



Rungan Sari

Raquel Alcobia writes about 6 months living and working in a Subud Community in Central Kalimantan...

Hello to all,

I thought it would be nice to share my “adventure” with those who could be interested in having the “Kalimantan Experience”; or simply to come to the World Congress, God willing.

So, I’ve come here to Rungan Sari (RS) for 6 months, after 2 years of confinement, to work in several interesting projects of my sister Daniela and her husband Mhd Bachrun Bustillo.

For the ones who are not aware, this is a Subud Community located in the island of Borneo Indonesia, with 48 houses already built, the Rungan Sari resort hotel, the BCU school, the Pelangi pre-school and several enterprises working here.

Latihan happens Tuesdays and Thursdays at the central hall in our residential area, and on Sundays, if not rented to some event, in the big Pendopo.

The participation usually is 15 to 20 women and around 15 men. Pre-covid there were lots of selamatans, but now the fun is not so much for obvious reasons...

Except when the occasional music is coming from the hotel during the weekends. It cheers up the surroundings after more than 2 years of silence and enforced isolation!

Beside this music, the temperature of the hotel swimming pool is always great, despite the heat (30 to 35 Celsius) which is a constant in this equatorial line. That’s why swimming twice a week for 1 hour, feels great and is a good exercise without sweat!

Football...

Lively and happy are also the 3 afternoons when the younger boys and girls of Borneo Football International Academy (BFIA) play football at the small field in front of my house, since the rest of the time is an empty hot space where not even the flies hang out...

Except for some cooler late afternoons when there are some volleyball games next to that field, and taekwondo on Fridays, these young football players are the ones who maintain that central space alive with their laughter and exercise, and transmit above all, precious and pure energy to Rungan Sari, despite all of them coming from very poor families.

For these destitute children, the afternoons when they can play football as a team, with a proper coach and assistants, clean and colorful uniforms, and even drink a glass of milk (which most of the parents cannot even afford), are moments of happiness in their already challenged young lives. >



May the force be with you, young women, forward is the way.

SUBMISSIONS AND DONATIONS

Submissions to Subud Voice on any aspect of Subud life are welcomed. Send to Harris Smart, 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

Currently, the BFIA RS branch has 210 youngsters from 5 different religions (as you can see by the annex photo) from ages 8 to 18, and has 2 other training centers in different locations (franchisingstyle...) with an additional 130 youngsters.

Also, the BFIA campus (7 hectares) is under development, with 3 football fields, the administrative building already completed, and the futsal indoor under construction. This 1.000 m2 hall could be a support to the World Congress if it's God's will!



Four generations, new paths during YUM activities.

To transport safely all these kids, we now have to join efforts to fundraise for a 20-seat mini-bus. So far, all the work of this foundation during these last 7 years, has been depending on the goodwill and Guidance of many generous and beautiful people, who have been supporting BFIA since 2015.

Other enterprises are the Rungan Sari Permai the site developer and the hotel owner, the Ecovillage with accommodation, the BPI filming company, Borneo Escape Tours, and KUB the construction and landscaping enterprise active for 20 years.

In the annex photo, we can see a curious neighbour checking some of KUB's projects, which office is at the border of an existent part of the jungle.

Besides the football foundation, we also have the Foundation for Noble Work (YUM) which has been serving the local population since 2005 and is located just across the road from RS. Its present work encompasses Health and Community development. (Video link under) With offices located in Palangkaraya but work in different areas of Kalimantan, we have the Foundation Tambuhak Sinta dedicated to equitable and sustainable development and also near Rungan Sari we have the Foundation Permakultur Kalimantan using permaculture as its main work focus.

It was during a talk in Coombe Springs (1957) that Bapak mentioned that he had received that one day it would exist an International Center and a Subud Community in Kalimantan. It was in the year 1980 that Bapak himself travelled to Kalimantan and said that was the right time to start this project. Bapak also said that others could do it, but would be the Subud Members, who would carry the right content.

That is why we are here now! Who else hears the call?! A big hug and a good Ramadan Raquel Alcobia: raquelalcobia@yahoo.com



A very inquisitive neighbour.

PS; For anyone interested in more detail about one of the YUM programs and what BFIA is all about, here are 2 links. Just click the link or copy and paste in the YouTube search area.

Community Resilience Through Agroforestry Systems in Central Kalimantan:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzmYlfn7bE0>

Football for Social Change: <https://youtu.be/Y-xfhSsyUnM>

WORLD CONGRESS 2024

World Congress Organising Team coordinator, Rusdi Bustillo, has prepared a presentation about the upcoming World Congress 2024 in Kalimantan, which Hannah de Roo presented at the Zone 3 meeting in Lucca. We share here a summary of the latest updates. Rusdi plans to join us at the Zone 3 & 4 gathering in Assisi later this year, to share more about the world congress plans.

The congress dates are: 4-15 JANUARY 2024.

Indonesia was hit a bit later than other countries but became one of the epicentres of COVID-19. The congress planning work has obviously been affected by the closures and pandemic-prevention regulations.

[However, we are confident that the World Congress in 2024 can be held in Kalimantan.](#)

The government is implementing a strict and widespread vaccination campaign to get the pandemic under control and reopen the country as soon as possible.

DATES

Last year the council approved to postpone the congress by one year following Ibu Rahayu's recommendation.

LOCATION

The congress will be held in the area of Palangka Raya. The more developed area is the main city, which is a 45-minute drive from the Subud development, Rungan Sari.

[So, this whole area is where the congress will be held as facilities, accommodation, supplies and everything we will need for the congress is in both.](#)

What percentage of space we'll use from each area is still to be determined and that is part of our planning process.

The congress will signify a large event for the city, so we may receive support and special concessions from the local government. This is also an opportunity for Subud to contribute to the local economy through use of local facilities and accommodation.

LOGISTICS

A key challenge is the limited public transport options between the city and Rungan Sari, so transportation will have to be planned separately, but the organising team believe this is doable.

[Initial conversations with the local government give us confidence that we will have their support and collaboration.](#)

ACCOMMODATION

Within the area of Palangka Raya, there four 2-4* hotels (Swiss-Bel, Bahalap, Luwansa and Neo) with enough accommodation for 3,000 people. There are also other smaller hotels available, and lower cost options include hostels, motels and glamping/ camping sites.

