



## MEETINGS WITH IBU RAHAYU

*Halimah Polk, a Subud member from California has sent us a series of articles about meetings and conversations she had with Ibu Rahayu. We publish the first of these in this issue and the others will be in successive issues. Halimah writes...*

These interviews represent meaningful conversations I was lucky enough to have with Ibu Rahayu from 1974 -1994. It wasn't too hard to meet with Ibu during the time I lived in the Wisma Subud community from 74-77 and two of the interviews are from that time. I was living at the compound and working at the nearby International School.

The second two meetings were held after I had left Indonesia and returned to California where I settled. In both of these cases I flew back to Indonesia to recover from slings and arrows that had befallen me – to recover some of lightness and happiness and closeness to my soul I felt while living at Wisma Subud.

Ibu Rahayu was kind enough to meet with me on these two occasions as well. What prompted me to write up these interviews was not so much my story, but the feeling that I should share the invaluable guidance that I received from Ibu in hopes that it might as helpful to my sisters and brothers as it was for me. As I write these stories I am humbled by a sense of gratitude. In all cases these moments were incredibly beneficent.

### **FIRST MEETINGS WITH IBU RAHAYU 1974**

*By Halimah Polk. This is the first in series of articles in which Halimah writes about conversations she had with Ibu Rahayu...*

*Some background: A memorable dream...*

This story begins during the World Congress in Indonesia at Wisma Subud in 1971. During that amazing event, I spent my days basking in the latihan, Bapak's talks and testing sessions, rehearsing with the Subud >



*Ibu Rahayu at the Christchurch World Congress.  
(Sahlan McKingley)*

“ I felt I should share the invaluable guidance that I received from Ibu... ”

### **SUBMISSIONS AND DONATIONS**

Submissions to Subud Voice on any aspect of Subud life are welcomed. Send to Harris Smart, [subudvoice@gmail.com](mailto:subudvoice@gmail.com) We rely on donations to keep Subud Voice going. You can donate by going to the PAYMENTS button which is located in the toolbar at the top of the page. [www.subudvoice.net](http://www.subudvoice.net)

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Symphony Orchestra led by Dean Dixon, shopping for batiks at the Subud stalls that had been set up all around the compound, schmoozing with old and new friends from around the world at the different tropical bistros and of course searching for a Subud husband (no luck at that time).

I did, however, fall madly in love with Wisma Subud and Indonesia as did so many of us. During one of the final days of the Congress, I forcefully extracted myself from this blissful cocoon to visit the Joint Embassy School (now called Jakarta International School – JIS) where several Subud brothers and sisters living at Wisma Subud taught.

At the time, I was a credentialed schoolteacher in the USA so it was reasonable to hope for a position at JES so I could stay on in Indonesia. When I arrived, I was sorely disappointed to find the school was closed down completely for holidays. I remember taking a lovely betjak ride through the lush, green rice paddies that surrounded the school as I returned to the Wisma Subud and the Congress. At that point, I put the entire notion of teaching in Indonesia out of my head.

After the Congress ended, I returned home to Carmel Valley, but with no place to stay – to save money I had given up my apartment before leaving for Indonesia. Luckily, Roger and Laurice Grafstein, invited me to live with them temporarily. Just outside their house, they had a tiny white trailer charmingly nestled near their chicken coop and vegetable garden (Laurice’s pride and joy).

It was mid-August, so the days were warm and the nights just a little bit cooler – perfect weather for sleeping in a trailer outside. Those weeks after the World Congress were almost as blissful as the Congress itself. I spent many hours at the Carmel Valley Subud house, more hours sharing with Laurice and Roger mementos of the Congress, hanging out with their young three-year-old daughter Ellen, and then in the evening I would snuggle into my wee trailer home, read a bit and fall asleep.

It was there in that trailer, so relaxed and blissed out, that I had a luminous Bapak dream. In the dream, Bapak came to me and said (you’re going to laugh) you should come live in Cilandak and teach school there. And in the dream, I remember protesting to Bapak, “But, Bapak, I was just there!” I was inwardly gnashing my teeth. Literally I was just two weeks out from being right there in Indonesia and riding the betjak over to the Joint Embassy School looking for work. Even so, I knew this dream was the real deal. It was 4AM and inwardly and outwardly, I was as quiet and clear as a serene mountain lake.

Being young and very sincere in Subud, I made humongous efforts to follow the guidance in this dream right away. Of course, my last cent had been spent going over to Indonesia and attending the World Congress and I was due to start back teaching in a few weeks time.

Nonetheless, I trotted off to my bank to request a loan to “follow my guidance” but they were not about to give me a penny; in fact, no one was. So, after a few months of floundering around, I settled into my teaching which was sorely demanding and proceeded to COMPLETELY forget about this dream and the guidance I had received.

### *An untimely death...*

That is, until three years later. In 1974, I was finishing up my third year of teaching with the Pacific Grove School District and had just been offered tenure. I was still living in Carmel Valley and was part of a very dynamic Subud group with a beautiful Subud house.

In May of that year one of our young members, Leonard Roberts, who had come to us from Indonesia where he had



*Ibu Rahayu as a young woman.*

“ *It seems my destiny was to live in Wisma Subud...* ”

been raised, was killed in a car accident. We were all devastated... this was the first time many of us had dealt with such a tragic death and we were beside ourselves with guilt and concern for Leonard.

His mother, Aisha Roberts, flew in from Indonesia to take care of funeral arrangements and to participate in the selamatan we organized on Leonard's behalf at the Subud House. Her surrender and quiet in the face of the loss of her son was a lesson to all of us.

I remember her relating to us all one night what Sudarto, one of Bapak's spiritual assistants, had told her before she had left Cilandak. That Leonard's soul had completed its work on this earth, so he was free to return to his true home and in fact this special soul had been the energy behind her coming to Subud long before he was even born.

It was the first time many of us had encountered a spiritual perspective on death. Her quiet acceptance of her own son's death catapulted us all into a deeper surrender.

Aisha stayed with me during her visit and many evenings we talked late into the night... conversing with her was like eating spiritual manna — she had so much spiritual wisdom to share. She had been in Subud since the beginning and had lived in Bapak's home in Cilandak for 20 years. After a week or so had passed, I remember Aisha looking over at me and saying very emphatically, "Why aren't you living in Cilandak?" I just looked her stunned because at that moment I suddenly remembered, Oh my God, my Bapak dream from three years ago.

"How did you know?" I asked. Aisha just laughed.

Two weeks after our conversation, I was on my way to Cilandak, Indonesia for a visit. The money fell in place; a small group of Subud members was headed there and included me in their travel plans. I basically had done nothing. Looking back, what now seems destined just came to pass in the twinkling of an eye and in 1974 I was returning to Indonesia.

But it gets better. I was scheduled for a month's visit to Indonesia and settled into Wisma Subud life like a duck to water. I began to hang out with the residents rather than the guests and just loving everything Indonesian, from batiks to bamboo to gambang. It felt like home.

### [A big nudge...](#)

Around the second week of my visit, I managed to secure an interview with Ibu Rahayu. We met in a room in Bapak's old house on the compound. Of course, I was terribly nervous. I told her that I had some questions about living in Indonesia and about my teaching... I wasn't sure if teaching was such good work for me... it had been so stressful teaching in California.

She sat across from me, listened very attentively and then she said, "Well, Halimah, have you tested about this by yourself?"

At the time I was just shy of five years in Subud and not that confident about the quality of my own receiving, but Ibu was having none of that.

"You should test this yourself," she said. "Yes, why don't you test these questions right now. You don't have to ask me. You can just test it yourself."

So that's what happened. Ibu sat in her chair, got really quiet and I stood up in a state of latihan and asked >



*House In Wisma Subud  
(Illustration by Harris Smart).*

the questions for myself. What you have to remember is that when Ibu gets quiet, you get quieter than you can even imagine. The first question she wanted me to ask was 'how was it for me to live in California?' I received it was full of agitation.

I was still standing but not very peacefully; then she asked me to receive how it was for me to live in Cilandak. That was very quiet and peaceful. I told her Cilandak was clearly better for me than California. Then, she asked me to receive about my work as a teacher.

