



## Resources For Ramadan

*Harris Smart, Editor of Subud Voice, writes...*

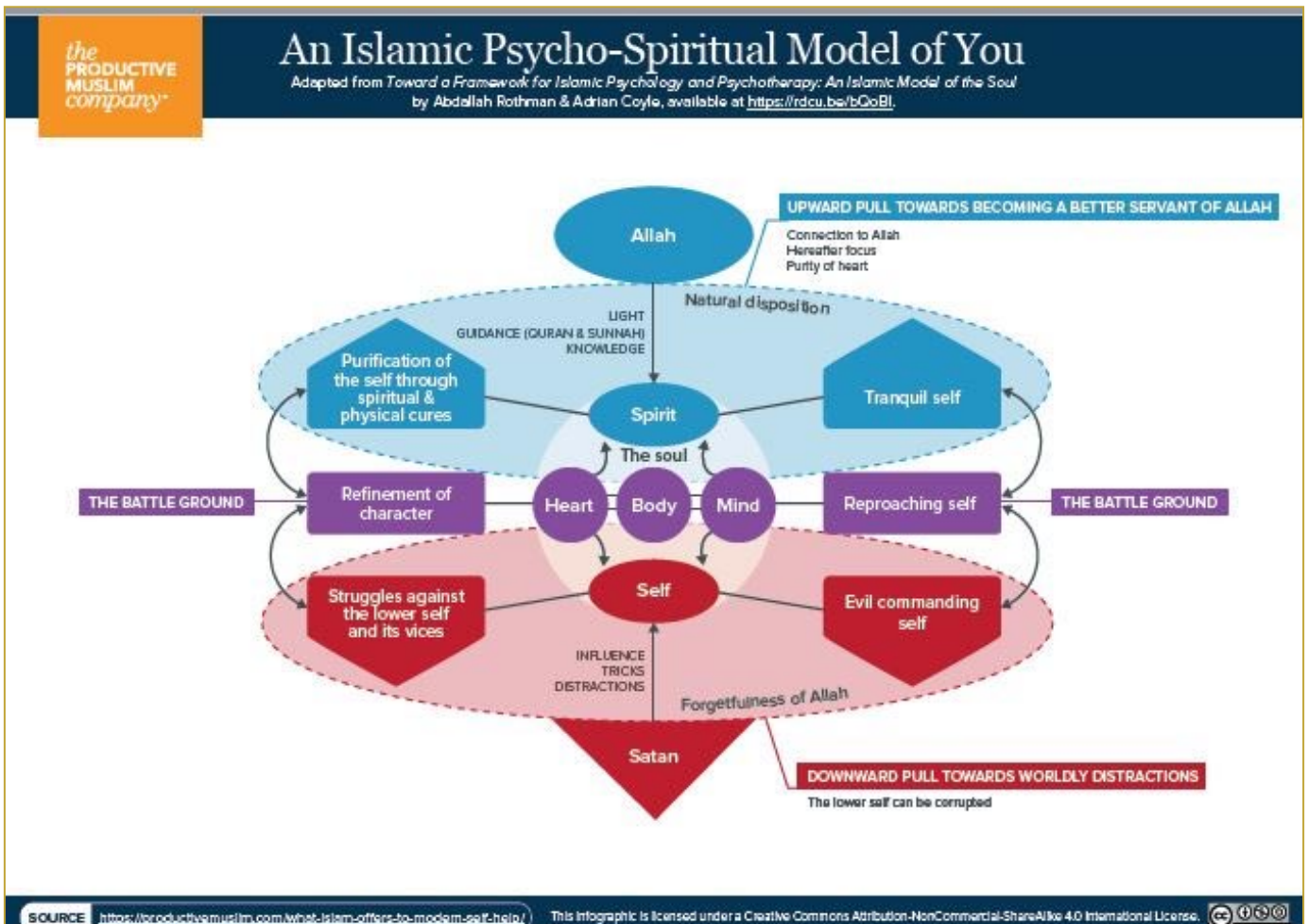
Last year during the fast, I got a lot of benefit not only from reading and watching Bapak's talks but also from watching a series of talks about Ramadan from the Cambridge Muslim College (CMC) in England.

This institution aims to keep Islamic scholarship alive particularly by mediating between the values of Islam and the often conflicting values of our modern western societies.

These talks may not appeal to everyone but some of my friends and I found it very useful and enjoyable to watch them during the fast.

This year I went to the CMC web site to see what was on offer. There is a clip on Youtube introducing this year's offering. See the link at the end of this article. And there are still many Ramadan talks from previous years, as well as many talks on topics other than Ramadan.

The CMC talks are presented by both men and women from many different parts of the world and include converts as well as those born into the faith.



### 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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### Paper about Islamic psychology...

This year the same friend who first told me about CMC sent me a paper entitled *Toward a Framework for Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy: An Islamic Model of the Soul* by Abdallah Rothman<sup>1</sup> • Adrian Coyle<sup>1</sup>(see page 1).

I found this to be an extremely enlightening document. It is long and it deals with complex issues, but it is well-written clear and readable. And as the friend who sent it to me says, there are “interesting parallels with Bapak’s cosmology”.

The essence of the paper is the clearest and most complete depiction of the human soul and its processes that I have ever seen. It encapsulates the essential challenge of our lives, the “battlefield of our souls”. Will we do what uplifts us and brings us closer to God and peace, or will we do what casts us down into our lower natures and suffering?

The inadequacy of western psychology is that generally it does not include morality or religion in its framework. The benefit of what is outlined in this paper and its diagram is that it offers a complete view of our inner nature and its fundamental process as we journey through life confronting the many challenging situations we must all face.

The essential framework presented here of us rising or falling, feeling good or feeling bad according as to how we relate to God, is just as relevant to Christianity and perhaps to other religions as well as it is to Islam.

### Something to watch on TV...

I know that during Ramadan many people deny themselves the pleasure of watching movies and TV but those of us who don't go that far, at least we try to find media compatible with our fast and not outrage it with sex and violence.

So, for those of you who are in this category I would like to recommend the TV series entitled *Shtisel*. This series depicts the life of ultra-orthodox Jews living in Jerusalem and it does something which is virtually unheard of in mass media these days which is to present religion as a powerful, useful thing in people's lives.

The series shows that religion and morality can be a compass as we go through life facing difficult and challenging situations. They can guide us to make right decisions beneficial to ourselves and others as we struggle with the conflicts and divisions inside and outside ourselves.

There are 29 episodes, and they show how religion permeates the everyday life of these Orthodox Jews and how their God-centred view of life helps them to negotiate the fundamental issues of everyday life such as marriage, vocation and family.

The series is available on Netflix and although it deals with these profound issues it is very entertaining as is shown by its worldwide popularity. It is superbly scripted, acted and produced.