At Rungan Sari, the Rungan Sari Resort is planning an expansion to provide more accommodation, and a conference centre for around 1,500 people. Borneo Football International Academy just began construction of their new indoor courts and lodging facilities.

FUTURE WORK

The team is developing a Congress Website which will be linked to the new WSA website. In the meantime, communication is via partners (Subud World News, newsletters and Zone Reps). We are also present on Facebook and Instagram.

[We are working on developing the Registration System for the congress, which will be launched approximately 1 year prior to congress.](#)



A youth volunteer programme is a hot topic, but is complicated due to immigration regulations, and the need to not to compete with local labour. The team are working on ways to include the youth and others wanting to volunteer, which may include collaborating with other countries for volunteer sponsorship.

A full copy of the WCOT presentation is available at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15tq4ShI3_22iIBBZi2oAmk3NI0r08Tcs/view

If you have any questions you can reach the WCOT team at:

coordinatorwcot2022@subud.org or robinyantawcot2022@subud.org

To keep in touch: Facebook [@SubudWorldCongressKalimantan](#)

Instagram [@subudworldcongress](#)

This article first appeared in Zone 3 News Projects and Properties.

ZONE 3 & 4 GATHERING

26 OCTOBER – 3 NOVEMBER 2022

RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW BY COMPLETING THIS FORM:

<https://forms.gle/J7XqJo6YD38EToQ8A>

The programme will be confirmed in the coming months, and will be a combination of kejiwaan, business and entertainment. We hope to see you there!

For queries, please contact Hannah at zone.3@subud.org

www.domuspacis.it/en/



ASSISI 2022

ZONE 3 & 4 GATHERING

26 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER

RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW BY COMPLETING THIS FORM:

<https://forms.gle/J7XqJo6YD38EToQ8A>

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SDIA Annual Members Meeting in Amanecer: July 16-20th 2022

SDIA would like to share a warm welcome to any members of the Subud community - Subud members at large - that would be interested in attending our meetings in Amanecer, Colombia in July.

Please see the invitation below. With dates, registration form link, as well as travel information.

We are very much looking forward to finally meeting in person again at our 2022 SDIA AGM and annual members meeting at Amanecer, in La Tebaida, Colombia.

We feel blessed that many of you have expressed an interest in traveling to see each other, do latihan and learn together.

To save money, please consider booking your flights (to El Eden Armenia airport in Colombia - AXM) The focus will obviously be on learning from and about our projects - those in Colombia, the region and around the world. But we will also have capacity building events, around the use of power, grant writing, and social media.

As promised, for those who can't travel for whatever reason, we will strive to make this a successful hybrid event, with a strong internet connection so you can attend from any part of the world.

Below you will find the links in English and Spanish for you to register for the event.

The SDIA members meeting (July 16-20th, recommended arrivals on the 15th) dovetails with the joint wings Human Force Camp (July 18th-28th, recommend arrivals on the 17th). And the birthday of Amanecer on July 20th!

Why not share your commitment to social and environmental work with a young person in your life and bring them to the Human Force Camp?

See <https://www.humanforceprogram.com/>

Please note that the registration deadline for this event is April 15th.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Attached you will find important travel information which will allow you to understand arrangements for meals, airport pick up and the hotel options, although we have already done a group booking at the very quiet Palmas de Gran Canarias, a five-minute quiet walk from the meeting rooms.

Links for registration form: English: <https://forms.gle/9nKaV3T1Q9CXrv9Y7>

Espanol: <https://forms.gle/K5JoqXuksTV4639q9>

For more information go to: <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022-SDIA-AGM-Amanecer-Practical-Information-for-attendees.pdf>

ZONE 3 DELEGATE MEETING IN LUCCA

Taken from issue 14 of the Zone 2 newsletter, Projects & Properties: Hannah de Roo reports on the Zone 3 delegates meeting, which took place over 24-27 February in Lucca, Italy.

Getting together in person after almost three years of zoom meetings, definitely resulted in a special event which everyone felt grateful and happy to be part of. Unfortunately, some delegates could not be present for various reasons, but we still had 25 people attending from eight countries, including three international helpers and several observers (photo).



Technical problems made it impossible for speakers and observers on Zoom to hear what was being said in the plenary. We tried many things to solve this issue but it seemed impossible. Although it was a pity that we had to disappoint Zoom participants it contributed to a more intimate and strong connection for those who were present in person. As the expression goes: every dis- >

advantage has its advantage.

In spite of the sad news about our Ukrainian brothers and sisters being attacked, the general atmosphere was light and joyful. Most participants arrived one day in advance, so there was time to settle and prepare before the actual meeting started. Every meeting day was preceded by Latihan and a few testing questions related to the theme of that day.

Day 1 was centred around Introspection

After watching an uplifting talk (86 LON 2) and introductions, representatives shared the latest news about the situation in their country. It's no surprise that Covid has hit us hard, some countries more than others. In a nutshell one could say that currently BeLux and Portugal are both in a positive flow, while France and Netherlands are lacking a sense of unity. Italy and Ireland (the latter was not represented) are made up of a widely scattered membership, while Spain seems fairly stable with its strongly established local communities. Britain has been through a very tough time and is just beginning to turn a corner.

What all countries have in common, is the difficulty to fill organisational positions and we explored the possible causes and solutions for that problem.

Please read the full report, the colourful contributions from various Zone 3 countries, and a World Congress 2024 update, in this issue of Projects & Properties:

https://www.subudworldnews.com/userfiles/news/documents/2022/March/projects_properties_Zone_3_Magazine_Issue_14_-_March_2022.pdf

This introduction to the article about the Meeting i first appeared in www.subudworldnews.com



CALL FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

MSF informs...

The Muhammad Subuh Foundation (MSF) is pleased to announce the 2022 Call for Grant Proposals for Subud houses (for property acquisition or capital improvement projects).

The deadline for submitting the grant applications is July 31, 2022.