How was it for me to work as a teacher? That was really amazing, so powerful and so much growth and worship. She asked me how was that and I told her I was surprised that teaching was so good for me. She said yes, it would be good for you to stay in Cilandak but ONLY if you can get good work. And then she proceeded to nudge me.

"Have you been to the Joint Embassy School to look for work? Maybe you should go over there and see if they have work for you."

I nodded and thanked Ibu Rahayu profusely for her help. What I didn't say to her was that the last thing I wanted to do was to run over to the school and interview for a teaching position. Testing was one thing; the follow-up job search was another.

I've often marveled at how Ibu Rahayu treated me in that interview. How respectful she was towards me. I was very young in Subud; I would have followed her directives like a cipher, but that's not what she wanted for me. As a model helper, she gave me my self-respect by insisting that I could test these questions for myself, that I had within me my own guidance.

I remember talking with an older helper right after my interview marveling at how Ibu Rahayu had let me test by myself.

"Yes," she said, "that's the way of a truly gifted helper – never to give advice when the person is capable of receiving her own guidance... always showing respect."

About three days later, I was shopping in the small boutique on the compound when Ibu Rahayu came in to get a gift for someone.

We greeted each other warmly and she said, "Oh, Halimah, have you been to the school?"

"Not yet, Ibu Rahayu. I'm going to go very soon," I white lied.

About a week after our interview, I saw Ibu Rahayu again as I was strolling around the compound with some Subud sisters. We all stopped to greet each other and Ibu looked at me and said, "Oh, Halimah, have you been to the school to find out about work?"

"Ibu, forgive me I've so busy, but I will go. I'm just a little tired having just finished teaching in the States"

"You should go over to the school. You mustn't be lazy."

There may have been a third reminder from Ibu, but I'm too embarrassed to admit it. In terror of having to face her again without following through on her suggestion, I dragged myself over the school. Well, you may have guessed the ending. I had the shortest interview of my work life history (which has been extensive). I was hired on the spot and arrangements were made to fly me back to the States, pack up my things and get my visa in Singapore on the way back. As easy as apple pie this time.

It seems that my destiny was to live in Wisma Subud and to teach school for three years in Indonesia – just as Ibu Rahayu had perhaps received during our interview and just as Bapak's guidance in that luminous early morning dream had foretold.



*Halimah Polk.*

“ She gave me my self-respect by insisting that I could test these questions for myself...”

# SUBUD VOICE NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS

*Subud Voice is a living, growing archive of Subud experience...*

We need your donations if we are to keep producing Subud Voice. Surely you will miss us if we're gone. Just think of the value you have got from Subud Voice this year. Including...

The outstanding series of articles by Halimah Polk of her meetings and conversations with Ibu Rahayu which we begin in this issue...

The series of interviews we did at the start of the year with Nahum Harlap in which he gave a fulsome explanation of his aims and policies as WSA Chair...

The extremely detailed coverage we gave to the important meetings in Spain in April affecting Susila Dharma, SICA and the development of the Quest Communiversity...

The intimate personal articles we have published which are the texture of spiritual life such as Leonard Lassalle on the meaning of the death of Melinda; Marcus Bolt on the thousand days since the passing of his wife Rosalyn, and Lucas Augustine Adamson on choosing names for Subud children.

All these articles go to make a library of Subud life, invaluable not only to us but also to future generations as a living growing archive of the experience of Subud...

These are just some of the highlights in our constant endeavour to bring you all the aspects of Subud. We are the only independent, international regular monthly 'news and comment' publication in Subud.

We have always been absolutely reliable bringing out Subud Voice every month for the last 31 years.

Our enthusiasm for this task is unflagging. I think the past year has been one of our best. If you scan the issues over 2018/19, you will find we have paid attention to every aspect of Subud life including major events such as the World Congress and the recent meetings in Spain; enterprises, welfare projects, SICA, Youth, as well as members' personal experiences,

We produce on a shoestring, but we still need some money to operate in the material world...

*Harris Smart, Editor of Subud Voice*

## SUBUD VOICE BUDGET 2019/2020

The Subud Voice Financial year goes from July to June, so this is our budget for the next year until June 2020.

	AU\$
Bank charges and administration	600
Printing	400
Travel (to Subud events)	1200
Internet (including webmaster)	1000
Phone	200
Proofreading	1200
Design & Layout	4200
Software & Hardware	600
Honorarium	1000

**Total: AU\$10,400**

*(Equivalent to US\$6000, Pound Sterling 4790, Euro 5330.)*

The only guaranteed income we receive is AUS\$1800 per annum from Subud Britain as a fee for services we provide to their Journal. Therefore, what we need to raise in order to maintain Subud Voice at its present level, is...

**AU\$8,600**

(Equivalent to US\$6,000, GB£4,790, Euro5,330.)

**GREAT IF YOU COULD DONATE...**

If we were still able to run a subscription service for Subud Voice, we would be charging AUD\$60 for 12 issues.

Great if you could donate: AU\$60 (or more) is the amount we need to receive in donations. (AU\$60 is US\$40, GB£33, Euro37)

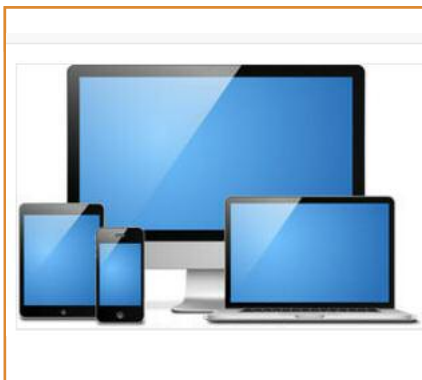
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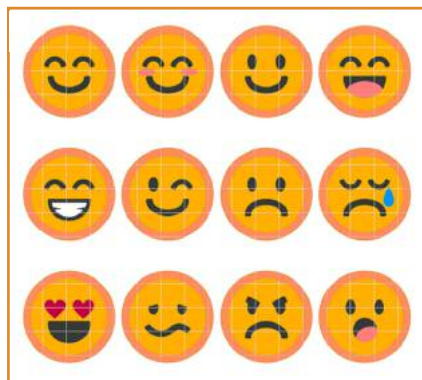
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# SUBUD VOICE ONLINE



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## AN AIRBNB IN A SUBUD HOUSE

*Marston Gregory writes about the Ups and Downs of Operating an Airbnb in a Subud House...*

For about 6 years now we have rented rooms in our Subud Seattle house to guests via Airbnb and we've learned a lot about the ups and downs of doing it. Some items to note include:

**Building:** To run an Airbnb business, your Subud building needs to have bedrooms that can be rented to visitors. There are only a few Subud centers worldwide that are in this situation.

**Taxes:** Running an Airbnb business may be a taxable activity. In the US, the IRS Tax code requires non-profit 501-C-3 organizations to be taxed on lodging rental business. Last year we started filing the 990 form. >

However, we show a loss due to the costs of renovations that were been needed so we haven't yet paid tax. Individuals who rent a room are under a different tax code. Airbnb does report the income to the IRS for each host. These regulations are probably different in each country.

**Insurance:** We had a carrier refuse us insurance due to our Airbnb business. We have now found a carrier but the rate has really shot up. Insurance companies don't yet want to cover Airbnb; mainly because they don't understand it and only see the liability potential. Airbnb covers each visit with \$1M coverage but that it is limited and insurance claims must be completed very carefully.



*Subud Seattle's Spring Street Centre is expected to generate \$78,000 in Airbnb revenues this year.  
[www.springstreetcenter.com](http://www.springstreetcenter.com)*

A screenshot of the Spring Street Center website. The header is dark brown with the text "240.353.7678", "Debbie Machado-Santos", and "debbietva@gmail.com" on the left. The logo "Spring Street CENTER" is in the center, with "INSPIRING SPACES... INCREDIBLE EVENTS..." below it. On the right, the address "1101 15th Avenue Seattle WA 98122" is listed. A navigation menu includes "Home", "Inspiring Spaces", "Incredible Events", "Rates", "About", "Lodging", "Location", and "Contact Us". Below the menu is a large photo of a guest room with a bed, a lamp, and a window. The text "Guest Room" is overlaid on the photo. At the bottom of the photo, it says "Two Guest Rooms for the Wedding Party (Limited Availability)".

