



# SUBUD VOICE

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## Subud California Zoom Congress

*Laura Paterson reports how innovative Subud California did a Virtual Gathering...*



*Harvey Carlock and Leanne Harrison present an hilarious comedy sketch about Subud love and marriage in the time of Covid. From California's Virtual Zoom Congress. To see their skit and other acts from the entertainment night, click on the link at the end of this article.*

*"So your work is needed, each one themselves, and each must support the whole, so that the whole may succeed and become as one unit."*

*Bapak Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwijojo, Swanwick, July 9th, 1977 SWK*

Subud California made Subud world history in August, 2020. Once it became apparent that convening an in-person Regional Gathering would be a distant happy memory, the superbly professional and dedicated Congress Development Committee pivoted on a dime and Zoomed into the future. Dennis Oliver, Elizabeth Trudell, Rifka Several, Henry Couden, and Halimah Collingwood, Luqman Katz and Raphaela Riparetti, together with Haryanti and Luke Jones as "Technical Team", fused their dynamic talents and vast experience into a juggernaut that broke through the enveloping Covid-cloud and created an event for the ages. A paradigm-shifting, iconic event, matching the de-

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mands of an uncertain and continuously evolving reality.

August 7th-9th, 2020 was the first ever Subud Virtual Gathering, and it exceeded all hopes and expectations, including even those of attendance. More than 200 Subud members, including members from all around the Subud world, embraced the new technology and zoomed into the Regional Congress, which provided the deep latihans, inspiring testing and warm personal connections that have made Subud Congresses cherished annual events from the very beginning days of Subud.

#### **Thanks to the harmony...**

Thanks to the harmony, dedication and hard work of the Subud California Regional Helpers, who reached out for insights to each center and group before the event, nothing was lost to the members of the wide spiritual and social experience of a Regional Congress.

Friday evening opened with a half-hour of Bapak Songs and Prayers. What bliss once again to hear Bapak singing and praying and playing the gambang. It was a beginning to fill everyone attending with the all-enveloping joy and warmth of a large Subud gathering. Harlan Gleeson, Subud California Regional Helper, then offered a warm welcome to members, which was followed by a recording of a talk given by Bapak in Marin County in 1977. A Meet 'n' Greet in the Zoom waiting room capped off the evening.

Saturday morning was latihan and testing via conference call, with the Regional Helpers providing deep, quiet, and harmonious support for profoundly satisfying latihan and testing experiences for everyone who was participating. On Saturday afternoon, the Subud California Annual General Meeting took place, chaired brilliantly, as always, by Rifka Several.

#### **Deeply reassuring...**

It was deeply reassuring to see that in spite of the covid-havoc rampaging through society at large, Subud affairs were being handled with enormous responsibility, professionalism and dedication by everyone concerned, in an enveloping atmosphere of calm, harmonious teamwork. For this, the Region is greatly indebted to the careful and caring stewardship of the current Regional Executive Committee and Council, as well as of the Committees of each of the Regional Groups and Centers.

The AGM was opened with prayers being offered by the Regional Helpers, who then each presented their own individual report. Congress business began in earnest with a report from Luqman Katz, Subud California Regional Chair. This was followed by reports by various Subud entities, all of which were presented with flawless precision and timing.

This may have been somewhat due to the enormous gong that sounded after each presenters allotted FIVE minutes of fame had elapsed. The first person to go down to the gong being none less than our esteemed Regional Chair! This AGM was run as a very tight ship indeed. The Academy Awards have never been so well disciplined as was Subud California's Regional Annual General Meeting. All that was missing was the orchestra.

Latihan for men and women followed the AGM, which included three break-out testing sessions each for both men and women via conference call. Alternatively, those who wished hung out on Zoom for "Chill n Chat" to share stories of their lives in these times. It was deeply satisfying to have these connection points with each other.

#### **Saturday evening...**

Saturday evening saw the highly anticipated 'Saturday Night Lockdown Live' event, conceived and produced by Halimah Collingwood. Entertainment included comedy sketches, musical numbers, stories, and video and live performances. A wonderful time was had by all! On Sunday morning, there was latihan, then back to Zoom for a Memorial Presentation for members who have transitioned during the past year, and a final Sharing Circle. The weekend was concluded with a real sense of sharing and community felt by everyone who participated.

#### **Thoughts and observations...**

Following are some thoughts and observations about this very successful and ground-breaking Subud California Regional Zoom Congress:

1. The Covid-19 pandemic has created the



*Subud California  
made Subud world  
history in August  
2020...*



necessity for an ongoing whole new paradigm for enabling human connectivity.

2. The Subud California Regional Congress has created a prototype that can be used to advantage by any other Subud entity faced with the necessity of planning a virtual gathering.

3. There is a real vibrancy of inner and outer life and a real love and harmony evident throughout the membership.

4. Subud organizational committee and helper functionality is mature, professional, dedicated and effective.

5. These observations all serve to create a real confidence that Subud will withstand the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic and emerge from it with everything about the structure, as it was created by Bapak, intact and able to flourish far into the future.

To see the Saturday night entertainment click here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aGHpsqE\\_nZY8uZf4itQyRTyatsWm70V/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aGHpsqE_nZY8uZf4itQyRTyatsWm70V/view)

## They Made it Happen...

*Laura Paterson writes about the technical team behind Subud California's wildly successful 2020 virtual gathering...*

"MANY THANKS to Haryanti and Luke Jones, who agreed to volunteer as soon as they were asked, Zoomed many meetings and rehearsals over months, and were behind their computers every minute this weekend, bringing the 2020 Subud California Gathering to us all!!"

These are the words of gratitude to Haryanti and Luke Jones expressed by Luqman Katz, Subud California Chairman, together with his Regional Executive Committee, Regional Council, and Gathering Development Committee.

Haryanti and Luke Jones are the Los Angeles-based husband and wife Technical Team who brought the world's first ever Virtual Gathering to Subud California members, and to many others from all around the Subud world. Indonesian-born Haryanti and New Zealand-born Luke met in 2016 at the Subud Wilshire Center in Los Angeles.