We would like to remind our Subud community that MSF does not fund 100% of a project and is usually a supplementary funder, not the primary funder, because of limits on available grant funds. The applications submitted must show firm evidence of other commitments of primary financial support.

The Muhammad Subuh Foundation encourages applicants to read the Grant Process Guidelines https://www.subudworldnews.com/userfiles/news/documents/2022/March/MSF-Grant-Process-Guideline_ENGLISH_2022.pdf

This document includes all details about the entire process, and a step by step explanation of how to fill in the final Grant Application Form.

After reading the Grant Process Guidelines, you will need to complete the Application Questionnaire https://www.subudworldnews.com/userfiles/news/documents/2022/March/MSF-Pre-Application-Questionnaire_ENG-1.pdf.

This questionnaire will help the MSF trustees and staff ensure that the project meets the basic requirements for a grant before applicants begin the final application process. Please read the full 2022 Call for Grant Proposals

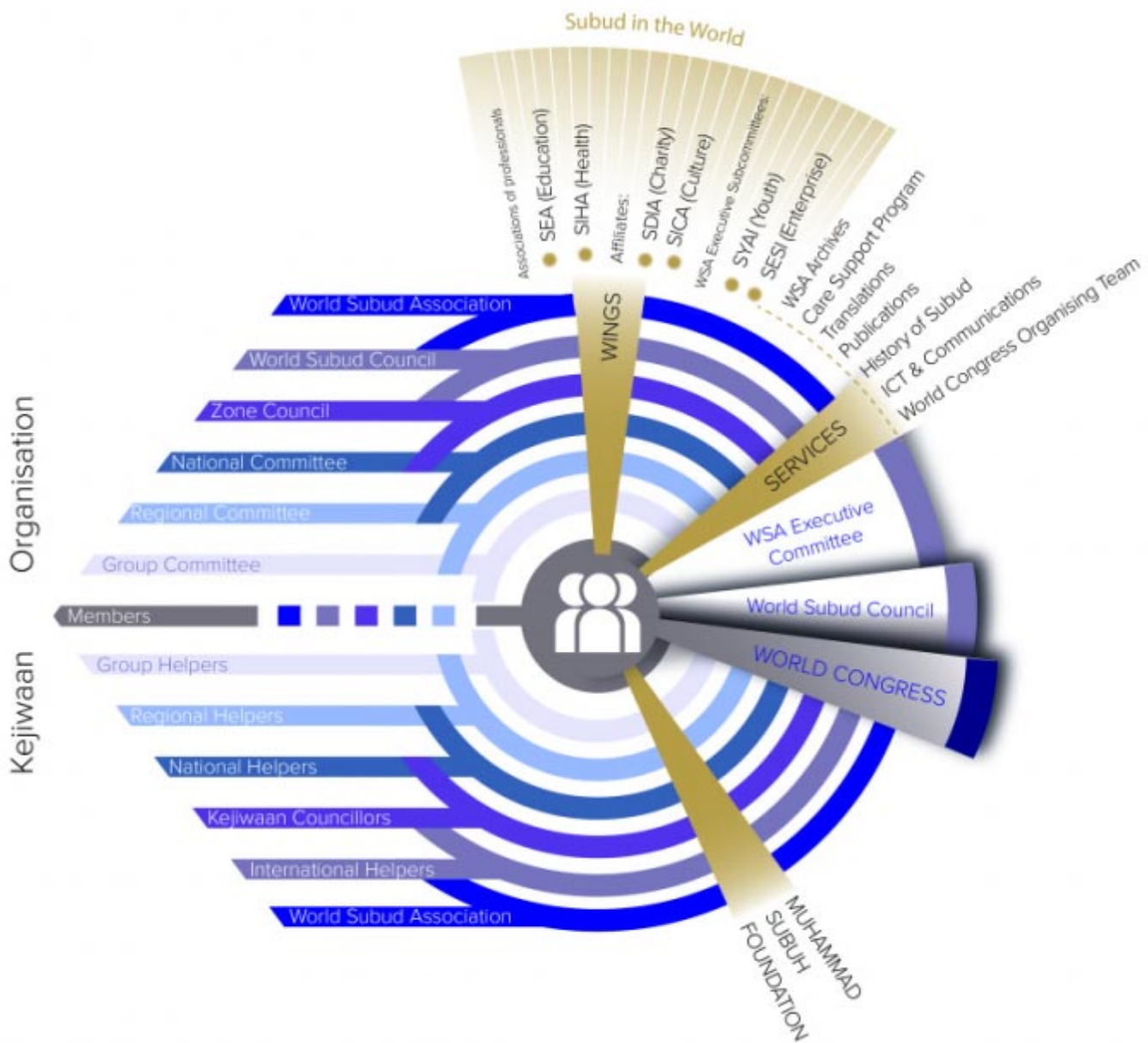
https://www.subudworldnews.com/userfiles/news/documents/2022/March/MSF_2022_CALL_FOR_GRANT_PROPOSALS_ANNOUNCEMENT.docx.pdf

ORGANIGRAM OF THE WORLD SUBUD ASSOCIATION

Prepared by Zone 3 Secretary, Ruth Taylor...

The WSA executive team was looking for an updated diagram to visualise the organisation in a concise way. It was proposed to create a diagram inspired by the Subud symbol, which was designed by Ruth.

- This organigram visualises the unity in our rich organisation, which is non-hierarchical and not intended to be top-down, but member centred, representational and democratic.
 - It illustrates the close connection between the kejiwaan and organisational aspects of our community, which are mirrored from group to international level.
 - It demonstrates the function of the wings as serving and connecting the members, and at the same time going out into the world.
 - The members are also represented through World Congress (comprising four delegates (Chair, CC and two KCs) from each member country), which is the decision-making body of the WSA. Member countries are represented by elected zone representatives who form the World Subud Council and carry out resolutions between congresses. The World Subud Council is in turn supported by the WSA Executive Committee, who is responsible for managing and coordinating a range of services for the benefits of members, and for organising the next world congress.
- The organigram will be included in the new White Book about the organisation, which will be presented at world congress for approval.



Projects & Properties Latest Issue

Ruth Taylor, Zone 3 Secretary and Editor of Zone 3 Magazine writes...