The producers have found a way to present a religious way of life in a way that is most appealing to a modern audience. The series is immensely popular worldwide.

I hope we will all, God willing, receive the blessings of Almighty God as we conclude these final days of the fast in 2021.

### To sum up...

For talks about Ramadan and may other pertinent Islamic topics go to Cambridge Muslim College: <https://www.cambridgemuslimcollege.ac.uk/>

For an introduction to CMC's Ramadan program this year go to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuqPfGiS38Q>

For the paper *Framework for Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy*: go to:  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10943-018-0651-x>

For a talk by Dr Abdallah Rothman, author of this paper go to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYY6b7UObCo&t=2s>

For *Shtisel* go to: [www.netflix.com](http://www.netflix.com)



# Sofyan's Chess Set



*The battle begins...*

*Livingston Armytage writes about the chess set created by his father Sofyan, a family heirloom, and perhaps also a Subud heirloom. Livingston is an international development lawyer who has worked for the UN and World Bank reforming justice systems around the world. Livingston (middle son) writes...*

Sofyan Armytage (1922-2005) was an artist. He painted, sculpted and wrote poetry. All his life, other than flying spitfires after the Battle of Britain, he worked as an art teacher to put his four children (Harry, Livingston, Lydia and Stephen) through school.

Sofyan joined Subud in 1959 and practised the Latihan all his life, as his children continue to do. In 1964, he migrated to Australia with his wife Halimah and young family—a wonderful decision that nonetheless required considerable courage.

In 1973, he started to carve this chess set. It took 5 years, working most days. When reading the History, Execution and Intention written in Sofyan's own calligraphy (photos attached), we can see this set is what might now be called a philosophy or 'political economy' of human society - though he would never have used such jargon.

Each piece is unique, carved by hand and portrays the game of life: power, religion and inequality. All the pawns, however lowly, have gender and individuality. Each piece has weight and is a delight to touch. I have always believed this is one of his finest works, and I want to celebrate and share his artistry.



## History

**One day in 1973** I found some wooden stumps that had been supporting an old farm shed sticking up out of the ground. When I pulled one out, the part that had been in the ground looked rotten. I scraped it with my knife — it was hard as iron underneath. Turning it over in my hands **the Idea** came to me that one could make a whole chess set out of them.

**The Philosophy**, if you can call it that, followed in a rush, as soon as I thought about the class distinction implicit in the game.

**The Queen** goes wherever she likes — she's the boss.

**The King** is almost stationary — he hangs about getting shot at, more an heir apparent than a king, a mere boy and under the thumb of his mother.

**The Bishops'** moves are far-ranging & oblique: they are men of ambition, oblique in thought, ever dissatisfied, plotting even on their knees.

**The Knight's** nimble jumping points to a horse, and the horse is expressive of all the qualities admired in a chevalier of old — courage, nobility etc.

**The Castle** moves like the prototype of all the Daleks, but a square shape seems more fitting than a pepper pot.

**The Prawns**, or Pawns, as some of us prefer to call them, are tauntingly allowed two steps and thereafter can only drag one foot forward at a time. They are the nameless poor, the oppressed of the earth, serfs, humble in their nakedness. They were the most fun to make.

**The Execution** involved a lot of drawing: sometimes I found it necessary to have drawings hanging all round me before I felt confident enough to begin carving. I sawed the stumps lengthwise into quarters and sawed the quarters into blocks. On each block I first marked in chalk wherever the drawing showed a bit sticking out. The next job was to clamp the marked block to a massive red gum beam which lay across the table in my classroom — I was teaching Sculpture at the time — then I could begin. If I didn't hit hard nothing happened. If I didn't sharpen my tools with amazing frequency nothing happened. And I soon learnt that whenever I dug in I regretted later having done so. I used a mallet, gouges, files & rifflers. When I got down to the details, such as they are, I changed to mushroom-handled woodblock tools.

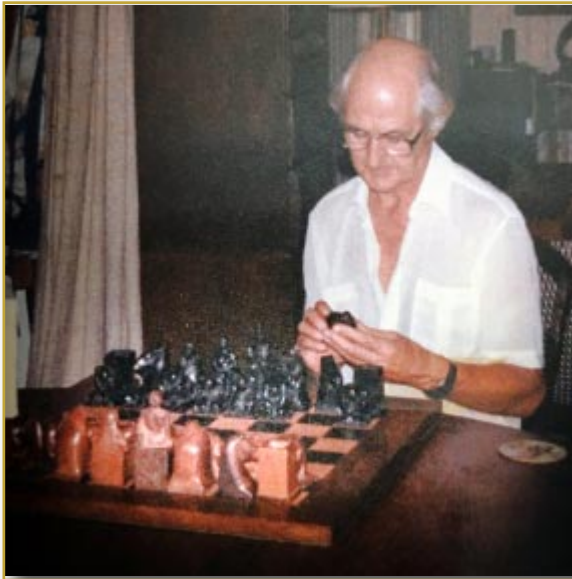
**It took five years** working between, sometimes during lessons, to complete 32 pieces. To separate them into two teams, I blacked half of them with shoe polish. **The Board** was made the following year. A board of wood inlay needs 64 identical squares, so I glued cowhide on instead, and drew the squares. The foundation is chipboard which doesn't warp. I used the school's bench saw to cut slices off a red gum plank for a veneer round the border.

## Intention

**The Set** has been idle for nine years. I want to sell it because it should be used and I don't play. The price is \$ 3000.

Sofyan  
Armytage





*Sofyan at work on a chess piece...*



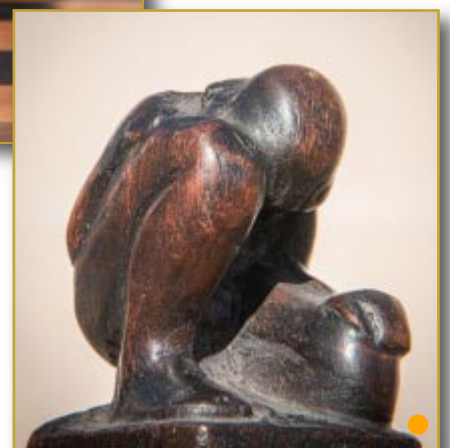
*Surrounded: a dangerous situation...*



*The full chess set aligned for battle. Each piece is unique, carved by hand and portrays the game of life: power, religion and inequality.*



*Left: The Black Queen.  
Centred above: The White Queen with two Knights.  
Right: Black Pawn. Sofyan says the pawns were the most fun to make.*



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# Subud Is an Adventure!

*Partial Transcription of Harris Smart Interview, March 8, 2021 by Rasunah Marsden...*

*Rasunah writes: I recently contacted Harris Smart about doing an interview of him about his work as editor of Subud Voice. The idea had for some reason crossed my mind in latihan. Accordingly, a recorded zoom interview was arranged for March 8. Please access full video and transcript of interview questions at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK0KT2GVwow>*

Minute 26.30: Can we hear an anecdote or two about how you came to be a better editor and how the latihan has played a part in that?