**Customer Service:** The Airbnb app is amazing and excellent and is the main channel for communications which are constant. Paul has to watch for emails constantly. Also, call-in customer service has highly improved.

**Payment:** Payments from Airbnb minus their fees appear just after the booking leaves the premises. Our revenues are about \$6000 per month. On average, we make a net of 20%. During the summer months our revenues jump to \$10,000/months since rates are higher. Our average room rate is about \$80/night (\$30 of that is cleaning fee). We rent 4 rooms which share 2 bathrooms.

**Some Down Sides:** Many communities and cities are clamping down on Airbnb since it is eating up so >

much rental space. Seattle made a deal with Airbnb and now taxes every short-term rental (30 days or less) with a \$10 per night tax. Most of this money just goes to cover a new department they set up to manage the deal. We paid a user fee of \$95 to register for the first time. They want to control the huge growth of Airbnb and other short-term rentals.

“ We just reached a milestone of 1,000 reviews...”

**Management Team:** We have a great part-time team: Paul (manages reservations); Debbie and Ricardo (clean rooms); Debbie's daughter Dawn (offers linen service); and I do the facilities management to ensure we stay on top of repairs and landscaping so our Subud house looks nice and everything works.

**Results:** We just reached a milestone of 1000 reviews. We have been superhosts for 6 years now due to our average 4.9/5.0 review from our 250 guests a year. We are very open about them staying in a Subud space. We ask them to have lunch out of Sundays from 11 - 2 pm so we have the building to ourselves and most guests honor that.

**Home-based Airbnbs:** A few Subud members including Aaron Mann (Subud Spokane) and Ismanah (past Exec. of WSA) are hosting their home or a room in their home via Airbnb. Note that offering an Airbnb rental means you're basically setting up a business in your home and it requires a LOT of work. In Seattle we have a part-time staff of five to stay on top of the 250 guests a year.

Our team has learned a lot and we've seen "the good, the bad, and the ugly". Fortunately, most GOOD! Airbnb is turning all of us into "maids" (Ha ha!). I now turn a great bed, hospital corners and all!

Beware, if you don't like bed making, don't do Airbnb...

[www.springstreetcenter.com](http://www.springstreetcenter.com)

## SUBUD VOICE FACEBOOK

*Subud Voice now has its own Facebook page which brings updates about stories in Subud Voice and also serves as a forum in which people express their opinions and beliefs about all manner of subjects. Reuben Paemen who looks after our Facebook page writes...*

For those that aren't yet aware, SUBUD VOICE is now on Facebook!

We felt that as Facebook is one of the major hubs of information nowadays, and is also used by many young people in particular, that it would make sense to utilise this platform and establish a SUBUD VOICE Facebook page. Via this Facebook page, we will be regularly posting content such as previews on what you can find within each monthly issue of SUBUD VOICE, along with other relevant and interesting pieces that won't be necessarily be included in each issue.

To 'Like' the page on Facebook please follow the link here: <https://www.facebook.com/subudvoice>





# Susila Dharma needs YOU!

*(Ever thought of becoming a volunteer?)*

*By Solen Lees, SDIA staff*

“The idea of what volunteerism meant to me was spun on its head when I attended my first volunteer camp organized by the Human Force. Change isn’t about ‘saving people’, but it’s about being a great member of whatever community you belong to.” (Davida Paul).

Davida Paul from Canada embarked on her first Susila Dharma experience when she joined up to a Human Force service-learning camp organised at Susila Dharma project Yayasan Permakultur Kalimantan in December 2016.

She was so inspired by this experience that she went on to volunteer as an English teacher with Fundación Trópico for several months in 2018 through a programme organised by Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA). During World Congress, Davida was a panel member at an event about Human Force and also presented her work with Fundación Trópico along with fellow volunteers Ema Gonzalez and Clara Rust, whose first draft of a film about the project [link] was screened.

Davida has since joined the Human Force organising team to help with volunteer liaison and social media communications, and co-facilitated a camp for the first time in 2018.

You can read Davida’s article on volunteerism and see Clara’s film of the Human Force in Kalimantan.

Davida is just one of the young people whose life has been impacted by Susila Dharma work. And long-term volunteering or participating in a Human Force camp are just two of the many ways in which people can get involved in Susila Dharma.

Why does Susila Dharma need youth involvement?

The Susila Dharma (SD) network does important work around the world in the areas of healthcare, education and child development, sustainable livelihoods, environmental conservation and more. This work is supported by our SD National teams, including SD Britain.

Many of our core SD teams are getting older so there is an urgent need for youth to engage with the work they do. SD Nationals, of course, would love to have younger volunteer board members or resource people, but it is probably more interesting for young people to get involved in projects in a more hands-on way – at least initially.

When someone brings their skills and enthusiasm to a project by doing a stint as a volunteer or a camp participant, they get hands-on experience which brings the reality of the project’s work home to them. They learn what the project does and why, and are more invested and likely to support the project (and others) in the future.

Long-term involvement with Susila Dharma does not have to be about becoming a board member. It could mean volunteering online, helping with translations, social media, websites or fundraising. It could mean



*Clara Rust. (Solen Lees)*



*Davida (2nd from left) and other volunteers in Colombia. (Manuel Rios)*



*Human Force YPK. (Clara Rust)*

volunteering skills, as Clara Rust has done through the films she has made about SDIA member projects' activities. Or becoming donors, or leaders and professionals who will go on to take over the backbone of the SD network and provide valuable input and strategic vision.

### [The benefits of volunteering](#)

While volunteering can be an exciting entry point to social and humanitarian work, youth are also looking for career opportunities. Susila Dharma needs help with a diverse range of tasks, which in turn provide opportunities for people starting or changing careers to acquire valuable experience and demonstrate their ability to take initiative and make positive change in the world.

Whatever the individual way a young (or indeed older) person finds to engage their talents, sometimes it takes a meaningful experience to kick-start that engagement. Human Force is one vehicle that can provide this.

Human Force – a short but impactful Susila Dharma experience

Human Force runs global learning adventures that participants often cite as being life-changing experiences.

There are many stories about Human Force participants who were inspired by their experience to get more involved in social development work in general and SD work in particular. Davida's story is one of them. Here are a few more:

Rosanne Favre from Australia participated in the very first HF camp at Amanecer in Colombia in 2009. The group of volunteers, which included many young community members, helped build a classroom for Amanecer's small school. Rosanne loved the experience so much that she decided to join forces with founder Alex Woodward and became joint coordinator of future camps. She is now the driving force behind the programme despite having a full-time job.

Kim Joseph participated in the Cipanas, Indonesia camp in 2011, where volunteers ran English and puppet-making workshops, painted murals and helped out in YUM's organic garden. Kim is now a member of the SD USA board. Nathania Rangel was at the Puebla camp in Mexico 2014 and subsequently went on to fulfil a 2-year mandate as SD Colombia chair.

In Puebla, Human Force painted a beautiful mural at the 'Casa Cuna', a day-care centre for under-5s from underprivileged backgrounds, as well as running activities with the children and helping get the school kitchen garden in to shape with Illène Pevec (leader of A Child's Garden of Peace).

Jayadi Paembonan, a permaculture practitioner, was a volunteer at Anisha, India in 2012 and implemented some permaculture design there. Anisha's director Valli Krishnaswamy asked Jayadi to return to teach Anisha staff and beneficiaries about permaculture, and Jayadi lived there as a volunteer with his family for 3 months the following year.

He says his experience with Human Force and Anisha inspired him to set up Yayasan Permakultur Kalimantan (YPK) in Indonesia with his wife Frederika. YPK in turn has now hosted two Human Force camps!

If you would like to find out more about opportunities to volunteer with Susila Dharma or join Human Force, please get in touch with Solen Lees [getinvolved@susiladharm.org](mailto:getinvolved@susiladharm.org).



*Jayadi.*



*Nathania Rangel in Mexico.*



*Volunteers celebrate rain at Human Force camp in Anisha.*

# LARGE SCREEN LATIHANS AND MEETINGS

*Michael Moon writes from Western Australia...*

I'm in a silent 'post change agent' modality now, reluctant for publicity. However, anything to slow the burning of our dance floor – Mother Earth

The large screen latihan/meetings concept is simply live link ups, on occasion in our halls, or over our e-devices, to bring the latihan into the 21st century.