We are delighted to share with you the spring issue of the Zone 3 Magazine 'PROJECTS & PROPERTIES'.

Please distribute to groups and members in your countries. This issue includes:

- **International gatherings...** Read about the Z3 delegate meeting in Lucca, reserve your place for the joint Z3 & Z4 gathering in Assisi later this year, and get the latest updates from the World Congress Organising Team.
- **Archives...** Learn about the international Living Archives project, Subud USA's new facility in Washington DC, and the important role of archives for the past, present and future.
- **Properties...** Find out about the latest developments at the exciting Amaranthe project in south-west France, and the story of Loudwater Farm in Britain.
- **Contemplating...** Hannah de Roo delves into the topic of Consensus, a recurring theme within our international community, and Léonard Lassalle shares his thoughts on how Subud is differently understood and lived throughout the world.
- **Introducing...** Meet the new Z3 Council members - Subud Britain's new Chair, Conrad Aldridge, and Kejiwaan Councillor, Hedley Bennett, and share in a new Subud BeLux member's experience
- **Connecting people...** Read about a group 'Twinning' initiative that aims to connect members across our zone, and beyond; a brave new enterprise in Kalimantan; and the SIHA Listener project.
- **Get involved...** The Wings are in full flight - discover the various initiatives that you can get involved in right now, including how you can support the Ukraine crisis.

Enjoy a great read, and a visual treat!

With love, Ruth Zone 3 Secretary taylor.ruth3@gmail.com

P.S. Alternative formats (text only and print versions) are now being distributed on an as-required basis. Please get in touch with me individually with any requests. Delegates can also access copies of all formats on the Zone 3 google drive. To obtain the magazine in English, click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Projects-properties-Zone-3-March-2022.pdf>

THE ART OF DERVIS PAVLOVIC

By Harris Smart...

It is work that is radical...

Dervis Pavlovic gazes at a painting he has done of a woman walking a tight rope across raging seas, with a pair of baskets balanced across her shoulders, each basket containing a child.

It is a profoundly meaningful symbolic work commenting on the conditions of our times. Specifically, the effects of climate change and the upheaval in the world today as it is experienced through mothers.

This is what I have always liked about Dervis's work. It is always meaningful. It is also saying something. It is never just paint daubed on to build a career, or glorify an ego, or to create a place >



Dervis Pavlovic with his painting The Gloomning Sea.



Refugees. The "Refugee" painting is my imagining of the pain and suffering and hopelessness in the lives of so many people on this planet. The horror we only witness from a distance. I wanted to bring it home, in a way.

I also like his work because in terms of painterly skills it is so traditional. It recalls the painterly traditions of the 19th and 18th centuries and right back to the Renaissance. I love the way he deals with fabrics in his paintings, for instance, bringing them to life with old masterly relish.

Some of the fundamental elements of his work are visible in this painting. They are representational, although they are also often highly symbolic. Look at the sea in this painting. It is not just a representation of the sea it is a profoundly symbolic representation of its dangers.

Finally, you can really see the old masterly touch in the way he has rendered the clouds at the top of the painting. So, his work also recalls some of the surrealist painters, particularly Salvador Dali, who painted bizarre and dreamlike settings and events with luminous old masterly technique.



Kirste's Harem. Kirste wanted an orientalist painting which contains things she loves including music, literature and conversation. The two women talking in the background refer to a book which reflects Kirste's love of literature. Because she wanted something in the orientalist vein I chose Persian and Turkish fashions and decor.

in the world of art. His paintings are concerned with humanity and carry serious political and social messages.

It's also traditional...



Inspired by Constable. Dervis's work displays the traditional painterly skills of the 19th and 18th centuries going right back to the Renaissance. This painting is inspired by the work of the English painter, John Constable (1776-1837).

Magic Realism...

Dervis described his work as Magic Realism because it combines representational painting with a dreamlike symbolism and sense of mystery. A dreamlike quality often pervades his work. So, while in some ways his technique goes back to the artists of the 18th and 19th century, his work also has links to more modern movements such as social realism.

I have known Dervis and his wife Kirste, for many years, maybe since the 1970s when they were in Subud in Adelaide. But there had >

been a 20-year gap in our acquaintance since they moved to Lismore, a country town in northern NSW near to where I live at Mount Warning.

20 years had passed, but we instantly renewed our friendship. I had always admired Dervis's painting, but he had always seemed to me in the past to be very reserved about talking about his work. Now I felt there might be an opportunity to talk to him in more depth, because recently, after retiring from work as a house painter, he told me he had created 28 new paintings in the last two years.

This explosion of creativity I think also has made him more open and more confident about talking about his work although a number of times during our conversation he expressed his feeling of inadequacy about saying something worthwhile about it. You be the judge of that.

I always find it interesting to know what an artist has to say about his work. I am one of those people who goes to the gallery and actually reads the tags underneath the paintings. Not just the artist's name, but bits of biographical information such as what he had for breakfast on the day he painted this particular work, or statements by the artist which help me to understand the work.

So, one day towards the end of November in 2021, Dervis and I sat down in the very interesting house he shares with Kirste in Lismore. It is a rambling old farmhouse, probably the first house that was ever built in this area, surrounded by a wild and colourful garden.

We sat on the verandah looking out, as the rain tumbled down. It is the rainy season around here, one of the times when rain is supposed to fall, and we are grateful for it. Soon enough we will contend with the searing heat of the Australian summer.

[Click here to read my interview with Dervis about his life...](https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Dervis-life.pdf)

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Dervis-life.pdf>

THE ART

HS: Well, we have perhaps talked enough about your life and what brought you to this point, so let us talk more directly about the art and about specific paintings.

How did you feel about working as a house painter?

DP: That was fine. It was something I could do and there were certain limited artistic pleasures in it, such as choosing and matching colours. Perhaps the main advantage for me was that this was something I could do by myself, I could paint a whole house by myself, and this suited my solitary nature.

But in some ways I do regret that I didn't concentrate on my fine art painting much earlier and then I might have been able to build a career as an artist. I know there's no point regretting what has been, but only in doing what now can be done.