Well, that's interesting because there are many aspects to editing. Some of it's just technical, you know, find and correct the mistakes in articles and so on, which, you know, I'm not the world's best at it but I can do that, ok?

But it's relationships, that's what's great about it, it's relationships with people. Like you're a good example, recently we've been having more of a relationship with you because recently you gave us some articles about Mas Adji and then you gave us a wonderful article about Indigenous life in Canada.

By the way, did you notice in that article in Subud Voice (March 2021, p. 3), there's an article about a project here where I'm living? It's not an Indigenous program, but it includes some kind of Indigenous elements, and it's all about creating a sustainable project.

And that goes really well because the last thing I mention is how Australian's attitudes to their land is now being very much influenced by Indigenous attitudes – which worked very well into your article about Indigenous matters in Canada.

## **Anecdotes about me being an editor:**

Something I must tell you is, there's a very good Scottish writer who had great success with a series of books about an African woman running a private detective agency. I mean, he's written lots and lots of books and a series he has is about a woman living in Edinburgh who edits a tiny philosophical journal. They have about 3,000 subscribers which is much more than we do. We had 3,000 subscribers at one point, but not anymore.

Anyway, I often get inspired by her and my experiences: very, very occasionally, it strikes some person who's very kind of demented on some subject and wants you to publish their articles in every issue of Subud voice.

They are definitely not mainstream, so you do learn to deal with difficult personalities, that's a plus. I won't mention any names, but sometimes as an editor, I'm going to be very firm and say to this person, "Look, your point of view is really weird, you know..." but I've found you can never, ever alter anyone's point of view or attitude.

It's much better to be nice and friendly about it, and totally not try and change that person's point of view. And that's the kind of trouble this woman has editing her magazine in Edinburgh.

*To view the interview go to...*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK0KT2GVwow>

To read the complete article, click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Interview-With-Harris-Smart.pdf>



*Harris Smart in his role as an interviewer on Culture Couch, interviewing Maria Blake at the Freiburg World Congress.*



## THE LAND AND THE COMMUNITY

### Natascha's Story...

*Harris continues his series of articles about people and projects in his Subud group on the North Coast of New South Wales Australia. This time he continues the article begun in the last issue about Bruce and Natascha. In our last issue we heard mostly about Bruce. This time it is Natascha's turn to shine...*

Bruce and Natascha are a part of the reason I am living here as they facilitated my move from Melbourne by letting me look after their house when they went to Japan. Here is Natascha's story...

Natascha's father emigrated from Germany to Australia as a young man. He settled in Brisbane and set up a landscaping business continued to this day by Natascha's twin brother Bryson.

Natascha grew up around Brisbane and she remembers her childhood as being extremely happy. She went to university to study social sciences and there she met Milton who came from the Solomon Islands. His father had been an extremely important leader and statesman in the Solomon Islands, assassinated for his political views.

Natascha and Milton were married (the ceremony was attended by 1000 people!) and they returned to the Solomon Islands which consists of over 900 islands, often with diverse languages and customs, and histories of rivalry and conflict.

Natascha was fascinated by the culture and customs affecting all areas of life. She found it respectful and made every effort to

#### Warring groups...

An extremely tense situation began to develop in the Solomon Islands between rival tribes. Natascha was living with her husband's tribe in the village in a leaf house next to the lagoon fishing for her dinner. Milton was working in a distant place and she would only see him every three months. When open warfare broke out between the tribes, Natascha returned to Australia with her young son Biku.

She returned to Australia: "I was in a shattered state. I had entered so far into the Solomon Islands culture that it was now a culture shock when I came back to Australia I was constantly shaking, and it was like I had forgotten how to speak."

#### Beads...

She and Milton had agreed to separate and in order to support herself and her young son she began to make bead necklaces and sell them at local markets. This developed into a business where she learned about marketing. Bead necklaces were now sold not just at markets but in big parties that she organised.

"The bead enterprise was going well, but I started to feel the need to be living in a more natural en-



*Bruce and Natascha with the fruit of their land.*



*I lived in the Solomon Islands, Munda, Rovianna Lagoon. It was an amazing five years of my life from 1996-2001. I am so grateful for my happy times and loved ones there. Here I am with by my husband Milton F Aqorau (carrying our son Biku).*

vironment. About 20 years ago I moved to Uki. By now I was employing others to sell and make the bead jewellery and then there was a story about me on national TV which increased my profile even more.

“But then a lot of cheap beads flooded the market, and I moved away from selling the beads, specifically to working as an advisor to artists and crafts people about how to build their business and make their work more marketable.”

### Around Uki...

She had now become extremely involved in the lively cultural life around Uki and became a prime mover in putting on events and festivals through an organisation called UKITOPIA. This expanded not just to include Uki but to become a movement called Creative Caldera which embraced the whole area.



*Natascha in their luxuriant vegetable garden.*

She became an employee of the Chamber of Commerce and involved in a project called Murwillumbah Art Trail in the nearby town of that name. The Art Trail created art galleries in vacant shops in the town. This initiative swiftly

grew from a project costing \$6000 a year, to one costing \$60,000 the next year and then \$160,000 the following year.

In 2018 she stepped back from 11 years of volunteer work and became the business and marketing manager of the video production business Colour in Your Life TV Show which makes 24-minute documentaries about artists from all around the world. They are broadcast in 70 countries.



*Natascha's twin brother Bryson who has worked with them to make their house and land wheelchair accessible.*

### Getting to know you...

Natascha and Bruce got to know each because Bruce was teaching Natascha's son Biku at the Uki Primary School. They became more friendly after they all went together to see a performance by Solomon Islanders in Byron Bay and “one enchanted evening” at the Uki pub everything changed, and they began to become very close. Finally, they decided to live together and Natascha and Biku moved to Bruce's house in Byrill Creek.

Bruce and Natascha began to become aware that many of the people they worked with on community projects and whom they found most simpatico belonged to this thing called Subud. Biku became friendly with the daughter of some Subud members and he told his parents that she had invited him to come to a Subud congress.

They came along to make sure their child was not getting involved in a cult. They liked what they saw and soon after Natascha and Bruce were opened. Bruce had always had an interest in Eastern religions, and at one stage in his life had gone to India visiting ashrams and sacred sites.

Both have become extremely active in Subud. Bruce has been our committee counsellor for several years and has worked on being a catalyst for change for Subud in Australia and the Asia Pacific zone. His long experience in community organisations stands him in good stead.



