



Congress Meets Kalimantan

Harris Smart writes... Suleman (Sumali) Agrawal, who has spent the last 30 years in Kalimantan, recently returned to Australia for a visit. I sat down with him to talk about the relationship between the forthcoming Subud World Congress and Subud's vision for Kalimantan. But first I asked him to tell me a little bit about his own life story, particularly his involvement in Kalimantan...



Suleman: Well, I was born in London of an English mother and an Indian father.

They had met at university where my father was studying philosophy. When he completed his studies he was offered a job in the University of Khar-toum, a very gentle place, where I spent the first 10 years of my life.

My parents split up and I went back to London for the next three years with my mother. Then we moved to Sydney where I had a very unconventional education in an alternative school which led to me adopting the punk attitudes prevalent at the time. I was quite cynical about everything.

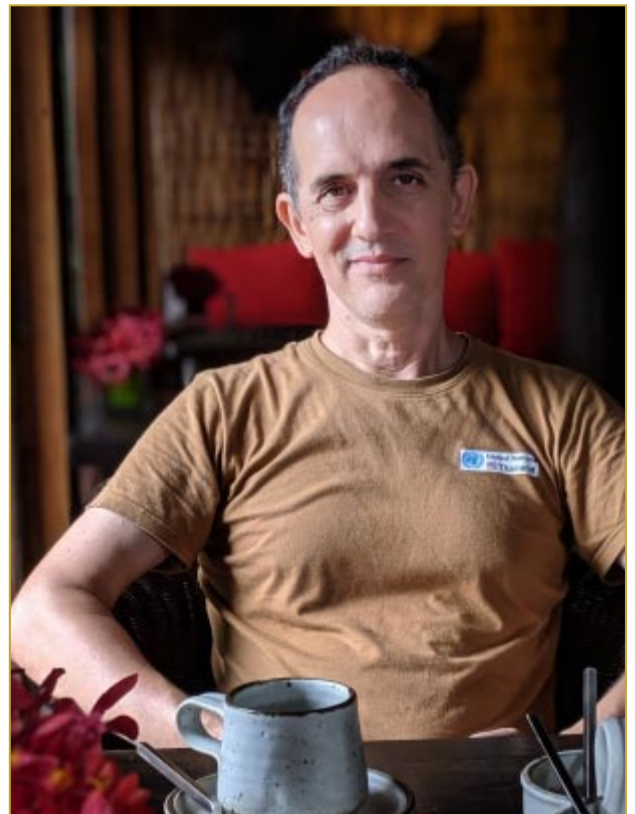
My mother was in Subud, but I just looked on that as her thing, and felt it had no relationship to me. What changed that was a conversation I had when I was 19 years old with Luqman McKingley who was in Sydney at that time with Project Sunrise. He told me about the meaning of who Bapak was and that eventually turned my life around.

I went to Wisma Subud, where my spiritual education began in Latihan and conversations with the many wonderful Subud members living there at the time. I returned to Australia with a new sense of purpose and went to university and took up environmental studies.

I began to work with Luqman on a project called Canopy which aimed to develop an eco-tourism project in the Kalimantan rainforest. I made trips into the interior of the island and developed rainforest concepts and stories which could be incorporated into the project. Big money was interested in investing, but that all fell through in 1997 when there was a massive financial crisis in Indonesia.

The legacy of that project is a book written and illustrated by Luqman. There is a rumour that the book inspired the *Avatar* films by James Cameron. All I can say for sure is that we sent a copy of the book to his people and that there are many points of similarity between the book and the *Avatar* films.

I worked on the Canopy project, and the development of Rungan Sari, throughout the 90s. Then came the time for World Congress 2001 in Kalimantan. But the Congress was moved to Bali due >



to communal violence between the indigenous Dayak population and Madurese immigrants.

After Bali, I went on to Tokyo for a time and taught English to make some money, but Kalimantan was still the most important thing for me.

Then, an opportunity arose for me to go back to Rungan Sari and work with Bardolf Paul in YTS, a community development foundation which carries out that work in conjunction with Subud's mining project. I was taken on to lead a UNDP project to reduce mercury use in the gold mining sector.

Informal gold mining is a big thing in Indonesia. There are about half a million people involved in it and perhaps 3 million people in the families who depend upon it. They use mercury as part of the process of refining the gold and this mercury is a powerful polluter of the environment.

I worked there for a year, my first paid job in Kalimantan, and then went to do other community development work in East Kalimantan when the mining project obtained a new gold exploration area over there.

When that came to an end in 2009, I went back to Central Kalimantan and lived in Rungan Sari and built a house there. Rungan Sari was a wonderful place to return to, like living in a protected bubble. I believe that was Bapak's vision for the housing development, that it should be a base from which Subud could carry out other projects to develop Kalimantan.

I continued working on projects with YTS including agricultural livelihoods, environment, and formalization of the artisanal mining sector. This kept me going until March 2020 when unfortunately, I caught Covid quite severely and eventually had to sell my house in Rungan Sari and leave Kalimantan.

Since then, I have been moving between Thailand, the UK and Australia. I remain involved with YTS while also doing some postgraduate studies in Australia. Recently, I have been thinking about the Kalimantan Congress and what might happen before, during and after the event.

Harris: What exactly do you mean by that?

Suleman: The time of Christchurch Congress was a very fertile time for us in Rungan Sari because hundreds of people decided to visit Kalimantan on the way to Christchurch. This also happened after the Congress with many more people coming back through Indonesia.

So, what we experienced was hundreds of people coming in before Congress and hundreds of people coming in after Congress for about 12 months. It was about six months before that Congress and six months after that Congress. It was this big hump of activity. In Rungan Sari, having hundreds of people makes a huge difference.

I'm not saying they were all there at once, but we were constantly seeing new faces, new people; there's new stimulus, new friends, new people to talk to. If you're used to a community only having 50 or 100 people in it and then you get that extra bonus of hundreds more coming through all the time, it becomes a really lively Subud center. In fact, at that time, I'd say we were an International Subud Center, and it felt really good.

That's what I'm hoping will happen at this Congress too. Those people who come to look will possibly stay for longer time periods, possibly get involved in things, make deeper connections, maybe come back again, and those are the kind of people who will contribute most to Kalimantan over time.

I'm not saying that people shouldn't just come and visit, by all means come and visit, have a look, see if you like it, see what you like about it, but I think what's more important is people who feel something more long-term, who want to make some commitments to the place, whether that's to build a house and live there, or set up a business with some local people or whatever it might be.

Harris: I think when we've talked previously, you've reflected on things that have worked well and things that don't work so well, can you talk about that?

Suleman: I think people sometimes have false expectations. They think they'll arrive and everything will be laid out for them. They'll know exactly what to do and how to go about it and there'll be opportunities all over the place, but the reality is, well, sometimes it does happen like that, but the reality is I think more nuanced. People have to make the usual efforts. In fact, they have to make more than the usual efforts.

“ *Bapak's vision was that Rungan Sari should be a base from which Subud could carry out other projects to develop Kalimantan.* ”

You need to learn some Indonesian before you come, so you can do basic functions. You need to understand where you are because it really is a remote place with very few services. You need to know how to get around. You need to know how to talk to people nicely. You don't want to be the foreigner who's getting angry because he's hot; people will not respond well to that. You want to know how to be polite even when you're feeling angry, keep it to yourself.

There's a sense of freedom there, but you should also exercise some self-control and not offend people, not do things that don't seem appropriate to situations. Don't flaunt your wealth in front of poor people. Don't offend the Muslim population. Equally, don't offend the Dayak population by being too proud or full of yourself. There are many cultural aspects, which you need to be aware of, but there's also just the plain old economic aspect of, if you put your money into something, don't immediately expect you're going to get a big return.

Most people who've put money into Kalimantan have done it almost like a donation knowing that they may never actually live in their house or may never get to see a capital gain on their house.

