



## Frances Madden Sings at the Australian Open

*Harris Smart writes...*

Like many other members, you may have been following the career of singer-songwriter and Subud sister Frances Madden for several years, who wowed us with her performance at the Freiburg Congress. Just this past January, Frances was invited by Tennis Australia to sing her original song 'She Will Rise' at the Women's Singles Final Night of the Australian Open.

It's a familiar Subud story. Frances says that during the lockdown of 2020, she was inspired to write the song which celebrates and encourages young women in their journey. She then headed to Melbourne to record it with her producer Chong Lim who also happened to be the musical director for the events at the Australian Open.

By 'coincidence', a few days later, one of the senior people from Tennis Australia happened to be in the studio meeting with Chong and was captivated by the song and its potential to become an anthem. "Make it happen" she said -- and the rest, as they say, is history. This year, 2022 also happened to be the celebration of 100 years of women in tennis at the Australian Open, and so it was a fitting theme song for the final.

Frances recently released her album 'Beautiful World' in Australia and New Zealand. She is heading for the UK later this year but will also spend some time in Japan where the album will be released by Universal Music. 'Beautiful World' was in part supported by a grant from the SESI project fund awarded at the Freiburg World Congress. Part of the proceeds go back into the revolving fund administered by SESI.

You can enjoy Frances's performance here: [https://youtu.be/C0Mh\\_sS7-vs?t=755](https://youtu.be/C0Mh_sS7-vs?t=755)

Please visit her website at [www.francesmadden.com](http://www.francesmadden.com) for more.



*Frances sings "She Will Rise" on stage at the Australian Open.*

### 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)

# Crowing Like Young Cocks

By the editor...

Years ago, there was a meeting of the Asian Zone in which Bapak expressed disappointment. He was disappointed that the delegates did not bring a livelier attitude. He said he had expected them to come “crowing like young cocks”.

One of the articles that you will find in this issue is a series of emails about the Australian Open Tennis. You may ask, what does this have to do with Subud?

Well, years ago when I was a coordinator for the Asian Zone, I attended a small meeting with Bapak after an Asian Zone Conference where he talked about many interesting things. One thing I always remember was that he said, “Subud has every kind of thing in it.” Including sport presumably.

This was the talk in which Bapak talked about SICA (Subud International Cultural Association) and said that it could have a role in attracting people to Subud. He suggested that someone should write a new book about Subud, aimed at the general public. He said that this book would be so interesting that we would no longer have to think about attracting people to Subud.

He said that the book he is taking about would contain “proofs, realities, evidence which demonstrate the scope or scale of Subud. There is every kind of thing in it. It is very broad and wide.”

He himself was not above talking about sport. He was a great admirer of Pele, the Brazilian soccer player. Who will ever forget the fantastic testing he did with Conrad Aldridge at the Anugraha Congress, testing how Pele moved when he was aiming for goal?

So, there are many lessons in sport which are not just lessons in sport, but lessons in life. He was obviously offering us Pele as a spirit of enterprise, determination, skill, courage. Absolute commitment to all these were the qualities of Pele.

So lately I have been thinking, let's be more varied in our outlook, let's not be afraid to look at the world. In fact, I would like to take this magazine in something of a new direction.

## Looking outward...

I was talking to someone the other day, and he said, “We've gotta get out of this navel-gazing phase. We have to start looking out of the world. We have to start engaging with the world.”

Of course, some people are already doing it. There have always been people who have done it. But this seems like a new moment when we have to re-engage with the world. RENEW IN 2022, that's my slogan,”

It has long been my ambition to make *Subud Voice* a magazine like the *Christian Science Monitor* which as you may know is a highly respected newspaper in the USA. That is, we are connected to a spiritual tradition, in our case Subud, but we use that as a platform on which to view the world. I would like to see in this magazine many more articles which bring a Subud perspective to the situations of the world.

You may ask, what is a Subud perspective? We know that organising Subud members is like herding cats. But I do believe that there are some core values that are widely shared. The traditional religious values of belief in the soul, in a creator, and a life after death. Belief in certain basic human values like tolerance. Tolerance is a core value in Subud. Tolerance in religion, in politics, for people >



“ RENEW IN 2022,  
that's my slogan... ”

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of all kinds. This is what many of us bring to the table.

Of course, we have in the past had articles which are looking out of the world, but I would see much more of it. Please send me articles that look outward. In this issue I give a few examples of my own. Looking outward and personal experience these are the core things I value in our articles of which you will find excellent examples in this issue.

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## PHOTOGRAPHING WILDLIFE

*Ashwin Rajaraman writes...*

The art of being a photographer and pursuing the Latihan with a camera - Ashwin Rajaraman's immersive journey into photography.

I love traveling, especially with my camera. Perhaps the stories and the people involved, the land and the culture, nature and art could best be captured with one and hence I embarked on this journey into the unknown which over a period of time has taken me to many, many places in my vast country and led me to explore several parts of the world, interact with people of different cultures and languages, into museums, forests and wilderness where there was not a single soul around and be one with nature surrounded by unsurpassed beauty, unparalleled peace and be immersed in the Latihan . . .

I learnt photography from my late father – or rather my father was the one who inspired me to dabble in it initially as a hobby and later as a passion. My earliest recollections during childhood are the scintillating black-and-white photographs he used to take of the temples and forest reserves in South India with his German Camera- yes those were the days of film! And we used to tag along with him and travel to the different temple towns, tiger reserves and coastal areas of South India – perhaps one more reason for my wander-lust to this day!

It also seems to have seeped into my subconscious to create this fascination with art, nature, wildlife and design of buildings and Architecture – so much so that I go out of the way to seek out these extremes, whenever and wherever possible, to this day. To this day I thank him for: inspiring me to travel, my love of photography and instilling in me an appreciation of nature and the beauty of art and design in everything I see around me.

During my travel and fiddling around with the camera, I realised a truth that had eluded me during my childhood on those jaunts – the places of worship, the forest reserves and the mountains and beaches not to mention the museums in the cities captivated and inspired me to such an extent that I realised what my father must have gone through when he was photographing all those temples and animals in South India – it was an inner spiritual experience that I find indescribable.

And slowly but surely, when I was all alone especially in the wilderness or in a place of great >



*Ashwin on location shooting wildlife with his camera.*



*I am the king here – at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.*



*Grooming session in progress.*

scenic beauty, the inner quiet state of being fit enough to receive the Latihan returned unmistakably and continued for long periods of time – I was one with nature, lost in that eerie state of supreme peace and bliss, ready to do the Latihan with the animals and birds that abounded in that place, who refused to move and curiously stared at this funny looking guy fiddling with his contraptions...

I also found one recurring theme as I sifted the photos at the end of every trip I made – the best ones were not necessarily (though I have a fair share of these as well) of an outstanding sunset or a place of great scenic beauty or a world renowned piece of art or architecture – they were the ones when I realised I was in that perfect, quiet inner latihan like state and the subject didn't matter – it could be a girl laughing or a bird or tiger quietly gazing at you or an innocuous piece of wall art that not many noticed or yes of course a very colourful sunrise. I have been blessed to have been guided by the Latihan on these trips and I am immensely grateful for that – at least that is what I truly believe in and think is the case . . .

The last two years have been challenging in this regard and while the pandemic raged and there was a definite lull in travel outside one's home, brief windows that were available between the three waves so far, enabled me to still travel and go bird watching and shooting wildlife with the camera. Results were these delights from the wilderness of our immense wildlife reserves, vast western ghats and the forests of the lower Himalayas in the north – Ganeshgudi in Karnataka, Bandavgarh in Madhyapradesh, Ranthambore in Rajasthan and Corbett in Uttarkhand, all in India.

#### Note from Editor:

Ashwin has included two links to some of his photographs on his blog and on the FAM site for those interested in his photographic journey:

<https://the-design-studio.org/> ; <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/ashwin-rajaraman>  
<https://the-design-studio.org/> ; <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/ashwin-rajaraman>

#### A brief profile of Ashwin

Ashwin is an IT professional who has worked in different domains and industries throughout his professional career, in a number of different countries around the world and has held a number of top management positions rising to a Group President level as part of his illustrious career. Currently Ashwin is a Consultant and Advisor to a couple of mid-tier IT Organisations in his native hometown of Chennai, India to



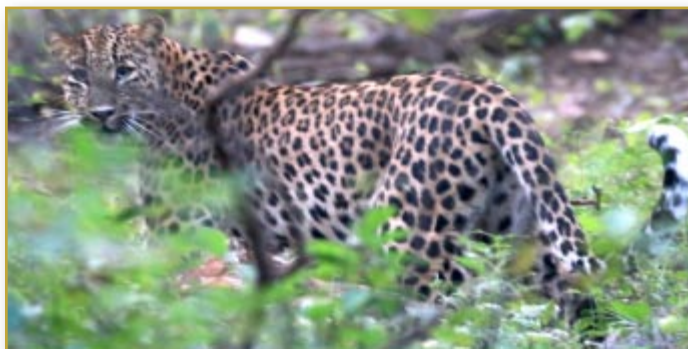
*A wild boar darting into the forest cover.*



*A family of foxes basking in the sunshine.*



*Waiting for my meal. Come hither if you dare.*



*The elusive leopard strikes a pose.*

which he returned last after many years abroad.