*This leaf house was built for me as a wedding present by my husband. The house was then transformed into the Sunflower House restaurant by my sister Stephanie Wernick and partner. The bungalow was the first stage of our eco resort dream.*



Natascha has made a particular contribution to the organisation of our Subud Australia national congresses, back in the pre-Covid days when we had live ones. She brings her managerial and marketing capacities to this task.



*Bruce and Natascha exemplify care for others in their lives...*



### *Mom and Pop...*

So, Bruce and Natascha went off to Japan and left me in charge of the house. It turned out to be the summer of the most catastrophic bushfire season ever in Australia.

Fortunately, the fire did not come to the house, although there was a fire burning in a national park 16 kms away, and the speed with which the fires were travelling in those days it may have taken a few hours to jump a road and the river to become a threat.

I continued to live on in the house for several months after Bruce and Natascha returned. I took to calling them mom and pop even though they are younger than I am.

Eventually it was time for me to leave the nest and flex my wings in the great world, but I know I am always welcome back to mom-and-pop's for a meal and emotional support.

Bruce and Natascha exemplify care for others in their lives. They have worked on making their property wheelchair friendly and hope that people in wheelchairs will want to come and visit and experience their forest path. They hope the path will be a showpiece and an encouragement for other people to do the same thing on their properties.

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## WORKING ON THE SUBUD INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES

*A lighthearted look at a serious topic by Dachlan Cartwright...*

I worked on the Subud International Archives in two stints. The first was around 1976-1979 at Kenfield Hall, Canterbury, England. (I can't refer to the exact dates, as my diaries are locked down in Bandung, and I'm writing this in Jakarta; Indonesia has been seriously hit by the pandemic)

First of all I recall how, at the Cilandak 71 Congress, a brother whose name I unfortunately forget, described how, his mind focusing on the need to start recording our history, had consulted Mas Sudarto, who had said, pithily, "The inner self wants to grow, the heart and mind want to know." So.

One of the pioneering giants in this task was Faisal Sillem from Belgium. In the late 1960's "Faisal built a collection of audio recordings of Bapak's talks and catalogued Bapak's journeys which formed the Tape Preservation Unit (TPU)."

Faisal was also helped in this area from the UK by two bros whose names I also regrettably forget.

Thus account will concentrate on what were originally the paper Subud Archives, and it seems that it was Subud UK which took the initiative here. So now we have to honour another, still largely unsung, Subud hero, Rasjid Arthur. Rasjid, a journalist who worked for the British Central Office of Information, spent many late hours preserving and organizing the paper "Archives", which consisted of transcripts Bapak's talks and letters, Subud books, journals, magazines and bulletins, records of group meetings at all levels, photos, press cuttings, ephemera, etc etc. Finding a home for the Archives was also quite an adventure.

At one stage they were next to a launderette, then above a sex shop, in London. When at last a home was found for them at Kenfield Hall, a beautiful stately home in the rolling countryside south of Canterbury, which was gifted to Subud by Stephen and Mary Thomson. But even then the adventures of the Archives did not cease. The van taking them down to Kenfield broke down in the middle of the night and they had to be transferred to another vehicle.



*A cricket match, circa 1760, Kenfield Hall.*



I had recently qualified as a librarian, and was working in the library of a national newspaper in London, and I felt that the Archives was something I could get involved in. So I contacted Mary Thomson, and an arrangement was made whereby I would travel down to Canterbury by train one weekend a month to work on sorting and classifying the Archives.



*The inner self wants to grow,  
the heart and mind  
want to know...*



I remember the good times. I used to enjoy the five-mile walk between Canterbury Station and Kenfield, often at night, and remember once seeing a shooting star, a good omen. I also benefitted from Mary's delicious farmhouse cooking, and the friendship of her and Stephen and the delightful Thomson children.

The Archives were actually located down in a cellar, and there were bars on the small door. On the Fridays I would usually do an allnight session. So I could fantasize on the Gothic setting, Edgar Allan Poe, Gormenghast, and all that. (Sorry, I'm an incorrigible romantic.) Once, it was winter, I took a break in the middle of the night, and ventured into the beautiful garden, and danced in the snow under the stars.

Often there were Subud gatherings and working parties, and I have described in my Mas Adji – A Personal Memoir, how Mas Adji and I walked the five miles under the stars from Kenfield to Canterbury and how he talked non-stop giving me “spiritual” advice. On another occasion we had a working party, four brothers and two sisters from Subud Central London, to clean, whitewash, and paint the Archives cellar. Out of that there came at least one Subud marriage.

Also active in the Kenfield archives set-up was also Solihin Garrard, who is still doing sterling work in the Archives in close consultation with Daniela.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of that Kenfield era was that copies of the important Archives documents were, on Bapak's advice, sent to four other centres delegated to hold the International Archives: Ciladak, the USA, Australia and Japan.

Finally, I remember being given lifts home from Kenfield to London, on separate occasions, by two Subud stalwarts, Simon Sturton and Oliver Bovill. Simon really cared about Subud, and once he was talking intensely. “Where are we (that is, Subud) going, Dachlan, where are we going?” Just then we passed a road sign on the A2 reading “Dunkirk”. Lol. (Dunkirk, the more famous one in Belgium, has this “backs to the wall” significance in British historical mythology, as the 2017 movie reminded us.)

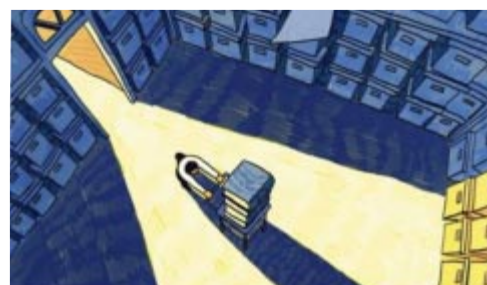
Oliver was also made of sterling stuff, and he was a great friend of Simon's, although they came from both ends of the political spectrum. I've described in my memoir of Mas Adji how Oliver had “danced for England and slept for Subud”. Biggles Flies Again. Mas Adji aptly named him “Mr England”.

In 1979 I was offered a contract in Saudi Arabia, so this was the end of my first stint on the Archives. (Kenfield Hall was sadly sold, I don't know the details. It's now a retirement home.) ●

## Archives Update 5

*From Daniela Moneta, WSA Archivist, USA...*

Welcome back to the fifth installment of *Archives Update*. This month we are highlighting the work of Ronimund Hubert von Bissing. As mentioned last month, Subud members can request access to the Subud Archives website by sending an email to [admin@wsaarchives.org](mailto:admin@wsaarchives.org). This website is restricted to Subud members only. The website gives access to historical documents, videos, films, photographs, publications, interviews, and stories that tell of the history and development of Subud - today as it is being made and back to the mid-1950s when Subud started to spread around the world. Here are some of the newest and most popular things we have put on the Subud Archives website this past month. Be sure to view this column each month for new and popular content that members are viewing.