We have struggled as a community even just to exist, not to thrive, and we don't expect to get massive returns, so don't go there thinking you're going to set up some massively profitable enterprise overnight. It'll take hard yakka. It'll take a lot of time and suffering, and it'll take a lot of mistakes before you'll be able to do that, but by all means, give it a go.

Harris: Do you see any particular areas of opportunity or need there, that people should think about?

Suleman: There's needs everywhere. The fact is that food is a need and food is a problem for many people. Food is generally imported, and you'd be surprised how many middle-class government officials on salaries are still concerned about getting food on their plate. Don't think that everyone's doing really well in Kalimantan, most people are there just trying to create a life.

The migrants from Java are generally quite poor and they're looking for opportunities, and for the Dayaks increasingly the opportunities are being taken away from them by others.

Harris: Is it possible to be any more specific about what might be areas where people might think about setting up enterprises?

Suleman: If you're think about minerals or timber or oil, these are controlled by conglomerates and big industry players and you'll be lucky to get a piece of the action these days, even with a great deal of strategy and a great deal of money. I think those days existed in the '80s and the '90s, but now, I think those big opportunities have probably been missed.

The opportunities that I would think about would be more small scale, working with farmers, local people, developing natural products, lines of things like honey or natural oils or handicrafts. Those kinds of things could be obtained fairly easily, but international markets still have to be created.

Harris: I guess the people who have done something over there are people who've been really prepared to go at it for a long time, aren't they?

Suleman: There are several examples of Yayasanans, people who have set up foundations and there's not self-interest involved. I think mainly because of that, it allows people to flourish. They can get donations and they can create projects and there's a wide range of opportunities in that social arena. I think that's where things like BCU school have flourished.

These social developments are how we interact with the community in a really good way, but there's no profit involved. That doesn't mean to say there shouldn't be a business model. In fact, to make them sustainable, they need to have business models built into them.

Harris: Looking back at your own time there, of the various things that you did, what do you think is the thing that was the most successful or gave you the most satisfaction?

Suleman: I think the most satisfaction I derived was from raising awareness on the issue of mercury and talking directly with people impacted by mercury and improving their health by distributing small scale technology to them, which they could use. I know I saved a few lives that way.

Harris: A lot of people won't have any idea what that means about mercury. Can you just give a little explanation of what that's all about?



Don't flaunt your wealth in front of poor people.



Suleman: When I first started working there, I was focused mostly on that issue, which is that small scale gold miners use a little bit of mercury in order to obtain the gold. It may not seem like a lot, but when you have

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Don't go there thinking you're going to set up some massively profitable enterprise overnight.

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thousands of people doing it, it adds up to many tons. That normally gets concentrated in towns and villages where it gets burned in public spaces such as market-places, near vegetable sellers and where lots of people hang out. Those become dangerous places to be. That's a big issue.

Harris: It's not a problem of it going into the rivers?

Suleman: It's less of a problem. It's all a problem, but the main problem is when you burn it and breathe it through your nose, and it goes into your brain and your bloodstream.

Harris: Anything else that comes to mind that you think is relevant?

Suleman: The other thing I was working on was small scale agricultural solutions for villages and also some environmental conservation work. Those projects were all very interesting and very diverse. Plus one other thing we did was introduce villages to local credit unions, helping them set up savings accounts and avoid exorbitant money lending, which really helped very poor people get a handle on their spending and manage their household expenses a bit better.

Here is a link to a video I made about "The Manado Method". It is a concentration process for microscopic gold particles. It gives miners a cheap and effective alternative to mercury.

<https://youtu.be/57OseQ1wrzA>



Small-scale gold mining supports as many as 3 million people in Indonesia.



Sumali at small-scale gold mining site in Kalimantan.



Suleman (extreme right) with the Canadian Ambassador at a small-scale mining project funded by the Canadian government.



Small-scale technology reduces the impact of mercury which is used in the gold smelting process. A stainless-steel retort captures 99% of the mercury.

World Congress Dates

There is now a dedicated World Congress web site. It is:

www.subudworldcongress.org

The April issue of the WSA magazine Subud Connect carries the following information about the dates for World Congress.

The congress dates are currently confirmed as January 4-15, 2024.

Any change to these dates will depend on the permit for holding a large gathering approved by the provincial and central police. The provincial police have already given their verbal assurance that the proposed date should be acceptable. Still, we need to wait for the final confirmation issued by the central police. Although no changes to these dates are anticipated, we encourage all members to hold off on buying tickets or making any reservations until we receive the permit from the police.

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For further information about World Congress go to Connect magazine at:

https://subud.org/subud_connect/subud-connect-april-2023

Frequently Asked Questions *The WCOT writes...*

Based on previous World Congresses and the particularities of Kalimantan for the 2024 event, the World Congress Organizing Team (WCOT) have started putting together a list of Frequently Asked Questions, and their corresponding answers.

This will be an evolving document, as conditions and circumstances change, so look out for updates at this site, on the official World Congress 2024 site which will be launched shortly, and at other media outlets.

This list of FAQs has been put together in March 2023. Please note that up-dates will be made as certain considerations may change and questions added.

Click here to see the FAQs: <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/FAQ.pdf> ●



SUBUD connect – April 2023

The WSA advises...

We are delighted to bring you the first issue of the new SUBUD connect magazine.

It aims to keep members connected worldwide, both with the activities of the organisation, and with news from the countries.

This issue includes:

- * 2023 WSC MEETING – the meeting outcomes and a daily diary complete with lots of photos
- WORLD CONGRESS 2024 – News from the WCOT team, and the Wings, about the upcoming congress
- INTERNATIONAL HELPERS – Read about the latest IH travels, and their plans for 2023
- WSA UPDATES – A Q&A with the WSA Treasurer, calls for nominations for international roles, news from the Archives and the SYAI (Youth) coordinator
- MSF – News from the MSF team, and the call for Subud House grant proposals
- ZONING IN – News from the countries who are busy enterprising, centerprising and connecting with their members
- WHAT'S ON – Upcoming events across the Subud world

The magazine is available in print and digital forms in English, Indonesian, Spanish and French To download the magazine, go to

https://subud.org/subud_connect/subud-connect-april-2023 ●



Rochanawati on Forgiveness

A reminder about forgiveness, so appropriate at the end of the fasting season, from a talk by Bapak's daughter M'bakju Rochanawati (Excerpt from Personal Advice by M'bakju Rochanawati)...

All that matters is worship of God. M'bakju is not afraid to die or to give up everything, but I will not give up worship of God.

When someone does not like you—leave it, or if someone likes you and admires you—leave it—it does not matter. All that matters is worship of God and asking forgiveness of God; please God, forgive—forgive—forgive.

You must love yourself. If you love yourself, you will not dirty yourself and you will not do those things like talking about other people. Your first love is to God, then to yourself, then to your husband and your family.

If you feel worried or hurt by people, or pleased if they admire you, or angry with someone or sad, this cuts into the your heart and makes wounds. But for heaven you must have a whole pure heart.

So when anyone hurts you, leave it, leave it, forgive him or her—leave it and forget it. Let it not get into you; it must remain on the outside. Inside you must be happy and untouched by it, worshipping God. M'bakju is always happy and praying inside: “Oh God, forgive, forgive.”

And when people come with their worries, it does not make M'bakju weak because of always praying inside to God, and being happy. You must come to that.

You must always be happy to pass the examination for heaven. You cannot come into heaven with a heart full of wounds. If someone hurts you, forgive him or her and forget about it. But don't let it enter you and remain with you. ●



M'bakju Rochanawati

“ For heaven you must have a whole pure heart...”

Dharma Care – Supporting Sleepbus

Dharma Care is a Subud charity in the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales, Australia. They publish a monthly newsletter. To receive the free newsletter contact the CEO Irwan Wyllie at info@dharmacare.org.au



The April issue of the newsletter announces that Dharma Care has partnered with legends of the local music scene, Cunning Stunts, and national charity, Sleepbus, to initiate the sponsorship of another Sleepbus for the Northern Rivers Region.

