum to Bapak at the end of Ramadan.

Farewell to Amanecer

Ashwin Rajaraman continues the story of his Colombian Adventure...

Soon it was time to say goodbye to Amanecer and its beautiful inhabitants, but not before celebrating the 30th birthday of Amanecer with a selamatan and dancing and handing over of the Amanecer centre to its true owners in a sense – let me explain – MSF Chair Mauricio held a meeting with Elias (translating for Mauricio) and others from WSA and informed, to thunderous applause and cheering, that the Grand Salon was sold to a Subud entity, GHFP.

When I went to take leave, one by one, of the 30 or so brothers and sisters of Amanecer, one offered to find me a house to rent and live there and another went further to suggest she could find a house for me to buy! Bismark and his lovely wife Monica insisted on driving me around for half a day, showing me places to photograph traditional houses, landscape, and birds in and around La >



A Subud Sister, Bismark and Olivia in Amanecer.

Tebaida, Quindio and in the district.

And the lovely young local sister Olivia Garcia showed her research and professional skills in organising the rest of my Colombian adventure by finding me beautiful boutique hotels to stay in Cali, Medellin and Bogota and booking my internal low cost air tickets and several day tours for whale and bird watching and city tours in all the three cities. Take a bow Olivia, thanks a ton and surely you should start that touring company as an enterprise!

I took leave of Marcelo last, the fine gentleman who ran the restaurant in Amanacer (and who took care of my strictly vegetarian meal regimen day in and day out), bid goodbyes to Bismark and Monica after a relishing dinner at their home and several brothers and sisters from Colombia whom I met and forged relationships of friendship and brotherhood, with a promise to return soon one day.

I had but one last thing to do and I casually mentioned to Viktor that Bismark was indeed ready to be opened and hopefully Viktor was able to convey it to the local helpers before he left for Brazil with Elias. And I took a bus to Cali with another Subud brother who was travelling there for the next phase of my Colombian adventure.

To read some more of Ashwin's Colombian adventures, click here <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CALI.pdf>

To view Aswin's videos click the links below:

CAPTIVATING CALI, <https://youtu.be/W39q22knzUQ>

WATCHING WHALES click <https://youtu.be/z2VR-MPDXqs>

MESMERIZING MEDELLIN, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziPHf9nbeRY&t=11s>



Traditional house with decorated ceiling.

“ I casually mentioned to Viktor that Bismark was indeed ready to be opened...”

From Activist to Artist: the Ripple Effect

Artist Andia Cally had a recent exhibition, *The Ripple Effect*, at the Small Works Gallery in the town of Murwillumbah on the north coast of New South Wales, Australia. Her work is nature inspired and at the opening of her exhibition, she spoke about how she has been transformed from an activist to an artist.

Three years ago, water and its ripple effects on the surrounding sand inspired me to pick up a camera and create my sandscape series.

Water's imprints in the sand mirrored the larger canvas of the world resembling whales, angels, saints, trees, sacred geometry and so much more. The experience re-minded me of something I already knew—that we are deeply and spiritually interconnected, with the earth and all its inhabitants.

In the west, we have been taught to see nature



The Ripple Effect from Andia's recent exhibition at the Small Works Gallery.

as something separate from ourselves, something we must either compete with, commodify, and conquer, or in my case, as something that needs saving.

For years I had a dysfunctional relationship with nature. Since childhood she was my church, my refuge and my place of grounding, but as I learned about how imperilled she was I focused on the obstacles.

I signed petitions, went to protests, wrote about it and staged sustainability events.

Compared to the big corporate and political interests, I felt like people and the planet couldn't prevail over power and profit.

I felt angry, alienated and embittered about the world. I was disconnected from myself, others and the earth.

In 2011, I got a tap on the shoulder from Mother Nature with an invitation to view her through a different lens. She started sharing hearts in nature, "living love letters". As I began to photograph these hearts, transforming them into collage cards that I sold, I felt my vibration change as I connected with Mother Nature's beauty and abundance.

When the card business and my women's circles didn't sustain me, I returned to the sustainability sector and became even more disenchanted and disillusioned with the world.

In 2020 the next tap came. Finally, I got it. I heard her voice loud and clear. The way to serve myself and the planet wasn't by focusing on her shortcomings, but by doing what I love, art, in a way that showcased my muse, Mother Nature, in all her love and light.