A Subud courtship ensued, conducted between the Subud nerve centers of Tjilandak and Los Angeles, and involving touchstone events such as Ramadan and a friend's wedding. And then their own marriage, followed by Haryanti's move to Los Angeles in March, 2019, where she and Luke have been partners ever since, both in their working and in their personal lives.

Working together in the high-end of the travel industry, Haryanti and Luke care for clients from such exotic locales as Tahiti, Fiji, the Maldives, and Africa. And even Australia and Europe!

Working together in their personal lives, both Subud Los Angeles and Subud California have reaped the enormous benefit of their total devotion and commitment to the latihan, to Bapak, and to the Subud organization. Haryanti presently is serving as the Chairperson of Subud Los Angeles, and Luke is serving as the Vice-Chairperson.

Asked for their thoughts about the 2020 California Virtual Gathering, Haryanti responded by saying, "I am very happy with the result. Everything felt very natural." And Luke agreed with her, saying, "It felt like a real congress for me. I could feel that 'after congress' feeling!"

They both agreed as well that nothing could ever replace a physical congress. "We are a relationship organization", said Luke. But they also agree that virtual connections and communications >



*Luke and Haryanti Jones, drivers of the California Virtual Gathering.*

are here to stay, and that they can bring many great benefits to society, even in a Covid-free future.

Haryanti and Luke have the following message for their Subud brothers and sisters around the world: "Please reach out to us if you have any questions, or would like to know more about creating a virtual gathering. We are not experts, but we are happy to share our experiences!"

You can reach Haryanti and Luke at [subudlachair@gmail.com](mailto:subudlachair@gmail.com).

As Chairperson of Subud Los Angeles, Haryanti and her Committee also support the Subud LA Helpers' Group by zoom-streaming Bapak and Ibu Rahayu talks every Monday evening at 6:30pm PDT. Haryanti invites anyone who would like to join the LA mailing list to contact her at:

[subudlachair@gmail.com](mailto:subudlachair@gmail.com). But she also expresses her hope that other groups in different time zones will be inspired to have their own Subud Talks sessions as well.

## GREECE: THE POSTER CHILD OF EUROPE

*Robiyan Easty writes...*

Greece is the poster child of Europe... countering the negative stuff that was being perpetrated during the financial crisis. Greece has amazed everyone with its discipline.

As I write this (24 Aug), we have a total of 8.6k coronavirus cases and fewer than 250 deaths. Right now, tourism is way down and Greece relies on it, so very hard times ahead for a lot of people.

We as a family have not been greatly affected, Alhumdu Lillah. Harina and I were able to continue teaching most of our English lessons online until the holidays and both Howard and Utami have carried on working.

Likewise, Irwan with his guitar teaching and his life partner kept her job (marketing), unlike many others. Right now Irwan is playing gigs in Santorini and Nurmala doubles as Assistant Director and Stage Manager in the National Theatre.

We went to the magical Epidaurus ancient theatre in the hills near Nafplion to see its acclaimed production of *The Persians* (streamed online); it's travelling around now to other open-air theatres.

Here's a little story for my 'memoirs'. When Bapak visited Loudwater in the '70s, he took us by surprise. Hadrian Fraval and I were living in Heronsfield, six flats in a converted school - a project lead selflessly by Maxwell Fraval. At 8am Hadrian was banging on my door saying, 'Bapak is about to set out for the 'Farm'.

Bapak gave a talk there which was not recorded, in which he said that his ancestors came from an island called Spata in the Mediterranean, 'but not the Spata you know'... now under the sea. From there, some went to Java and some to Britain.

Bapak chats with his hosts in Austria: "...The culture that stirs men to develop their lives began in Greece, and Bapak can feel his connection with his Mediterranean ancestors." *From: Page 54 of Subud Synopses of Bapak's Talks 1980 –1984 Published by SPI 1985.*

## MSF ANNUAL REPORT 2019

*Mauricio Castillo, MSF Chairperson, writes...*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Muhammad Subuh Foundation for 2019, a year that brought operational improvement amid financial challenges, both of which have continued well into 2020 with a global health and economic crisis that shows few signs of abating.

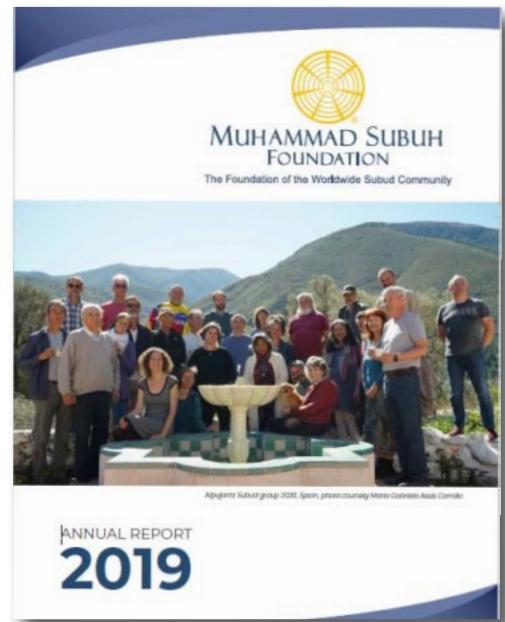
*They have reaped the benefit of their total devotion and commitment to the latihan...*



It has long been a goal of MSF to enhance its collaboration and coordination with the World Subud Association (WSA). MSF's annual meeting was held in October in Wisma Subud, Cilandak, Indonesia concurrently with the annual meeting of the World Subud Council (WSC).

While there, efforts by both entities to achieve a common goal - a more harmonious and productive relationship – were fulfilled. WSA Board of Directors and MSF approved a realistic budget for 2020; created a joint Trustee Selection Committee charged to evaluate candidates to fill the vacancies on the MSF Board of Trustees in 2020; and debated the path of MSF and WSA as they navigate a global economy that was veering toward recession even before the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

The growth of the Net Assets for the fiscal year 2019 was 6.4% and MSF was able to provide grants totalling USD 128,333 for Subudhouses, International Helpers travel and WSA Archives, the main pillars of



#### **MSF's mission.**

In addition, MSF awarded funding from the Farkas Endowment to the Susila Dharma supported project, "I Protect Me," based in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. "I Protect Me" offers resilience and self-defense training to children under age eleven in after-school programs.