*Illustration: Courtesy of Klaus Kremmerz*

### HIGHLIGHTED THIS MONTH

We will have a new videotape made by Lawrence Pevec of Safiah Dhada, the daughter of >



Ronimund H. and Sophie von Bissing. Safiah will read from her father's autobiographical Notes, and Michael Cooke will read from her father's book *Songs of Submission*.

The von Bissings were living in Cyprus when they heard about Subud; they travelled to England to be opened in 1956 by Husein Rofé. Sophie was pregnant at the time and had to wait until after giving birth before being opened.

To read more about the von Bissings and other news from the Archives, click here:



*The von Bissings and Husein Rofé in England in 1956.*

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Archives-Update5.pdf>



*Isti Jenkins with her husband Peter.*

## HOW CAN I FULFIL THE ROLE OF BEING BAPAK'S HELPER?

*A point of view from Istigomah Jenkins...*

In most Subud groups that practice the latihan kejiwaan (in order to awaken and train our inner life) we arrange a monthly meeting with the men Helpers and Committee.

Why do we do this and why is it necessary to follow the advice and guidance that has been carefully set out for us to follow? Well, my understanding is that this divine wisdom helps us to grasp a much better

understanding of the Spiritual life. The life that we must face when departing from this one! Subud is founded on the hope that each of us is given the opportunity to help ourselves find our true human nature, develop the finest human characteristics that eventually may bring us to completion and eternal life. Anyway, this is what attracted me to join Subud in the 1960s. I see the content of all the many TALKS, the BOOKS ( especially Susila Budhi Dharma ) and the latest production of *ADVICE & GUIDANCE FOR BAPAK'S HELPERS* as an education. I believe that together we can learn from all we have been given to change and deeper our understanding by becoming open to accepting, reading, listening and letting go of what resides in our imagination, heart or thinking. By doing so, we experience the beginning of a revelation.

For me these precious gifts of wisdom become part of my homecoming... and eternal life! This revelation begins with a willingness to listen, read and share the explanations or perhaps through testing the significance becoming attentive to the procedures set out by Bapak and Ibu Rahayu. I cannot see the relevance in whether or not we have meet or known Bapak or Ibu because what has been given to us both outwardly and inwardly is from God's love for humanity only. The explanations provided in the *ADVICE and GUIDANCE FOR BAPAK'S HELPERS* is absolutely key to the way our Subud Group conducts the exercise of the latihan because it helps so much to really connect with the content, the essence of this wisdom! Personally, I consider it very important to check the advice regularly and try my best to give Helpers and members the best possible understanding of the advice given so that our actions are in tune and avoid any misunderstanding and mistakes.

Let's all remember to be forgiving towards ourselves and others, seizing every possible opportunity to overcome fears and rejoice in the God given state of surrender.

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# SESI VISION & GOALS FOR 2021-23

*To improve the financial strength of our Subud organisation over the remaining 3 years of our term.*

1. To encourage the implementation of Large Projects, as encouraged by Bapak, with the objective of members working in harmony for the benefit of SUBUD
2. To actively support new and existing Subud enterprises and projects with advice, mentoring, funding, promotion and follow-up
3. To setup a resource (a 'Services Directory') of Subud advisors/mentors/experts to assist new and existing Subud enterprises and entrepreneur
4. To interface with SICA's "The Subud Village Community" website to grow the reach of both SESI and SICA with Subud members worldwide
5. To monitor, support and regularly report about the 19 projects that received funding from the SESI \$100k Project Fund given out at World Congress 2018 in Freiburg
6. To approach and encourage Subud enterprises and entrepreneurs to donate to:
  - WSA – to support the continuing activities of our World Subud Association
  - WSA (earmarked for SESI) – to support the SESI website, E-newsletter publication, SESI Chair travel to Subud meetings and centres to promote entrepreneurial activity
  - SESI – (via Usaha Mulia BV) to support the development of Subud enterprises – that eventually may feed money back to support further enterprises and the activities of the WSA
7. To work with the "SubudSpaces" Slack online site to promote, encourage and provide resources for existing and proposed Centerprises, to continue to expand the database of information/advice/advisors/mentors/experts to help Subud centres establish or expand their own Subud centerprises, to generate funds to support themselves, their national organisations, and the WSA programs
8. To communicate actively, effectively and in an engaging way what is happening within SESI, and Subud enterprises around the world by:
  - Updating the SESI website regularly with current and interesting news, articles and resources ([www.subudenterprise.com](http://www.subudenterprise.com))
  - Making our monthly SESI E-news interesting, chatty and exciting to read for our 4,000+ newsletter readership
9. To work with the group, national and zonal SES representatives to create an "inspiring force"  
To read the latest issue of the SESI Newsletter go to [www.subudenterprise.com](http://www.subudenterprise.com)  
*Gaye Thavisin, Hammond Peek, SESI Co-Chairs, [sesi.cochairs@subud.org](mailto:sesi.cochairs@subud.org)* ●

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## HELPING KIDS IN RURAL INDONESIA GET OUT OF POVERTY

Here is the latest update from the owner of *Will You Help Kids in Rural Indonesia Learn Their Way Out of Poverty Today?*

*Vanessa Reksodipoetro writes...*

Dear donors,  
YUM is proud to let you know that we successfully conducted another Teacher Training Session last week with your support. This session was conducted face-to-face, with all COVID- 19 protocols taken and ensured by YUM.

This time, we had two speakers, Ms. Iva and Ms. Diah. Both of them are lecturers from the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education from Muhammadiyah University, Jakarta. The theme was "Design and Learning Strategies for Teachers in Pandemic Times." The lecturers are experts in teacher training >





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and have worked on many national education issues. There were 34 participants from 12 primary schools in the area; many participated in the previous activity.

This training was essential as YUM's survey recognized the frustration and the overwhelmed feeling of our teachers trying to maintain a good quality of teaching during the pandemic. After the session, we received many positive responses from participants; most of them are more confident in changing their design and strategic learning to adapt to the situation. This training session also enlightens us on parents and other school parties' importance in achieving better education.

Here are some feedbacks we received from our training: Mr. Agus Sunandar, SDN Ciwalen Pemas: "I am grateful to be chosen to represent my school for this teacher's training at YUM. This is the third training that I enrolled in. I always get new knowledge and information at the end of the session. I hope after the training, I can contribute to increasing the quality of education in my school."

Ms. Rahmah, SDN Pamoyanan, said: "For almost a year, we have been in a state of confusion as to how to teach during this pandemic time. Learning from home has many challenges for us, as we did not do any of this before. Thanks to the speaker, we are now well equipped with the new strategy in delivering our teaching material. Big thank you to YUM for facilitating this training for us."