He is also a creative artist dabbles in photography and digital art - Ashwin is an avid photographer and has an innate passion for it and loves to travel – in fact he travels whenever possible (even during the pandemic it seems) and through his photography bring to the forefront the diversity and the inter-connectedness with this world we live in.

Born and brought up at Chennai in the southern-most part of India, Ashwin has professional qualifications in Physics, Marketing Management and Computer Applications and has had the privilege of working in the IT Industry right from the beginning in a number of cities in India and around the world. His nature of work ensured constant travel which helped shape who he is today both as a professional and as an artist. A Subud member since early 1984, a past National Chair of Subud India and still a helper, Ashwin has been on to the board of SDIA since mid 2020 and is Chair of their Fundraising Committee.

Ashwin is married to his wife Trisha and they celebrated their silver jubilee anniversary in 2020. Trisha has professional qualifications in education and is an educationist who runs schools for under privileged children. They have a 24 year old son Adri, an Electronics and Telecommunication Engineer, who is currently pursuing his Masters in Robotics in Massachusetts.



*Spitting image of my mother...*



*Locking horns is our kinda sport.*

## CONGRATULATIONS

*From Ismail Fido...*

Hi Harris,

Congratulations on an excellent and thoroughly cheering edition of Subud Voice.

In these days of obsessive political correctness, it is good to see articles by older white males of sensibility and insight, like Reynold Feldman and Irwan Wyllie. There was a stage when Indonesian was the new white in Subud. How silly. The Quran is quite explicit that no one race is superior to another.

Many years ago, I think many of us had a romanticised idea of Cilandak, rather like this:

[Bali-Ha'i - South Pacific \(1958\) Youtube](#)

"South Pacific" was a superb movie. Mitzi Gaynor is still alive, not quite high kicking, but still gorgeous. She's 90! Hungarian origins (father). The blondes are gorgeous.

Interesting the articles about Ramadan and Lent and ancestors.

I must confess to being a bit like Mulla Nasruddin. My life recently has been one long prihatin. I was in a session with other Carers yesterday. Their experiences were as bad as mine.

I find, due to this and other reasons, I have not been able to do Ramadan. I still seem to carry on. Nasruddin was like that. He always scandalised the righteous. I'm not sure we have any (self) righteous left here. Thank God!

All is now OK, thank God and I feel well and happy. Subud Briz seems OK. I just do the latihan, Man. I don't get too involved.

I hear Subud North Coast do latihan in Coolangatta, among other places. I had thought of relocating closer to Rita. The Gold Coast is. I love the beach.

Hope all well.

Say hello to Irwan for me.

Cheers, Ismail

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# Being Chosen

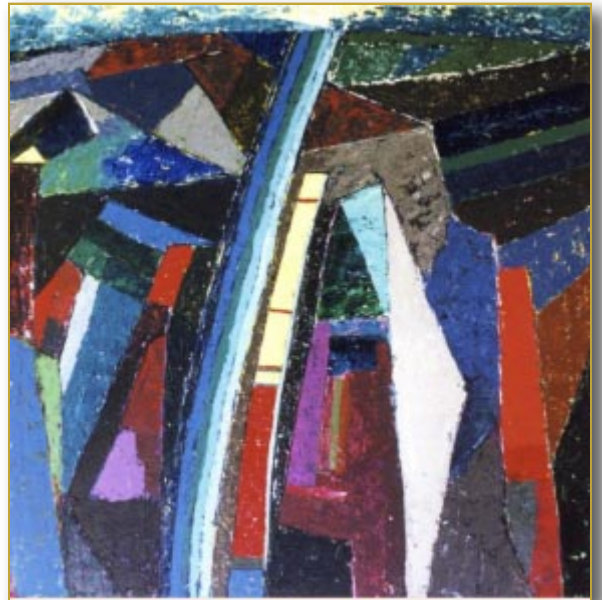
*Silvana Waniuk writes about being chosen...her painting of Joshua and the Walls of Jericho was featured in our last issue..*

Reading Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *Covenant & Conversations*. God has chosen the Children of Israel as a People, out of all the people of the earth to carry his covenant. The Tora stresses that there was nothing special about this nation. They were not better than other people; they quarreled, complained, didn't keep their word, sinned...in short not a nation of heroes.

Yet since they had been chosen they willingly and freely accepted the covenant with the Almighty. A covenant that didn't bring much outer, worldly, benefits, rather a lot of hardship and suffering, but that over 3 millennia miraculously, against all the odds, kept and is still keeping the Jewish people in the world.

Move forward to the recent coming of Subud. People join Subud of their own accord. Those who are born into Subud are not necessarily Subud members. Subud people are a motley assortment – nobody is special – just folks like everywhere else. Yet those who come from the right reason, and stay, know that it is not they who had chosen Subud but that they were chosen. God now is calling his chosen people from all over the world, not as one nation but as a multitude of individuals.

All called to a covenant with Him. Why? To bring back the original covenant which has been lost in our very "heady" times and to create a new harmony – so that humanity again can experience the closeness of the power of God to their innermost, and rediscover their essential individuality in a world that is overwhelmed by the shallow and the fast. ●



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## New Loudwater Facebook Page

*Sebastian Paemen writes...*

Dear Harris

I wonder if you would mind sharing the new Loudwater Facebook page link on SV. We are going through an exciting phase at the Farm. The group has really pulled together to do everything to keep Loudwater Farm and we are working on new initiatives. Will keep you both informed.

Cheers, Sebastian. <https://www.facebook.com/loudwaterfarmcommunity>



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## Subud Mexico Renews Bylaws

Dear Harris,

The National Committee of Subud in Mexico is very grateful to God that it has been able to renew its bylaws, in accordance with those of the Subud World Association.

We would be glad if you could publish the news of this remarkable event in the life of our association in Subud Voice.

*With our best regards, National Committee Asociación Nacional Subud en México,  
A.C. Almolonga 81 Col. La Paz Puebla, Pue, México*

### NEW BYLAWS

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MEX-New-bylaws.pdf>

### PHOTOS IN ENGLISH

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MEX-Photos-English.pdf>



*Participants and members of Subud in Mexico presents at the signing of the new bylaws final draft of the Asociación Nacional Subud en México, A.C.*

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## CREATION OF A LIVING WSA ARCHIVE

### *WSA Archives Subcommittee Recommendations*

#### *Executive Summary*

The WSA Archives Subcommittee (WSAASC) has concluded that there is a vital and urgent need for WSA to capture and preserve its archival collections and institutional records in digital form. It is essential that this occurs in a systematic, coordinated, and collaborative manner in order that the major international archive centers are all served by a unified and comprehensive system and become a truly living archive.

The WSA-Executive Committee has approved our proposal that WSA acquire the licence to a cloud-based, world leading digital preservation platform, Preservica, a proprietary out-of-the-box Software as a Service (SaaS) solution, at an annual fee of US\$11,950 for 1 TB storage.

Our initial plan is to implement two pilot projects, one in Australia with WSA Canberra Archives, and the other in Washington DC with Subud USA International Archives.

In preparation for these pilots, we will assemble teams to define the system of classification and organization to be used across collections, and to manage these in the digital space.

In Canberra we have contracted with a company, DatacomIT, to digitize 70 boxes of WSA organizational records and these will subsequently be ingested into Preservica. At the Amani Center in >

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Washington DC, where the Subud USA International Archives are now housed, there will be a similar digitization of selected records and ingestion into Preservica.

The experience, skills, and team building developed during these pilot projects will provide a basis for planning and implementing the complete digitization of records of significant archival value from each of the major Subud International Archive Centers.

Ultimately, our vision and plans are for the digital preservation platform to be available as the site for the storage and preservation of the archival, institutional, and working records of the whole of the Subud organization and its entities - the national archives, the World Subud Association, the Wings and Affiliates – with agreed levels of access for the committees and members throughout the world, and selectively for the enquiring public.