Leading up to the annual meeting in Wisma Subud, MSF Trustees assessed the long-term capacity for growth, given the Foundation has been receiving few bequests and donations. During the meeting, Trustees presented a 10-year spending and incomes projection that revealed that under the scenario where projected interest rates stay low – which leads to a decrease in dividends - and the current mGrant Policy is maintained, the growth of the Foundation's capital would be impacted.

This financial reality led to decrease the 10-year target ANNUAL REPORT 2019 return of MSF's portfolio from 6.5% to 4.5%.

This significantly decreased the grant funds budgeted for 2020 and forecast for 2021 for Subud houses, International Helpers travel, and the Subud Archives. However, it will better maintain and protect MSF's principal funds for the future.

MSF, on its commitment to improving transparency and communication with Subud members around the world, has taken some actions and has placed all its meeting minutes online and has started to live stream all its regular board meetings on YouTube.

The Board of Trustees and staff of the Muhammad Subuh Foundation are deeply grateful to individuals who donated or left bequests to the foundation in the past year and always, helping to keep Bapak's mission alive.

It has been a time of incredible difficulty worldwide, but we are inspired and grateful to see Subud members rising to the challenge, finding new ways to practice our Latihans in a safe and distanced way, and in adapting to the new safety requirements.

Subud members do not seem to be at all relinquishing the wish to find expression of the Latihan in their local communities and the world. We join Subud members around the world, so that together we can work to fulfill Bapak's wish that Subud and the Latihan Kejiwaan be a force for good for all of humankind.

*With love and respect, from the entire MSF team,*

*Mauricio Castillo*

*Chairperson 2018-2022*

*To see the complete report click here...*

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/MSF-Annual-Report-2019.pdf>

# THE AMADEUS CENTRE: RENOVATING AND SETTLING IN...

*The editor writes... This is Part 2 telling the story of the Amadeus Centre in London...*

This is an extract from a long document which tells the history of the Amadeus Centre the home of the Central London group and of a large “centerprise”.

This section is about how the building, formerly a church, needed to be renovated and how everything surrounding the project progressed. An important aspect of this was the relationship between the group and Subud Britain.

This can all be read about in the full unedited document which is attached but for the extract to be presented in the Subud Voice magazine, I have selected this story of the café which was set up in the building...

As we have said, we knew the importance of food, and the new building offered the opportunity to combine the benefits for both the group and the business in the form of a café and catering enterprise.

We thus circulated around Subud Britain an invitation for proposals to create a catering enterprise to be run as a separate enterprise from the Amadeus Centre. It would need to provide wholesome cheap lunches and coffee/tea breaks for the daytime orchestral hiring and also be capable of catering for weddings, parties and corporate functions.

Alfiah Blond had just finished taking a chef's course at the City and Guilds College and her proposal was chosen, with her husband Simon abstaining from any involvement in the selection process. (Richard: "Sensible man!") She immediately started research into the design and equipment of the kitchen.

## **The café: Alfiah Blond's account...**

Many Subud Central London Members came to help clean out the dusty, grubby, lovely Welsh Chapel that was to become the Amadeus Centre at Maida Vale in London. The search for a new Subud Hall was impressively thorough and well organised: members were allocated streets to trawl looking for suitable premises.

I was teaching until July 1989 when I got married to Simon Blond. I spent some time researching the business of catering in halls hired for music and orchestral rehearsals, particularly the model of Conway Hall where the caterer didn't pay anything in return for keeping the prices competitive.

Richard Rogers, a Lear Jet salesman, and Adrienne Campbell invited me to Richard's Paddington flat to negotiate my contract. I brought my business plan to demonstrate the legitimacy of no fees for the caterer as per the Conway Hall, a competitor, model.

They barely looked at it. Richard and Adrienne wanted me to pay 15% of my turnover, not of my profit. Without adequate business training and with my heart set on doing the catering at the Amadeus Centre I agreed to pay 10% of my turnover in spite of my business plan. I also agreed to provide a café service on latihan nights. I wanted it so badly I wasn't prepared to walk away. I further agreed to run the café for whoever hired the premises be it an orchestra or a small choir of five.

I must acknowledge that the Board did take a huge risk allowing an unqualified person to do the catering. All they knew about my ability was a dinner for 20 people I had prepared at Uxbridge Road.

## **Design...**

Scott Ewing helped me design the kitchen with his experience as a chef then I sorted out the equipment for the kitchen – fridge, stove etc. We started without

*Working in a Subud  
project presses  
one's buttons  
...bigtime*



*Alfiah Blond in the café.*

a dishwasher. Minty Travers- Smith who had a restaurant in Windsor gave me a bit of coaching about catering for a week or so and a good tip for my first function, an engagement cocktail party, about flattening the smoked salmon under a rolling pin before I put it on the brown bread.

Helena Svestka, studying acting, and I were up very late the night before frying the meatballs – it wasn't until Chef Roland Bake's arrival from Holland that I learned to line up the meatballs next to each other and bake them in the oven. They can be easily separated because they shrink.

The café started off slowly because bookings were initially slow. Just as well because there wasn't a dishwashing machine for a while, and I was learning on the job. I was lucky because my father-in-law paid for a Chef's course, City and Guilds 706/1, one day for a year so I was able to get training and also did a Food Hygiene Diploma. Richard Rogers kindly paid for a very good electric mixer.

Scott Ewing, also a reviewer and writer of cookbooks, let me peruse his library and I found a lot of great recipes. Scott started making the most exquisitely delicious, moist cakes which were very popular in the cafe. They were so good he sold them at Wimbledon. Delia Whitbread did the lovely painting on the walls of the café.

There wasn't adequate storage space in a fridge to keep wine cool so very early on the wine for a function was put in the freezer in the 'cellar' outside under the street to cool and ... yes, you guessed it... a day or so later I found over a dozen frozen and cracked bottles of wine still in the freezer. Mercifully they weren't missed and that never happened again.

Chef Roland Bake, a Dutch Subud member, appeared on the Amadeus scene and was an important part of the success of the large functions because I used his magnificent recipes from a package he sold me. He was a superb chef with Van Gogh-and-Matisse taste buds and he taught me a lot about catering.