"The training is enjoyable and fun. In the future, I hope for more training and, if possible, for YUM to run a Parenting Workshop for the parents of my school. I think parents should realize their essential part in their children's education development." said Ms. Rohati, SDN Banjarsari

Click here to go to the web site where you can donate

GlobalGiving: <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/yumcipanang-quality-education/> ●

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## Football As A Tool For Change

*Solen Lees writes...*

For the third SD Network Passport visit, we flew to Kalimantan to visit Borneo Football International Academy (BFIA). The visit kicked off with an introduction to the project by founder Muhammad Bachrun Bustillo.

BFIA – whose mission is to improve the quality of life of the underprivileged children in

Using football as a tool for change inclusive project, that was a pioneer in opening football up to girls in Kalimantan.

BFIA works in three main areas: football, health & nutrition and education – with the football itself acting as a magnet for participants. As far as football is concerned, children take part in weekly training sessions, tournaments and summer camps, among other activities.

According to Muhammad Bachrun: "The nutrition strand began when we realised there was widespread malnutrition in Kalimantan; we also noted that there was a problem with drug abuse among young teenagers.

Participants therefore receive a nutritious food supplement when they come for training, and are given healthy living habits and road safety workshops. There is also awareness-raising around child protection and issues such as bullying.

BFIA works in conjunction with Yayasan Usaha Mulia (YUM), another SDIA member project based in Indonesia, to offer vocational training in subjects like IT and English.

"Parents often express how their children become more helpful at home, are more disciplined and don't 'go out as much as before.'"

### More than just football

In 2019 BFIA initiated the 'Reaching beyond the game' project which reaches more than 1200 children in 15 schools through its three core programmes. This project has been warmly welcomed by teachers and the students because it offers alternative activities in sports and education. >



In 'normal' times, BFIA operates in 3 locations, including 2 state-owned facilities, as well as the local schools.

Adapting to pandemic conditions, BFIA continued to reach as many children with the '# Sports at Home' program. This activity is financed by UNESCO, which attaches much importance to children's mental health at this time that they are cut off from their schools and friends.

Through BFIA's social media children can access exercise tutorials and challenges. They also receive sports equipment and educational and art materials. Coaches monitor their activities through Whatsapp and home visits, providing assistance as needed.

Another pandemic-specific initiative has been the distribution of food packages, masks, soap

### Audiovisual history

After this comprehensive introduction, attendees were treated to two fantastic videos, the first made in 2015

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7PbPxoJDII&list=PLaxdhiP4Kf2sArekFFxw3s4UQW9EzLkSB&index=3](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7PbPxoJDII&list=PLaxdhiP4Kf2sArekFFxw3s4UQW9EzLkSB&index=3) and the second from 2021

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdU1ASzMI8&list=PLaxdhiP4Kf2sArekFFxw3s4UQW9EzLkSB&index=3](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdU1ASzMI8&list=PLaxdhiP4Kf2sArekFFxw3s4UQW9EzLkSB&index=3) showing just how far the project has come.

### Promoting top class humans

During the ensuing discussion, M. Bachrun was asked: "What makes you different as an academy?"

He replied that it was a question of priorities.

"Normally football academies are a business, tailored to kids who want to become professional footballers and can afford the fees. BFIA is fortunate to have good coaches even though 95% of children are from poor families. Our economic approach is different and our programmes are different."

He pointed out that, although four of their female players have made the provincial team:

"Our priority is not to create top class players but to promote top class humans."

Finally, the question of sustainability and fundraising was raised. There is an almost total lack of government support for such projects in Indonesia, and BFIA has explored funding opportunities with big football organisations, but has found it is not easy to get a foot in the door. For example, they approached UEFA for funding twice, unsuccessfully, and feel that they are still not big enough as an organisation to qualify.

The facilities BFIA are developing will help them generate income by renting out facilities and hosting tournaments – but they will not make the project 100% sustainable, so it will need to continue fundraise to keep operating.

You can see the recording of the whole event here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QdGjSME08g>

*(Please note that the first 18 minutes of this session was delivered in Spanish but with an English language presentation.)*



## NEW BOOK FROM ROZAK TATEBE

'A Spiritual Blueprint for Humanity' reviewed by Emmanuel Elliott...

A new book by Rozak Tatebe, his third, constitutes a literary event of some importance in our Subud world. I am delighted, therefore, to announce the publication of his A Spiritual Blueprint for Humanity.

Opened in Japan in 1954, Rozak was one of the first outside Indonesia to receive the contact, and at age 92 he continues to be a worthy standard bearer for Subud and the latihan.





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In his latest book, Rozak takes something of an erudite look at the development of science over the centuries, recognising that the notion of God and the soul still hasn't fully recovered from the prosecution of Galileo in the 17th century.

He sees this ongoing conflict between science and religion as being epitomised in the life of the French medical scientist Alexis Carrel (1873 –1944). Carrel won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, but his scientific worldview was severely challenged when he witnessed the miraculous healing at the Marian Shrine at Lourdes of a patient he had believed would die within days.

Enriched by accounts of his own experiences, Rozak covers a great deal of ground in this absorbing read, looking at the reconciliation between inner and outer, the afterlife, the nature of beings on other planets, and so much more. Above all, he reveals how Bapak's new cosmology constitutes a grand design for the future of the human race.

*A Spiritual Blueprint for Humanity* is available now from Amazon

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## BAPAK, THE LATIHAN AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Julia Russell writes...*

It was good to read Laura Patterson's article about Bapak, particularly reminding us where he came from. (See Subud Voice January 2021, "The Role of Bapak in Subud" by Laura Paterson.)

I still remember my visit to Bapak's village deep in the Indonesian countryside, the small primitive house where he was born in 1900, and my astonishment that he had become what he was, and achieved what he had, from there.

That was a beautiful trip, retracing Bapak's life with a small group of members, international and Indonesian, latihan in his village house, the house in Semarang, walking the road he walked on (now outside a busy hospital!) when he 'felt' the ball of light enter him.

To me he will always be a 'Messenger of God' in bringing the Latihan for us in this age. But I do not think he was the first or only human being to receive this connection with God or 'great life force' or whatever it might be called. I do think he was probably the first to demonstrate the right way to practice it, and the myriad of ways it can be expressed, individually, culturally, socially.

My own insight came from the interpretation of a vision - Bapak presenting a sphere covered in flames which he said was 'going through a fire of purification.' It was only several years later, reading the experience of a Christian Subud member in Matthew Sullivan's book, 'Living Religion', who called the Holy Spirit a 'fire of illumination and purification' that I made the connection.

I had always resisted associating Subud with religion in any way or form, but there it was, suddenly I associated the Latihan with the Holy Spirit and realised, for me, that was what Bapak had showed us. And there it was in Bapak's talks, I now saw it every time I looked, the mention of the Holy Spirit and, in 25 years, I had never noticed him saying that before.