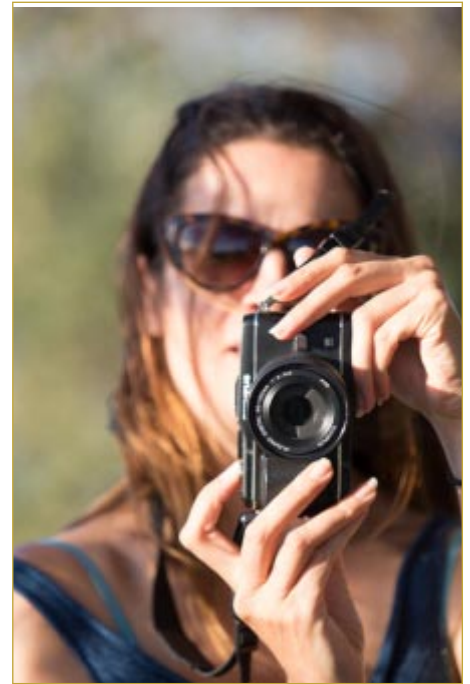
I started sharing my sandscape images on social media with some accompanying words, with no goal or agenda. The response was encouraging, so I continued. I never would have dreamed that two years later I would host my first solo exhibition, attract a capacity crowd and sell more than 60%.

Rumi wrote. *"You are not a drop in the ocean; you are the entire ocean in a drop"*. How we use that drop in the world is the question. We each have a choice in which seed we water. If we water the obstacle we separate ourselves from each other and the earth. It's a bit like watering a weed that takes root and takes over, reinforcing a feeling of hopelessness and scarcity.

Alternatively, if we water the seed of opportunity it connects us with our purpose, with each other and the planet. This is akin to watering and nurturing native plants, which will restore the soil and attract microbes, creating a beautiful garden, a legacy for future generations.

When we come from a place of abundance and opportunity we can rise together as a mighty ocean, creating positive ripples for our community and future generations.

To see more of Andia's work, go to <https://www.andiacally.art>



Andia Cally.
(Photo: Jeremy Melder)

“

We can rise together as a mighty ocean, creating positive ripples for our community...

”

Letter to the Editor

Ismail Fido writes...

Dear Harris,

I read your article about Dervis Pavlovic and his painting "Eden" in the March 2023 issue of Subud Voice with great interest.

This reminded me of the fact that Bapak actually said that there was not one Adam and Eve but that humanity originated separately in five different places.

Dervis seemed to have a rather pessimistic view of the way world events are proceeding, with the idea that some sort of nuclear holocaust is pending. I am not sure that this is true. I am reminded >

of the Fatima revelation, which I believe to be true and in which a pathway to prevent World War Two was clearly shown.

Many people, including Pope Francis, are trying to bring peace to the Ukraine in a totally non-partisan way. I pray they are successful. If Almighty God wills, he can neutralise the plans of Putin, Zelensky, Biden and all the others. More weapons, more killing and more devastation are not the answer. There is an alternative.

I live in Hope, which I believe is a primary Christian virtue. Recent events, both in my life and in the world, have brought home to me the genuine truth of religion, particularly Christianity and Islam, the two world religions that I have had most experience of.