Sleepbus provides a unique solution for anyone who finds themselves without a roof over their >

head by providing a safe night's sleep in one of their specially fitted-out buses

As many of you know, Dharma Care is focused on providing a range of solutions to the problems of homelessness in our region – a region which has one of the worst homelessness statistics in the country. Dharma Care has donated AU\$10,000 to the Sleepbus project.

[A safe night's sleep for people homeless in the Northern Rivers](#)

Sleepbus® is providing much-needed support for individuals experiencing homelessness in Australia, particularly in the Northern Rivers of NSW.

Thanks to our friends at Cunning Stunts, Dharma Care has augmented their fundraising efforts and together donated \$10k to sleepbus.

Sleepbus has launched their first service in Byron Bay and are already working on plans for a second service. Dharma Care will fundraise further to help bring services to more cities in our region – Lismore, Uki and Murwillumbah.

This will help ensure that more individuals experiencing homelessness have access to safe and secure accommodation and support.

Dharma Care is also working towards developing a more comprehensive and effective range of solutions to end homelessness in Australia.

As we all know, sleep is essential for good health and wellbeing and addressing the issue of sleep deprivation among those experiencing homelessness can have significant positive impacts.

Sleepbus® is not only providing safe overnight accommodation for individuals experiencing homelessness, but also contributing to a more comprehensive and effective approach to addressing homelessness in Australia.

By filling a gap in services and prioritising the needs of those most vulnerable, Sleepbus® is providing a unique form of support that can help individuals improve their physical and mental health and also increase their ability to access other resources and services that can help them find pathways out of homelessness.

While Sleepbus® is providing a critical service by providing safe overnight accommodation for those experiencing homelessness, it's important to recognize that this is just one component of a broader strategy that is needed to address homelessness in Australia.

Ending homelessness requires a comprehensive approach that involves tackling the root causes of homelessness, such as poverty, lack of affordable housing, and systemic inequalities. It also requires providing individuals with a range of services and support that can help them address their unique needs and challenges.

In this sense, the work of Sleepbus® is complementary to that of other organizations working to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Australia. By working together, these organizations can help provide individuals with a range of services and support that can help them overcome the challenges they face and move towards a more stable and secure future.

Ultimately, ending homelessness in Australia requires a sustained commitment from all levels of government, community organizations, and individuals. By working together and addressing the root causes of homelessness, we can create a more just and equitable society where everyone has access to safe and secure housing.

For more information about Dharma Care contact, the CEO Irwan Wyllie.
e. info@dharmacare.org.au w. <https://dharmacare.org.au>



“ Sleepbus is providing much-needed support for individuals experiencing homelessness in Australia ... ”



MSF CALL FOR GRANT PROPOSALS FOR SUBUD HOUSES 2023 [FROM APRIL 1ST TO JULY 31, 2023]

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Muhammad Subuh Foundation (MSF) is pleased to announce the 2023 Call for Grant Proposals for Subud houses (for property acquisition or capital improvement projects) beginning April 1, 2023, and ending July 31, 2023.

For this year's process, there will be an initial period to submit a Pre-application form from April 1 until May 31 in order for MSF to review your project eligibility, and then a final period to complete a Final Ap-

plication form from June 1 until July 31 for those eligible projects. Please note that the pre-application form is a mandatory requirement in order to apply for the MSF grant process.

The Muhammad Subuh Foundation encourages the applicants to read the Grant Process Guidelines which include all relevant aspects related to the entire process. After reading the Grant Process Guidelines you will have to fill in the Pre-application form (available online from April 1 until May 31, 2023). This form will help the trustees make sure the project meets the basic requirements to start the final application process by completing the Final Application form which will be sent after the pre-application is reviewed and considered eligible by the board of trustees (from June 1 until July 31, 2023).

Please note that filling in the Pre-application form is the first step of the process and in case your project is considered eligible, you will receive by email the Final Application form in which you will be required to upload the project's supporting documents such as construction permits, business plan, timeline, etc.

Additionally, we will be having several workshops for the Subud Community in order to provide details and solve any questions regarding the grant process. Each workshop will have the same content and will be held on Saturday, April 8, Saturday, May 27, and Saturday, July 1, 2023. You can register for one of these workshops by filling in the MSF Grant Workshops Registration form, where you may also find local time zones. Please note that the workshops are not mandatory requirements to apply for a grant, they are only informative.

On behalf of the MSF trustees and staff, we encourage our beloved Subud Community to learn more about this Call for Grant Proposals in the Grant Process 2023 section on our website.

In case you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to write to MSF at renato.sotelo@msubuhfoundation.org

With love and gratitude, Renato Sotelo, *Grant Manager Muhammad Subuh Foundation*



MUHAMMAD SUBUH
FOUNDATION

The Foundation of the Worldwide Subud Community

IF YOU ARE USING SAFARI...

One of our readers has struck a problem because he is using Safari as his browser.

He writes. "For May's Voice can you insert a short notice, reading something like this..."

Some of our readers, specifically those who use Safari as their browser, are having problems in "clicking through" our blue URL http address links to get to the source document.

The solution is simple: copy and paste the link to your URL, or a blank word file, and then click on this to access the source document.

In Praise of Ordinariness

Subud is an awakening of one's inner self through surrender to God, From Asa Lake, Subud Santa Cruz, California...

1959 was the year of our opening. The room was filled with hundreds of people screaming, crying and moaning after a "begin" was said by a little foreign woman I could barely see in the front of a huge room in Alhambra, California.

We had driven all the way from Santa Monica after a three month probation in this mysterious group called SUBUD. After this experience we stood on the sidewalk outside the building and compared notes. What did you feel? None of us knew much about what had happened in the latihan, but we knew we felt wonderful! SO with that began our years in Subud.

Our little world was expandable to include all manner of interesting and odd brothers and sisters who suddenly became important to us. Oswald was almost immediately on the committee, and I naturally came along. We never had marvelous "spiritual experiences" or "crisis" — but we always felt fresh and new and wonderful after latihan.

We read everything we could find and did our latihan and work in the world — and knew almost nothing until 1963. That was the year of the World Congress in New York. There we came to know Bapak and Ibu, Tuti, Ismana, Usman & Aminah, and that's where Bapak did "testing" in the group in front of every one.

The testing gave us a deeper experience of the latihan and meeting with the brothers and sisters from around the world gave us a happier feeling about "the brotherhood" of Subud than we could have from just knowing the group in California. That was the first time we drove Bapak and party in our car. Little did we know it was a preview of having Bapak come to our home!

I think of these as rich, fulfilling years... our children grew, we grew... We started SNA (Subud North America), the precursor to Subud USA, and our lives and hearts expanded to hold more and more.

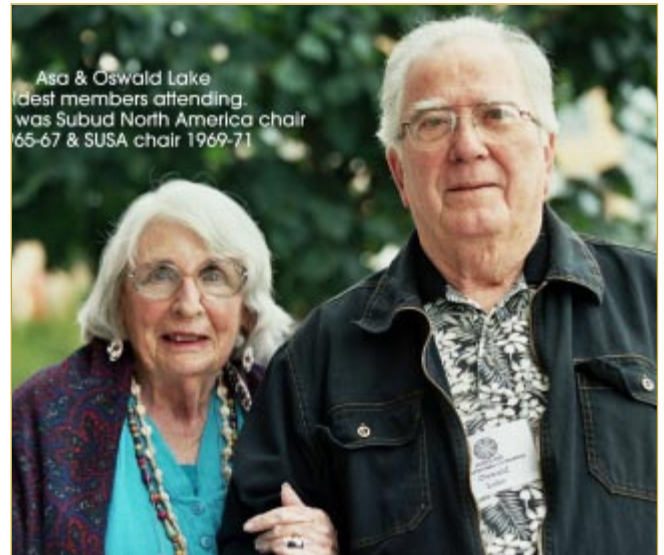
There were always a thousand levels of everything. Heaven and Hell were always combining and intertwining and the fruits of the latihan seemed to always be there to save us from falling into the Magnetism of any one of these levels to the detriment of embracing the present.