He worked for me for quite a few functions as did Patricia Gudgeon. Patricia particularly saved the day when I had to go into hospital for surgery right at the time of the Christmas functions in 1991. I was off work for quite a few weeks. Patricia came already very disciplined and accomplished in the kitchen. She was also a potter and the creative designs on her pastries were striking. She shows her pottery in the Saatchi Gallery now.

Some groups, such as the orchestras,

were very professional... They requested a café at a certain time and the promised numbers appeared at that time. Others, particularly the New Age Groups, were much less reliable. Asking for the café at a particular time and not showing up at all or showing up later or even not requesting a café beforehand then seeing me in the kitchen and requesting on the day were not uncommon. There was no recompense for no-show clients.

One day a very young and unknown soprano Cecilia Bertoli was about to rehearse with I think it was the English Concert. A member of the orchestra asked if she was any good and I heard 'It is >



*The Amadeus Centre.*

*A supremely efficient opportunity for growth...*



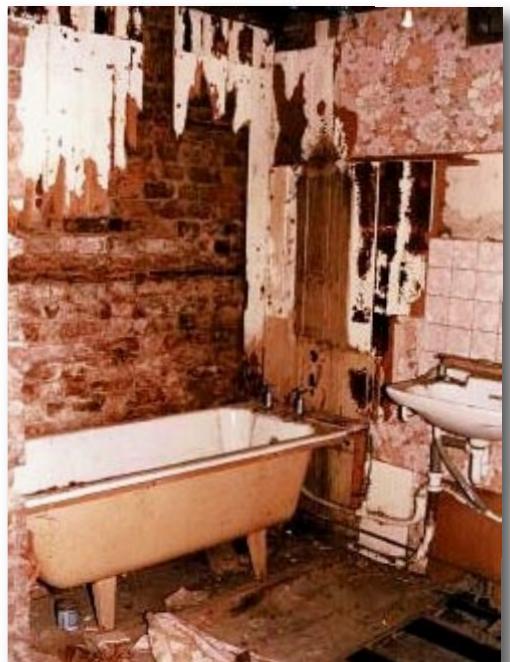
*Renovating team.*

much more interesting if they aren't!' Probably a brass player, brass players seemed to be more extrovert and boisterous than say the string players. I nearly bumped into Willard White one day, now Sir, a bass baritone, quite a presence and gorgeous!

I loved the catering, running the café initially then providing finger food or silver-service dinners for weddings or Christmas parties of up 200 people. There were lively Subud young people who worked as casual waiting staff or kitchen hands for which I was very grateful. I felt so good the day after a big function, nothing else has come close to that feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction.

Weddings were far lovelier to cater for than the boozy Christmas parties, one notable for missiles: the waiting staff said prawns were hitting them in the back. The big muddle of food on the tablecloth in the centre of the tables was such an abhorrent waste. I didn't envy the cleaning staff having to wash out the toilets after these badly-behaved, drunken clients.

The kitchen was not lockable so I would regularly start my day washing dirty mugs. I found a *Much to be renovated..*



The initial Amadeus Board, Santa Burrill, Richard Rogers, Adrienne Campbell and Simon Blond were remarkable in their vision, planning, persistence and tenacity, some of them for 12 years. I don't know how they managed to work together for so long without completely falling out with each other.

Working in a Subud project seems to press one's own buttons big time, a supremely efficient opportunity for growth if one recognises the challenge and is up for it. I certainly succumbed unwittingly at the time and in retrospect afterwards. I was not allowed to represent myself to the Board, so it was very difficult to adequately talk about the issues I was having or have them addressed.

#### *I still don't understand why...*

This was an ongoing huge difficulty for me. It was all the more galling because I counted Richard and Adrienne as my friends. Simon, my husband, was also barred from talking on my behalf as well as voting on issues concerning me. I was allocated a member of the board to represent my views, a daft idea.

It was Santa Burrill to start with then later Adrienne Campbell (the board met once a week). How could a board member who didn't care about my business as I did possibly reasonably argue a case for me on the board when they were a member of the board? Perhaps I rated my services too highly in the overall picture.

Working at the Amadeus Centre was a fantastic opportunity to start a catering business and thinking on it now, I didn't have to expend any money on the marketing! And instead of putting up my prices so I could pay my 10% of the turnover and still make money I felt I had to keep them on a par with Conway Hall to support the business. It was silly and un-businesslike.

I should have just put my prices up so I could make a profit.

*Very difficult to talk about issues and have them addressed...*

‘’

*The quality of the café contributed substantially...*

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The café was very busy and lively on latihan nights, an encouraging sign and I was getting good comments from the clients. At one of the last functions I did for 80 people the bride said 20 people had commented on how good the food was.

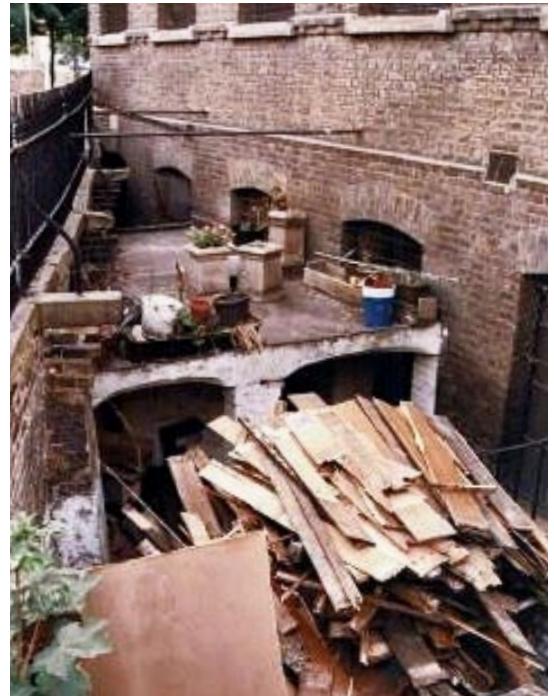
After some time, I didn't have to run the café on latihan nights anymore so I could get to latihan more regularly. When the Amadeus Centre, the Board, and Subud Central London had a windfall with the debt to the bank being repaid by one member I didn't have to pay 10% of my turnover anymore. Hooray! I did feel I deserved to be paid back my 10% turnover I had paid since I had kept my prices down for the Amadeus Centre business to prosper but no-one else thought this way.