Regards, Ismail Fido

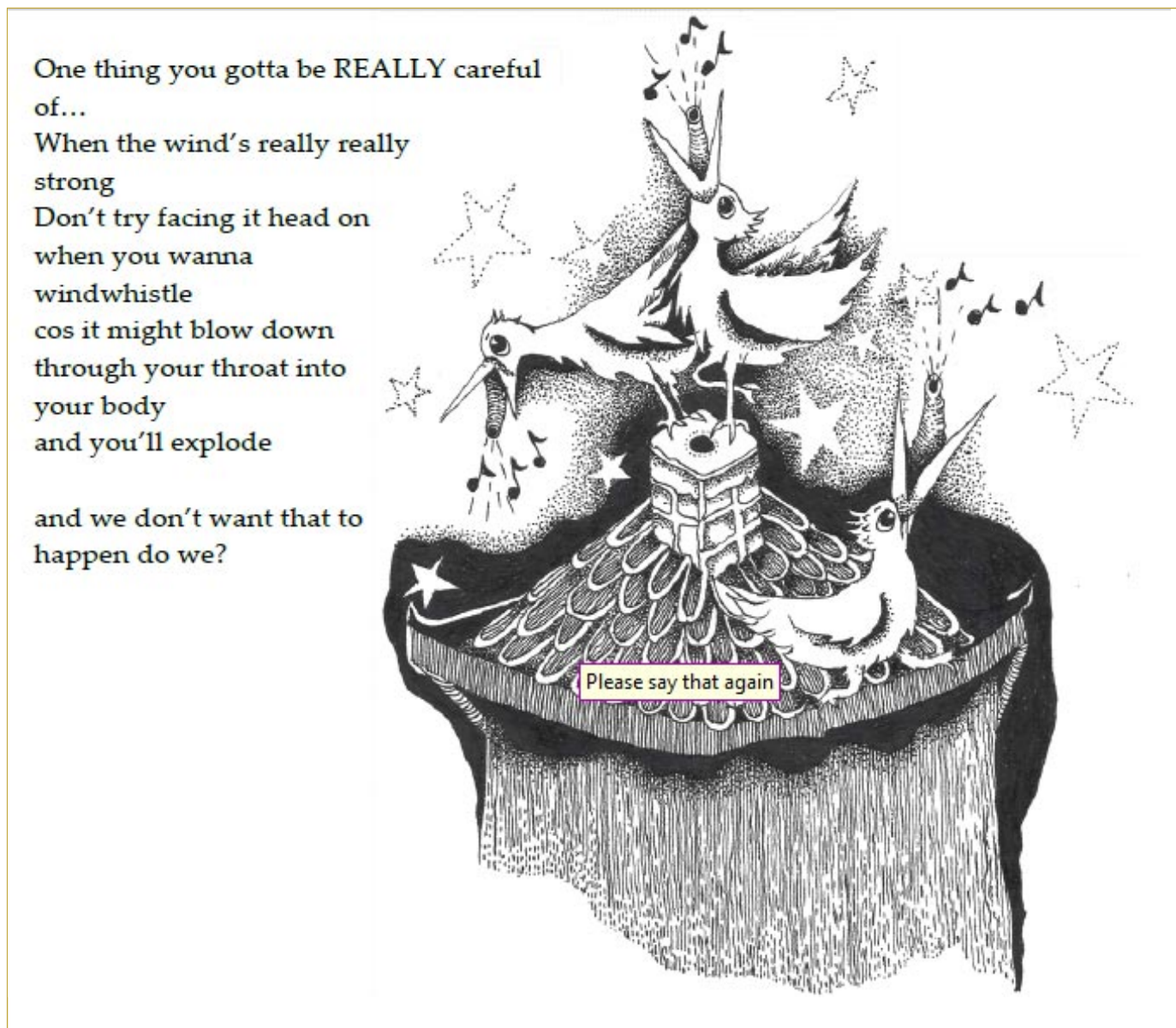
Hi Ismail

I don't think that Dervis intended to say these dire events will definitely happen, but they are clearly in the world as possibilities, possibilities we hope will not come true, and certainly there are many positive initiatives and forces in the world, such as the ones you mention.

Best wishes, Harris

Imaginary Birds

New book from Emmanuel Williams, reviewed by Harris Smart...



THE CRONK, The ABC of Imaginary Birds, is a new book by the indefatigable and prolific Emmanuel Williams, 83 and not out and still producing new books.

This new book *The Cronk* carries on the tradition of his previous book *Yesterday's Flycatcher* in which poems of his were illustrated by Hannah Kusterer. Hannah continues to illustrate this book though there are also some illustrations by Janie Beckwith.

In the introduction Emmanuel says...

Inventing imaginary creatures is something human beings have enjoyed doing for centuries. Dragons are a popular example, as are unicorns, goblins, mermaids, minotaurs, and werewolves.

There's the Hobbit, of course, and the Pobble who has no toes. And Jabberwocky.

So this ABC of Imaginary Birds is part of a rich tradition, one that I enjoyed in my earlier career as a teacher reading Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear to children and, later, reading Kafka's *Metamorphosis* to college students.

As I wrote each poem I imagined that the bird that I was writing about was actually speaking. Also, as a poet, I varied the format of the poems, so there are some that are free verse and others written in traditional form using rhyme and regular metre.

The beauty of such books is not only appreciating how clever Emmanuel is at writing poems about imaginary birds, and how brilliant his illustrators are at interpreting his intentions, the real pleasure is in having a go at yourself which Emanuel very much encourages by writing some suggestions about how to do it at the end of the book.

This is a very good book to give children to help them kickstart their imaginations, and even better it is a beautiful and fun thing for an adult and a child to do together.

CREATING IMAGINARY BIRDS

Creating your own Imaginary Birds is fun. Here's a list of names to get you going: *Aireeoh* * *Beakaboo* * *Cresty* * *Coaster* * *Darkeyes* * *Egghead* * *Federball Flyaway* * *Gatebird* * *Hawkeye* * *Hovva* * *Invisible* * *Jungular* * *Kriss Kross* * *Longbird* * *Lovenote* * *Melodium* * *Mimick* * *Nester* * *Oink* * *Peckleberry* * *Plomp* * *Ploominoomi* * *Queenie* * *Rainbird* * *Rockpecker* * *Skimmer* * *Soar* * *Tweetle pops* * *Tinkle* * *Yesbird* * *Viva* * *Wuzzeau* * *Xit* * *Yonderbird* * *Yellowbelly* * *Zonal*.

Here are some suggestions: It might help you get started if you ask yourself questions:

Where does it live, this bird? (Remember, this is poetry. Your bird could live in clouds, or in a volcano, or behind a waterfall, or on top of a dog kennel).