It caused me to feel a connection to my mother's religion for the first time, and perhaps some sort of spiritual connection to my mother which was not there before. It also sparked an interest in early Christianity.

### [An interest in St Paul](#)

It also sparked an interest in early Christianity. Brought up a strict Anglican Christian I had rejected what I considered the 'nonsense' of the Church early on.

But browsing the NT for the first time in decades I realised that Paul and the Apostles seemed to be doing a lot of what we were doing – running around 'baptising in the Spirit' – in fact it seemed to me that Paul was a sort of first century Hussein Rofé.

Not only that, Paul spent a vast amount of time in his letters telling off his new members



*Hans Speckaert. The Conversion of St Paul on the Road to Damascus. One of the most dramatic moments recorded in all Christianity...*

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for behaving badly and not understanding 'speaking in tongues' and 'prophesying' properly – and was bewildered that those who were 'filled with the Spirit' should be in conflict with one another.

Paul expected the Spirit to confer immediate 'sanctification' - there was no indication he understood the receiving of the Spirit as the beginning of a process, or training, even though he found himself struggling to deal with that reality. Bapak gave us so much more of a comprehensive understanding of the Latihan...

To read the rest of Julia's article click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Bapak-Latihan-And-Holy-Spriit.pdf>

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## THANK YOU

*A poem from Emmanuel Williams...*

When you told lie after lie after lie  
When you bartered facts freely and cheaply  
or disposed of them when they got in your way  
you taught me to seek out the truth  
whatever it is, wherever it hides  
and value it deeply.

When you scorned the desperate ones  
fleeing murder or hunger or both  
who travelled, often with babies and kids  
far from what used to be home  
to knock in vain at locked gates  
patrolled by ICEfaced gunhipped guards  
you taught me to pray for a heart as wide as the ocean  
you taught me to love and to welcome  
all of my brothers and sisters here in the world.

When you tapped out your tweets  
replete with insult and heat  
you taught me to let go of anger  
and give it to God.  
You taught me to celebrate laughter  
and share it with God.  
You showed me that whatever we feel  
spreads out through the world  
to demolish or nourish  
and that feelings  
however intense they may be  
are not who I am, are not me.  
Grateful am I to begin to be free.

These are lessons you taught me.  
I consider them worthy and true.  
I trust there'll be others.  
Thank you brother. Peace be with you.



Celebrating the Creativity of Emmanuel Williams...Poetry reading of Emmanuel Williams' poetry, read by Emmanuel and others, held on March 19, 2021. It is part of the ongoing ZoomMuse series of poetry readings sponsored by the Subud International Cultural Association (SICA).

<https://youtu.be/myipl5U6mQA>



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## ZONE 3 MAGAZINE 'PROJECTS & PROPERTIES'

Latest issue includes:

- Talks with Area 2 IHs - get to know Kamilia Konrad in the fourth of a series of interviews with the International Helpers
- Events and notices - find details of simultaneous latihans and Zoom events across Zone 3, while Ibu Rahayu celebrates her 93rd birthday, together with notice of the cancellation of Assisi 2021
- Connecting with the worldwide organisation - the zone council meets with the WSA executive team and discusses World Congress, communications and finances; the White Book working group provides an update on their project to create a guide for the Subud organisation; and we share a visualisation of the worldwide Subud organisational structure
- Our international community - Read about SYAI's latest activities and plans for strengthening global connections across Subud's youth community, and meet Subud Britain's new Committee Councillor
- Remembering and sharing - read about member experiences including a cultural exploration through international folk dancing, and of Cilandak in 1971 including the 4th World Congress
- Zooming around - share in the experience of doing a Zoomuse and the power of poetry, while 'Common Interest' zoom clubs are connecting members in Subud Britain and beyond
- Reflecting and connecting - some received messages are shared, along with experiences of observing the Ramadan fast, and an invitation to join Orgiva Group in an online Ramadan.

To read the latest newsletter go to

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/projects-and-properties-Zone-3.pdf> ●

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## MESSAGE FROM THE WSA TEAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The FYI Newsletter March 2021 edition brings news from New Zealand, Australia, and Indonesia. A short report on the periodical World Subud Council meeting in February 2021 is also featured. Subud Publication International submitted an article about its history, and Subud Education Association is calling for members to assist in media and communications, fundraising, and consulting

Here is the WSA FYI Newsletter March 2021 in four languages ( English, French, Indonesian, Spanish) - We are uploading them on to the WSA website at [www.subud.org](http://www.subud.org) like all the previous editions.

*To read the latest newsletter go to*

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/WSA-Newsletter-March-2021.pdf>

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## ICDP NEWSLETTER

*Reynold Ruslan Feldman writes...*

ICDP, the International Child Development Programme, created by the late Rukman Hundeide, a Norwegian Social Work professor, has had a big international impact. It is now led by a lovely, talented English woman named Nicoletta Armstrong. Below is their April Newsletter which demonstrates how ICDP has taken Subud well beyond our individual lathans, important as they are, to changing our world for the better.



*Women from the village of Kossouka in Burkina Faso receive ICDP training.*

To read the latest newsletter go to

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/icdp-April-2021-Newsletter.pdf>

To find out more about ICDP go to <https://www.icdp.info/> ●

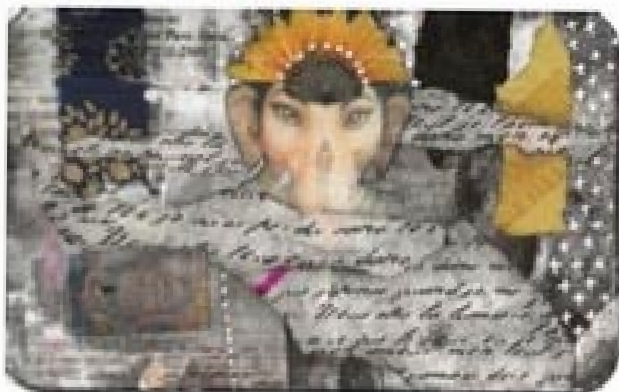
# Poetry Postcard Fest

popo.cards

Send 31 original poems written directly onto postcards to other participants between July 4 and Aug 31. Registration now open for Year 15:

[popo.submittable.com](http://popo.submittable.com)

Supported by SICA-USA, produced by SPLAB: Seattle Poetics LAB founded by Subud member Paul E Nelson. [www.popo.cards](http://www.popo.cards)





## RAMADAN TALKS ON ZOOM

*Subud Indonesia informs:...*

There are more than 1,350 talks by YM Bapak Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo and they have invaluable advice and guidance he has given all of us Subud members.

Some of these talks are Ramadan talks, which Bapak always gave during Nights of Power since 1971 until 1986.