God is Good! It was a grand beginning and a gift from heaven. Time hardly seems to have passed, yet here it is, 1999, and here we still are — Oswald and Asa, married 50 years this past June, have five grandchildren, still doing the latihan...and doing nothing wonderful in our lives. I had expected at least WINGS by this time — or to have experienced the Cosmos personally! But, I was one destined to be ordinary.

Ordinary? Of late, I remember Bapak saying that's what we SHOULD be, and as the world gets more and more crazy with each passing day, I have learned to treasure my ordinariness as the "pearl of great price". I believe that it is important to do latihan for reasons far beyond ourselves and beyond our understanding.

It's as if we form a bridge for the latihan energy to penetrate this level, and this is important for the Earth itself — and our duty to Almighty God in response to the constant blessings with which he fills our lives. When all other reasons fail, we keep on doing latihan because it is the only choice we have.

Love, Asa



Asa passed on February 8, 2013, at the age of 85. She and her husband, Oswald, had been high school sweethearts. Here is a photo of the two of them shortly before she passed on:

“ I have learned to treasure my ordinariness as the pearl of great price... ”

A Global Embrace

An extract from Swimming in Stories...

Rosanna Hille who served as Chair of the Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) from 1993 to 2001, as SDIA Executive Director from 2001 to 2005, and again as Chair in 2007, has written a book entitled *Swimming in Stories!* In the introduction, she writes...

I was swimming in stories written over different periods of my life – memories, adventures, letters, journals, poems – but they were all disconnected from each other. I needed to channel these diverse streams into a single river of stories that described my life.

I was also curious. I wanted to take a closer look at where I came from, what my influences were, what decisions I made that shaped my life, and how those decisions worked out for me. Drawing on years of private writing where I found my young voice, as well as creative writing classes and writing by others, especially my father, I dove into my past seeking answers.

I am grateful for my life, rich in spirituality, family, community, travel, service and creativity, on this sacred earth we all share.

Rosanna's book weaves together many different threads of her life but we have selected this extract in which she describes how she became the chair of Susila Dharma International at the Subud World Congress in Colombia in 1993...

A Global Embrace

In July, 1993, Lucas and I flew to Colombia with friends to attend the Subud World Congress. In order to be close to the action, we decided to stay on-site in the basic shelters erected for this event instead of in a nearby hotel, and I plunged into my first experience of South America.

I participated in the Susila Dharma International meetings with enthusiasm, reconnecting with the people I had met in Hamburg earlier that year and many others from all over the world. Towards the end of the two weeks, the elections for various international positions were held. This is done through a two-part process of seeking spiritual guidance on the suitability of each candidate, followed by a democratic election by the voting delegates. The other candidates for the position of SDIA chair were from Sri Lanka, Colombia and the Netherlands and, to my great astonishment, I was elected for a four-year term.

This process was a powerful experience for me. In that instant, I felt my life come into focus physically, like the lens of a camera, seeing clearly that moment when you know something is correct. Then it was announced that the entire board of this international organization had resigned, and everyone happily wished me, "Good luck!" I was on my own.

That night in my bamboo cot in the little alcove, I lay awake all night listening to people breathing on the other side of the plastic sheeting, wondering what I should do next. I knew I couldn't do this alone. What had I taken on? How should I start?

Those night musings generated what I realized later was a good decision that fit my vision for an international organization. Since there was no democratic voting structure in place yet (that would happen in 1994), I invited Lamaan Goonetillike from Sri Lanka, Monica Ramirez from Colombia, and Reinbrandt Visman from The Netherlands to join me on the board as directors.

They had all shown interest and commitment to SDIA by putting their names forward for the position of chair, and thankfully they all agreed. I was very happy to leave the Congress a few days >



Rosanna during her term as chair of Susila Dharma International with Kiti Ki Menghi and Charles Lusanda in Moanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2000.

“ I felt my life come into focus physically, like the lens of a camera...”

later with a gender-balanced team representing Asia, Europe, and the Americas, ready to take on the leadership of this fledgling organization. Back in Vancouver, I invited three local Subud members to also serve as directors – Kumari Beck, an educator, Raynard von Hahn, a lawyer and Luther Schutz, a doctor from the USA. We hired a part-time office administrator.

“ *The challenges of working with our global community to create an international organization based on democratic principles...* ”

In October, I flew to England to get a briefing from the outgoing SDIA team on its history and activities, especially during the last ten years. I spent an hour with Wilbert Verheyen, the retiring chairman and a few days with Laila Armstrong, the office administrator, and flew home with a boxy Macintosh Classic computer and a few files in my luggage.

I had no clear idea of how to do this challenging job but was filled with a sense of commitment and peace with my role and the importance of our task. I had great confidence in our team and felt this opportunity to serve was a personal calling. I was given an annual honorarium of \$10,000 US to pull it all together, and we began to work.

Simon Bland, our office manager, was an important player and invaluable support to the team. Few people had emails at that time, but we started learning about this new way to communicate using Netscape Navigator. We communicated with the members of our network using the mail system and our trusty fax machine, which we named “Merc” after Mercury, the Roman god of translators and interpreters. We began to pull the pieces together, putting out newsletters, trying to understand what the global network was all about, envisioning how we could structure the network so it could evolve into something impactful.

One of our first tasks was to get SDIA legally registered as a charitable non-profit organization in the USA. America was chosen because it allowed for an international board of directors and because the other international Subud organizations were registered there. It was also important to register as a charity because in 1989, SDIA was recognised as a global non-governmental organization by the United Nations Economic and Social Council and UNICEF.

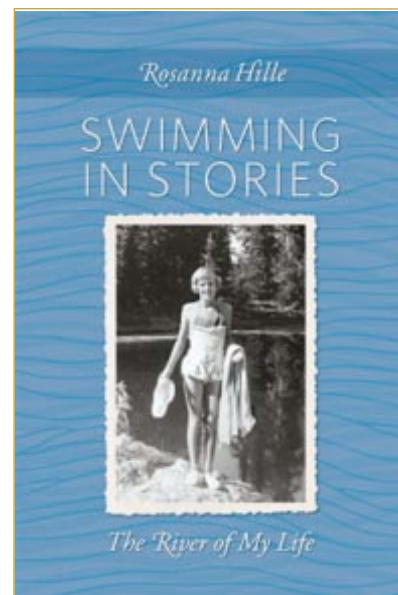
When I took over, the World Subud Association had given us one year to clarify our purpose and get legally set up so that SDIA could be considered for official Affiliate Status with the World Subud Association at the 1994 World Subud Council meeting in Denver, USA.

The meeting in Denver was hard work for we were asked again to explain our finances and to defend our decision to register as a separate organization. At the conclusion of this meeting, SDIA was accepted as an Affiliate organization of the World Subud Association, and this provided us with an additional legitimacy and, for me, was a kind of blessing on our efforts. Walking across the college grounds in a euphoric state at the end of this crucial meeting, I found a neat roll of one-dollar bills on the ground – seven in total. I optimistically took this as a sign that we would be successful in our fundraising efforts.

Over the next twelve years, as the chair and then executive director of SDIA, I made over forty international trips to twenty-seven countries, visiting many of them more than once. In carrying out this work, I relied on a dream I had early on that helped remind me I could not do this alone... I suspect I was feeling overly responsible.

In the dream, a giant eagle flew down and perched on my left hand. Its beak was huge and it fixed an intense eye on me, inches from my face, as though challenging me. I knew this bird could tear me to shreds! Although afraid, I became very aware that this eagle had abilities I did not have – like excellent vision and power.

For me the eagle was Susila Dharma and I knew that to be successful in this position I had to harness the power of that great raptor. We had to work together. This dream guided me and helped me to trust and wait when I didn't know what to do... wait for the vision to become



clear, wait for things to line up, wait for conditions to generate the power we needed to succeed.