When I was working as a house painter I maybe produced one painting every few years but in the couple of years since then I have produced 28 paintings. So, I am grateful for what I have been able to accomplish.

HS: Why do you paint?

DP: Painting is one of the few things I am good at, and I am driven by the need to master it. I very much enjoy the process of painting. Usually I am alone, always listening to music. And I enjoy the solitude. I like to paint every day and I can't wait to get back to a canvas if I've ever had to leave it for some reason.

HS: What are you trying to express in your work?

That varies a lot. World events affect me and drive me to produce art. For example, I had an idea to do something about refugees in a tragic situation. The challenge



Dervish. Dervis is a Subud name given to me by Bapak and often in my latihan I would whirl like the "whirling Dervish".

is to do that without being corny or pretentious.

My paintings are mostly figurative. I particularly enjoy painting the female form and like to explore the connections between erotica and notions of classical beauty. But I have gone through different phases with my art.

During and after art school I was influenced by painters like Anselm Kiefer and Lucien Freud, and I used paint in a very textured way. My paintings during this time were quite dark, concerned with personal and political crises such as war and dislocation.

When I lived in Fiji I took on a more playful approach in my art which reflected the ambience of Fiji. I also began to use paint more sparingly and a much more colourful palette. Back in Australia I developed this painting style with a more focused attention on improving my technique.

What I enjoy about painting is that there is always something to learn, and the reward is the perception you have that you're improving. It all breaks down to that.

You have to be really focused. It all begins with your eyes really, with the ability to see. My subject matter is often drawn from photographic or painted images that I reinterpret or recontextualise. I also use family and friends as subjects that are set in some kind story.

Many of the paintings employ symbolism and metaphor to create a narrative that you are invited to step into. I guess they are stories that I am telling. They have depth of field and create a sense of a scene or a dream where people are conversing, and you might enter that scene.

HS: I have heard that you were to have an exhibition in a local gallery, but it has been cancelled?

DP: Yes that was disappointing. A number of factors are involved. First of all, many galleries have been shut because of the pandemic, so they now have a big backlog log of work which they intended to show in the past two years and which they now want to get out.

But it's also true that my work does not fit into the formats that galleries like. For instance, a lot of galleries these days are interested in conceptual art, rather than the kind of painting that I do.

Also, the galleries want you to do a series of paintings around a similar theme. And I don't do that in the sense that galleries wanted.

I think there is continuity in my work about the themes I continually return to, but they are not stamped out like a series. So, it is disappointing that I have not yet found a suitable outlet. I am also looking into the potential of the web as a place to exhibit and sell.



Ligea's Talent. This painting shows a woman holding a puffer fish in front of her. This is about the idea of being able to move objects with your mind, but also with the idea that you can grasp something, but because this fish has spikes she can never completely own or control it. Sometimes you get an idea for a painting, and it is just very hard to translate it into words.



Eddy and the Boys. When I lived in Fiji I took on a more playful approach in my art which reflected the ambience of Fiji. I also began to use paint more sparingly and with a much more colourful palette.



The Whisper. Many of my paintings employ symbolism and metaphor to create a narrative that you are invited to step into. I guess they are stories that I am telling. They have depth of field and create a sense of a scene or a dream where people are conversing, and you might enter that scene.



Toro Fire. This is a painting about me. Because I am born under the sign of the Taurus. The bull is strong and powerful, which may provide motivation but can also destroy you. It can burn you out, depending on the influences at play.

To see more of Dervis's work go to www.dervispavlovic.com

LIFELONG-LEARNING WISDOM

Wisdom is not a product of schooling,
but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Reynold Ruslan Feldman writes...

Even though I once taught a course called “The Literature of Wisdom,” it might be said that wisdom is unteachable, even unlearnable. At best, wisdom may be caught, not taught.

Look at the hard time Jesus had with what my former pastor liked to call the “duh-sciples.” There they were, front-row witnesses to his miracles. They were even empowered to do some of their own during his lifetime. Yet they never seemed fully to believe in him or comprehend who he was.

For anyone who has had a hard time in school, it is heartening to learn that geniuses like Einstein and Edison either dropped out or were kicked out of school. In traditional schools, teachers represent the authority of the older generation. They seem to know what’s what, and it’s the student’s job not to question but to accept whatever they offer up as truth. Students are not encouraged to present divergent ideas or tap their native wisdom.

Fortunately, each of us also attends the larger school of life. It continues as long as we do, tuition is free, and special admission programs are unnecessary. We all get individualized tutoring, and every class has a required lab. According to one theory, we have to retake courses until we master the material. It is a cause for hope that no less a personage than Albert Einstein thought attendance in this school might eventually help us to become wise.

How has the School of Life has given you a measure of wisdom?

REMEMBERING THE WORLD CONGRESS IN TOKYO, JAPAN 1967

Isti Jenkins writes...

It's like looking back at an event that could have easily been another lifetime ago!

But it was not, it was a special event for many of us who had been called to follow this extraordinary path that embraced all religions, races and cultures. The only path that made any sense to me as one who wholly believed in ONE God and ONE humanity!

I flew to London from Sydney to be opened in Mommoth Rd just a couple of months before the arrival of Bapak, Ibu and the Indonesian party of Subud members who were to stay at residence of Sharif and Hartarti Horthy in Redington Rd. But that is another fascinating story! I certainly felt very much at home with this wonderful mixture of international people and never wanted the energy of radiating love to end.

After the six amazing weeks in London...listening to talks from Bapak I decided to follow the Party part of the way on their world tour and flew to Holland. Here I stayed with a Subud family until I felt the push to attend the World

Congress in Tokyo in 1967. Airports were not large at this

time and neither were JET planes. Travelling by Air was a special and exciting privilege. Luckily I already knew a number of members from England who were also planning to be there in Tokyo. I remember the wave of heat arriving at the Tokyo Airport and meeting with others to share a Taxi to the Venue outside of the city. The accommodation was adequate and clean. It certainly felt different to share the large heated baths with other females in typical Japanese style! But there was an incredible feeling of unity and the atmosphere was vibrant...even electric.