The cost of the licence for Preservica's digital preservation platform will be shared, initially between WSA and the Subud USA International Archives Council, and subsequently with other users, and there will be other costs involving human resources and digitization costs that will be undertaken and funded by WSA and the respective responsible parties.

These and other matters relating to this proposal are detailed in the sections and appendices following. The WSA Archives are a service of the WSA-Executive Committee, which is in support of this proposal, and the Subud USA International Archives Board is committed to active collaboration and funding support. Because of future budget implications and because this is a significant undertaking with potential to be a major milestone in the development of WSA Archives, we are also now requesting the approval of the WSA Board of Directors.

To read the complete document, click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Creation-of-a-Living-WSA-Archive.pdf> ●

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## ARCHIVES EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

*Please see this important message below from Matthew Moir of the WSA Archives Sub-Committee, and the attachment...*

MESSAGE FROM WSA ARCHIVES SUB-COMMITTEE

Dear All,

As many of you will be aware, at the recommendation of the WSA Archives Subcommittee, the WSA-Executive has acquired a licence to the Cloud Edition Essentials tier of the Preservica digital preservation platform, with funding support from the Subud USA Archives Board.

The WSA Archives Subcommittee and the Subud USA Archives Board plan to start pilot digitisation projects in collaboration during the next few months. Over the next few years, WSA Archives has the vision of creating a "WSA Living Archive" encompassing the whole of the Subud international and national organisations, the Wings, and Affiliates. We are now seeking expressions of interest from Subud members with specialised expertise and availability to become involved with these initial projects and the ongoing digital preservation goals. The attached document describes the roles and positions we are seeking and information about the process of application and selection.

Please circulate this document within your zone or organisation, and particularly to members with the backgrounds and skills we are seeking, and let us know if you have any questions or recommendations. Kind regards, Matthew Moir *WSA Archives Subcommittee Chair*

To read the full document, click here

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/WSA-Archives-Expressions-of-Interest.pdf> ●

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## The SIHA LISTENER Project

From Jamil Hugenholtz, SIHA representative for the Netherlands...

There is a Dutch proverb which goes: unknown is unloved.

As we know from our practice of testing, nothing is unknown in the realm of soul. Despite that, we all long to be known and loved.

Recently, we have been practicing a way of sharing and listening in SIHA Zone 3, which we believe can be helpful to any group of Subud members or when sharing and listening one to one. This way of listening is nothing new. It is well known in AA and NA Groups and in other support groups >



too, because it empowers self-confidence.

Here is how it works: we decide we want to be known and loved and therefore, we are willing to share whatever we feel is demanding our attention and influencing our emotions. You cannot expect to be known by keeping silent!

When we agree to meet (in person or online), we take turns sharing and listening.

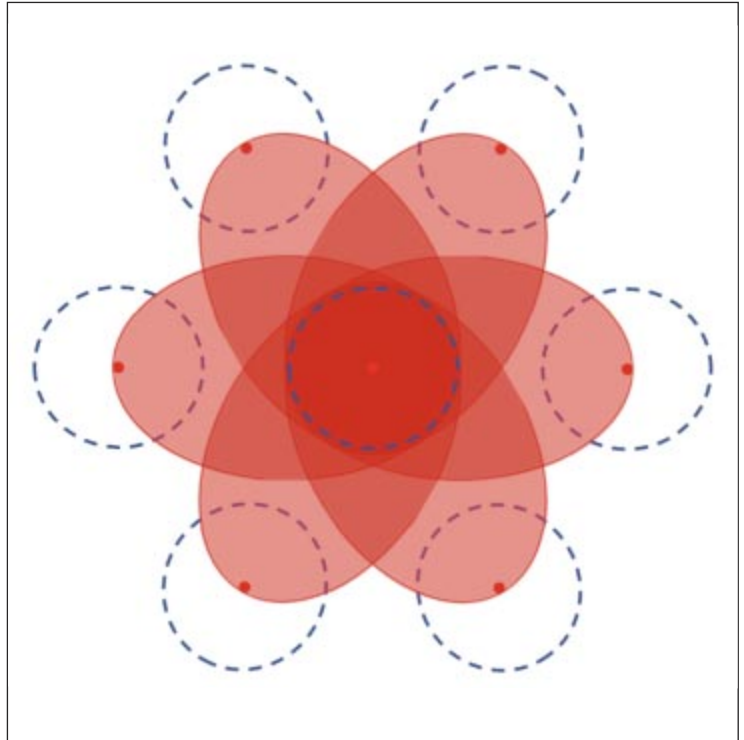
As a listener, or as listeners, we open our heart [1] to the speaker, and we give the speaker our undivided attention for an agreed upon time. We observe the speaker, rather than listening to what is being said, while we envelop the speaker with our love. This way, we 'listen' to the soul that is speaking, rather than the person.

While observing, we do not speak at all. We do not ask, we do not comment, we do not judge, and we certainly do not give advice. We fully concentrate on enveloping the speaker with our love and we do not give any importance to our own thoughts. Thoughts may come and go, but while listening in this way, they are just background noise.

When the speaker finishes, we may give feedback only by mentioning something that touched our heart, if that happened. Otherwise, we just say: "Thank you!".

Then we end the speaker's turn by taking time to be quiet and we once again envelop the speaker with our love, allowing the speaker to open their heart and receive our love consciously.

Here is what this looks like in a group of seven people:



The result is harmony. Remember how Bapak always emphasised that we as Subud members should work together harmoniously? Start meeting with your group or the members of your team in this way on a regular basis and you will enjoy harmony without even trying.

We hold a Zoom meeting on the 10th of each month. If you would like to join us and experience the power of this type of listening, you will find an invitation in the SIHA listeners group in Subud Village. This is the link to the Village: <https://sica-community.mn.co>

Here is a scientist's view on listening with an open heart:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLFXpRkVZal&t=18s>

We would love to receive your questions, suggestions, and ideas on this subject.

Send your email to [hughholtzjamil@gmail.com](mailto:hughholtzjamil@gmail.com) or to [eva@institut-imap.de](mailto:eva@institut-imap.de) (Elsa van Amern). May God bless us all!

*[1] When I speak of the heart, I do not mean our physical heart. Rather, I am referring to our heart chakra. This is the centre of love in our energetic body. It is located in the middle of our chest, right next to our physical heart.*

## WRONG INTERPRETATION AND THE TESTS OF BAPAK

*Anthony Bright-Paul writes...*

Has it ever happened to you, My Subud friends, My Subud Buddies and all my Subud Brothers and Sisters, whom I have yet to meet, has it ever happened that you have tested and received quite clearly and again and again, so that you are convinced of the correct meaning of your test.

Yet later on you discover that not only were you completely wrong, but that the proper interpretation of the test was diametrically opposite to what you had first arrived at? Clearly you can all see from the very way I have phrased this question that this has happened to me.

Oh yes, Haha. it is so easy so to do.

Unfortunately, our desires pop up and we interpret our receivings in the way that we had hoped. That is why, when Bapak was alive, we were advised to test together in a Group, in the hope, mostly a vain hope, that the Group or at least somebody in the Group would get it right. But with the Pandemic a lot of us have been forced to test on our own. Or maybe we are in a Group where, Heaven forbid, we do not trust the Helpers. Or, worse still, we do not trust ourselves.

“Aye, there’s the rub...”

A lot of people, a lot of my personal friends, who have been in Subud from the year dot, have told me that they tested about the jab and maybe the Booster, before receiving the jabs. Almost certainly my good friends received correctly. But what exactly were they testing? Aye, there’s the rub!

Having just found my copy of THE TESTS OF BAPAK I have been reading it again with new eyes. Speaking of eyes one of Bapak’s tests was ‘How do my eyes feel when I am in front of a particularly stupid person, who has never received the latihan kejiwaan of Subud?’ Who, but Bapak, would have even conceived of a test like that?

Indeed, who but Bapak, would have shown us how to feel the character of another person? When reading THE TESTS once again, all sorts of new possibilities occur. And may I dare to suggest to my long-time friends and Buddies, that they test again, but not with a simple Yes, No answer? Perhaps they might test something way more difficult, like ‘What is the character of Dr Fauci? What is his predominant lower driving force?’ Or you might feel that is too personal.

So, how about ‘Where and when did Covid originate? Who are the experts on this matter and what makes them expert?’ You see, there is a vast range of possibilities. Bapak chides us again and again that we have not done enough latihan, we have not been diligent enough, with the result that our receiving is unclear. With that I guess I have said enough for today.