Reynard Falconer some years later, unprompted by me, negotiated on my behalf and Silvana Caradoc-Evans, then Chair of the Board, agreed to pay me 500 pounds. To have been heard by Reynard and to receive this payment was very healing and I am very grateful to him and Sylvana for arranging this. *[End of Alfiah Blond's account]*

Alfiah was first assisted and then succeeded by Rosada Hayes.

The quality and friendliness of the cafe contributed substantially to the attraction of the venue both for the orchestras and workshops.

To read the full unedited document about this phase of the Amadeus Centre's development, click here: <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Amadeus-Centre-Renovating.pdf>



*Clearing out in progress.*

## Subud Tunbridge Wells

*By Hanafi Fraval, from extensive material provided by group chairman Philip Gladwell, with an introductory section by Leonard Lassalle.*

*This is another in the SubudSpaces series of articles on enterprises worldwide. So, although Tunbridge Wells is located in the UK, it has relevance for all of us around the world.*

### Introduction

The Subud Tunbridge Wells property was acquired in 1978, but the story begins some years earlier. Here is an account from Leonard Lassalle about those early years:

The Lassalle family lived in Tunbridge Wells from the early spring of 1967 until the summer of 1991. During these years the group was active, with many members coming to the latihan. At one time there were 120 members!

Many enterprises were started in the town. Lambert Gibbs, Michael Lloyd and Malcom Wildsmith were all architects and ran their offices in the Pantiles (in the town). Leonard started the antiques and interior shop in the Pantiles in 1967, soon after they arrived. It then became one of the first Subud enterprises in the UK, along with Rofin Ltd, which developed a laser and electro-optics business.

Ridwan Poole opened the first health food restaurant in the town, and it became a working place for many of the members. Dr. Lambert Mount came to live in the town with his family and opened a health clinic that he ran for several years. In the mid 1970s a playgroup was started by Mélinda >



*Exterior of the Subud House.*

Lassalle and Hester Bates at the Lassalle house in Frant Road. Ten Subud children attended. The playgroup team wanted to open it to other children, and it was moved to the poorer part of Tunbridge Wells at a time when the group had bought a disused school. It was named The Green Tree Nursery School, and it ran for another twelve years. Latihan is still held in the same premises.

Leonard takes up the story from the beginning:

"When Mélinda and I with, at the time, our five children moved to Tunbridge Wells, we moved into a large Edwardian house on Frant Road. Once we had settled in our rented house, we invited The Gibbs, who lived relatively close in Forest Row, to come and latihan with us in our spacious sitting room. Then we learned that Michael and Katerina Lloyd lived up the road from us in Broad Water Down, and they joined us for latihan. Then someone told us that the Ablewhite family lived in Eastbourne, and they came to join the latihan, and from there the group started growing and became too big to be held in our house.

"So we got together and decided to purchase a chapel in Pembury, ten minutes' drive from Tunbridge Wells, on the Hastings Road. We found ten Subud members with properties who guaranteed that if we did not repay the bank's loan, they would cover the debt. And Subud UK became the owner of the Pembury Chapel.

"The group grew and grew and so did the families. The chapel was used for all our Subud activities. Then we found that the place was getting too small for us, and the majority of us decided to purchase the school where the latihan is still held today, some forty-five years later."

To read the complete article including the story of the group's Centerprise, click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Subud-Tunbridge-Wells.pdf>

## THE MAJOR PROJECTS PART 2

*The Vision Splendid crumbles...The second in a series of articles by Harris Smart about the major projects...It comes from his book Adventures in Subud, now available in an electronic edition...*

The news from Kalimantan was good, but it was modest, not quite the great explosive news we were wanting to hear. To make up for the disappearance of Anugraha, and Project Sunrise et al

So, we can say that by the 1990s, and into the new millennium, there was a mood of disillusionment in Subud. Things had not worked out as grandly as we'd hoped. We were disappointed. In some cases, our noses had been bloodied.

Of course, you cannot generalise about Subud and how all Subud members feet. Despite the failures of the major projects, many Subud members were doing fine. They still felt the benefits of the latihan and being in Subud. They may not have been successful on the grand scale once envisaged, but there was still plenty of "proof, evidence and reality" in their personal lives.

They married, had children, lived rich family lives. They started enterprises, and social welfare projects, became artists of all types, and all sorts of good things happened to many people.

There was a lot of activity. This book is full of stories about what Subud members have done and are doing. And you will see that for such a small group of people, we generate a lot of creative activity. And what you get in this book is just the tiniest taste of it.

**Only two things lacking...**

When it was all boiled down, there were perhaps only two things that were lacking in our lives once we got over the initial disappointment of the failure of the major projects.

One was scale. Lots of people were doing good things, but not at the scale Bapak talked about. >



*Even though major projects like Anugraha are no longer with us they set a standard for us to continue to aim for.*

We wanted to show that Subud was good for you not only spiritually but could have an impact in the world. Build beautiful things. Create harmonious environments. Make the distribution of wealth in the world more just. Help lift up people who didn't have much. In short, make the world a better place.

Bapak's message had been, "Do something astounding. Do something that will astonish the world and change people's attitudes. Something that will show that the spiritual and the material can work together. Show that people who follow God can also do something significant in the world. There is no conflict between the material and the spiritual. They were meant to work hand-in-hand."

### A collective vision...

The second thing that was lacking in our lives was a sense of collective endeavour. During that major projects phase, many of us felt committed to supporting a collective endeavour; perhaps not all of us, but many of us. It gave us the feeling of being involved in something bigger than ourselves. It was not just self-interest. We really want to do something that would help other people and make the world a better place. We may have occasionally fallen on our faces, but our motives were genuinely idealistic.

*The failure of the major projects was a big shock for many people...*



### A standard for the future...

After the collapse of the major projects, there was a period of blame and acrimony. The people in charge of these projects came under a lot of criticism.