As I scribe this, the drought with our trees dying, with the annual autumn Easter fires, of pointless stubble burnings, raising air carbon pollution, is making clean breathing, asthma-oxic impossible.

How does one stop the pollution madness (quickly), of an outdated useless and pointless inherited practice, when the authorities are the perpetrators?

So I am resending the original "Large Screen Latihan/Meetings" concept from the 20th October 2018... "Subud's New Noble Greenhouse Free Latihan".

The central tenet being, not an abandonment of air travel, but a map of a possible enhancement or vision of a future interactive modality.

I believe our people will be too frightened to even consider reducing air travel.

I really believe the latihan infused in live screening, is an evolutionary leap for Subud. Both in ethical use of Subud funds and global Greenhouse abatement.

What I am essentially saying, is "Video Conferencing is the ethical future, and is happening Now". Its cheaper, immediate, progressive and non-greenhouse, with added openings, in chat rooms, important links, and spontaneous unknown possibles...

"The New Latihan", if you like.

I realise clean flying is not here yet, although Holland and Denmark tried unsuccessfully to ban 'Frequent Flying'.

Some progressive organisations like Satish Kumer's "Resurgence and Ecologist", endeavour to travel 'Lighter' – e.g. slow travel, surface travel, and such, rather than sky travel... Some airlines are less greenhouse – Qantas is one of the worst and night travel creates more greenhouse pollution.

So please, make use of your wisdom and whatever positions, to suggest air travel only for vital occasions, with less frequent meetings. Zoom.us is possibly the foremost platform for brilliant live, video and audio exchange.

You know, large screens or smart phones or laptops/tablets/media players, in live whole world, more member, latihan/conference link ups.

Actually a very exciting evolutionary leap, for Subud, with "The New Noble Greenhouse Free Latihan". ●



*Michael Moon (portrait by Robin Dale).*

“ How does one stop the pollution madness (quickly)? ”

# YUM ANNUAL REPORT

Dear friends and partners,

We are pleased to announce that the YUM Annual Report 2018 is now available in English and in Bahasa Indonesia.

In 2018, YUM continued to support the communities living in Cipanas (West Java) and Bukit Batu (Central Kalimantan) with diverse health, education and community development projects benefitting more than 15,000 beneficiaries.

However, last year, our work also took us to Palu & Donggala after the earthquake and tsunami hit the two areas. Thanks to the support from many individuals and institutions around the world, YUM was able to provide emergency relief to more than 10,000 people.

The amount of assistance channeled through YUM has proven and further strengthened YUM's accountability in the eyes of international donors.

Please take 10 minutes of your time to read our report, and do let us know if you have any questions!

*The YUM TEam*

To read the report click: <https://www.yumindonesia.org/images/uploads/report/1562313468.pdf>



## Exciting News from the SICA AGM in Spain

*From the latest SICA Newsletter:* Exciting new initiatives have emerged from the SICA AGM in Spain.

SICA committed to partner with The Quest, the connection with the other wings has deepened, and our SICA Vision has been reworked.

For the next term, SICA is joyfully looking forward to focussing on the following activities:

- The Quest
- Talent Bank
- Storytelling and Writers - a part of which is "Our Subud Story"
- International Cultural Festival and Showcases like the SICA Latinoamerica Cultural Festival 2020 in Colombia
- Film making
- The Culture Compass
- Keys to Creativity
- Poems for Peace & Peace Day Austin
- Creation of the SICA TalentBank

Furthermore, SICA decided to focus on the set up of a new website for SICA.

Rusydah Ziesel, Chair of the Subud International Cultural Association (SICA), reports on the meeting in June issue of Subud Voice.

The SICA vision: "A world where every human has awakened to express their talents emanating from their soul (culture)."

"With this vision, our job becomes pretty clear", says Rusydah: "This is what we go for, and the best of it is, we just start with ourselves! We bring our talents into the world and help others develop their own talents. >



*Picture: Copyright by Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg*

*From right above: Susannah Rosenthal & Paloma Muñoz, Gururaja Budhya & Paloma Muñoz, Felix Prieto, Ethan Harris & Gururaja Budhya, Howerd & Rita Oakford, Rusedah Ziesel, Rusedah Ziesel & Susannah Rosenthal, Rita Oakford & Eugenia Stark, Raymond Aitken, Peter & Isti Jenkins, Andrew Holloway & Roland Fraval, Eliah Schulze-Vorberg & Rusedah Ziesel, Oliver Haitzmann, Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg & Isti Jenkins, Mariam Tikale*

So, as one humanity, we are able to make the world a better place. This vision also brings clarity that SICA is not just for artists and musicians, but for all of us - whether your talent lies in science or in sports, in business or elsewhere.

The soul is awakened through the power of God, and with this awakening, the talents emerge. The soul thrives by expressing itself in the world, shaping the world. Awakening our talents is a very lively process that is not always easy to grasp. It is like the seed in which everything is already contained, also has to face its growth process.

What we want to do through SICA is to provide a rich and nurturing environment for this seed. Earth, water, and light! Only in a suitable environment, can this seed develop successfully, to blossom in full splendor and produce the most wondrous fruits.

So our purpose is: SICA encourages and supports the development of programs, projects, events ... that allow people to connect with and express their true inner talents in the world.

SICA in its purpose embraces the Yes Quest program. A new and exciting joint venture between SICA and The Quest as partners starts now. After many years of the Yes Quest supporting young Subud members, together with SICA the Quest is widening and opening: we would like to offer this experience to members of all ages within Subud as well as young people beyond Subud.

Read more about the SICA AGM, our new SICA Vision and the Quest in the June Issue of Subud Voice.

# What is the Quest?

*by Peter Jenkins and Roland Fraval... from the SICA Newsletter...*

**An Evolutionary Process:** The Quest Communiversity is the next step in the eighteen-year evolution of the Yes Quest. It moves the Yes Quest experience beyond Subud into the wider world, and beyond a ten-day experience to the provision of a variety of modules offered at a range of pop-up campuses in different countries around the world.

**A Unique Offering:** Unlike many courses where the knowledge acquired may be redundant by the time studies are complete, the Quest programs will develop the skills, abilities, and knowledge to thrive in a world that is changing at incredible speed. People entering the workforce today could change careers more than fifteen times. The ability to navigate these transitions will require creativity, flexibility, entrepreneurship, and deep self-knowledge.

**Building on our Strengths:** Initially, the Quest Communiversity will be a Subud project. It will draw on the considerable resources available within the Subud community: under-utilized centers in different countries and our rich pool of human resources with experience in education, social welfare, community development, the arts, enterprise, and events management.

**Building a Collaborative Enterprise:** The Communiversity has the potential to be an enterprise of the type Bapak encouraged us to develop: one that involves not one or two, but many Subud members offering something of value to the world; an enterprise that demonstrates the benefits of the latihan, not through words, but deeds.

**Where is the Quest right now:** SICA has newly defined its purpose “SICA supports and encourages the development of programs, projects and events that allow people to connect to and express their true inner talent in the world”. This new statement of SICA’s purpose embraces all talents that may arise from within, including science, business, social welfare and education for instance, as well as the arts, which previously was their focus. You will notice the use of the word “people”.

These programs are not just for Subud members, and this new definition makes SICA and Quest Communiversity perfect partners to take this project beyond Subud, and out into the world. How this will all unfold was explored at a series of meetings this April, at the Subud Centre in Orgiva, Spain. Starting with a Facilitators Training, followed by three days of project planning.

We were fortunate in having a wonderful range of talents at these meetings, as well as at the SICA AGM, the SDI AGM and the Zone 3 Meeting which followed at a nearby hotel at Salobrena.

**A Spark for local Subud groups:** One of the programs the Quest team is most excited about is the Subud Group Quest. This program will provide participants the chance to develop a quality of self-awareness that catalyzes a powerful group process, releasing the potential of each individual for the benefit of the whole group.

The Quest team expects this program will help groups to identify and develop one or more projects to work on collectively, build a stronger, more cohesive and active group and identify/become collectively aware >



*Participants in the Communiversity workshops and discussions in Spain.*

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of the strengths and weaknesses within the group as well as what could potentially prevent the group from successfully achieving its goals.