There were many of us waiting to welcome Bapak and Ibu at the time of their arrival at the entrance of the Hotel. A small cloud gathered above him at that moment and the skies opened with a shower of rain.....we quivered with the blessing that was shared, grateful to witness such proof of His love and mercy.

The Congress Opening ... started with Japanese Sumo wrestlers and followed with beautiful traditional Japanese dancers in Kimonos...a dream coming true for me of world one could already call a Global Village. The evenings were spent either listening to Bapak talks, followed by testing sessions for both men and women. Members from every continent came together to play music or sing and to share their talents. Everyday filled with activity and the joy of holding this world wide family reunion in hope of bringing World Peace between all Nations.....

I particularly recall one women's Latihan where the feeling and singing was so harmonious and unworldly that no words could possibly describe it. We found ourselves in a perfect circle as the Latihan ended. This was clearly the divine Grace of Almighty God.

The characters I met were vibrant and unforgettable....many no longer dwell here on earth. At the close of the Congress, I felt lost and wondered what next for me? So was invited to join a group of others who had already planned to travel from Tokyo to Hong Kong to met Hussein Rofé before arriving in Jakarta in time for the Indonesian National Congress, but that is another story.

Here is just a glimpse of one chapter in the book of my Subud life with Blessings from Isti Jenkins.

Valentine Narvey, editor of SCAN, the Subud Canada newsletter, has produced a supplement of people's memories of the Japanese Congress. [Click here to read it...](#)

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Remembrances-3rd-Subud-World-Congress.pdf>



Isti at the Tokyo Congress in 1967.

FINDING THE RIGHT WORK

Sebastian Paemen writes...

A problem many young people face is what work to choose. Testing can be helpful, it can also cause problems. In my case unfortunately it caused more damage than it did good. Asking the wrong questions, incomplete or wrong receiving, assumptions and biases, guided me on the wrong path for many years. I had to learn the hard way and realised that I'd actually never needed to test about it and it would have been better if I hadn't.

Here are some things which I have learned on the way. Hopefully it might be of help to those looking to find the right work. In finding work which suits you it is important to stay close to your own nature. We are all different and God has given us all different talents to make a living in this world. Ask yourself what you enjoy most doing. What excites you and what have you a natural passion for?

Bapak advised to think back to when you were a child at primary and secondary school. What subjects did you like? What came naturally to you? What were/are you good at, and satisfies you?

There are of course several good talent tests around and career advisers are specialised in this field. I found this certainly useful.

An important tool to help giving you direction is to realise if you like working with people and your main focus is on people or not. For instance, most scientists, people working in IT, engineers and researchers are not that interested in working with people. Most artists like working by themselves too. Teachers, social workers, nurses, etc like working with people. This defines two important areas of work. Most people are one or the other, but some are both.

Also think about work environment. Do you like to work inside or outside? Are you happy to work in a big office building? Do you like educational institutes, hospitals, building sites, etc? Do you want to be your own boss and not work for others?

Ask yourself questions like:

Do you like reading and studying and going deep into certain subjects and gain knowledge?

Are you a hands on person who likes to solve practical problems?

Do you like to make money and want to make a lot of it?

Do you like working with plants, or animals?

Do you like art, language, music, etc?

Do you like maths and calculating things?

Are you fascinated by the human body?

Do you like healing people?

Do you like mechanical things?

Does science fascinate you?

Are you good at talking? You could be a lawyer, a teacher or a salesperson.

Do you like working with your hands?

Etc, etc.

Find out where your natural passions and interests are, what you are good at, find really exciting, what satisfies you most and makes you happy. Don't embark on a line of work that you find boring, burdensome and which makes you unhappy. Those are signs that you are not following your given talents. Work should be exciting, not boring.

There are so many distractions in life nowadays. Don't blindly copy what other people do. We are all unique.

What work you should do in life is already in you, you just need to become aware of what is yours and natural for you.

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL HELPERS

The IHs inform...

Although this message arrived too late for us to include in our issue before Ramadan, we thought we should include it for future reference.

After receiving a concerned message regarding the upcoming fast of the month of Ramadan we discussed what our response should be.

Subud, as our beloved and most respected Bapak had many times said, is not a religion and doesn't impose the choice of religion to anyone. Within our association there are members of all existing faiths, people who do not follow any particular dogma and we accept them all. The only common belief we all have in Subud is with regard to the existence of Almighty God who we - according to our belief - call it in different names such as God, Allah, etc. In fact, our practice of the latihan kejiwaan is both a receiving and worship of this One Almighty God.

We are aware of the fact that the fasting during the month of Ramadan is observed by many Subud people, also people whose religion is not Islam. Bapak had often mentioned the benefits of doing a fast. When asked about Ramadan he responded that people who are not Muslim could also do the fast. Many of our Subud brothers and sisters have experienced special blessings after doing Ramadan but also Lent or other fasts. Some have felt that one or the other fast is more appropriate for them.

We, as international helpers, believe that no Subud member should feel obliged to follow any religious tradition in the name of Subud. As helpers, we must all make a point of saying this to members, new and older. Each one of us has the freedom to choose their own beliefs and we all have the responsibility to make space for each other's faith with an open mind and feeling while respecting each other's person. We feel that our latihan and inner awareness can guide us in this. On the other hand, we are all human and sometimes we can make mistakes because we feel enthusiastic about certain experiences. This could lead to insensitive behaviour to our brothers and sisters, even drive them away.

We would like to encourage you all to read Bapak's words regarding fasting and religious traditions. Use your feeling as to what you are inclined to follow and try to open your acceptance to make space for other people's choices. We feel it is very important that we all have an attitude of respect to one another and follow our latihan experience, always supported by Bapak's explanations. Then there will be no ill feelings, no sense of forced practices just the wonderful sense of being part of the huge human family we are in Subud.