I never agreed with that. I always thought that the people who had been installed to run these projects were probably the best we had, and if they hadn't been able to do it, then probably nobody else would have been either.

Some people said Bapak should keep his nose out of business. His speciality was the spiritual side of things and he should just stick to what he was good at, and not mess around with things which he was obviously not good at.

I thought this was a mistaken attitude. There was plenty of evidence that he was very smart when it came to real estate, very canny at picking the direction in which a city was going to develop. And S. Widjojo, the project which he had personally initiated and supervised, had been the most successful of the major projects thus far.

But what I thought was even more important was that he was setting a standard for the future. He wanted to impress on us that this was the level we should be aiming at. Aim for the stars in fact. (As we say in Australia, "Aim for the stars, you might hit the back fence.")

So, the way I see it was that before he died Bapak wanted to set the standard. Then, there could be attempts in the future. Maybe we had failed this time around, but new generations could try again, hopefully getting ever closer to the target.

### Other reasons for discontent...

There were other reasons for discouragement. Subud didn't seem to be growing anymore. The children of some Subud members did come into Subud, but many did not. And there were very few new members. Some members left, discouraged and those who remained were not getting any younger.

There was a mood of discouragement, compared with the optimism of Subud's first arrival in the West, or the period of great hopes for the major projects.

I felt sure the pendulum would swing around again. There would be another opportunity. Meanwhile we got on with our lives. And all was not doom and gloom. For example, Susila Dharma, the charitable wing of Subud was doing extremely well.

But what was it like to be inside one of these big major projects? It was a bit like going into a very hot kitchen, or maybe even getting inside the pressure cooker. The pressures were enormous.

As Bapak's translator and secretary, Sharif Horthy was involved in several of these projects, particularly S. Widjojo and Anugraha. In the next article her talks about how it was to be involved in these projects on the inside.

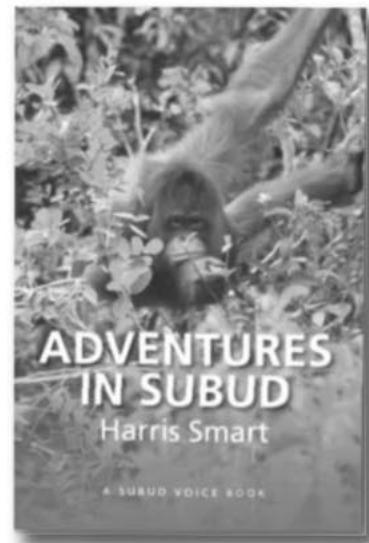


# ADVENTURES IN SUBUD! NOW RELEASED IN DIGITAL EDITION!

At the time of the Freiburg Congress I released a new book about Subud called ADVENTURES IN SUBUD. The book has been available since then on [Lulu.com](#)

We are now releasing the book in a digital format which includes all the material text and illustrations in the same layout as is included in the physical book Lulu edition.

The advantages with this new addition is that it is cheaper and you will receive it instantly rather than having to wait for it to be printed and come to you by post. The cost of the new digital version is U\$17.50 (approximately A\$25, £13.5, €15),



To obtain the book.. CLICK ON THIS LINK <https://www.subudvoice.net/shop>

This will take you to a page where the book is listed by a thumbnail of the cover. Click on this and follow the prompts to pay for an obtain the digital copy of the book.

The original physical book version is still available from Lulu.com. Go to [Lulu.com](#) and enter ADVENTURES IN SUBUD in the search slot on the homepage.

**PROCEEDS FROM THE BOOK GO TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUING PUBLICATION OF SUBUD VOICE. WE ARE ENTERPRISING AT SUBUD VOICE!**

*Here is a description of the book with comments by readers...*

Adventures in Subud is a new book by Harris Smart. It presents an overview of the development of Subud covering practically every aspect of Subud life including spiritual experiences, enterprises, welfare projects, cultural projects, health and healing and youth. It is 360 pages long with 120 illustrations including photographs and also cartoons by Marcus Bolt and Dirk Campbell. It shows Subud as a dynamic movement combining spirituality and action in the world.

"This is a feast of a book, rich in history, explanation and vintage anecdote, woven together through the steadfast voice of Harris Smart, long term editor of Subud Voice.

"This is a masterful and at time heart-wrenching record of our Subud experience over recent decades: replete with hope and disappointment, revelation and joy – leavened with the marvellously irreverent cartoons of Marcus Bolt and Dirk Campbell."

"This is the story of my community, a very precious part of my life." *Dr Livingston Armytage*

"A book that will open doors to enquirers about Subud and is a major contribution to our knowledge about Subud and its positive impact in the world. A comprehensive panoramic view of people and their spirituality written by a seasoned journalist. *Valentine Navey*

"A varied and colourful collection of lived adventures that well reflect the diversity of human nature." *Leonard Lassalle*

"Harris Smart's latest (and finest) book...It aims at providing a 'one-stop shop' for enquirers with coverage of all aspects of Subud." *Hussein Rawlings*

"I would like to recommend 'Adventures in Subud' to anyone on, or about to start, a spiritual path. As a spiritual path, by its very nature, is very difficult to describe I recommend that you open the book at random and read what is there. If it resonates then go on." *Edward Mackenzie* ●

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NOW AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

## A GIFT FROM GOD & BAPAK: THE MAN AND HIS MISSION



*A landmark production  
presenting a vivid and coherent  
account of Bapak's life and  
the story of Subud...*

For the first time Subud Voice is making available online four video programs which document the history and development of Subud from Bapak's birth in 1901 to his 100th anniversary in 2001.

Purchasers of the videos will now be able to receive them in both English and Spanish.

The programs are...

### BAPAK THE MAN AND HIS MISSION

Part 1: 1901-1959: The Origins of Subud. 1 hr 16 mins

Part 2: 1957-1971: Preparing the Vessel. 1 hr 20 mins

Part 3: – 1971-2001: Putting the Latihan into Practice. 1 hr 26 mins

Then all three were compiled into one handy 65 minute version

### A GIFT FROM GOD 1901-2001.

For more information and how to get the programs

CLICK ON THIS LINK

<https://www.subudvoice.net/shop/>

This will take you to a page where the four videos are listed, each one identified by a thumbnail of Bapak.