Our plans: The roll-out of campuses and modules will take place, somewhat gently, over a period of time. But while we are busy laying foundations at Quest HQ, we are also already getting out into the world! We will be piloting our very first Subud Group Quest this September with the Orgiva group in Spain. The Quest team is also working with the Zone 4 Gathering coordinators to help enliven their delegate meeting process. Stay tuned for more...

More information about the Quest is available in the June Issue of Subud Voice.

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## LATIHAN: A PATH TO THE GREAT LIFE...

*This review of Rozak Tatebe's second book first appeared on Emmanuel Elliott's web site Reminders of Reality...*

Rozak Tatebe's first book (*Subud – A Spiritual Journey*) recounted some of the most powerful experiences ever recorded by a Subud member.

His second (*Latihan: A Path to the Great Life and a New Way to Purify the Soul*) is something of a departure for this veritable – and venerable – Subud pioneer. It sets out, in the words of the author, 'to present a new message of Subud in its entirety,' an objective in which it succeeds admirably.

Unlike just about all the other books by Subud members, which tend to dwell at length on personal experiences, Rozak's latest offering presents a comprehensive overview of what Subud is really all about – the nuts and bolts, if you like, the nitty gritty.

Drawing heavily upon Bapak's own explanations, Part 1 looks in detail at Bapak himself – his childhood, development and mission – the arrival of the latihan, the need for purification, and at the life forces and the impact of Quantum Theory.

In Part 2, Rozak examines the waiting period, the opening itself, the latihan in everyday life, and the different stages of spiritual progress. He also introduces the reader to the worldwide Subud organisation and its various branches.

The abiding impression after reading this book is that there could hardly be a more balanced, thorough and insightful coverage of the many facets of Subud.

Would that a copy of this work could find its way into the hands of every true seeker, or at least into the library of every Subud group in the world.

*Latihan: A Path to the Great Life and a New Way to Purify the Soul* is available now at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), price USD11.99 and at [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) at £9.95..

Plus, see the author's website at [www.rozak.jp](http://www.rozak.jp)  
[emmanuelelliott777@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelelliott777@gmail.com)      [www.remindersofreality.weebly.com](http://www.remindersofreality.weebly.com)  
[www.dawnchoruspublishing.weebly.com](http://www.dawnchoruspublishing.weebly.com)



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*Rozak's latest offering presents a comprehensive overview of what Subud is really all about...*

“

# JIM

*A cautionary by Sebastian Paemen about the power of art...*

I used to run an art gallery in Bussum, The Netherlands in the eighties together with my American friend., Jim.

He was a very good and skillful painter who had come to The Netherlands to avoid being drafted into the Vietnam war. He'd married a Dutch wife and they had two children. Jim wasn't able to go back to the US though, because as a draft dodger, he would have had to go to jail.

One day disaster struck. He won the prestigious Venice Biennale art prize. This came with fame and money. Suddenly his paintings were selling for around 20.000 guilders. Until that moment he and his family had been living a very modest lifestyle with little money. Initially all went well and they enjoyed being able to afford new luxuries.

Then things went wrong. Jim had always had a weakness for women but being firmly domesticated by years of family life he had been able to restrain himself. This time he found himself at the centre of attention of the glamorous, hard-partying international art set and this included plenty of female attention. Jim couldn't help himself and he kept 'disappearing' while being last spotted in the company of a beautiful woman.

One day his wife had enough and she kicked him out. This whole phase lasted for about two years during which Jim lost contact with his wife and children, lost his money and in the end his fame. He soon ended up forgotten, not being able to sell any of his paintings anymore, to be replaced by a new 'flavour of the week'.

One day Jim disappeared for good and none of his old friends have ever seen him since. ●

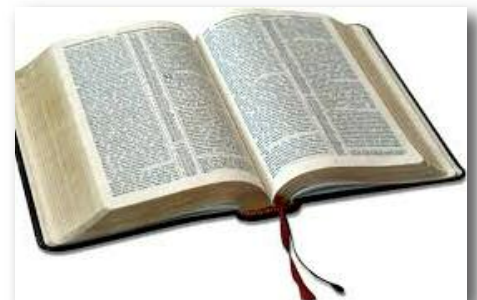


# INSCRIBED

*By Myrna Michell...*

What do we inherit from family apart from genes? Certainly not money, in my experience. Instead, attitudes which need a lifetime of sifting: patterns from our parents, and theirs. The Bible says that the sins of our parents pass down the generations. Thankfully it also affirms those whose ways are closer to God...

*To read Myrna's complete story of the interweaving of religion and family history and the redemptive power of the latihan, click here... <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Inscribed.pdf>* ●



# FIGURATIVE ART IN ISLAM

*Sebastian Paemen writes in his series of articles commenting on aspects of Islam sometimes not fully understood in the West...*

Many people believe that Muslims are not allowed to depict animals or human beings. Indeed, there are many Muslims who conclude this based on particular interpretations of certain hadiths. There has always been apprehension about depicting living beings because of the association with idol worshipping. That's why you will rarely see statues in Islamic art.

The fact is that Muslims have always painted animals and human beings, except in mosques and other religious buildings because this distracts from worshipping God. Persians, Turks, Indians, Afghans, Uzbeks, >



Indonesians and others have a long tradition of figurative art which continues to this day.

Arabs too used figurative representations in their art for hundreds of years, including pictures of the Prophet Muhammad and his companions. The Prophet Muhammad himself told his followers not to destroy a painting of the Virgin Mary and Jesus which was kept in the Kaaba.

Since the 14th century the depiction of living beings started to disappear from the Arab world and the well-known geometrical patterns became the sole basis of Arabic art. There are three reasons for this change.

First, the Arab world got into economic decline and there were no rich patrons to pay for this type of art (which was mainly book illustration) anymore.

Secondly, the Ottomans had taken over the Arab lands and Ottoman Turkish became the most important language. Most book illustrators couldn't read this language, which undermined their work. The third reason was the growing influence of religious orthodoxy in those days.



“ Muslims have always painted animals and human beings...”

## UNEXPECTED EXPERIENCES

*Dr. Rachman Mitchell writes of his time working as a doctor in Yemen...*

I have fallen in love with different countries that I have lived in, perceiving something in their culture apparently lacking in my own. Maybe I am wrong in the case of Yemen, because what I observed there was a quality much admired in my own ancestral country, Scotland. Rugged independence and faith in one's own self so beautifully shown in the book and film "Salmon Fishing in Yemen".

In 1987 after five years of sterile work in Saudi Arabia I went to work for a Texan oil Company that had discovered oil in the vast desert of the Empty Quarter just 15 kilometres from the remains of the Queen of Sheba's palace. My job was to be Director of the Health Department of this company and to serve the needs of the employees both local and expatriate. I was to find that it was to the locals I was most drawn to and liked.

I felt immediately that I was in the land of Sheherezade and the thousand and one nights, because the reminders of the past merge so often into the present as I have already described. So many things suddenly seemed possible to do.

I asked permission from the company to visit the Rehabilitation Centre in Sanaa one morning a week as I wished to both know more about the local medical facilities and practice my rehabilitation skills learned in Saudi Arabia.

The centre was run by an army major who had lost both legs from an exploding mine that even then the Saudis were dropping all over the countryside.

I guess my admiration for the different way that these Yemenis faced their misfortune to the passive Saudis showed on my face and they became my friends and unafraid to ask for help to become more independent and self sufficient. They said they would like a place where they had more control over their own rehabilitation like a club and where they could practice basket ball and other sports.

The expatriate community was small and many used to meet at the British Embassy club where alcohol was served at one end and music and singing went

“ Generosity really began to flow...”

on at the other end. I asked many there to contribute and especially Penny Marshall the Ambassador's wife who with another friend in the US Embassy were able to raise a sum to rent a house for five years and make a basket ball court.

Ambitions among these disabled young men began to soar and they asked me whether I could get them to the Stoke Mandeville games the precursor to the Para Olympics.

Frankly I had never faced a challenge like this before but nor did I know then that one of the names of God ( Allah) is The Unexpected.