Editor’s note: The book Anthony refers to is *The Tests of Bapak* by Sampson Rheams. ●

## Subud Album release

Greetings! My name Hassanah Iroegbu. I am a long time Subud member who is a singer/songwriter. I would like to share my new album release in hopes that it would be featured on the subudvoice website or newsletter.

The album is called ‘JOURNEYS’. It is about the spiritual and emotional paths we take to finding our way through difficulty back to our center. Please listen and enjoy and let me know if it is possible to feature it to be shared with the Subud community. Thank you for your time and God bless!

The album is available on bandcamp:

[www.hassanah.bandcamp.com](http://www.hassanah.bandcamp.com)

or on iTunes

<https://music.apple.com/us/album/journeys/1606462424>

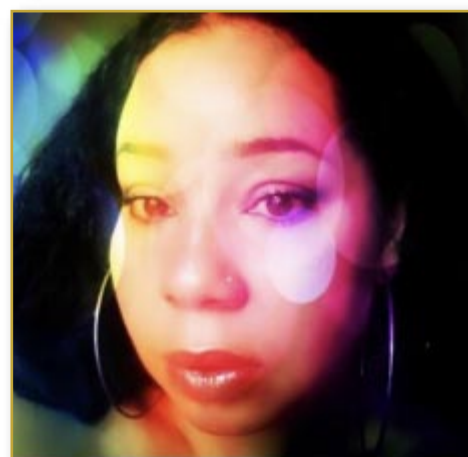
You can also find me here: <https://www.instagram.com/hassanahmusic/?hl=en>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/HASSANAHMUSIC/featured> &

<http://www.hassanah.com>

*“Singer/Songwriter Hassanah is known for her soothing yet powerful vocal style and songs of sweet melody and soulful substance. Of Nigerian and German/Pennsylvania Dutch Background, she grew up all over the world from Nigeria to New Zealand, Honolulu to California and many places in between, collecting various musical influences along the way.*

*Hassanah received the ‘Rising Sophomore Award’ in the jazz studies program at North Carolina Central University as well as a New*



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Zealand Music Award for 'Most Promising New Artist'. She earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in music production as well as an Associate of Science degree in recording engineering from Full Sail university. Her musical style combines Jazz, Reggae, R&B as well as Afrobeat to create a sound that is uniquely her own." ●

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## MONOTHEISMUS

A Journal Featuring the Wisdom, Arts and Cultures of the Abrahamic Religions

*Iltjas Baker writes...*

I intend to publish a free, independent, biannual web journal entitled Monotheismus. This will be a journal featuring the wisdom, arts and cultures of the Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The journal will not favour one of the three religions. There will be no adverts and the journal will be funded by donations and the support, hopefully, of foundations supporting religious harmony.

The chief purpose of the journal is to promote respect for the three Abrahamic religions through sharing examples of their wisdom, arts and cultures and to encourage inter-religious dialogue and cooperation among, primarily, lay adherents of the three faiths.

The journal is not designed to bring readers to Subud or even to make them aware of Subud. There will be no quotes from Bapak or Ibu Rahayu. Indeed there will be no mention of Subud unless SICA, for example, supports it in some way.

The journal is aimed at a wide, educated readership and will be non-academic in style. It will be an attractive journal with lots of visuals and each issue will contain longish articles about aspects of the three religions (probably no more than three articles per issue), as well as original poems and paintings by adherents of the three religions. There will also be a few short book reviews and reviews of relevant films or art exhibitions. Each issue will also probably feature a recipe along with a short explanation of its cultural context, e.g. its connection to a particular religious festival or occasion.

“ *The journal is aimed at a wide, educated readership, and will be non-academic in style...* ”

The journal will be published online only. I imagine it looking something like [aramcoworld.com](http://aramcoworld.com) or [besharamagazine.org](http://besharamagazine.org), which appear to use a relatively standardized design although the design of MONOTHEISMUS should be adapted to a biannual journal format with each issue separately identified. I want it to be visually appealing but simple and uncluttered. It won't be interactive or contain video and I don't think it will need a search engine so management of the site should be minimal.

I am looking for assistance in terms of someone with web skills willing to convert the content into a web-based journal or happy to advise me on this. I am also looking for someone to design the banner that will appear at the top of the opening screen (at the moment I think it should include a drawing of a date palm tree with three bunches of dates), picture editors who will source pictures to accompany articles and other contributions and get permission to publish if needed, as well as writers, poets, artists, photographers willing to contribute their work for free.

I suspect it will be too difficult in the early stages at least to rely on articles written especially for the journal so if you find something that has already been published but you think it deserves a wider readership please let me know and if possible provide the contact details of the author. I won't give preference to Subud contributors so anything submitted will have to be of a certain standard and meet certain guidelines. Nevertheless, I'm hoping the journal will provide an opportunity for Subud people to bring something special to the feel of the journal.

I am currently sourcing material for the first issue and hope to have:

- An essay about a visit to a Trappist monk now living in Morocco - a survivor of the Tibhirine monastic community, seven of whom were kidnapped and murdered in 1996 during the Algerian Civil war
- An article on what Yom Kippur teaches us about forgiveness
- An essay on the importance of adab (good manners) in inter-faith relations

- Poems by contemporary poets from each of the religious traditions
- Photos of Jewish, Christian and Islamic art from Spain during the period known as La Convivencia
- An article on Rumi as a Muslim
- Art from a few contemporary artists expressing religious themes

If you share the aims of the journal and wish to contribute in some way please contact me at: [iljasbaker\\*AT\\*gmail\\*DOT\\*com](mailto:iljasbaker*AT*gmail*DOT*com)

In case you need to know: I am a retired university professor (social science), a published poet/writer and a long-time consulting editor for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Islam is my religion and I first received the latihan in 1972.

## PAK'S "FILSAFAT"

*Siti Salamah Pope and her husband Abdullah were early pioneers from the Coombe Spring days. They also lived in Wisma Subud, Jakarta, for many years, before moving to Perth, Western Australia. Salamah passed away on August 30, 2017.*

*In this article Salamah explains how "when I'd been in Subud for twenty years or so, the latihan got into my brain – and I was dumped with a vision of all Bapak's cosmologies, how they related to one another, and how they gave a natural, holistic explanation of just about everything".*

*Salamah eventually wrote a book based on her understanding of these ideas and experiences titled *Pattern of the World*. It can be downloaded for free at:*

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Pattern-of-the-World.pdf>

*In the next issue of Subud Voice we will publish a long article in which Salamah gives a more detailed account of her understanding of Bapak's ideas. Also see the article in this issue "Cubby Considerations" by Irwan Wyllie in which he refers to Salamah's work...*

Bapak brought us the gift of the latihan, which we all know and value, but he also interpreted the ordinary world for us – showing it to us in a quite different way. He told us, for instance, of the forces within the animal, vegetal and material worlds that have such a strong influence over us.

Well, I listened, with not much interest I have to admit. But when I'd been in Subud for twenty years or so, the latihan got into my brain – and I was dumped with a vision of all Bapak's cosmologies, how they related to one another, and how they gave a natural, holistic explanation of just about everything.

To cut a long story short, living in the Wisma Subud I managed to ask Bapak if what I had seen was right – or was it just my imagination? What he told me was that what I had seen was *betul*, correct, true. He added that this was filsafat, philosophy, and that I had seen it "not because of your intelligence but because it was the Will of God."

A year or two later I snuck in with a bunch of people who were seeing Bapak before going back to their own countries. "And where are you going?" he asked me. "I'm going to America to talk about Bapak's ideas at a conference" I said – and he almost laughed. Then: "This is Bapak's filsafat, and it is your enterprise." So off I went, happy to have my work on Bapak's cosmologies more or less approved.

But it wasn't just the "animal, vegetal and mineral" cosmology that I was shown so many years ago. There were others: the four "elements"; and the four classes of life force; and the four stages of process; and the Zat/Sifat/Asma/Al'al stages of Creation. They all fit together – they all "con-



*Salamah Pope.*

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form” to one another – in 1 what I perceive as a Grand Design, and a coherent, holistic philosophy.

[So, I went on working...](#)

With my head – on the vision I’d been given years earlier: because (in my opinion) these ideas are simple, sensible – even rational – and exactly what is needed to pull our fragmented societies together today.

I admit that, with our ordinary perception, it is not easy to see the world the way Bapak showed us; it needs a complete change of perception – and that ain’t easy. But once you do see it, why, everything makes sense – and the Big Questions of life are answered.