How big is it? What color is its beak? Does it have a sweet song, or a harsh scream, or a caw caw? Does it have a nest? What does it eat? Does it have any special skills or talents, like singing classical music, or flying backwards, or juggling eggs, or riding dolphins? Write the poem as though your imaginary bird is speaking. You might try drawing a picture of it.

Subud Alpujarra Current Project – Development of Southlands...

Andrew Bromley writes...



Having built our new Latihan halls in 2016, we bought a section of land around half a hectare or 2 acres, South of the halls, in 2020 with the help of MSF. We had no immediate plans to develop it - the main reason for the purchase was to facilitate the change of use of the Subud Centre for meetings.

To read the full story click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Southlands-stage.pdf>

Writing the History of Subud

Daniela Moneta writes...

Help Needed

We bring before you a serious matter. It is a number one priority of any organization to see that their history is collected and written. We at the WSA International Archives are concerned about this, as our Subud history is far from complete. We have a plan, outlined below, as this is now a high priority for our Subud organization. We ask you to consider if you might be of assistance.



3rd World Congress – Bapak and Usman with Congress agenda on blackboard. (Photo by Rachman Cantrell, 1967)

What Bapak and Ibu Rahayu Said About Archives

In a talk given at Wisma Subud at the Heritage Protection Project Meeting, Cilandak, 30 July 2013, Ibu Rahayu said: “So, it seems that people are being led to have more understanding about the soul. That is why I have explained that the archives are the source for Subud. They should be preserved for all time, because as long as we have the archives and they are professionally managed, Subud will not lose its source.”

In the photo below, taken at the 1967 World Congress, notice on the blackboard behind Bapak that archives were an important subject and continued to be at many of our World Congresses.

Bapak responded to a letter in 1977 from Mary Thomson, then Chair of Subud International Archives in England, that there should be five international archives located in England, Japan, Australia, and the United States, and in Wisma Subud where his collection already existed.

These international collections, as well as national archive collections, needed to contain the historical records of Bapak’s fifteen World Journeys made from 1957 to 1983 and the activities of Subud in our various countries. The archives are important as a resource to ensure the authenticity and integrity of our organization and to show how it developed and grew.

Our Current Situation

With the passing of Harlinah Longcroft, the history of Subud beyond 1959 is at risk. We have Rashidah Pope, who has agreed to work on and publish Book 3 of the History of Subud, which ends in 1959 at the First Subud World Congress. What about the rest of Subud history beyond the time members attended this First World Congress in Coombe Springs, and returned to their homes around the world to start new Subud groups? Who is writing this history?

An Impressive Achievement

Germany has provided us with an excellent and successful model of what other countries might do to write their history. In 2015, the five international WSA archivists were invited to Wolfsburg by the new German WSA Executive Committee. We saw at this meeting the draft of a book prepared by Heinrich and Ricarda Siegmund and Viktor Boehm, of Volume 1 of *Aus der Archiv*.

“ *These German volumes serve as an excellent example to other countries* ”

The book has since been published. It covered 1957 to 1958 during the time that Subud Germany’s first executive committee was in session. Since 2017 eight of these historic volumes have been published, 1957-1971, and averaging 300 to 400 pages in each volume.

With Viktor’s help, these books are now cataloged in German, with every word searchable on the WSA Archives website. These volumes are filled with reports and photographs, as well as transcriptions of correspondence of committee members with other committees around the world. This time period (1957-1971) set the stage for the German National Committee to become the >

International Subud Committee (ISC), from 1971 until the 5th Subud World Congress in 1975 in Wolfsburg. These German volumes serve as an excellent example to other countries for how to write their history. If you are interested and want to see these volumes on the WSA Archives website, send an email to: admin@wsaarchives.org and we can set you up for access.

Work Currently in Progress

We have been discussing whether we can translate this German history into other languages, such as Spanish, French, English, Indonesian, etc. We will ask the German Archives and their committee, as well as the WSA Translation team, if they think DeepL or Google Translate (machine translators) can do the job of translating these historic records. Viktor thinks this might work and has agreed to start this project.

These publications show Subud Germany in the very beginning of its existence and how its committee corresponded with other countries. They describe Bapak's visits to Germany, in detail, with excellent photographs and films. Bapak visited Germany eleven times between 1957 and 1983. Bapak also visited many other countries; see Faisal Sillem's Bapak's Travel Log for details.

Faisal's book is available on the WSA Archives website: just open the document and do a search on your country's name and see how often Bapak visited you. By searching the WSA online database on your country's name, many articles about your country's history will come up, written contemporaneously with the events.

Writing a good history involves searching out real, verifiable accounts of what occurred, and citing these accounts and reports, so we have evidence of what really happened. The German publications bring up all the important issues that early committees had, while forming their national organizations. Some of this information might be relevant and helpful today.