I was intrigued by the challenges of working with our global community to create an international organization based on democratic principles and trying to apply our spiritual practice to real-world practical problems. Could this be an opportunity for all of us to connect across cultures, to listen and learn, to put aside judgements and assumptions and to be open and essentially integrate our common understandings from the mind, heart and soul?

In the next seven chapters I invite you along on a few of my journeys learning about development, visiting projects and getting to know local project leaders.

[For information about how to obtain the book in hard copy or e-book versions ...](https://vedahille.com/rosanna-hille-swimming-in-stories/)

<https://vedahille.com/rosanna-hille-swimming-in-stories/>

Click here to see a flyer about the book...

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

My Colombian Adventure PART 3

This is the third and final part of Ashwin Rajaraman's journeying in Colombia last year. In this episode he visits a Susila Dharma project, joins in a latihan for the sick, has a strange coincidence, and picks up on lots of Latin American culture. All text, photographs and videos by Ashwin...

MCA in Barbosa...

The next day was a surprise since Isabel turned up early in the morning at my hotel to drive me to Barbosa where her Susila Dharma project was located. We picked up Lucas Roldan, their National Helper, and his lovely wife Insiyah Taborda on the way and off we went.

The drive was scenic, with lush green rolling hills on either side; it was an hour or so away from Medellin and we were singing and laughing and making merry all the way.

We reached Barbosa and the sight that greeted us was terrific. Nestled in the mountains was the amazing Mis Corazones Alegres (MCA) Susila Dharama project run by Isabel and her mother for the last 15 years. I know you won't believe it now, but I almost cried when I saw the inmates . . .

The MCA Foundation aims at improving the quality of life of older adults with low economic resources by providing them with a safe haven, taking care of all their personal, physical, medical and emotional needs, in a caring and loving environment.

Isabel and her mother live on the premises as do the inmates, and it was indeed a perfect setting for an old-age home run with finesse and expertise by loving and competent caregivers.

Everything was spick and span and all the procedures documented and processes adhered to, and the happy faces and the incessant chatting showed us how peaceful and contented the inmates truly were. It was humbling, it was inspiring, and it was in my opinion a perfect example of putting the Latihan into practice.

Whilst we were there, the owners of the place – for MCA was run on a long term leased premise – came for a visit and were shown around and discussed terms of sale of the premises to MCA. Isabel and her team are looking for a permanent home for their elderly invalid inmates. And if Susila Dharma is your cup of tea and you have always wanted to help a successful social welfare project and/or donate to a noble cause, look no further.

Isabel dropped us back to the city after a delicious lunch prepared inhouse by her chefs, since she had errands to run and take care of supplies for the old age home and Lucas and Insiyah insisted on taking me up a cable car to see the beautiful Arvee Hills and National Park just outside Medellin.

Despite my protest, Roldan insisted on paying for me for the entire trip and again I was floored by the kindness and generosity of the Colombian Subud brothers and sisters who never allowed me to pay for anything till now right from Amanecer

Up in the hills and all the way to the top, the natural landscape changed dramatically with every phase – there were three – and it was an unbelievably beautiful sight to behold.

“ Colombia is a beautiful country with abundant nature at every turn...”

We strolled and walked for an hour in the countryside breathing fresh mountain air, drinking tea and eating ice cream like kids as we chatted about Subud in general and about Colombia and Medellin in particular and the groups and their challenges and achievements.

“ *I knew even then it was time for him to go...* ”

Latihan for the sick...

Insiyah had to return home to attend to some pressing matter, but Roldan and I decided to continue our way to another part of the city to meet an ailing, old, committed and long term Subud brother Latif Arango who was no longer able to travel to group latihan because of his physical condition.

We did a sick Latihan at his home, the three of us, praying for him and his illness and I had a strange but vivid experience during latihan which I shared on the way back in confidence to Roldan. I knew even then it was time for him to go and it was time for us to go too – slowly, painfully, we made our way back, ours hearts heavy but light at the same time, knowing a burden will soon be lifted.

You will this time, I insisted on buying dinner for Roldan since this was my last night at Medellin, and we found a delectable Indian restaurant very close to the hotel and Roldan had tears in his eyes because of the hot food, but he relished the spicy food, and we bellowed in laughter at his happy predicament.

Thank you, brother, for demonstrating what a National Helper should truly be like. It was another day which was really fulfilling for me in my Colombian adventure, and I slept that night peacefully and happily, contented and knowing that Subud was in safe hands in Colombia . . .



MCA is in an ideal and perfect location in Barbosa.



Colombia Roldan, Insiyah and Isabel in MCA.



Insiyah and Roldan – Arvee cable car.

Breathtaking Bogota – Art, Sculpture, Music, Museums and Mountains – take your pick

As I flew into Bogota the next day, I was first met by Rowena and then her parents right at the airport. Salman Neme then drove us straight to the Subud House where about twenty Subud brothers and sisters were waiting.

What a Subud Group! Sebastiana Paez played an admirable host as she had arranged everything beforehand – coffee and tea and snacks flowed as we ate and chatted – but of course before and after the Latihan too! The love for food in Colombia is amazing and what is even more amazing is that you are encouraged to eat more than your fill all the time.

It started in Amanecer and it was still continuing here. The boisterous laugh and bonhomie were orchestrated by the loveable pair of Martin Frisco and Latif Paez, whom I had met earlier in Amanecer, while Sophia encouraged all with her usual charm and wit.

It was great to be there and loved like this and I must admit it was a beautiful example of a Subud Group behaving like one cohesive and lovely family, pulling each other's legs, joking, and sharing and gently admonishing, all at the same time with Sophia and Rowena translating every little bit for me so that I wasn't left out of the conversation either!

Salman insisted on driving me to the hotel – I insisted on treating them to dinner – after all it was Rowena who, having taken one look at my room, said 'nothing doing' and marched right back to the reception and charmed the receptionist into giving me an upgraded and probably the best room in the hotel.

All in Spanish, so I had no clue. This lovely first family of Subud Bogota left no stone unturned to make me comfortable in Bogota for which again I am indebted and grateful to them, especially for the very gracious group message on my visit.

The Salt Cathedral...

The next day saw me set off to explore one of the man-made marvels of Bogota – The Salt Cathedral as they call it. I came away stunned at what I saw underground in a mine and what the miners had created and what they had sculpted there.

It reminded me of the underground salt caves of Postjona in Slovenia, but there were no sculptures there for sure. The love and devotion to their trade and the artistic skills on display was indeed a sight to behold and I am glad I made the trip, thanks to Olivia in Amanecer, who suggested and booked the trip for me online – take a bow, sister

I tried to go up the mountains at Monserrate in the evening to get a bird's eye view of Bogota and its surroundings but by the time I reached there, it was already too late – I just missed the last funicular by a whisker – so maybe another day . . .



The loveable Subud Bogota Group Members.

“ *The Subud Groups in Colombia are unbelievable...* ”



Sophia, Martin Frisco and a Subud sister.

Beautiful Bogota...

Martin Frisco came early next morning at the appointed hour to meet me at the hotel for breakfast – he had taken a full day off and had insisted that he would be the best person to show me around his beloved city – and indeed he was!

He gave me a veritable tour of the city, better than any professional tourist guide perhaps, talking to me as we walked about the history and culture of Bogota, its important sights and what stood where previously and what was there in its place now.

And then hearing about my near miss of Monserrate the previous evening, again insisted we go there first because, as he said, there was an interesting story which he would tell me later once we reached there.

Again, despite my protest, Martin paid for the funicular trip but was looking at me quizzically all the time, something churning in his mind, as he kept asking me why I kept saying Monserrate was a must see for me.

This strange coincidence...

We reached the top, took the sights in and as I savored the landscape, Martin gave a running account of the place and its significance and took me to the exact spot where the late Subud Brother and IH Lateef Ismail had a spiritual experience when he bowed and prayed there!