### Great Idea!

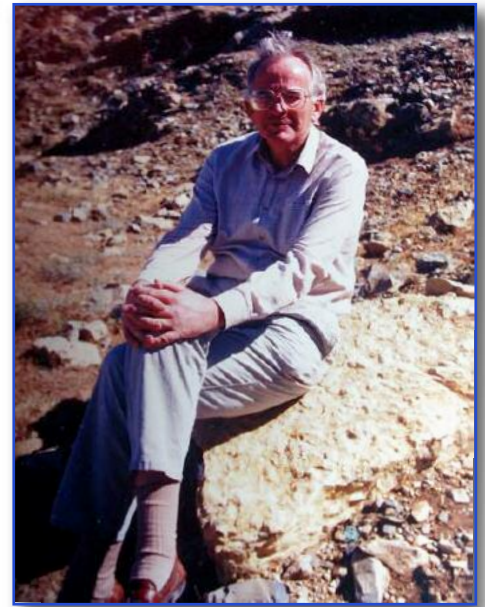
I had frequently asked my boss, Steve Showers the head of the Personnel department, whether I could go directly to the CEO of the company but was always refused.

Suddenly in the middle of Ramadan 1989 when a new young CEO came to take over I asked again and this time I was given the go ahead.

I walked into his office and stood there. He was seated in front of a desk with a load of files neatly splayed out like a pack of cards on either side of him.

I was unsure how to proceed. I do not remember him asking me to sit.

"This is the month of Ramadan," I said trying to sound not too preachy. It is the month when traditionally



*Dr. Rachman Mitchell in Yemen.*

and after the effect of fasting reaches our feelings, better off people think of those not so well off, I think the company's reputation in Yemen would certainly improve if we were able to help some of their most disabled and vulnerable and I have been asked by these disabled young men to facilitate their wish to compete at the Stoke Mandeville games".



*The Queen of Sheba's Palace? Those pillars are supposed to be a temple, whether to the sun or the moon is a subject of debate. War has prevented further archaeological research, but there has been some very interesting work on the Sabeen and Nabatean civilisation that was there. The first being possible because of the Marib dam which allowed cultivation of a large part of this area*

I continued to stand there wondering again whether I had gone beyond my remit as the company's Medical Director, but I began to relax as I saw him sitting there with his hands together in front of his face and both forefingers together below his nose, considering what I had said. After two minutes of silence that seemed like an hour to me he said, "Great idea! We will give 25000 dollars for this and we will give a party for our subcontractors and get them to give another 25000 dollars" .

that. Generosity really began to flow.

For some extraordinary reason General Shwartzkoff was in town (this was a month BEFORE Saddam Hussein's tanks rolled into Kuwait) and one morning his aide camp rang me and asked me if I would like some sport's wheel chairs for the Yemeni team and, " Oh by the way we have an army plane flying to London and we could fly our team to London and back."

So indeed it all happened. The Yemeni government wanted to thank us. I was on duty at the Company camp upon the rub al Kali and Penny Marshall did her bit in receiving the gift of thanks. She passed on the photos and the videos to me.

# The Dutch Priest from Sulawesi - A Story by Bapak

*During the Second World War, the Japanese army occupied Indonesia. Thousands of people, including Bapak's family, were on the move, trying to avoid conscription by the forces battling for control of the island nation. Bapak, his wife Ibu Siti Sumari, and their children were walking through forests and jungles of Java to Wolodono, a tiny community that was Ibu's hometown. To keep her company, Bapak would tell stories. Here is one of them...*

## The Dutch Priest from Sulawesi

Not long ago, there was a good man, a kind man and an honest one. And he was a man of God, a priest, a Christian priest – and he was a white Belanda: Dutch.

He had served his flock in a little village in Sulawesi with utmost devotion; and he stayed with them even after the Japanese invasion. He continued to stay even when the Japanese surrounded the village and all resistance died.

He stayed in his house and comforted his congregation.

The night came when a member of his church knocked at his front door and hurried in, saying, "Father, you must leave at once! If you do not, you will be executed!"

But the priest said, "the matter of life and death is not up to a Japanese soldier: it is up to God. And I trust in God. So I will stay."

The villager left, despondent. Night fell and the priest prayed and surrendered himself utterly to God's greatness.

Past midnight, there was a knock at his front door. He went and opened it. There stood a Japanese army officer in glowing regalia. He came into the room and the priest stood his ground, calm and his surrender to God.

"Priest, at dawn you will die," said the Japanese officer.

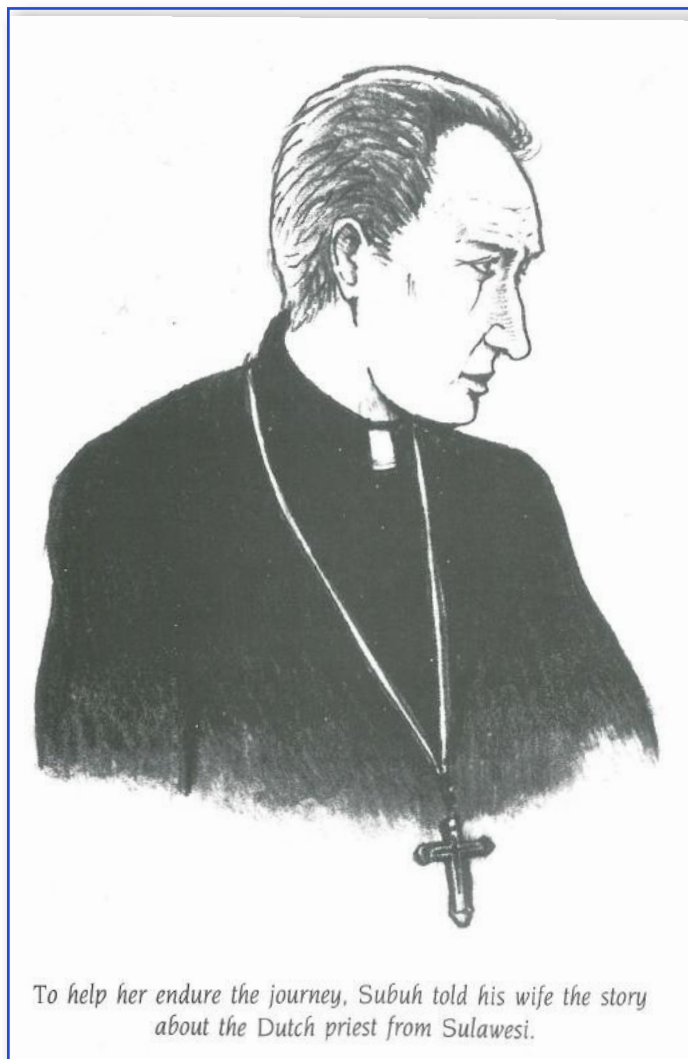
"That may be or may not be," the priest replied. "But whatever the case, the matter of a man's life and death is in no other hands than God's."

The priest waited for God to decide.

Suddenly, he heard the Japanese officer speak: "Today, just before dawn, at four-thirty in the morning exactly, you must leave your house, turn right down the lane, travel the lane for four hundred paces. You will come to the corner of the Japanese camp.

"There, you will turn left, get down on your knees and crawl along, looking neither to the left nor to the right. You will crawl alongside a fence. No matter what happens, you must keep crawling. Keep crawling and do not look either to the left or to the right.

"Then you will come to the corner of the fence. Turn right, keep crawling, keep looking straight ahead. >



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“Soon you will see in front of you, resting on its wooden stand, a Japanese sword. Go up to the sword on your knees, looking neither to left nor right. Kiss the sword.

“Then return in the same manner exactly as I have described, but in reverse. Do not stand up until you reach the lane. Stand up, run home and wait. And perhaps you will not die.”

The Dutch priest, wondering greatly at this advice, raised his head from its bowed position.

The Japanese soldier had gone. Yet the door was closed. And the priest had not heard the door being either opened or closed.

At that moment, he conceived in his heart a fear and wonder at the ways of God and his angels.

He stayed awake until four-thirty, and he proceeded to do exactly as the officer had told him. He went down the lane, turned left, got down on his knees and crawled, looking either to the left nor to the right.

But when he reached the fence, he suddenly heard loud raucous voices uttering fierce cries. He forced himself not to look in their direction, but crawled on, keeping his eyes straight ahead.

Then the cries and yelling started coming from both sides; and there was the thud of boots, the clatter of bayonets, the sound of gunshots.