Our Plan for Developing a Project to Write the Continuing History of Subud

In the USA, we have thousands of letters, committee and kejiwaan reports, congress proceedings, wing reports, correspondence, lots of interviews, newsletters and photographs: everything we need to write the history of Subud in the United States. Canada has the same material; so do the UK and other European countries; as well as Australia, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Colombia, Chile, and so on. Why are these countries not writing their history - or are they? If so, who is coordinating all of this? The five WSA international archives could be the resource for information needed to help write these histories. The WSA Archives website has thousands of documents and other searchable records that could be used for this project. As mentioned, recently, in a letter to the WSA Executive Committee: as archivists, we know what to do to collect evidence for writing our Subud history. How can we share this with the rest of our members?

Are You Interested in Helping With This Project?

Or even being a Project Coordinator for your country?

So maybe we could create a team of Subud writers, journalists, researchers, and reporters who would be willing to help write the continuing history of Subud. The first step is "collecting", which we need to start soon. We already have a lot of history recorded in local, regional, national, zonal, and international newsletters, and many published reports. It is the "uncollected" material - on members' computers, in peoples' desks, in closets, and under beds that we need to get the full story. Interviewing both older and younger members on tape or video is also important.

We already have hundreds of interviews of older members, made at congresses and other gatherings; unfortunately, there are many pioneer members who have not been interviewed yet.

These include people who were helpers; those who worked on local committees; and those who started enterprises, social projects, and worked in the arts. This history writing project might involve the younger generation of Subud members; those who will carry on, after the older pioneer members leave this earth.

We ask that you let us know if you are interested in developing or working on this kind of project. Please email your questions and your ideas about our Subud History to: admin@wsaarchives.org

For further information click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Subud-history.pdf>

Sudarto – Four Parts of a Receiving

Mas Sudarto Martohudjojo was a highly respected member of the Subud Sekretariat in Wisma Subud...

From a letter to a Subud member in South Africa.

In reply to your letter, you are informed herewith that, in order to carry out what you have received in the Latihan kejiwaan of Subud, you should act more carefully. If the receiving is not yet sufficiently clear, and you are still troubled about it, it is better for you to wait until it is very clear and logical, because if the receiving is in contradiction with the rules of religion, the law or customs, then if you carry it out it will only add to your errors. I will give you an example:



Sudarto.

1. A member received in the Latihan that he had to make a trip around Java by train. This indication touched only the ESSENCE, because at that time he had no money, the condition of his health was not good, and it was not possible for him to leave his job.
2. Three months later, the same member received the same indication, but his state was quite different; his health was good and he had enough money, but it was impossible for him to leave his work as a school teacher.
3. After two more months, the same member received the same indication, and at that time he had enough money, his health was good and he was able to leave his teaching because it was the time of the holidays.
4. If that member carried out that indication at that time, and if his feeling-heart and mind were in support of its fulfilment, the indication would become practical

From the example given above we are aware that a true indication should fulfill four basic conditions: The essence... The time... The person... And reality.

Printed in Subud North America Quarterly, Summer 1968

The Third Dream: Arrowism

Lucas Horton writes...

I have now had three important dreams where I was interacting with Bapak Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo, the founder of Subud.

The first two dreams were back in the 1970s and early 80s, each one was very clear, meaningful and useful, where I was being taught some things that have become a core part of how I view this life, this world. I will write about them some other time.

The third and most recent dream was on the 21st night of Ramadan in 2020 and it was certainly as much, if not more, meaningful than the first two. The dream went like this...

I, and many other Subud members were attending some sort of Subud meeting/plenary meeting when Bapak turned up on stage, and it was clear he had been away for a fairly long time and it was as if he had been called back, somewhat to his own surprise, and it was clear that he had not been keeping an eye on us.

He said, 'Where is everybody?'

Next, he said 'Why isn't anybody doing anything? No-one is having any adventures.'

Then he turned to me and asked me my name, Lucas I said.

'Well, Lucas, I can see that you and your friends have received about 60% of what I have received and now I want you to invent something.'

Eh Yes, Bapak

'I want you to invent 'Arrowism'. You are the arrow. Find something that needs to be done, something that needs to be achieved that needs you and your friends to work together. Do some project where you can have an adventure. That is the target. You are the arrow.'

That was the end of the dream.

The meaning of the dream...

Since then, I have been wondering about the meaning of the dream for me, apart from the obvious. At its heart for me it's about the difference between being and doing. It's all very well developing spiritually, but you also need to engage in doing something useful in the physical universe of our lives.

My impression of attending Bapak's talks in person was that he would start off his talks with 'Brothers and sisters of the spiritual brotherhood of Subud... and...and he would end his talks with...'and that is the importance of Enterprises'.