So, this was the story and now I knew the connection and what had prompted me all along not to miss this place. So, I told Martin that indeed I knew Latif well, he had visited India several times and we had developed a close bond during his visits when I took him around to meet the various groups in the country.

And both of us were indeed very amused at this strange coincidence in a remote mountain top. We prayed for our departed brother and Martin took me through all the ten sculptures of the various, last stages of Jesus Christ's life, one by one, and which was sculpted and put there for the devout to pay homage to.

A riot of colour...

The return trip back had even more culture in store as Martin weaved me through all the main and side streets of Bogota, taking me to that part of old town that is tucked away and which I would have never found by myself.

Every street (and every wall) was a riot of colour as there were hundreds and hundreds of wall graffiti and wall murals painted all over the place each vying with the other and which to date have been rather well maintained.

We spent a long time there seeing and marveling at all those artists who had come from many parts of the world, many innocuous and not famous, but each with a spirit and skill of his own which he/she expressed on these walls, perhaps for eternity.

The Bolero Museum...

Next up was the famous Bolero Museum which was free and which Martin insisted I must visit since it was next door to my hotel and there we went – Martin stayed with me for an hour taking me through some of the iconic paintings displayed there and then left me there knowing what a crazed brother from India he had with him, one who could never get his fill of art how many ever art museums he went to in the world.

I stayed there till they literally threw me out saying it was time to close, admiring and photographing (yes, you heard that right too) the art displayed on two floors and there were two more museums to cover right next door, which too I visited all since I was leaving back home the next day.

I thought the day was done, and had returned to the hotel, but Sophia called to say that her fiancé (who was not yet in Subud) wanted to meet me and took me to a delectable local restaurant and we spent the next couple of hours over dinner, chatting and giggling like kids and making plans of when, where, and how their marriage should take place the next year ...



The Tree of Life sculpture - Salt Cathedral .



A sculpture of Christ on the Cross in Monserrate.



An iconic art work in the Botero Museum, Bogotá.



Bogota city and the old old town has wall murals and graffiti galore all over the place.

Summing up an extraordinary experience...

That, my dear friends, was my Colombian adventure: something I didn't plan for, a place I had no plans to visit, but it all just fell in place as if it was meant to happen that way all along. So here is how I can sum up this extraordinary experience I had visiting Colombia:

- Colombia is a beautiful country with abundant nature at every turn.
- There is something for everyone here – nature, sports, birding, art, music, culture, dancing, adventure, mountains, wildlife, hiking and trekking and two beautiful coasts each with its own unique flora and fauna.
- The people are warm, friendly, and generous – yes, you have to be careful, but then nowadays, you have to be careful in any part of the world, I guess.
- The Subud Groups in Colombia are unbelievable – you have to visit to experience their love and affection for all things Subud.
- Amanecer is a unique, beautiful, magical place with a charm of its own and surrounded by lush mountains and greenery all around.
- If you are looking for a holiday combined with all things Subud, then look no further than Colombia as your destination of choice.

To see “*Breathtaking Bogota*” a video by Ashwin go to: <https://youtu.be/yuA6OwXlpDk> ●

Gunung Padang

An edited extract from Truckin' the Tarikat, Hitchin' the Hakikat: A personal overview of some contemporary non-Subud truthseekers by Dachlan Cartwright... This is the second extract taken from Dachlan's long essay Truckin' with the Tarikat. The first episode published in the March issue explored books, experiences and other cultural influences which shaped Dachlan as a young man.

In this extract he focuses on Gunung Padang, a mysterious mountain in Java. It is believed to be the site of an ancient palace,..

There are claims that humans may have built it up to 20,000 years ago. If correct, this would obviously make it more than 10,000 years older than the Egyptian pyramids. Some say that Gunung Padang changes our whole view of human history.

In 1996 in a Singapore bookshop I saw a thick book, *Fingerprints of the Gods* (1995), by Graham Hancock. At first I was put off by the “cod” title, reminiscent of the over-sensationalized work of Erich von Daniken.

But “Fingerprints” was a revelation. Graham, an experienced journalist, with his wife, the photographer Santha Faiia, described their investigations at sites in Mexico, Peru, Egypt and elsewhere.

Graham has gone on to author or co-author some 17 books, all tremendous bestsellers, and has given many talks on this and related themes,.

By doing so he has provoked enormous opposition from the archaeological, scientific, and historical establishments, with even Wikipedia labelling his theories and findings as “pseudo-archaeology”. His latest venture, a Netflix series, *Ancient Archaeology*, is proving equally both popular and controversial.

I'll put my head on the line and state that I believe Graham Hancock to be a warrior, a hero, and a prophet, and leave you to consider, if you so wish, the arguments of his critics.

The first episode of *Ancient Archaeology* focuses on Gunung Padang, a “holy mountain” in West Java, equidistant from Jakarta and Bandung, both places where I have lived. The mountain is about 30 km south of Cianjur, where the recent earthquake of November 21 took place. (Bapak's grave complex at Sukamulya is about 10 km north-northwest of Cianjur.)

Gunung Padang was discovered as an archaeological site only in 1914. In 2011 a team led by Dr Danny Hilman Natawidjaja, Indonesia's leading geologist (a geologist, mind, not an archeologist) “...began a geological survey... using ground-penetrating radar, electrical resistivity and seismic tomography... The organic materials brought up in the drill cores began to yield older and older dates... as the drills bit deeper, and finally... an astonishing sequence of dates of 20,000 BC and 22,000 BC and earlier”. (*Hancock, Magicians of the Gods, p35*).

Pak Danny relates the time of the “disappearance” of Gunung Padang to the time of the



Dachlan Cartwright and his daughter Rianti at Gunung Padang.



Gunung Padang was first seen as an enormous hill with steps leading up to it. (Universe Inside You video)



Gunung Padang was discovered as an archaeological site in only 1914...



Younger Dryas, a cataclysmic period between 10,000 and 9,600 BC involving floods and earthquakes.

[My visit to the site...](#)

In 2015 I visited Gunung Padang with my daughter Rianti and son-in-law Cas. (I wrote about this trip in an article for Indonesia Expat magazine – see link below.)

I didn't feel any "latihan" experience, but then I'm as psychic as a brick shipyard, as Benny Hill would say. After the ascent of the nearly 400 andesite steps I felt more like Gerontion in TS Eliot's poem, "an old man, A dull head among windy spaces".

And yet it was so much worth it. Gunung Padang is a site of natural beauty in a location of natural beauty. Its summit is aligned to Gunung Pangrango (3009m), the nearest of the parade of high volcanoes, dormant, semi-active, and active, which march across the island of Java. Hundreds of cylindrical andesite columns lie scattered along the summit; it's as if a giant had opened a box of huge matches and scattered them all over the ground.

There are other pyramid-shaped hills further east beyond Bandung; I can't comment with any authority on their geodesic significance, but it is speculated that Gunung Lalakon, south of Bandung, which is shaped like a pure pyramid and aligned due east of Gunung Padang, is an artificial structure.

Similar theories are advanced about Gunung Kalaidon and Gunung Haruman, pyramid-shaped hills east of Bandung.

[Atlantis?](#)

Pak Danny's work at Gunung Padang has received two predictable reactions. Up from the sunken depths arose the dreaded A-word – "Atlantis".

An Indonesian hydrologist, Dhani Irwanto, in 2015 published a book *Atlantis: The Lost City is in Java Sea*, which is not specifically about Gunung Padang, but builds on the work of Professors Stephen Oppenheimer and Arysio Nunes dos Santos in targeting Indonesia as the site of the lost continent.

According to Pak Dhani, the centre of Atlantis was located in the Java Sea south of Kalimantan. My own take on this is that it is hard to find a location on this earth that has NOT been earmarked as Atlantis – even my home city of Liverpool, lol.

But for me the most convincing site is the mid-North Atlantic, as proposed by Graham's colleague, the polymath Randall Carlson, and publicized as well by their colleague Jahannah James. This seems nearer to Plato's original description and location.