Take values, for example. We talk glibly about ‘human values’ and also ‘material values’ assuming we know what they are. Yet between these two there are ‘animal values’ (familial, communal, co-operative) – and even ‘vegetal values’ (selfish, greedy, competitive). And, if you abstract all the ‘animal’, ‘vegetal’ and ‘mineral’/material values away from us, then what you are left with is a clear and simple list of the specifically human values.

Another thing: take Einstein’s equation,  $E=mc^2$ , which basically means that everything – Everything – is actually different forms of energy. Yet what are the *daya-daya rendah* (which Bapak’s translators called “lower forces”), but energies? Scientists have never taken up Einstein’s idea of everything being energies – and at this point it’s beyond belief that they might take a hint or two from Bapak’s *filosofat* – but, in the future, who knows?

[Now, in the early days of Subud in the West...](#)

A lot of us thought the latihan would change the world; I suppose it is doing so but, as we lurch from one world crisis to another, it seems to be doing so rather too slowly. There is another factor, though: as Varindra said, it is ideas that change the world.

Yet I have been singularly unsuccessful in getting these ideas out there 2 to a wider, non-Subud audience. And, apart from Rasunah Marsden in Vancouver and Emmanuel Williams in San Francisco, no one else I know takes much notice of these wonderful ideas which Bapak, along with the latihan, bequeathed us. So, surely, we were meant to have them, understand and use them – putting them to work?

Eventually I wrote them all up together in a book called *The Pattern of the World: Re-Envisioning Everything (including us) Holistically*: and then spent five years trying to find a publisher. In 2007 I gave up and self-published it. It is now out of print but the whole thing – all 367 pages of it – is still up on a website: [www.worldpattern.net](http://www.worldpattern.net)

Today, nearly forty years since my original receiving, I still think – think, cognitively, consider – that all these ideas, as a coherent whole, stand up to rational scrutiny. And that they could be very useful today.

Did you know that the Dalai Lama asked (in one of his recent books) for “a global ethic, to which everyone can subscribe”? The great psychologist Abraham Maslow asked for “a natural hierarchy of human values with which people of all cultures can agree.”

And educators, anthropologists, psychologists and sociologists have for decades been needing a rational description of what it means to be fully human, humane. Yet, believe me, all these things are provided by the ideas which Bapak left us. Valuable? I think they’re absolutely priceless.

Bapak was not alone in receiving these ideas, though. The Hasidim, the esoteric branch of Jewish thought, have them at least in part, as do the Sufis, and even E. F. Schumacher (the *Small is Beautiful* man) in his second book. All of which, again, leads me to think they are not only true but universal: and could help shift this insane society into a new and more positive paradigm.

But I am now 84, disabled, and can do nothing more about them. So, this is a last desperate plea: is there anyone else who considers Bapak’s *filosofat* worth taking on board? – and promoting it? I honestly think these ideas could, along with the latihan, change the world for the better.

*The Pattern of the World* is available for free at:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Pattern-of-the-World.pdf>

“ *I was dumped with a vision of how Bapak’s cosmologies gave a natural, holistic explanation of just about everything...* ”

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## OBSERVING THE NIGHT OF DESTINY

The Night of Destiny is half way through the month of Shaban which is the month before Ramadan (that is, the Month of the Ancestors). This year the Night of Destiny begins at sunset on Thursday, March 17 which is the night that begins the day of the full moon. 15 days before the start of Ramadan on April 2.

In some places it's call mid Shaban because Shaban is the name of the month that precedes Ramadan. For further information see:

<https://muslimhands.org.uk/latest/2019/04/the-importance-of-15th-shaban-night>

During the Night of Destiny, it is said that the Angels come close to the earth and are prepared to accept forgiveness of sins from Allah for those who sincerely wish to be forgiven. It is said further that those with sincere hearts have the opportunity to be forgiven for all errors of the preceding years, thus facing the New Year with a clean slate.

The Night of Destiny which is in the middle of the month of Shaban begins at Maghrib at 6 PM on March 28 (this year) and ends at Maghrib at 6 PM on the following day.

It is advised to stay awake until 12 midnight (on March 28) and then to fast on the following day (March 29). For those who wish to read from the Koran it is suggested to read and pray for ancestors and for strength to put aside unwanted influences.

### Prayer for the night of destiny

*Oh Allah, no one can do a favor for you on this blessed night in the revered month of Shaban. Forgive us and guide us.*

*If you have written us down in the book of life, then forgive us... If we are lacking in anything then forgive us and have mercy.*

*Raise us up with the Prophets and the Martyrs. Oh most merciful of those who show mercy, Oh most merciful of all, Amen.*

Remain quiet until midnight.

After evening prayers, the chapter from the Qur'an Ya Sin is normally played or read.

You first ask Almighty God to forgive your ancestors and give them a good place in heaven. If you have ancestors who have been troublesome, then ask God for forgiveness, and then break the ancestral link, so that you do not carry it into your family or descendants.

Secondly, pray for your children. Ask the Almighty to shower them with good fortune, so that they are God-fearing, and tread a good path.

Third, pray for yourself. Ask for forgiveness. Ask for good health. If you're one of the less fortunate, please ask God to include you amongst those whom Almighty God has showed his blessings on. You do not want misfortunes.

Play Ya Sin if you have it, or just read it. After tonight's prayers, you fast tomorrow.

*This information was sent to Subud Voice by Isti Jenkins during the time she was an International Helper.*

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## LENT AND RAMADAN IN 2022

It was recently pointed out to me that in this year 2022, the last two weeks of Lent overlap approximately with the first two weeks of Ramadan.

The month of Shaban (or month of the ancestors) begins around the same time as Lent begins. It seems significant to me that these two events are overlapping - I don't know the statistics as they both move around, but I think it's a rare event.

Also it seems significant when contemplating the world situation at the moment and what lies ahead in the next few months of 2022.

Bapak often spoke about the need for prihatin and fasting and Ibu Rahayu wrote to SD USA in April 2020, about the Covid situation - "Seek strength through prayer and our individual latihan, so that we can receive God's grace and protection and be kept safe."

Lent 2022 begins on Wednesday, 2 March and ends on Thursday, 14 April

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Shaban (month of ancestors) 2022 begins on Friday 4 March and ends on Friday 1 April

Ramadan 2022 begins on Saturday 2 April and finishes on Sunday 1 May.

We always point out that you should check for yourself with local religious authorities as sometimes dates can vary.

The fast is not obligatory for Subud members.

Note to all: we are not sending out this information because we are urging people to do Ramadan, or because Subud espouses one religion over another. Bapak recommended that fasting has value for us individually, and we know that some members observe Lent instead of Ramadan, or do their own private form of fasting.

Advice about fasting in Ramadan can be found in the many talks by Bapak and Ibu Rahyu about Ramadan which are on the web site [www.subudlibrary.net](http://www.subudlibrary.net) ●

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## Angel

*Anonymous writes...*

On the seventh day of fasting, I dreamed I saw an angel fall from the sky.

I was walking in a field, in a wintry English landscape, and I saw him fall into a mist or cloudbank in a nearby field. I ran over to see if I could find him.

Two things were racing through my mind. One was, "Wait until I tell Emanuel about this!" Emanuel is this friend of mine and we always tell each other about anything exciting that happens to us, particularly anything of a spiritual nature.

Secondly, I was full of dread that my longing to see the angel might drive him away. Someone I knew who had seen many angels told me that they will only come to you when you are free of the desire to see them. If you are full of craving for them, it drives them away. Nothing surer.

I was full of desire but perhaps the angel wouldn't notice, or would forgive me, or make allowances or something. It was my first angel after all.

I came into the fogbank and there he was. I took a good long look at him, though full of apprehension he might disappear. But he stayed. I could see him but he seemed to be unaware of me.

He was a very playful angel. He was very hard to keep up with because he went leaping and whizzing through the air. He had no wings but he had the ability to leap effortlessly high into the air then come down to earth again. He seemed to like leaping and bounding for no other reason than as an expression of his tremendous high spirits. I ran through the mist trying to keep up with him.

He was aged about thirty and he was wearing a brown habit like a Franciscan. The habit was a little shorter than a Franciscan would usually wear, coming down to his knees. He was a stocky man with a handsome rugged face and shoulder-length stringy blond hair. He was oblivious to me. I longed that he should see me so that we could communicate, but it was as if he was in another dimension.

At one point he found a battered old brown felt hat on the ground and he put it on his head and strutted about for the fun of it. Then off he whizzed into the sky again.

Then I saw a sign on a fence which said, "Be open and pray!"

I tried to be more open, but how do you do that? I opened myself up as much as I could and prayed, opening my chest, but I was so excited and there so much wanted to come out at once that my prayer was just an inchoate jumble in my throat.