Still he went on crawling, looking neither to the left nor to the right. He turned right at the fence. And the ruckus followed him on both sides, as he crawled towards the sword on the stand.

The din rose as he approached the sword; but when he kissed it, the terrifying noises turned to a roar of laughter.

Laughter and cheering and harsh sounds followed him on his return. But at last, having fulfilled what he had been told, he reached the lane, stood, ran home, and waited.

It was dawn.

At around eight in the morning, there was a knock at his door. Five Japanese soldiers entered, bound his hands and dragged him off.

In a while, they dragged him to a place near the sword in the stand. The priest saw now, in the full light of day, that it was the sword of execution by beheading.

He was knocked to his knees at the feet of a thickset, black-bearded Japanese colonel with great black boots. The colonel was washing his hands. Someone else had just been executed.

He turned from the basin, took one look at the priest, his face grew red, and he burst out laughing.

He laughed and laughed, pointing at the priest. At last this laughter stopped and he spoke in halting English.

“So! So you are the one who kissed the sword at dawn today!

“What made you do that? Who told you to kiss the sword?”

The priest bowed his head. The colonel’s face grew grim. “As a result of kissing that sword, your fate has been sealed,” he said.

The priest left his fate in God’s hands even as the colonel said these words.

“Your fate is now decided,” said the colonel. “You shall live.”

Ibu was silent for a while. The forest light was beginning to fade. “Then the Japanese officer who came to the priest”, she ventured, “he was an angel?”

Subuh nodded yes, “And, you should know that following the road of the latihan is even harder than the road the priest had to follow.” ●

This article and the accompanying illustration have been taken from the book *Journey Beyond the Stars* by Luqman McKingley (formerly Keele), published by Starlight Press. This book and others by Starlight Press are still available. Contact Sahlan McKingley for further information at email: [sahlan78@gmail.co](mailto:sahlan78@gmail.co)

# EARLY ISLAMIC CULINARY ART

## *Based on Prophetic Traditions*

by M. ÖMÜR AKKOR –

*Book Review by Lawrence Brazier...*

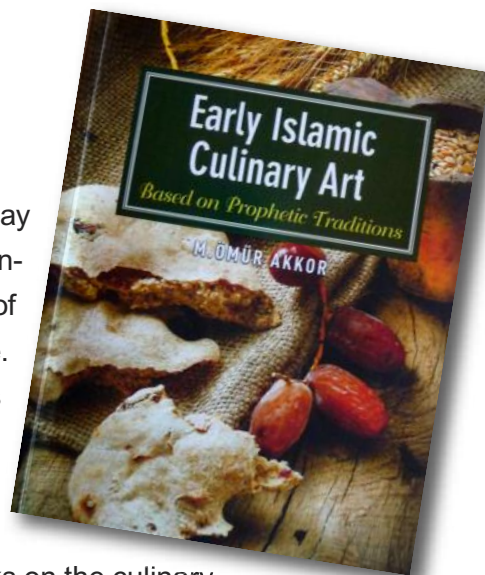
How do we alleviate, a little, the harshness of our daily round? One may contend that the true reason for art is to offer readers, viewers and listeners the opportunity to forget themselves, which means a quietening of the mind, perhaps even a stunning of the mind, to permit wonder to arise.

This is what true artists, creating from their souls, give us. In this same spirit, here is a work for lovers of books and fine art and culinary pleasure. *Early Islamic Culinary Art – based on Prophetic traditions* – is a joy to have and behold.

M. ÖMÜR AKKOR is a practiced chef and author of note. His books on the culinary traditions within the Islamic canon have been deservedly honoured by a number of awards.

The recipes are often astonishingly simple and magnificent, nay dazzling, colour illustrations are to be lavishly seen throughout the 277 pages of this book. As a writer and ceramist (there are two pictures, among many others, of 10th-century dishes from East Persia that are breathtaking in their simplicity and effect), and one who appreciates alleviation from self, something arose in affirmation when this book fell to my hand.

Together with the food, shown here in gorgeous colour, there are full-page photographs of early Islamic ceramic table wares. The designs and patterns of the plates and bowls and dishes are purely within the tradition and often decorated with marvellously stylized calligraphy.



*We are enchanted by this book...*



We are offered texts pertinent to culinary culture, kitchen utensils and foods mentioned in the Qur'an and Prophetic traditions. There are delightful quotes,

such as the one from the blessed Prophet, who apparently ate very little and was known to have often subsisted on dates and water, and who maintained that '...the food for one is sufficient for two, and the food for two is sufficient for four.' The very last recipe in the book is called BASHI. It is recorded that the Messenger of God also ate 'bashi', in his characteristic modest manner, like this: coarsely milled barley, one cup of water. Swallow them together. Simplicity above all else; one could probably do it on the hoof after slowing one's camel.

Nevertheless, the recipes, all mentioned in the Qu'ran and within Prophetic traditions, will bring to blossom one's palate and hopefully we will receive the grace to resist a second portion – for it was another mystic who said that one should never attempt to enjoy a pleasure more than once at any one time.

One's lady wife, who has yet to be defeated in the kitchen, gazed thoughtfully at HANIZ. The recipe requires, I quote, 1 goat, salt, half a kilo of clarified butter, flatbread, 1 medium-sized onion. Rub the goat in salt and place it in a copper basin, and cook overnight. Nevertheless, one may wish to consider whether a goat needs to be dressed, or even undressed, before cooking. And the copper basin? Just imagine the size of it.

'We could have a marquee in the garden, kill the goat and offer it to any passing Bedouins,' I suggested. 'There would be a grand feast, and we enquire politely after the Bedouins' wells, both water and oil, and pray that their flocks increase.' I mused a while. 'Do you think we should have cushions with bits of glass sewn on to them?'

'Goats,' she said, 'can be little darlings. I'm unsure about this one.'

Quite naturally there is a prevalence of lamb recipes in the book. We were attracted to TAFAYSHAL, which requires cracked wheat (bulgar), lumps of fatty lamb, water, black pepper, and salt. It is all done in under >

one hour. A WASHIQA, on the other hand, requires only lamb shanks, water and salt, all boiled up for three hours. SHIWA requires only lamb meat, salt, and black pepper.

Quite the nicest salad given is SHIRAZ BI-BUKUL, which is a medley of fresh mint, celery, leek, mild cream cheese, chopped walnuts, crushed mustard seed, and salt. Preparation would be about five minutes.

There are soups galore, mint tea, of course, and terrific sweet things. The quince with molasses recipe would be a challenge to resist, although the blessed Prophet maintained that quince soothes the heart. SIRKANJUBIN, is a refresher comprising, water, vinegar, and honey. FUQQA comprises musk, rose water, honey, water, and ice. It must stand for an entire day before serving.

The Prophet, blessed be his name, was averse to garlic and onions and suggested they were to be first cooked to remove untoward odour. We hear that the British royal family shares the same aversion. There would be a story there for anyone putting two and two together, and coming up with nonsense. Nevertheless, our gifted author has added recipes for those otherwise shunned bits of veg.

It is suffice to say that we are enchanted by this book. It will test our spiritual endeavours, but Mr Akkor, bless him, has also made a book under the title of Delicious Dishes for Ramadan. Thus, our evenings will be doubly blessed.

'It is time,' said one's determined lady wife, 'to untether the goat.'

'But what about Bedouins?' I said, 'we haven't got any Bedouins.'

'Don't worry, we will give it to the children. They will love eating with their fingers.'



*There are full-page photographs of early Islamic ceramic table wares.*

## THE PASSING OF RICHMOND SHEPHERD

*Alas... The Mime has been silenced... in this life anyway...*

*From his daughters, Armina, Vonda, Brianna and Luanna...*

On July 2, 2019, Richmond Shepard, the world's oldest mime, died peacefully at the age of 90. He was surrounded by his family in his home in Manhattan.

He was a son, brother, father, grandfather, an uncle, a husband and friend. He took pride in raising his four daughters.

Born in Brooklyn in 1929, Richmond was a true renaissance man who miraculously earned a living as a mime in Los Angeles. He was also a painter, author, screenwriter, theatre critic, comedian, actor, director, civil rights activist, and a professor at USC, Rutgers, and St. John's Universities.