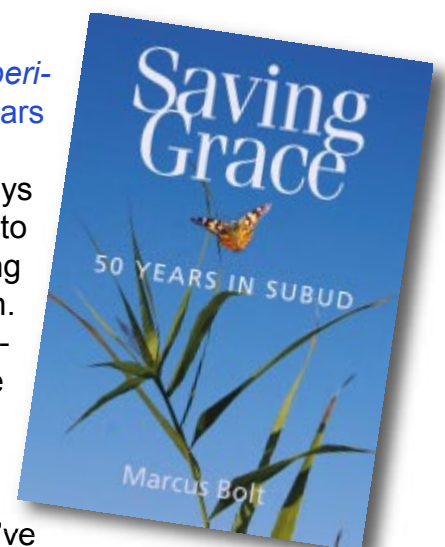
For explanations about fasting, members are referred to Bapak's many talks on this subject in the Subud Library <https://subudlibrary.net> (e.g. 71 TJD 20, 71 TJD 21, 71 TJD 22) ●

NIL BY MOUTH (RAMADAN 2)

Marcus Bolt concludes his two part series of articles about his experience of Ramadan (a chapter from his book Saving Grace – Fifty Years in Subud)...

Bapak told us, and I can now see that it's true, that the first ten days of the fast are for the nafsu to come to terms with what you're up to and to get used to it. The next ten are a kind of retraining and paving the way for change. The last ten are when the changes can happen.

During the odd nights of the last ten days (the twenty-first, twenty-third and so on) you can, if you want to, stay up all night. These nights are called 'The Nights of Power' in Islam. They are the nights when the Qodar, the gift of God, can 'descend' as a receiving. This is, of course, how the Koran was received by Mohammad. As Bapak pointed out, what you receive relates directly to how well you've done the fast. He often reminded us that the Qodar is, 'not like a cabbage falling from the sky'. It is an inner change. It is sometimes accompanied by inner understanding, the reality of which takes time to filter through.



On any of the Nights of Power, and perhaps this is a sign of the imminence of the Qodar, Bapak told us that we may, at some point, feel overwhelmed with remorse for our past wrong doings; this can be followed by a feeling of love for our fellow human beings. After this there may come a desire to give alms to the poor. This is Zakat and is one of the five pillars of Islam.

Bapak has also said that another important reason to fast is so that you can empathise more easily with poorer people and in particular the world's starving by putting yourself in their shoes. Last Ramadan I realised with awe that I have never, in all my 76 years on this planet, gone without food for more than a day. I have always had my daily bread. We are so lucky in the West.

When the fast is over a time called Id'ul Fitr starts. This is a time of rejoicing, feasting, wearing new clothes (I guess as a symbol of the new, changed you) and asking forgiveness of past wrong-doings. In particular, asking forgiveness from your parents, your husband or wife and your children. This can be a very moving experience.

I must have done about 46 Ramadans out of the 50 years since I joined Subud. Over that period I've been ill a couple of times and you're not supposed to fast when you're ill. One year, my daughter was born on the fifteenth day of Ramadan and a day later I started a postgraduate teacher training course. I just wasn't able to continue. You can, of course, make it up afterwards. But I'm not a Muslim and felt no obligation, so I let myself off the hook. Quite a few Subud members have embraced Islam. In the early days I thought I, too, should become a Muslim. I tried it for three months – that is I tried the ritual washing and prayers five times daily. I realised that I could not keep up this strict discipline and was not prepared to make yet another promise to God, only to break it soon after.

First and last Ramadans...

My first Ramadan and the one before last are my 'best' ones. The first one really took me by surprise. I was living temporarily in a Subud married couple's house. They were a great stabilising influence on me then. I had only been in Subud for a year, still reeling from the breakup of my first marriage and my own breakdown. I had no money and had only just started getting back into the job market. They were comfortably off, certainly compared to me, buying their own house and had a young family. They seemed to have arrived here from a different planet to me. They were observing the fast as well. It was in darkest November and very, very cold. Leonard was working and I was teaching part time. We'd get up at five, have saur and go for a walk every morning. We'd then break fast when he returned around five thirty. This had been going on smoothly for some weeks when I read that the fast was done for longer in Cilandak. I announced that I was going to follow Indonesian times from now on. A bit cheeky, that!

I had a very telling dream that night. Leonard and Hannah (his wife) and I were on a motorised barge chugging down a wide river. I asked Leonard if I could have a go at steering. He let me, and I took the wheel. Immediately, the boat began to drift sideways and go out of control and nearly hit a bridge, until Leonard took the wheel again. The message was clear. The next day I decided to go back to what we had been doing before.

The fast ended just before Christmas that year. We gathered at another married couple's house, quite a few of us, and broke our fast for the last time. I can only describe the memory of what I felt as a 'blanket of love' that descended on the room. It sounds so pretentious when it's written. But I had never felt such a powerful feeling towards others before. It was totally new to me.

My next Ramadan was fairly uneventful except for one short but extraordinary experience, the depth of which I only understand now. I had walked the two miles back to my digs from the school where I was teaching art. It was about five o'clock on a very cold, November evening and I was so tired I crashed out on my bed, waiting for six o'clock to arrive. In a half-sleeping state, I was suddenly 'in the local latihan hall' with all the local men members doing latihan. I was aware of each of us reaching up to heaven, and singing with one long, harmoniously vibrating note. We were like tubers in the ground, growing towards the air and light. As I came to, everyone in the dream transmuted into one of my internal organs. This lasted for no more than two seconds, yet I was aware of everything in my body doing the latihan and worshipping.

There is no doubt...

The reason I wrote that I only fully understand this experience now is because I've since done the latihan for many more years and have simply had more time observing its action on me. There is no doubt that, as Bapak says, the latihan works on every organ, every muscle fibre and nerve ending, even the blood. 'Man can be changed only if he is changed entirely,' Bapak said. However, this change has to be done at a pace that can be handled by the individual. I sometimes feel at the end of latihan as though there's been a tweak here and a little 'sandpapering' there and the angels have said, 'That's enough for tonight. Off you go till the next time.'

A few years later, during one of the Nights of Power I was driving back from a friend's house in South London. It must have been about four in the morning when I began to think of an old girlfriend. We had gone out together for four years. I met her when I was about 18. We had become engaged during my early years at college. But I had met my first wife and I had broken off the engagement. As I was driving, a feeling of remorse at the way I had treated her began to flood my feelings. It was so strong I had to stop the car and pull over. For the next quarter of an hour I sat in the car re-living the time in Panavision and Dolby Surround, sobbing my heart out. I had been so callous. So self centred. And I had delivered my message and run away leaving her to handle it alone. As I wrote earlier, seeing yourself as you really are is no joke. I do hope that with recognition of and genuine contrition for unacceptable behaviour comes forgiveness. I wouldn't want to go through that again – nor would she, I expect.