But that did not matter, that was my prayer, that was me.

The angel stayed a little while longer, leaping and bounding, then one of his great leaps took him far off into the sky and he disappeared.

It felt like a most important dream and a milestone. There was a wonderful, joyous feeling similar to times when I had dreamed I could fly... ●



## Another 50 Years

*Dahlan Simpson writes...*

I awoke with a startle at 3 o'clock one morning. At first, I thought it was the storm, with rain lashing the window.

But no, it was God, talking to me - yes me, Dale. I sat up in bed, as if about to salute.

But God's Voice was gentle:

"My child, I have a job for you". (Well, I thought, God doesn't mess about. But then I thought, He wouldn't, would He, since he Created the universe and everything in it. No time for messing about there!).

"I need you to live for another 50 years."

"But God, by then I will be over 120 years old. How can I be of any use then?"

"Well by then, you won't, so I will have to bring you back."

"What do you want me to do, Father?". I thought I should try to be respectful.

"Some of us in heaven have been reading a few of your poems, Dale. They are rather good. So we want you to write poems to all the leaders of the world – the big countries and troubled ones, like North Korea. We want you to convey to them that behaving badly will end badly and behaving well will end well. You see, that is it in a nutshell, but it is not poetic, is it? It doesn't hit home. We think you can achieve that with your poems."

You know, once many years back I wanted to be famous. Yes, I could see it all ahead of me. Dale, the amazing poet, the man of words who can paint a picture without a brush. Who can touch your heart without touching your body. Who could move you to tears or smiles with just a flick of his wrist over paper. A true poet.

"A true poet," said God. "I know what you're thinking. And that is exactly what we're thinking. That is why we need you on Earth for another 50 years. It may take that time to get through the thick skulls of some of those leaders I mentioned."

"Do you know the final straw?", continued God. "North Korea making hypersonic missiles when they can't even feed their people. And as if anyone would want to invade their impoverished country. They are mad. A poet needs to tell them so, but ever so gently. You can do that, Mr Dale Poet," laughed God.

Can you imagine God laughing? I'll bet His Laugh created another million galaxies of good humans. Yes, good humans. Why would God mess about creating more humans with free will? "Oh yes, Teacher is away, we can act up". Little did many Earth people know that God could see every single little thing, every sad and sick thought in that troubled world.

'So that's decided, then" announced God, as if I had any choice. I remembered then that Adam asked God if he could live longer, and he lived for another 900 years. Was he mad? No, but was he smart?

"And I have also Chosen many others for key tasks", said God, "such as musicians, to touch and pacify hearts... comedians, to stop you taking yourselves seriously, and many others."

A hush fell on my heart, and it seemed to be stilled like frozen water. So I am going to write poems to world leaders? Why would they listen to me?

"You're wondering why anyone would listen to you, aren't you?" quipped God, playing with me by reminding me that He knows everything.

"I'm going to make you famous!"

I never ever imagined, not in my wildest, craziest dreams, that I would or even could become famous by God's Decree. I mean, really! This can't be happening.

*To read the full document click here:*

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Dahlan-Simpson-Story.pdf>



*The famous debate about poetry between God and "Dale" as pictured by Michelangelo.*



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# Cubby Considerations – Part 1

*Irwan writes the seventh article in his series from his cubby. In this article he explores his love of history and writes about the development of ideas...*

At the end of my cubby working day, you will often find me indulging my life-long passion for history. I have always wanted to understand the history of humankind, and the ideas and forces that drive our behaviour. In recent years, this has become a bit of an obsession - albeit very part-time - to uncover not only the historical patterns of my life and the lives of my ancestors, but also those of the world.

How much folly can be contained in one silly man's head I hear you say.

I remember hearing a story years ago of a champion swimmer in the US, I think in the 1950s, who was convinced he could swim across a very narrow, flood-engorged ravine. As a bit of a self-promoter, an early Evil Knieval, his plans were well publicised. The press and photographers gathered by the ravine. Interviews were held. Photos and newsreels were shot. The moment came. In he dived.

He vanished, never surfaced, his body never found.

Like that 1950s daredevil, I am about to dive into deep and turbulent waters. I too may disappear forever - into a torrent of ideas - totally out of my depth. For some, my demise may be a relief – no more cubby stories!!

I am nevertheless encouraged to continue. The lines of a poem by Alexander Pope, first read to me as a child by my mother, have always stayed with me:

*A little learning is a dangerous thing;  
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;  
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,  
And drinking largely sobers us again.*

I keep drinking.

## The love of history...

I'm not sure why I love history so much. It is part adventure and part search for understanding. There is no greater thrill than finding an unexpected and rich source. But does it really matter if, as most spiritual teachers say, this world is an illusion?

One of humanity's evolutionary drivers, however, has always been curiosity. I can't help myself. Besides, as Galileo rightly observed four hundred years ago: "I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use."

Bapak pointed out that "God Almighty wills that man should know his origin, Who made him, and know, too, a picture of human history" (Edinburgh, 1 July 1977, p. 37). He also explained in the same talk that: "The only way human beings can know about the real history of life, the history of humanity, the human being's own story or history—is from the jiwa. The only way you can know of your own story and that of your race is from your own jiwa."

I'm still working on that one.

Perhaps the origins of my fascination with history and what makes people tick can be found in my early childhood. There were times when I felt like an alien on this planet. I could not understand what people were up to.

This bewilderment grew over the years. By the time I got to the so-called "elite" grammar school my family was fashioning as a tradition, I was completely overwhelmed by the bizarre behaviour of both teachers and students. What the hell was going on !!



*Irwan at work in his Cubby.*

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## At university...

When I got to university, although I was studying Economics, I took a course studying Classical Greece (fifth century BC). I discovered that some of those folk 2,500 years ago were really smart, smarter than anyone I had ever met in my world, smarter than my teachers, and certainly smarter than our well-meaning but uninspiring Presbyterian minister. The only thing I learnt from sitting on bum-numbing wooden pews in our local church was that Scots have very large ears that get larger with age. (Apologies to my Scottish brothers and sisters.)

My study of the ancient Greeks raised a fundamental question: was it possible that our modern world was not the apogee of human civilisation that I had been led to believe it was? Was it possible that grammar school was not a barbarian outpost but typical of the adult world I was about to enter? Was it possible that humanity was in decline?

I had long understood that my hometown of Brisbane, a large country town in the fifties and sixties, was not the apogee of anything. Many years later I would read with relief the words of one of our best writers, David Malouf, a contemporary who also grew up in Brisbane: "Brisbane is so sleepy, so slatternly, so sprawlingly unlovely... It is simply the most ordinary place in the world... It was so shabby and makeshift ... a place where poetry could never occur."

Someone understood!!

So, my childhood was filled with disappointment measured against the poetic masterpieces my mother read to me in the evenings, and the biblical accounts of angels and miracles I was taught on Sundays. Even my father, a steadfast Christian, lamented late in life: "there are so many stories of angels in the bible, why have I never seen one?"

My father was an example of a good Christian who, like humankind in general, was looking for proof of religious teachings in a world built near-exclusively on reason, scientific observation, and commercial pragmatism. As Bapak explained, people want proof.

By the time I got to postgraduate studies, I came in contact with a critique of what is known as the Whig view of history. The Whig approach to historiography proposed that we had moved from a primitive and uncivilised past to a wondrous and righteous present. I could already see there had been many fit-for-purpose civilisations in the past. I now came to understand that my childlike view of the world was built on propaganda, in my case mostly the self-serving ideas of the British empire and Christianity with a large dash of romanticism to make the unpalatable palatable.

Years later I was so fascinated and pleased to hear Bapak say that there had been a time when human beings were even more advanced than us, not only in technology, but also spiritually (*Edinburgh, 1 July 1977, p. 37*).

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To read the complete article click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Cubby-Considerations-Part-1.pdf> ●

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## Sufism and Subud

*Ismail Fido writes...*

There are two things virtually everyone in Subud gets their two bob's worth in about and it's usually worth just about two bob, currently 20 cents Australian. These are Islam and Sufism.

It is generally accepted amongst those who know much about the two, such as our contemporaries, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, who writes from within both Islam and Sufism and Professor Carl W Ernst, who is neither Muslim nor Sufi, but respected by both, that the two are interrelated.

There are Muslims, usually of Salafi or Deobandi leaning i.e., quite close to the mindset of Isis or Al Quaida, though not all Salafis or Deobandis support either, who say Sufism is "haram" (categorically forbidden) in Islam.