He took pride in being asked to leave Emory University for his social justice organizing in the 1940s, and eventually he earned a PhD in Communications.

In the 1970s, he started and developed Theatre Row in Hollywood. Richmond returned to New York in 1987, opened a theater and launched an improv comedy troupe, called Noo Yawk Tawk. He became a theatre critic for WNEW Radio and for Theatre Insider, while continuing to teach and perform mime around the world.



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Raised Jewish, he was also very active in the spiritual organization called Subud, which facilitated his connection to what he called The Great Life Force.

Richmond is survived by his daughters Armina Hansen, Vonda Shepard (Mitchell Froom), Brianna Shepard, Luana Carroll (Jim Carroll), four grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Here is a piece about Richmond that was published in 2016 in The New Yorker:

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/the-worlds-oldest-mime>

In lieu of flowers, Richmond has requested a moment of noise...

### [Mardiyah Tarantino – How I met Richmond](#)

One time I was talking to some members about how I had gone to Uzbekistan. This was before anyone had heard of the other 'stan. I told them how I had seen the map of the world in latihan and a pointed finger had said: "go right there". On the map it looked like the middle of nowhere.

When I found out it was Uzbekistan and that there were actually Subud members in Tashkent, I hopped on a plane and off I went. When I got there, somebody was holding a big sign that read "Mardiyah". I knew that for sure I'd been there before.

The reaction around me was "uhhh, that's nice...It's fun to travel..." but only one pair of blue eyes lit up and actually asked me in detail "And then what? and who was your guide? And had you really been there in another life?" and off he went. He sensed how important it was for me and he was actually interested! That was Richmond.

### [Henrietta Music](#)

He and I were always good friends and saw each other in LA and NY. He taught me a lot of things about Subud in the early 60s when there wasn't a lot of information and Pak Usman's translations weren't very clear.

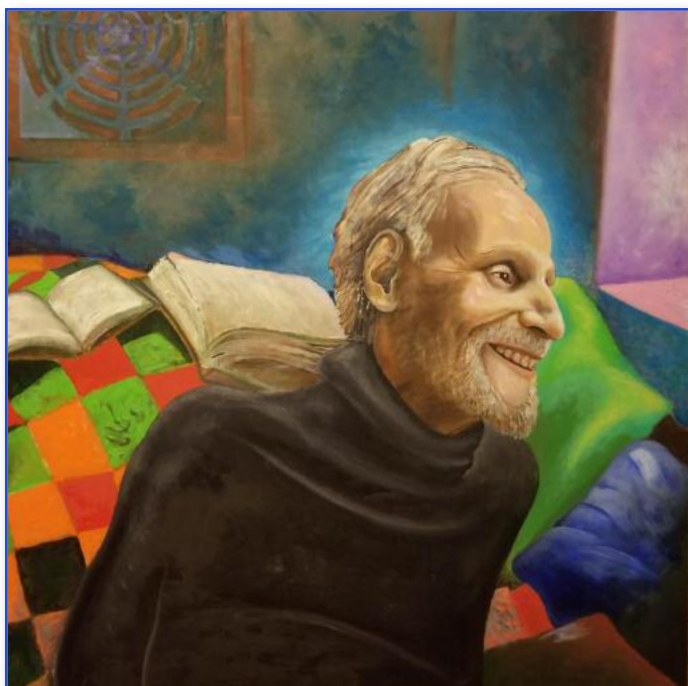
I never remember Subud without Richmond. He was always there. And I think he was responsible for bringing more people to Subud than anyone else I know. I loved him like a brother and a creative soul. He made everything about art, and he made one feel like an artist no matter what art one did. He leaves a big hole in my heart.

### [Latifah Taormina](#)

He had his own theater for a while in LA. I directed him there in a successful production of Tom Stoppard's *Travesties*, in the early 80s. Henrietta Music, Redman Gleeson, and Benedict Hermann were also in it. He taught mime, ran an improvisational group, "New Yawk Talk," that Michael Cooke was part of. He produced many other productions in NYC.

For quite some time he has been a New York correspondent for Lively-Arts.com, a co-publisher of *Performing Arts INSIDER*, a professional newsletter that tells everything coming into New York up to a year in advance.

A crazy little thing that Richmond was also known for is that he always wore mismatched socks -- one color on one foot, and another on the other.

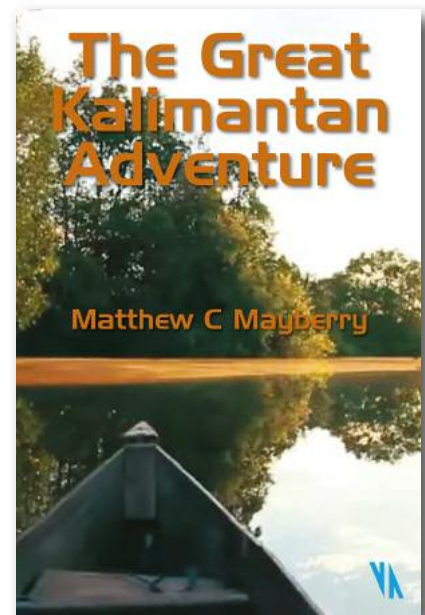


*Painting by Nick Wolfson, L'Chaim to a Life Well Lived. Nick Wolfson is a very talented artist (among other things), and a close friend of Richmond's who helped look after him until he passed.*

## The Great Kalimantan Adventure Matthew C Mayberry

“Bapak can tell you that there is gold, there is silver, there are diamonds, there are many precious stones, there are other things like oil and so on. Bapak went to Kalimantan and met people in authority like the Governor of Central Kalimantan, who was stunned, he couldn’t believe it. He said: ‘How does Bapak know that in this place there is that and in this place there is this and so on?’ And Bapak said ‘Oh. I didn’t learn it anywhere, I know it from myself’.” *Talk at Slough, UK, 4 August 1981*

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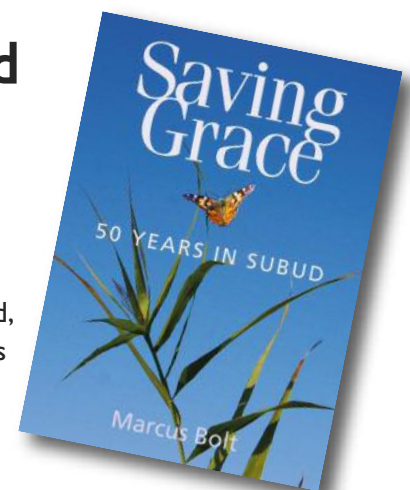
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Marcus Bolt

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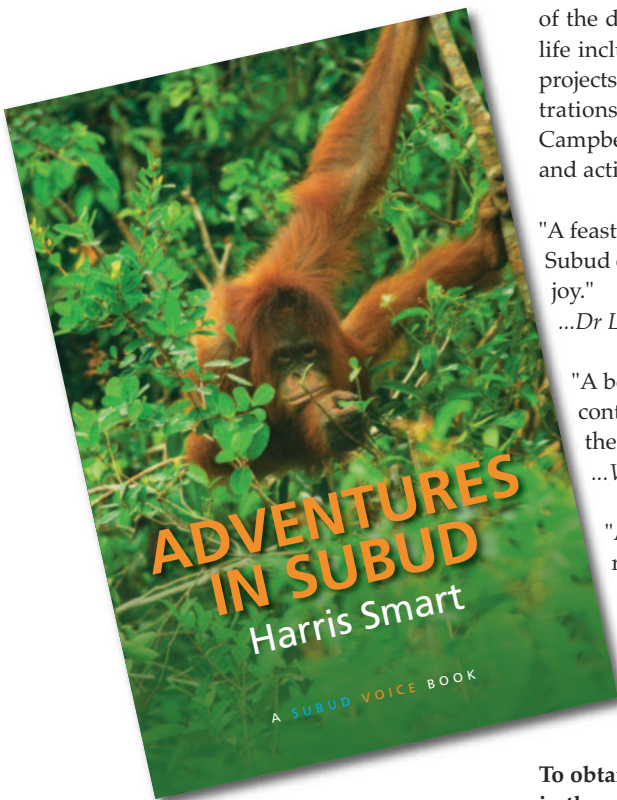
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