This is what originally attracted me to Subud. That on the one side there were no intermediaries, no gurus, no teaching, just a direct contact with the Power of God, and on the other side he was talking to people who prefer doing to being, or at least were as comfortable doing stuff as being.

I thought that Subud was for optimistic people, entrepreneurs, creative people who wanted to participate in changing the world, not just perfecting themselves spiritually. That is still how I feel today even though this element seems to have long since disappeared from Subud.

In my experience everything in dreams means something, so let's go through them in detail.

Firstly, Bapak was surprised about having been called back and his first impression was that there were fewer Subud members around than he had expected. He expected a lot more people to be around and for members to be a lot more active.

The question about having adventures is interesting and is a different story to Enterprises. 'Having adventures' is something more basic to the human experience than creating or 'doing enterprises'. Having an adventure is about trying something new, something challenging, and fundamentally it should be fun even if it is also a little bit scary! Imagine that, having fun doing stuff in the world. The way to heaven!

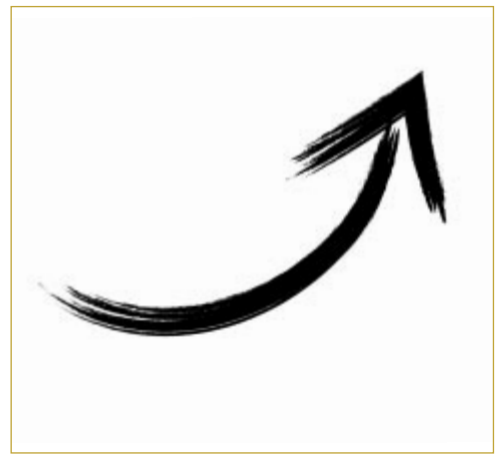
The significance of 60%...

The 60% is interesting and it was very specific. 60% is more than halfway, but way below the full potential. It occurs to me that it implies that only after we have been through a certain amount of purification that we can do the stuff that needs to be done. Maybe it is only now after 50 years of spiritual experience, 50 years of life experience, that we can understand the need to be active in the world, and to have fun doing it.

We can do this, but we have to work from different place. That is certainly the case with me. At 71, I have a different type of energy than I had when I was 21. I don't think it is less, it's just a bit more focussed, a bit more tempered with experience.

Now when I consider a course of action, there is a 'taste of reality' that guides me one way rather than another. I don't have it all the time and I am not saying that I am infallible. In fact, I am just as prone to error as I ever was, it's just that sometimes when I do something it feels 'easy'. This is because I have a talent for it or have honed a skill for it over the years.

Having said that I am also aware that I can still avoid doing things, I can shirk things and put off doing stuff and I have recently understood something about how we have to be to get things done, which involves overcoming difficulties. There is a tendency that I feel when facing problems outside and negativity inside that I get pushed off track, I turn my face away from the problem.



You are the arrow. Find something that needs to be done. something that needs to be achieved...

This, I now recognise as 'leaning out'. The metaphor is that the wind blows me over away from my objective. In this instance I have come to understand that when faced with difficulties, I need to 'lean in' to the problem, I need to lean into the difficulty.

“ *It's by engaging in an outer project that these difficulties get exposed...* ”

In the process we face our fears and realise that maybe what we thought was a problem with a factor 10 was only a problem factor 5 if we hunker down and face the problem. Some say it is facing the shadow inside each of us.

This is the whole point of trying to do something in the world. It is only when we try to achieve something in the outside world that we come face to face with what is inside each of us. We find what the obstacles and dark spots we have in our character.

These are blind spots that we hide from ourselves. It's by engaging in an outer project that these inner difficulties get exposed. It's painful, but it is necessary in the way that just following a spiritual practice without outer action cannot and does not achieve.

The other aspect of the dream was that we should try to do stuff with our friends. Each of us have some spark, or collection of sparks, but we don't have it all, no-one does. Working with other people means that we have to come to respect each other, listen to each other. We have to find the common ground and move forward together. We can only do that when we have been through something together, shared something important together, actually to have shared our pain together.

Lastly, 'Arrowism' although a little difficult to say, being the Arrow does sum up how we need to be if we want to achieve something.

So 'be the arrow'.

Dream 1 Video link: <https://youtu.be/pzXLwH-dM>

Dream 2 Video link: <https://youtu.be/QzGGzUV0aAE>

Dream 3 Video link: <https://youtu.be/LGek984ALuY>

Trucking' the Tarikat, Hitchin' the Hakikat'

A personal overview of some contemporary non-Subud Truth Seekers

Dachlan Cartwright writes...

Rationale

I'm not a scholar; I'm a librarian, (and an obscure, ageing, poet, lol).