[Presidential support...](#)

The other reaction to Pak Danny's investigation of Gunung Padang was the predictable one from Indonesian archaeologists who saw their vested assumptions and positions under threat.

And while Pak Danny and his team did win the support of the previous President, Susilo Bambang >



*Heavy blocks of stone are littered around the site.
(Universe Inside You video)*

“ *According to Pak Dhani,
the centre of Atlantis was
located in the Java Sea
south of Kalimantan...* ”



*. Blocks of stone scattered in every direction.
(Universe Inside You video)*

Yudhoyono, Indonesia's current President, Joko Widodo, has shown no ostensible interest in Gunung Padang, although, as a native of Solo in Central Java, he will be soaked in Java's rich mythological and mystical heritage.

The President has been preoccupied with combatting the Covid pandemic, and on moving Indonesia's capital to Kalimantan, the only non-volcanic major island in the archipelago.

And yet West Java's infrastructure, under a dynamic governor, Pak Ridwan Kamil, is forging ahead with a high speed train link between Jakarta and Bandung scheduled to open next year, cutting the travel time between the two cities to 40 minutes. (This project is being funded by Chinese investment as part of that country's "belt and road" project.)

Nevertheless, most of us who live on Java, especially the Javanese of Central and East Java, are aware of the prophecies of Joyoboyo, a 12th century East Javanese king who predicted the future of the island, including its occupation by a race of "white monkeys" (the Dutch, lol) for 300 years, followed by three years under a race of "yellow dogs" (the Japanese, lol again).

In one version it is predicted that, within 100 years of what is understood to be World War Two, most of Java will sink into "the sea from whence it came", becoming eight islands. Java floats on a sea of lava, and, as I write, it seems that an earthquake happens or a volcano erupts here once a week. The cataclysm could happen anytime between now and 2045. Not a question of "if" but "when".

“... And under volcanoes wait Jayabaya's children
As Java is fated to break into eight.
Thanks to great Bandung for bestowing a rainbow,
A heavenly ark parked outside heaven's gate.”

(from *Bandung in Nuansantara 33: Verse for Indonesia— DC*)

To watch a video about Gunung Padang: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a73ITcPAQfQ> To read Dachlan's complete document: <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/TruckinTheTarikat2.pdf>



*Artist's recreation of the mythical palace.
(Universe Inside You video)*

Intuition

Howard Pattinson recalls an experience relating to Mother's Day (which occurs on May 14)...

As captain of a hard-driving halibut boat, I was in trouble. My back was out. When I sharpened the first hook of the season, my back went ping. I groaned; I would be useless on deck. Never mind, I had to be captain.

We drove before a SE wind across Hecate Straits to Haida Gwaii, baited up with herring and prepared the hooks and lines for the opening next day. The cook wanted me out of the way, so said he needed another pound of butter. I hobbled up to the store.

At the checkout I saw some Mother's Day cards, so I bought one and stamps, and even though I knew it would never get to Mom on time, I mailed it.

Opening day was a flop. I had set the hooks on last year's hot spot. The next day the crew insisted that I stay in the



wheelhouse—they could easily handle the few fish coming in. With my sore back I couldn't do much else.

I had time to remember it was Sunday, Mother's Day. For me it was hard to think about Mom without getting all choked up. Mom had a tough Scotch exterior and keen intelligence, but didn't show me affection as a child.

Suddenly my mind flashed: Mom loved me as best she could. This was a very high thought, as it contained forgiveness and understanding of her Scottish culture.

By now I was weeping with remorse of wasted years of distance from her. All the struggle and effort to be loved. And the ocean! Mother Ocean was trying to love me now.

As the boat heaved over the waves, I could feel waves of energy coming out of the shimmering ocean, waves of love washing away the worry of finding fish, washing away the angry years of struggle and effort. The dancing ocean was a giant pool of love, I just had to let it in. My thoughts were keeping love out. In my weeping, love reconnected and a deep knowingness came out of my guts: "There's no fish here, Run south."

The crew had all the lines back onboard, so I had to stop blubbering and smarten up. But I could feel my guts say, "Head the boat south".

When I checked the sounder and started to plot the position track along the 30-fathom edge, I could feel my rational mind take over, and my gut's hunches turn off. I was so used to listening to electronic male energy.

At 2 pm there was a slack water, when the crew knew we had to have the hooks in the water. At 1:30 I yelled "Let her go" from the wheelhouse and flagpole, anchor, hooks and line poured off the stern into Hecate Straits. But "not here, this is not it" came from my stomach.

I stopped the boat and told the crew to chop off the line, so we could retrieve it later. The men looked at me funny because they knew we would miss the slack water. But my intuition said go Southwest.

We ran for 15 minutes and came to a thin limp flagpole, left there by another fisherman to mark a hot spot. "This is it." We gave it every hook we had and let them soak on the bottom the rest of the afternoon. After dinner, my back felt better. We hauled back into the dark, a fish on every hook. By midnight we had 3500 pounds of halibut on ice.

Troubles can lead to growth, if you listen. Intuition has since guided important decisions of my life, where to fish, when to sell a boat and move on, when to sell a business. I give life my best shot; but when I get a hunch, I listen.

Thank you, heart, for surrendering and letting love in while fishing for halibut on Mother's Day in Hecate Straits.

Editor's note: I have never met Howard Pattinson and so I asked him if he would provide me with a brief biography. I found what he sent me so interesting that I am adding it here...

Born on the banks of the mighty Fraser River and raised in Alert Bay, an island close to upper Vancouver Island, I have always been around boats. Row boats, Sea Scouts, boats with outboard motors, fish collector boats.

My first job at 17 was captain of the fish collector *Bear River*. Then I purchased my first salmon troller the *Karmsund* and fished the BC coast, preferring the west coast of Haida Gwaii and Hecate Straits.

Opened in Subud in Vancouver in 1973 in the footsteps of my wife Sandra, I received many wonderful experiences, including having Jesus enter my heart and baptizing me in the living waters. Our first son was born the day after our new boat was launched, and Subud friends came to the launching gala on a slough on the Fraser River in April 1979. Lindsey grew up to become a deck-hand on the *Wild Prairie Rose* and later a bear guide in Knight Inlet.

In 1997 I began running grizzly bear tours to Knight Inlet, using aluminium water taxis, zodiacs and flat bottom viewing skiffs.

I received to sell the business in 2018, and now cruise the coast in *The Corinthian*, a 28 feet pocket cruiser.



As the boat heaved over the waves, I could feel waves of energy coming out of the shimmering ocean...



The Crooked Hands of Time

by Lucas Hille

I'll love you down the crooked halls of time
Love you 'til our crooked walls align
I'll love you 'til our hearts have turned to rust
Love you 'til there's only none of us
In the morning, when our dreams have faded fast,
In the evening, when there's nothing more to ask,
As our bodies ache and shake with each thing new
As death draws near, our time on earth is through
I'll love you 'til the crooked hands of time
Release us into stratospheres divine
And when in heaven, we are met with Grace
I'll love you in the sacred halls of space
Love you in the sacred halls of space

In an email Lucas writes, "This poem emerged from a dream, in which I was in a small songwriting group with Bob Dylan. One of the participants came up with the phrase, 'the crooked hands of time', which I thought was a very interesting phrase. When I woke up, I immediately wrote down the phrase, and the poem came from there, with only a little tweaking. I added a few chords to turn it into a song, and when I sang it for Veda and Rosanna, they were very moved by it, especially Rosanna. Love to all, Lucas."

EGO

Ego, pride and vanity
we need all three to some degree.
It's when they rule
one's not so cool.

Epigram from a contributor who wished to remain anonymous.

Exploring Your Creativity

Rusydah Ziesel on "Bebudibe Your Creativity" - an upcoming SICA Explore event
<https://youtu.be/Yw7ISpZ557k>

This is a promotional video for an upcoming activity over Zoom by Professional Art Therapist Rusydah Ziesel on "Bebudibe Your Creativity", to be held on Friday, May 26. This event is Episode 2 of SICA Explore, a series of Zoom presentations by creative people, sponsored by SICA, the Subud International Cultural Association.