On the occasion of the holy month Ramadan this year, Subud Indonesia would like to present these Bapak talks during Ramadan, start from April 12th, 2021 to May 12th, 2021. The intention is to gain a deeper understanding about the purpose of fasting in Ramadan.

Considering these screening will be held every day for a whole month for all members around the world, we understand it may not be easy for many of you to spare the time. For this reason, you may choose the best time to listen, which is suitable for your time and capability. As you know, the talks are ascheduled for two times showings, at **8.00am and 8.00pm Jakarta time**, The 8am session will include two showings running until 3pm.

May our good intention to listen to YM Bapak and Ibu Rahayu in order to gain a better understanding, be in accord with the will of Almighty God to receive an easier path and blessing from Almighty God. Amen. Have a blessed Ramadan!

If you don't have the access details, please contact [titin.suwartini@gmail.com](mailto:titin.suwartini@gmail.com)

Warmest wishes, Subud Indonesia ●



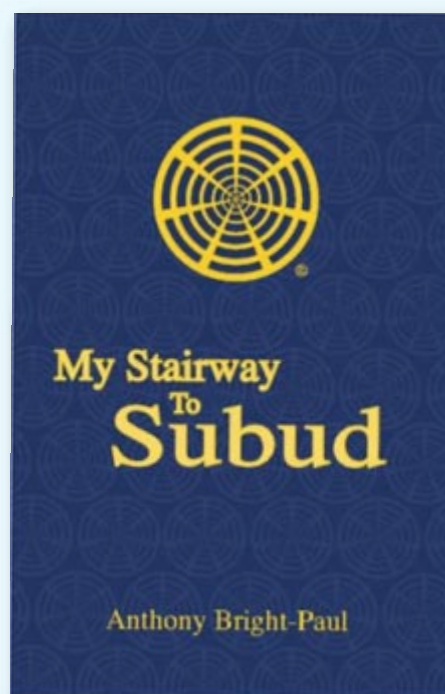
## A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

Much of *My Stairway to Subud* first appeared as the record of a young man in the early 1950s searching for values and inner understanding. At various times he was an admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, a student with the Sri Ramakrishna Vedanta Society, then a follower of G.I. Gurdjieff for seven years under the direction of J.G. Bennett, author of *The Dramatic Universe* and *What are we living for?* – His search reached an explosive climax when Pak Subuh, the founder of the international spiritual movement Subud, came to England in 1957.

Anthony Bright-Paul gives an acutely observed account of the Gurdjieff methods as performed and practised at Coombe Springs with John Bennett, and a first-hand account of both the euphoria and the upheaval caused by the arrival of Pak Subuh who brought with him the latihan kejiwaan, the spiritual training of Subud.

Because he was so devoted to the ideas of Gurdjieff, and to John Bennett personally, the story of his initial resistance to Subud, and then his complete reversal, makes poignant and dramatic reading. His chronicle of the early days in Subud in the western world is unique for its detail of this period. Available from SPI at: [www.subudbooks.com](http://www.subudbooks.com)

**PRICE £10.00** incl P&P UK (*plus Postage rest of world*).



# THE JOURNEY OF LITTLE TWIG

## An inspirational children's story

Written by Lynnelle Stewart (Subud USA) and illustrated by Rosanna Mount (Subud Britain)...

Ruth Taylor

This inspiring and moving story about heroism and self discovery is beautifully told, with delightful illustrations that capture the inner and outer journey of Little Twig. This is a wonderful gift to current and future generations. Thank you, Lynnelle and Rosanna.

Victoria Stiles

A story of courage and determination. The illustrations are magnificent, colorful, bright and depict the story so well. This book could be used in any classroom...

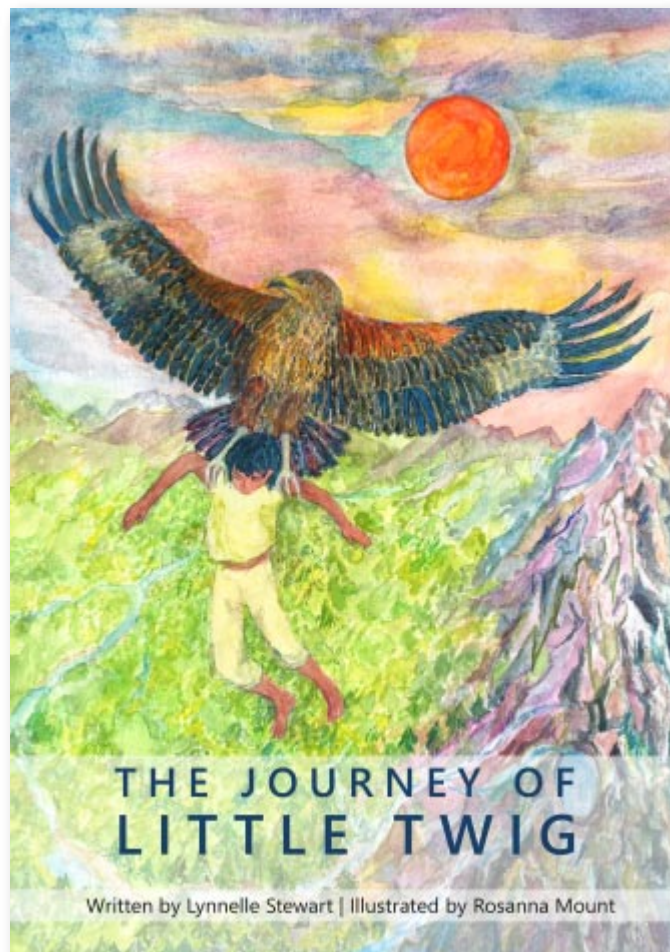
Lucy Houbart

I think it is a book that gives inspiration and comfort to both adults and children...could be read many times over without losing the impact of its powerful message.

From Canada...

A story written from the soul that will leave its imprint on all who join Little Twig in his quest to save his people and discover his true self. *The Journey of Little Twig* will delight both "our wondrous children and their wise elders". I hope it is the first of a series.

This is a magnificently told story of a courageous young man. The illustrations are colorful bright and help tell the story of Little Twig. As a former teacher I would highly recommend this book! It would be an excellent addition to any classroom! If you are looking for a gift for a young person this is a perfect gift!!! I highly recommend this book!!



[NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON](#)

The creation of *The Journey of Little Twig* is a harmonious and cooperative project involving the talents of several SUBUD members. It is available on Amazon in countries around the world as a paperback book, currently in English.

PLEASE help us build interest, and support sales, by [POSTING A POSITIVE REVIEW](#) on Amazon. ●

## NEW!! They Were There: *The Best of Subud Voice* Volume 3

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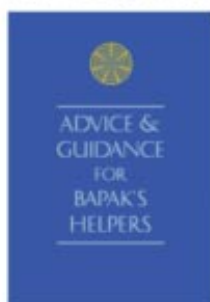
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