And I read a lot of books. As a Subud member of some 60 years standing (and shouting, chanting, running around, and being still), my impulse now is to share with other Subud members (and certain others) some observations from reading about other groups and movements, which have, or claim to have, a spiritual purpose.



My friends and I were regular visitors to the Cavern (witnessing history in the making)...

Most of these can be classified under the "Tarikat" (Quest, Search, Way). We in Subud believe that we've been blessed by the "Hakikat" (Grace), and, *ergo*, many of us will believe that there's no point in getting interested in a stage of spiritual progress that we no longer need, one that we've "left behind".

But let's not get too smug. These other groups consist of sincere people, and as now is supposed to be the Dawn of the Age of Aquarius, let's take a tour around the room and get >

to know its other occupants.

As Muhammad s.a.w. said, “Seek Knowledge, even in China.” Each Subud member is a unique piece of a jigsaw, and many of you will have different conclusions about what is here written about. That is as it should be.

I should also add that this kind of writing has two potential target audiences. The first is Subud members of the present day. The second is Subud members, and possibly others, say 200 years down the track, assuming Subud grows and spreads as we hope it will.

These future readers, if they are Subud members, would naturally be interested, but social historians and the like would also be interested in the things a cross-section of humanity got up to in 2022.

Especially because our membership is unique – it seems to be a quota sample of the world. That is why all Subud members are encouraged to write their autobiographies, for deposit in the Subud Archives.

This is not a compilation of books and media on Subud. That’s another story. (Salamah Pope’s two books have been included because of their relevance to one of the themes.)

As I’ve just celebrated my 80th birthday, and not knowing how much longer I’m going to be around, I just want to leave some life conclusions, however repetitive and banal others may find them, for my family and friends.

As I age, I realize the truth of the adage, that as you get older it’s not the things that you did that you regret, but the things you didn’t do. I also find helpful a quotation from Marguerite Yourcenar’s novel *Memoirs of Hadrian*, when Hadrian comments on his predecessor Trajan:

“He had reached that moment in his life... when a man abandons himself to his demon or his genius.” It’s true for all of us, whether you’re one of the greatest of Roman emperors, or a man on the Birkenhead ferry, and I would go further and add that your demon and your genius tends to become the same thing, lol.

Finally, as an honorary Indonesian, I apologize in advance for anything that I have written that is out of place.

To read about the influences that shaped Dachlan as a young man. click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/existentialist.pdf>

“

Each Subud member is a unique piece of a jigsaw...

”

The Passing of Rachman Palmer

The local helpers of Subud California at San Diego regret to inform you of the passing of our brother and friend Rachman (Reynold) Palmer. Rachman was a long time member of the San Diego group, since the early 80s. He was devoted to the latihan, a local helper, and for many years a dedicated informal caretaker of our local Subud hall.

Urgent update

Following this recent message about the passing of Rachman Palmer, the members of the Subud San Diego Center have learned that, in order to finalize arrangements, it is necessary to locate a family member for him.

If you have any information about Rachman's family members, or friends who may know his family, please email Stephen Kelley at rosommon10@gmail.com or call him on +1 (858) 829-5828.

Your help is very much appreciated. Rachman was a close friend to many of the Australian members, so we felt it was important that the Australian Subud Community are notified.

The San Diego group also wishes to ask if anyone in Australia might know who Rachman's next of kin are as they currently do not know.



Rachman (Reynold) Palmer.

Regional Gathering on the Sunshine Coast

About 50 members gathered from Queensland and New South Wales in Australia to attend a regional kejiwaan gathering on the weekend beginning Friday, March 17.



*Over the course of the weekend about 50 people attended the gathering.
(Drone photograph and other photos by Stephen Armytage)*

The venue was the Subud group on Queensland's Sunshine Coast where a small but dedicated Subud group has created excellent facilities for latihan and gatherings.

The history of the group goes back to 2014 when a Subud member from Brisbane, Renee Goetz, went looking for a place to retire to on the Sunshine Coast.



Relief from the extreme heat in the property's swimming pool.

She found a property of 11 acres, which included residential accommodation and other buildings on three of those acres, while eight acres remained as pristine bushland.



At lunch in the new hall. Excellent meals were provided throughout the gathering by Charlotte Evans.

In the years since then, as Renee aged, she had to go into residential care, and she handed ownership of the property over to the Subud group. Two halls were created for latihan. One was developed out of a large garage and the other was a hall developed by the previous owners who were running a Sunday school program for children.

Then a couple of years ago in a violent storm a tree fell on the latter building. Through an insurance payment, and additional financial assis- >

tance from Subud Australia, this hall was rebuilt to a much higher standard which includes a kitchen and toilet facilities making it much more suitable for gatherings.