If you want more information about each of the videos click on the thumbnails of Bapak, which will take you to a page describing the contents of the video and its duration.

Each of the videos costs **US\$25** to purchase the rights to watch online, as many times as you like.

Or you can purchase the rights to stream all four for **US\$60**.

The site will ask you to set up a LOG-IN with username, email address and password in order to purchase the rights to view. Please make a note of this information in case you need to access the site on future occasions.

The site will give you the option to pay for the videos from a PayPal account or from a credit card. Once you have made the payment you will receive in your email account LINKS to whatever videos you have purchased to view.

Remember that we are selling the rights to these videos in order to support the ongoing production of Subud Voice.

# Of course God Loves Atheists

The editor reviews a new book by Lawrence Brazier...

Lawrence Brazier has published an excellent collection of essays and reminisces entitled *Of course God Loves Atheists*.

Lawrence is a craftsman in several media. He makes excellent pottery, for example, and the same devotion to craftsmanship is evident in his writing.

I am always pleased when I receive a contribution from Lawrence for Subud Voice because I know the material will be interesting and meticulously written and edited. I never have to do anything to a piece of writing from Lawrence. It goes straight into the magazine.

Lawrence's work appears in a wide range of publications, so this collection is extraordinarily rich and diverse. In his introduction, Lawrence says...

*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.*

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

But 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. It's about jazz, for instance, which is one of his loves and something he is deeply knowledgeable about.

We meet many characters in this book, but Lawrence is the character who links all the others together. They include strangers he meets on his travels, as well as famous people past and present.

His travel writings often describe comic mishaps in exotic locations. His first visit to Paris as a teen-ager swiftly culminated in disaster and propelled him to his nation's Parisian embassy to beg a bed for the night.

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 such as Sir Richard Burton, the Elder (the Victorian writer and explorer, not the actor), and Lawrence of Arabia.

The author often appears as a somewhat comical character in his own writings. And the other character who frequently appears is the author's long-suffering wife, Romana, who frequently plays the straight woman, providing common sensible restraint on her husband's wilder flights of fantasy. She appears thus at the start of the "atheist" essay...

*Your correspondent was musing just the other day. Enter my lady, one's wife.*

*'Are you thinking, dear?' she asked.*

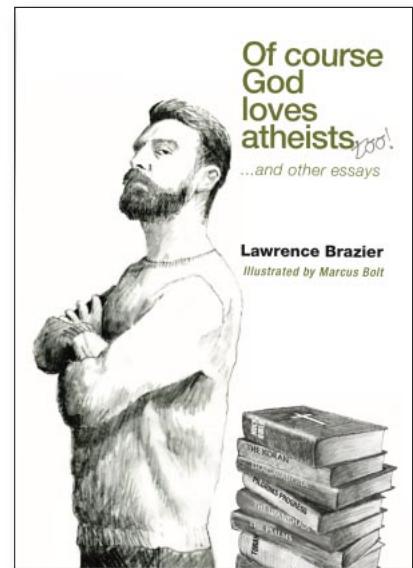
*'I am reflecting, receiving,' I replied.*

*'What about, then?' she asked anew.*

*'Atheists,' I replied, succinctly.*



Lawrence Brazier at the bazaar in the Freiburg World Congress. Lawrence is a master craftsman as both a writer and a potter...



*'Oh, Lord, must you?' she expostulated.*

This long essay then goes into an irreverent examination of the subject of atheism. In typical Lawrence style it is really a plea to look at the subject in a nuanced, not a dogmatic way, and deep down it is a plea for flexibility, tolerance and good humour. This is what I mean when I say that underlying Lawrence's writing there is always a plea for understanding. The essay ends...

*I really do believe that the God, the Creator, spoken of by the prophets, really is that which gives life and enables us to live, for which reason with patience, trust, and sincere submission a feeling of true worship could arise. The rest is for the scientists to figure out according to inclination.*

*'Fancy pork chops for dinner?' she asks with a giggle.*

*'As long as they're not Gadarene,' I reply, defensively.*

Yes, underneath the humour Lawrence has a profoundly serious side. He refers to a certain mystic who saved him from being a "cad" and made him aware of his responsibilities in the world.

The book concludes with an excellent essay about Bapak, that "certain mystic". This detailed account of Bapak's life and experiences is one of the best I have read on this subject. It may have the capacity to attract seekers to Subud.

This is a big book, 215 pages, full of riches, erudition, and humour. Twenty essays cover diverse topics, everything from the pyramids to how to wear a sarong. All presented in Lawrence's idiosyncratic and sometimes irreverent way. The book abounds in insights such as this one...

*With the so-called spirituality of India, however, we are faced with what amounts to an about-face. Many Indians have adopted the idea – no, not adopted, it is thrust upon them – of being poor in the pursuance of God. They try it the other way round from what many nations of the West have been through – from the material to the spiritual, and decidedly avoiding the latter. The approach of the Indian poor is from the spiritual to the material. Is it a question of the tortoise and the hare? Will India get there in the end?*

This book has been beautifully designed by Marcus Bolt who has also illustrated Lawrence's cartoons. **The book can be obtained from Lulu.com**. Click the link in the ad below.

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.

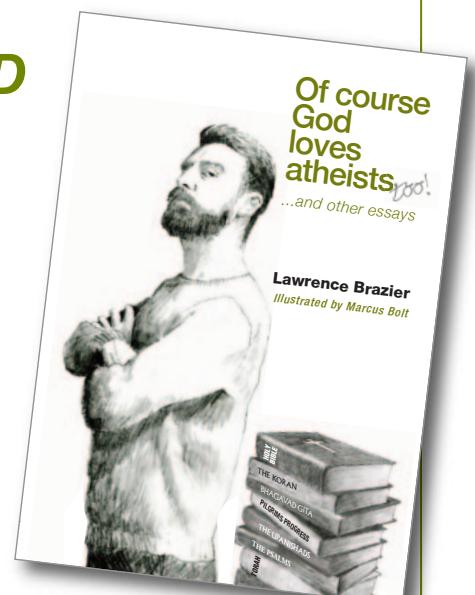
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Other chapters are based on thorough research. His wonderful essay "The Orientalists", which we recently republished in *Subud Voice*, is a fascinating survey of those Brits who embraced Oriental beliefs and lifestyles.