The general consensus in Sunni Islam and this comes right from Al Azhar University in Cairo, >



*Image by Dervis Pavlovic.*

regarded as the highest legal authority, is that Sufism, practiced in conjunction with normal worship, not in isolation from it, is fine. Staying within the bounds of Islam is crucial as well as being absolutely mandatory.

Sufism also has a long history in the Shi'ite world but that world has a long history of Sufis being martyred by the orthodox authorities.

### Non-Islamic Sufism

There is Non-Islamic Sufism, such as that of the late Idries Shah, whose Sufi lineage and authenticity were questioned by the late well regarded Professor L P Elwell-Sutton, Professor of Persian at Edinburgh University. Those of academic bent can look up the matter on the internet.

Sufis have a good sense of humour, as exemplified in the Mulla Nasruddin stories, so beloved of Turkish folklore. Apparently, there was a real Mulla Nasruddin (Hoca Nasruddin in Turkish) and he actually has a real grave. Even with that he pulled one last joke, because, apparently, from one perspective, the site looks totally enclosed, but is not.

Sufis would love and find incredibly funny the sort of bizarre stories about them which link them with all sorts of bizarre organisations and give them bizarre origins.

This is the age of cults and conspiracy theories galore, possibly linked to a decline in religious belief and the accompanying religious illiteracy, which leaves a gaping hole and also a tendency to utter gullibility amongst some supposedly well-educated people.

For some reason, some of the more recently opened members in my group appear not to have been fully informed what Subud is or what Bapak or Ibu Rahayu said. Many have not been apprised of the truly excellent Subud Library which could fill this gap.

Sufis often preached Islam to the simple country folk, like Haji Bekdash Wali, whose Sufi Tariqa (order) was associated with the feared Ottoman Janissaries, forced levies of young Christian men, who had to be taught Islam from scratch.

The Bektashis were Shi'ite and "rural", whereas the Naqshbandi and Mevlevi were Sunni, considered more aristocratic and centred in Istanbul, a great world capital, as anyone who has been there would know and the former centre of the Ottoman Empire equal to London. A Naqshbandi dervish was the first man over the walls of Constantinople in 1453.

*To read the complete article click here:*

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Sufism-and-Subud.pdf>



*Haji Bekdash Veli*

## OUR BROTHER LATIF ALSTON'S FUNERAL

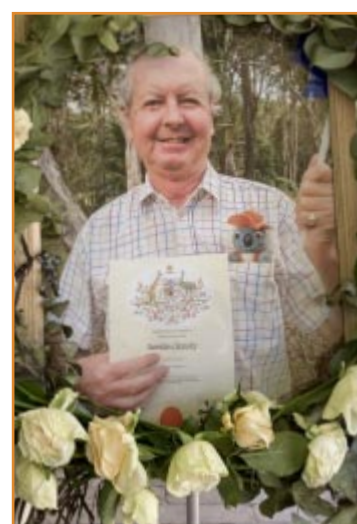
*By Isti Jenkins...*

Our brother Latif passed away in the early hours of the morning on 5th February 2022. He passed peacefully in his own home at Tewantin, Queensland, surrounded by family members. (Inna-lillahi-wa-inna-ilaihi-raji-un, meaning 'from God do we come and to God we return').

Latif and his wife Rasunah have both lived and worked on a large property in the heart of Tewantin for over 22 years. After Latif's illness, Rasunah continued to manage their own successful enterprise business, Inner Glow Health Products, which continues to this day. It was wonderful to see his five children and eight grandchildren all present, making it a truly delightful family event.

The celebration of Latif's life was an intimate gathering of close family and friends.

Rasunah and I have a history that goes back to when we were around 15 years of age. Latif and I first met at the World Congress in Tokyo in 1967. A group of us then traveled together from Tokyo, Japan to Hong Kong, China to meet Hussein Rofé and hear his stories. I joined the group with



Sharifin Gardiner Varinda Vittachi, Prio Hartono, and Latif Alston. From Hong Kong we flew to Jakarta, several of us for the very first time. But this is the beginning of another long story and one that very much includes Rasunah!

Since Latif's earlier Subud days in the UK and then in Australia, Latif took on many roles in Subud. Latif was a very sincere and devoted Subud member with a lovely sense of humour, and it was difficult not to have fond and loving feeling towards him. (May he Rest In Peace). Around 40 of us attended the funeral in the morning on 9th February. We settled into chairs in front of where Latif lay to hear a little about his life. His son Harlan had produced a beautiful slideshow of photos, which played continuously displaying the different stages of Latif's life, his marriage and his affection for his five children and eight grandchildren.



*The family of Latif and Rasunah, children and grandchildren.*

The most touching and moving thing was to see Latif's special chair in the living room where he spent many many hours. It was carefully arranged with his hat, his walking stick and a glass of red wine on the table next to the chair. I felt his presence still there and was moved to say 'Goodbye dear Latif' so suddenly aware of his physical absence and emotion and tears taking over briefly.

Peppie, Rasunah's sister was MOC, introducing Veronica his eldest granddaughter to share a brief history of Latif's life, followed by Ariana who read out a quote from Bapak's songs and Prayers. Rasunah chanted Bapak's favourite prayer Al Fatiha. Latif's eldest son Imron shared some loving memories, followed by Ridwan reading a quote from Susila Budhi Dharma, finishing with Nuraini playing an instrumental on her guitar "Ocean" which was one of Latif's favourite pieces that Nu often played. This special sharing was all a perfect beginning to the celebration of Latif's life.

A very touching addition to Latif's farewell, were all the rose flower arrangements that were so lovingly created by Hatijah and Mariamah, which were placed on the coffin and around the home.

Around 10.30am we all gathered to follow the golden Hearse in convoy to the Eumundi Cemetery, in Golden Rain Lane, a quiet and beautifully peaceful place half an hour south of Noosa.

It was here that we gathered to witness the casket being lowered into the rich red soil, to sprinkle a collection of rose petals with our love and blessings, and to wish Latif a blessed journey on his way home. It was a blessing to share in the celebration of Latif's life. Afterwards we returned to the family home to celebrate Latif's life in a relaxed atmosphere which it certainly was.

The Alston family are very thankful to all those who could return to the Alston home to celebrate this special Celebration of Latif's life, sharing the special arrangement of the most delicious food that Stephen and Lucy Hampton so caringly prepared for this special occasion.

Thanks to Almighty God for our Latihan, Subud family and these special memories,  
*Love Isti Jenkins*

---

## Rayner Read

*Daniel Smith (Tayside Group) writes...*

After a long period of ailing health, Rayner Read surrendered his mortal life to God's will at c17.00 hours on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Many of his brothers and sisters will remember his life lived quietly and sincerely, and a constant example in true submission that most of us find so difficult to follow. I hear his words even now;- "just leave it be, and surrender it up to God". His experiences of how he came into Subud are documented in a previous SBJournal article (viz; Between Heaven and Earth).

His wife Isobel, soon after, went through a similar the 1000 days experience, and passed over in early spring of 2018. He is survived by their daughter, Marion, and a grandson. In the latter few

---

years he retired back to his birth town in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

He and his wife were opened in 1965 and came to Edinburgh early 1970 and worked as a respected chef in several major hotels, before joining Rootcrop Ltd, where he managed their café/fish 'n'chip shop in South Queensferry, Here he hosted Bapak and family to tea and fish and chips. They even had a take-away for their journey south.

As group chair in the mid 70s, he arranged the purchase with group funding of our own premises for £4500, which was sold for £25000 several years later. He always had the entrepreneur's eye, and he was always generous, always working hard in all his endeavours at work and in Subud.

As a helper he endured many rebuffs for his outspokenness, but ended up leading the group to new premises when the landlord ended our 29 year lease at Bank Head Farm with SB agreement. He did not agree with this but in the end just said in his quiet manner, "Just let it be and surrender it to God." Took me a while and eventually I made it – Thanks, Rayner.

---

## PASSING OF KRISTIAAN INWOOD

*Ilijas Baker writes...*

Subud Thailand would like to announce the death of long-term member and helper, Kristiaan Inwood, who died of heart failure on 7th February. Kristiaan was 80 years old and had been in Subud for over 50 years. He was an artist, a photographer and writer. He leaves behind his wife Maneerat (a housemaker), his son Hilary (a medical doctor), his daughter Rukmini (a translator) and numerous grandchildren. He will be much missed by us all. May he rest in peace.