This provided the venue for the March regional gathering which was organised by Jonathan Evans and his wife Charlotte. From Friday afternoon, through Saturday and onto Sunday morning there was a packed program of latihan and kejiwaan sessions balanced by recreational activities like swimming in the pool and going for bushwalks.

National helper, Stephen Armytage, provided these photographs of the event and summed up its spirit by saying: "This was a really great experience for me and for everybody else I talked to. What was really amazing, was how the fruits of the latihan and testing really all manifested when we got in the swimming pool. There was a great game of volleyball there involving the men, the women and the kids and it was a really blessed experience. The whole weekend took us out of our usual routines, especially for those of us who went camping. There is no beating the camaraderie of camping. I would love to see more kejiwaan camping events!"

Network Passport – April Dates

Margarita Fisco writes from Susila Dharma International...

The first two 2023 Network Passport Series will take place on Apr 8th & 22nd via Zoom.

This series began in 2021 to provide a platform for the projects that belong to the SDIA Network and show their work, accomplishments, struggles, etc. This way, people within and outside Subud can know about them.

These two first sessions are special since both are not necessarily related to SD projects. Rosanna and Livingston have been great collaborators of SD (as you know, Rosanna was also chair of SDIA) and, coincidentally, both are launching their books, so we want to invite them to participate in the series to tell about the launching of their books and how their relationship with SD has impacted their lives.

Rosanna's book is a Memoir *Swimming in Stories*

(<https://vedahille.com/rosanna-hille-swimming-in-stories/?v=5bc574a47246>).

so her session will consist mainly of book reading with her daughter.

Livingston's one will be an interview showing the other side of his life as a photographer besides being a lawyer and "the making of" his latest book *Homeless*:

(<https://www.tgpublishing.com.au/our-books/homeless-livingston-armytage>).

For further information and registration to the sessions, people can contact us here:

news@susiladharm.org

SUSILA DHARMA IN MY LIFE

NETWORK PASSPORT SERIES

SPECIAL SESSIONS

SAVE THE DATES

APRIL 8 & 22 2023

MORE INFO TO FOLLOW

Interview with:
Livingston Armytage & The
launch of his new book: "Homeless."
April 8

Book Reading:
"Swimming in Stories"
by Rosanna & Veda Hille
April 22

They Were There – *The Best of Subud Voice Volume 3*

Compiled by Ilaina Lennard

- * Early meetings with Bapak * The Charismatics and the Quakers
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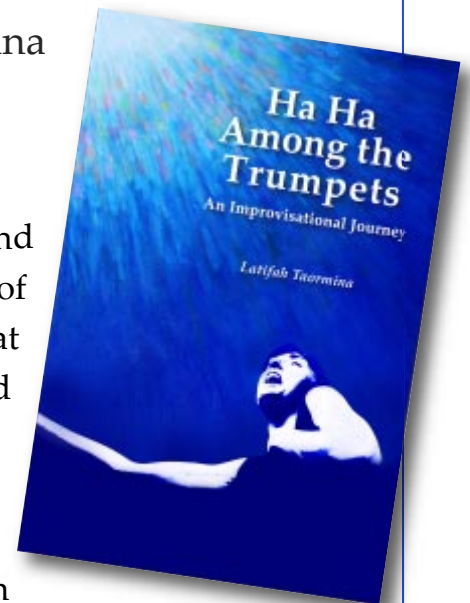
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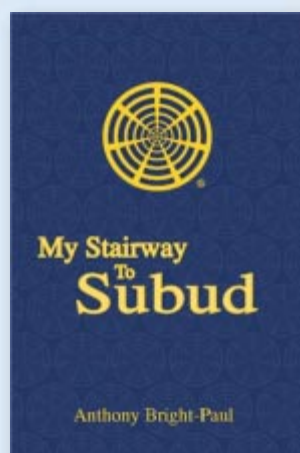
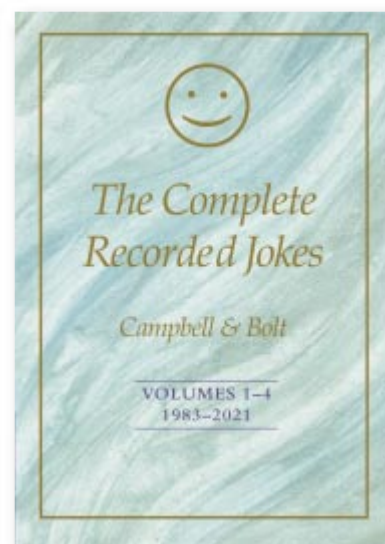
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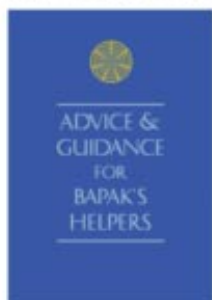
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