So, as with everything there are many levels to fasting. You can do it as a complete sham and it's a waste of time. I read somewhere that in certain Muslim countries you can pay someone to do Ramadan for you! And in the New Testament Christ admonishes those who go round letting everyone see that they are fasting. 'You have had your reward,' he says.

It seems to me that fasting is a technique that improves with practice. With a bit of luck I might get a few more Ramadans in before I 'shuffle off this mortal coil'.



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If you would like to contribute with a session, please contact: Rusydah Ziesel at:

rusydah@subud-sica.org

Are you in? Than write Rusydah and you will get your time slot and further info for workshop leaders.

Participants can start to register here:

<https://forms.gle/wydBEwyVnXLLNo9m8>

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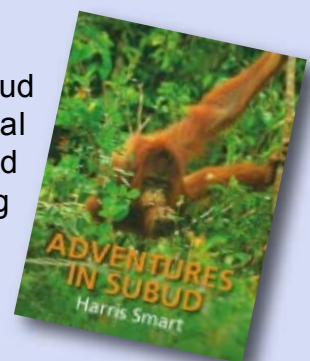
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To obtain the book go to www.lulu.com home page and enter Adventures in Subud in the search slot.



CUBBY CONSIDERATIONS 2 – “IN THE BEGINNING”

Irwan writes the eighth article in his series about his cubby...

Arthur Stace was a semi-literate former soldier, petty criminal and alcoholic. Over 35 years from 1932 until his death in 1967, he walked Sydney's streets at night writing the word "Eternity" on pavements and walls. It is estimated he did this over half a million times. At the time, no one knew his identity.

This is not the article I was going to write. That will have to wait. This one is rather self-centred I'm afraid.

I have written of my love of history – difficult to justify, difficult practice - but irresistible. In an anxious world that emphasises the importance of remaining “mindfully” in the present, I spend a lot of time “mindfully” in the past.

Of course, the two are not mutually exclusive. Close attention to anything is a very enjoyable way to be totally in the moment. When one is entirely present, one is entirely absent from random, often vaguely disturbing, thoughts.

I love giving my whole attention to a subject. Always have. And it can be any subject: from a cashflow to the meaning of life. I have a reputation in my family for submersing so deeply in a subject that the world can fall apart around me – the temperature drop (“Aren't your feet cold?”), the night fall (“Why are you working in the dark?”), the meal missed (“Aren't you hungry?”), the bladder full (bloody hell !!).

In fact, I would go so far as to agree with French philosopher and mystic, Simone Weil (1909 – 1943): “Attention, taken to its highest degree, is the same thing as prayer. It presupposes faith and love.”

So, I have continued to ponder my love of history. Early memories have come spiralling back since the last article. Two in particular...

To read Irwan's complete article, click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Cubby-Considerations2-In-the-Beginning.pdf> ●



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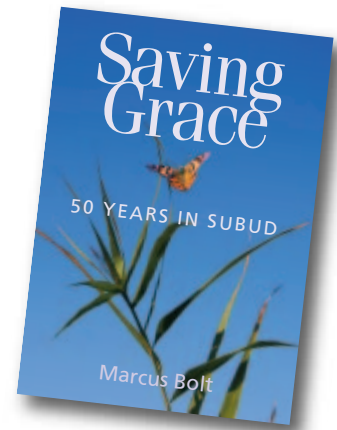
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Saving Grace – 50 Years in Subud

Marcus Bolt

Saving Grace is a book written for those wishing to find out more about Subud, a rarely publicised, modern, yet seemingly ancient, spiritual movement. It charts one man's fifty-year involvement through his personal take on its organisation, its culture and the latihan – the transformative process at its heart.



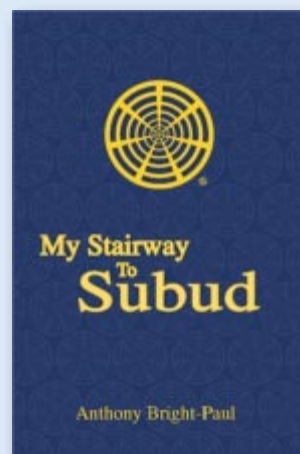
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Laurence Clark MA (Oxon), CBE

“In this refreshingly straightforward narrative, Marcus Bolt reflects on his years in Subud with humour, affection, insight, courage and delightful candour. There is nothing pretentious or preachy. It's all straight stuff, but straight from Marcus. And that's what makes it work...” *Latifah Taormina, SICA*

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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.

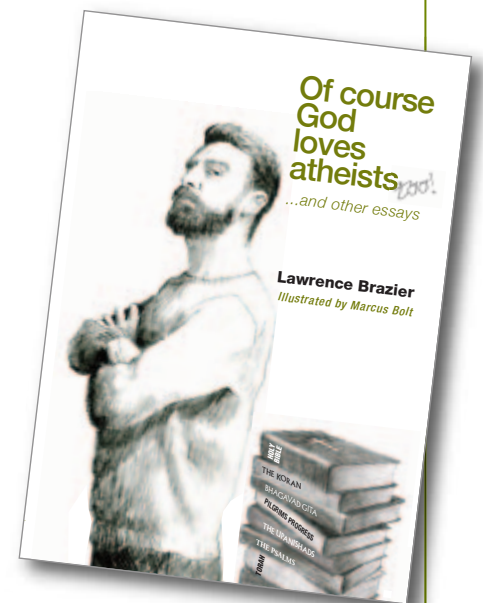
There are jokey pieces about sarongs and getting blessed by sneezing, but above all one senses the deep wonder of his good fortune, which he has received in a difficult world.

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

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Send articles, photos, cartoons etc. to Harris
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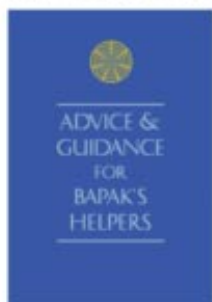
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