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## Help us to create a Community Learning Center in the Subud Center of Kinshasa DRC

*Emaline Gonzalez writes...*

With more than 10 years' experience providing health care in communities of the DRC, Susila Dharma Congo has long since been aware of the unique gender barriers that hinder girls' and women's ability to pursue an education and find or create employment opportunities. Over the years, women and adolescents have shared their stories about the difficulties in getting a basic education and developing the tools to earn a living, and one stated with confidence, "What women and girls need most in this country is access to education, to training and to skills by which we can earn a living wage and look after our families."

There is no shortage of research to back up this woman's claim: whereas an average of 80% of girls in DRC are able to attend some primary school, only 43% of them will continue their studies at the secondary level, with poverty, teenage pregnancy and early marriage forcing many to abandon their studies [1]. Often without technical training or basic literacy and numeracy skills, opportunities to meet basic family expenses, such as food, housing, healthcare, and education for their children are out of reach for the vast majority of women across the country.

The stories of the girls and women we receive in our SD health and hospital centers sparked the beginning of a long journey toward the creation of a joint project between Susila Dharma Congo, Susila Dharma Canada, and Susila Dharma International: to empower women and



*Emaline Gonzalez.*



*Two young women and their children in Kingantoko, DRC.*

---

[1] Bolton, "Barriers to education for girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo," *Institute of Development Studies* (2020): 3. <https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/handle/20.500.12413/15194>.





girls in the DRC through community learning centers.

With the support of the Blond Trust, the Buchan International Fund and the Canadian Government, beginning in 2022, SDs Congo-Canada and SDIA will create 3 one-stop community-based service centers, giving women access to basic education, small enterprise training, markets, and financial services. Catering to the personalized goals of each learner, the centers strive to provide a wide range of services; from teaching basic skills, giving access to complementary health and reproductive health services, to supporting a young entrepreneur, these centers are designed to coach women toward achieving their own learning objectives. With the construction of the first two Community



*Young woman in Kisantu Province, DRC.*



-  **Reach women and girls in the Subud communities of DRC**
- Complete unfinished Subud hall in Kinshasa** 
-  **Provide positive visibility of Subud and its social work**
- Give entrepreneurial and teaching opportunities to local Subud members and youth** 

Learning Centers

(CLCs) on the verge of completion, we are now striving to create the third center within the Subud National Headquarters in the city of Kinshasa, and we need your help!

Not only will this city-based center allow access to an urban population of women and girls who have been unable to receive basic education and training, but it will also provide a base for selling the products that the women in the two other community learning centers develop and produce. By making

the third and final learning center at the Kinshasa Subud hall, we will be able to include the Subud women that are amongst those in DRC struggling to fulfill their personal and professional aspirations. The Subud Congo members are enthusiastic, as the center will allow for the completion of the hall's construction needs, provide positive visibility of Subud and its social work in the bustling urban area, and grant opportunities for local Subud members and youth to maintain and improve the property through the social 'centerprise'.

### What do we need?

The total cost of the project is \$120,000 USD, for which the SD Network has already raised \$115,000 USD. Three Subud members from Montreal and one from California have stepped up and generously offered to match any individual donations, for the missing \$5000 USD! If you want to be a part of making change and contributing to a Subud Social Centerprise that will benefit thousands of women in DRC, please consider helping with a donation of any amount which can be matched by our core donors. For more information, write to [info@susilaharma.org](mailto:info@susilaharma.org)

To donate, go to <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cacdc> or give through your SD national organisation.

# The Day I beat Reddock

*Harris writes...*

*We began this issue with tennis, let's end with tennis. We do not often have a story in Subud Voice about sport which is strange because Bapak often talked about sport. In particular he was a fan of the great Brazilian soccer player, Pele, and proposed him as a model to us.*

*Sport is an arena in which we see the playing out of our strengths and weaknesses, our good points and our bad, that internal tussle which goes on between the nafsu and the jiwa.*

*There is a lot to be learned about our character from the way we play sport. I have been watching the Australian Open and the commentators are expert at pointing out how a player's temperament and state of mind influence his strokes.*

*Tension, anxiety on the big points, these things affect the physical performance. The commentators will point out how the arm tenses up and the shot is flubbed.*

*Here is a story about my participation in sport and the revelations that it brought to me...*

Lately, I have noticed that people use the phrase "in the zone" a lot. This is of course a phrase derived from sport, perhaps specifically from tennis.

It means when things are going very well for you. When your touch is perfect, when you are in good form, when things flow positively for you. When accomplishment seems effortless. When you don't have to think about what you do. You just do it effortlessly, perfectly.

These used to be called "peak experiences". I had an outstanding one once before I was in Subud. I have often talked to people about it and asked them if they ever had a similar experience when they seemed to be lifted out of their ordinary selves and for a moment touched by grace.

And usually, people will tell me of such an experience. It is a moment of revelation when you are lifted out of your ordinary self and you become what you could be, if only you were not so devoted to defeat and self-sabotage.

Unexpectedly, an inner self which you always suspected was there, appears and does something wonderful.

*The most dramatic one for me was this...*

In my teens I was a mad tennis player. I was hopeless at all other sports, hated rugged manly team sports, but I was good at racquet sports: squash, badminton and especially tennis.

I started playing tennis when I was 10 and I went to various coaches, and I was quite good. I had talent and a beautiful style. This may sound conceited, but it is true. When I was playing, people walking past the tennis court would stop and admire my beautiful style.

I not only had a beautiful style, but I was extremely disciplined. I was a monk of tennis. I had a friend who was equally as enthusiastic as me and we practised every day, summer and winter, come rain or come shine.

We would meet at 5 am at the local tennis club where we had the key, and we would practise our shots in an extremely disciplined and methodical way.

My crosscourt forehand to his crosscourt forehand. My forehand down the line to his backhand returning down the line. We would practise our volleys, our smashes, our drop shots and our lobs. Our flat serves down the centre of other court, our sliced serves swinging out from the far corners. Our kick serves with lots of spin and high bounces. These were our safe second serves.

And so on. We were little fanatics, dreaming representing Australia in the Davis cup as well as winning personal glory at Wimbledon. *To read the rest of this article click here:*

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/The-Day-I-Beat-Reddock.pdf>



*Harris Smart, aged 16, playing tennis.*

# INTERNATIONAL VOICE COMPETITION

*The International Voice competition run by Subud member Boris Martinovich will end with the final performance on March 28. The organisers write...*

Currently we are in the semi-final round. People can listen to all the contestants and even vote for them!

On March 28th we will have the Final round that will be Live and broadcasted online, so all the people around the globe will be able to watch it.

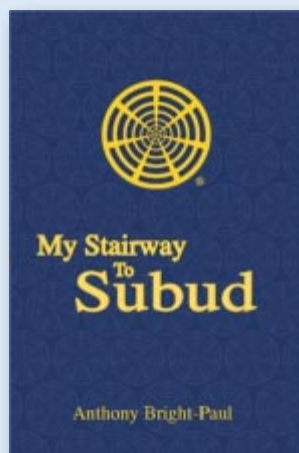
For full information go to: <https://www.boris-martinovich.org>

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*A new book from Lawrence Brazier*

## **AN OBLIQUE LOOK AT THE WORLD**

*In the introduction, Lawrence writes...*

*This is a book about travel, people, and religion. Although I find it impertinent to write seriously about God – He's heard it all before – spirituality is also addressed.*

**From Muhammad Subuh: "If you can laugh from the belly you are unable to simultaneously think. You are then in the spiritual (realm)."**

*Harris Smart writes...*

Lawrence has an idiosyncratic view of the universe. He often adopts the persona of the jester and someone who looks at life with a sideways glance, sometimes quite in askance.

Nevertheless, I am convinced he is a very serious man at heart, and this shines through in these essays. There is humour and striking observations to entertain you, but deep down he wants to get to the heart of the big issues.

The book certainly includes the categories that Lawrence mentions, travel, people, and religion, but there's lots more besides. We meet many characters in this book who include strangers he has met on his travels, as well as famous people past and present.

Other chapters are based on thorough research. His wonderful essay "The Orientalists", which we recently republished in *Subud Voice*, is a fascinating survey of those Brits who embraced Oriental beliefs and lifestyles.

There are jokey pieces about sarongs and getting blessed by sneezing, but above all one senses the deep wonder of his good fortune, which he has received in a difficult world.

Beautifully designed by Marcus Bolt, who has also illustrated the cover and LB's cartoons, **the book can be obtained from:**

[www.lulu.com/search?adult\\_audience\\_rating=00&q=Of%20Course%20God%20Loves%20Atheists%20Lawrence%20Brazier](http://www.lulu.com/search?adult_audience_rating=00&q=Of%20Course%20God%20Loves%20Atheists%20Lawrence%20Brazier)

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