The SICA Explore event featuring Rusydah Ziesel on Friday, May 26 will be at the following times:

- 11am in Los Angeles
- 2pm in New York
- 7pm in London, UK
- 8pm in Berlin, FRG
- 11:30pm in New Delhi, IN

The Zoom Meeting link on Friday, May 26 is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83684280807>

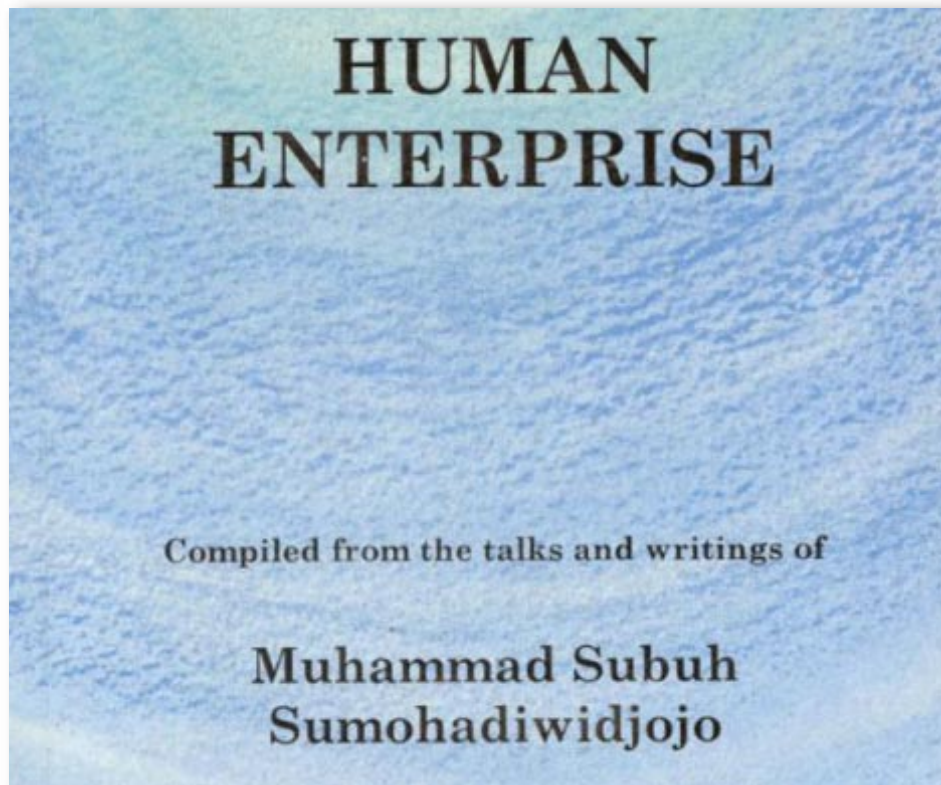
Zoom Meeting ID: 836 8428 0807



ABOUT RUSYDAH ZIESEL

Rusydah Ziesel is an Artist and an Art Therapist who combines creativity and spirituality. Like all of us, she is a "natural" channel for divine power. Rusydah believes that every human being is a creative being and says we are all co-creators of our own lives.

A Focus on Enterprise



Human Enterprise

This book is a compilation of 144 quotes from Bapak's talks on the subject of Enterprise over a 30-year period, between 1957 and 1987.

The book was a initiative of Rahman Connelly and Braford Temple in Australia who had developed a successful businesses over 11 years during which they had the opportunity to experience some of the things that Bapak had said about enterprise, including insights as to what is required to make an enterprise successful.

With few books left to sell, Rahman & Bradford have decided to make it available online, free of charge, but ask if you could provide brief feedback on how useful you found it, to:

rconnelly@izellah.com

You might also consider a donation to Subud Voice, which made this communication possible.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qkxmdtkh2ucobev/HUMAN%20ENTERPRISE.pdf?dl=0>

An Experience of Enterprise: The Connelly Temple Story and more

In 1983 Bradford and Rahman established a pension fund management business based in Wollongong, working out of Bradford's garage.

Rahman's industry experienced lead him to believe that there was ample of room for innovation to the betterment of pension fund members.

The business grew rapidly, such that by 1996 it had over \$1 billion of funds under management with 120 employees in Wollongong and 4 Australian capital cities.

In 1996 the business was sold to Royal Sun Alliance. In 1996 Bradford & Rahman decided to share the Connelly Temple story; how it got started, what was learned along the way and the support it provided to Subud and individual projects.

Again, with few DVD's left to sell, the video is being made available, free of charge, but ask if you could provide brief feedback on how useful you found it, to rconnelly@izellah.com

You might also consider a donation to Subud Voice, which made this communication possible.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qlamgq4s0e1ukd2/Connelly%20Temple%20-%20An%20Experience%20of%20Enterprise.mp4?dl=0>

Happy Viewing and Reading!

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A New Book from former SICA Chair, Latifah Taormina

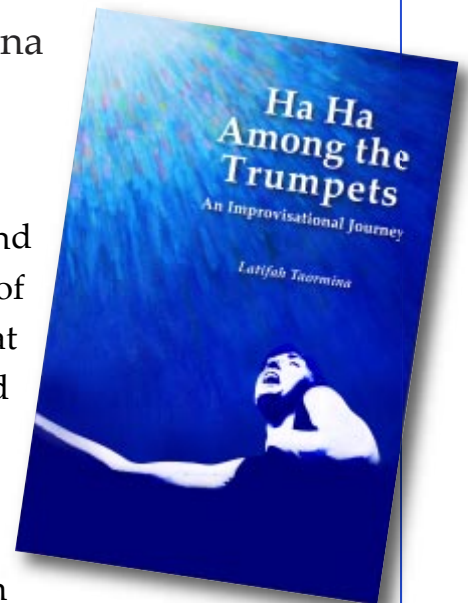
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Taormina's spiritual quest ultimately takes her beyond her marriage, which is tested by the competing claims of politics, work, family, and the author's emerging sense of her own identity. She moves to Wisma Subud, Indonesia, where, using her stagecraft skills, she teaches drama at the Jakarta International School. It's an astonishing story. *Mary Adams Paperback, 380 pages. Available from www.lulu.com (On the home page, click 'Bookstore', type *Ha Ha Among the Trumpets* into the search box then follow the onscreen prompts to order and pay.)*



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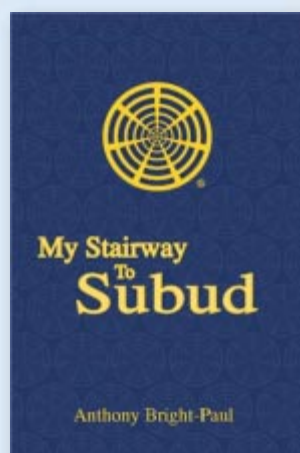
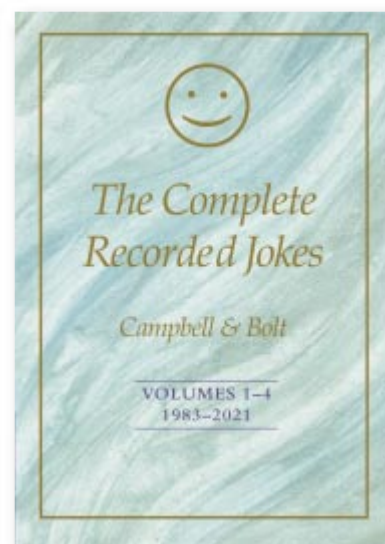
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SUBUDVOICE

MONTHLY ONLINE

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

20 MAY 2023

Subud Voice is published online monthly and
 issued on the 1st of each month at

www.subudvoice.net

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Send articles, photos, cartoons etc. to Harris
 Smart, Editor Subud Voice,
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