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

Beautifully designed by Marcus Bolt, who has also illustrated the cover and LB's cartoons, **the book can be obtained from: [www.lulu.com/search?adult\\_audience\\_rating=00&q=Of%20Course%20God%20Loves%20Atheists%20Lawrence%20Brazier](http://www.lulu.com/search?adult_audience_rating=00&q=Of%20Course%20God%20Loves%20Atheists%20Lawrence%20Brazier)** Click on the link above, or copy and paste into your browser .When the page opens, click the book title; then click 'Add to cart'; then click the cart icon top right (with the number of books ordered in a circle), and then follow the onscreen prompts to add your delivery address and preferred postage & payment methods

Paperback, 216 pages; ISBN: 978-71662-730-9: price £10.00 plus postage. Books normally take a week to arrive.



# BEAMING GREEN

*Jeremy Melder, a Subud member in Australia, has started a new podcast on the subject of sustainability... Jeremy writes...*

This is a podcast that puts eco-living at the heart of your daily life. Every week we showcase sustainability superheroes who share their easy-to implement knowledge and tips on the joy of living simply and sustainable

Imagine you are living in a world where housing and nutritious food are abundant and affordable for everyone. A world where diverse, quality education is normal and accessible to everyone in a lush and thriving environment, where water and energy are ample.



You're making financially responsible choices that make your life easier  
You have enough money to pay your bills  
You love working for an organisation with aligned values  
Your community is thriving, thanks to shared resources, such as a community tool library and edible gardens  
You meet regularly to share food (from your community garden) and fun times with your family and extended community  
You're wasting less because your ethical purchasing decisions protect the planet and promote health  
At Beaming Green, this is the vision we want to co-create.

**More than a podcast...**



*Jeremy Melder.*

Beaming Green is a podcast. But it is more than that. It's a platform where we can co-create this beautiful new world with you, our like-minded community. Together we can achieve this vision of a holistic approach to sustainability, placing it at the heart of our daily lives.

We are committed to sharing stories and sustainable solutions around health, housing, finances, family, community, mental health and fitness that inspire simple actions that can create the kind of future we can all be proud of.

Our content is informative and optimistic, equipping you with the knowledge, know-how and next steps to tread lightly on the earth.

With close to 20 years working and volunteering in the sustainability sector, Jeremy (& Andia, a guest presenter) are in the business of creating hope and positivity to enrich our listeners lives.

The main aim of the podcast is to deal with subjects that may be of immediate interest in people's lives. He aims to keep things simple so that people put them into practice in the daily life. His motto is "nothing too big, and nothing too small". The aim is to be a catalyst for change.

**Programs already completed include...**

Syntropic Agriculture with Victor Pires...using natural principles in home and community gardens...

Interview with Frederika Paembanan about the pioneering permaculture foundation she and her husband have set up in Kalimantan...

The programs can be viewed on the website <https://beaminggreen.com/> or on the usual podcast sites such as Apple and Spotify...

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*Ismail Fido writes...*

Dear Harris,

Recently I was reading about St Patrick's College, East Melbourne, 1854-1968, which was run by the Society of Jesus and which gave birth to Xavier College, Kew, where I spent some years in the 1960s.

St Pat's was a superb small school and I suspect someone like yourself, with your intelligence, creativity and general awareness, would have been much happier there and much more yourself than at the Catholic school you attended. I found the Jesuits enormously supportive and insightful.

There is much talk these days on the Subud ether about Education and I believe a Working Group on it has been founded. These people could do far worse than to look at the example of Catholic Education, which, for all its faults, did achieve a great deal. The system certainly turned out some excellent people, who made quite a contribution to the world in so many fields.

Much that features in Subud Voice these days is personal reflection. That is well and good, but I think the only reason Subud will grow is if we establish a real sense of community and of belonging to it and the support which results from these. I certainly do not think that is fully the case in my group at the current time.

It will be interesting to see how Subud goes in this community building area. Organisations such as SICA were, I think, founded to give those in Subud with interests or talents in the Arts a venue for their talent. Like the Subud Organisation and Helpers, these organisations were meant to foster brotherhood for the whole community and possibly to bring those who felt disaffiliated more into things. Have they succeeded? Very much a work in progress, I feel.

COVID-19 has in many ways been a boon to Subud. The cancellation of the Subud Australia Congress this year and the postponement of the 2022 World Congress for a year means people will need to focus on their latihan and its results. We are fortunate where I live because we can do group latihans. Others have to do "remote latihans". Either way they work.

It is an enormously difficult time for me. Besides the COVID-19 scare I have had to put my wife, Rita, in a nursing home because of her Early Onset Alzheimer's, a form of Dementia. It was a last resort, but she is in a very good nursing home, where she is well looked after.

For more proof of the beneficial effects of the latihan I have been doing for so many years, I have to look at my three children, none of who are "officially" in Subud. One did join but left due to the fact she had a severe mental illness. She is doing very well now. Her sister is a very effective social worker who is particularly interested in working with young children with mental health issues. She feels early intervention is the best. My son, who has a learning disability, is one of the finest and most inspiring people I have known. He has myriad friends. Everybody loves him.

I think COVID-19 may enable Subud to put its own house in order . Probably essential before we can really grow.

Hope all goes well with you. Many thanks to you and Irwan for your support in a difficult time. ●

## What is the Latihan Kejiwaan?

*Anthony Bright-Paul writes...*

What is the Latihan Kejiwaan? Heck, we should know that by now. We have had a hundred and one talks by Bapak explaining, not teaching, so we should all know by now.

I got into a bit of trouble with Dr Rachman and Silvana Waniuk for my earlier articles specially written for Subud Voice and The Journal and also for SCAN. I have written 8 so far and I promised myself to write 10. I promised to contribute £50 a month to SV in return for which they have also advertised my book 'My Stairway to Subud'. It has resulted in massive sales of – wait for it – 2 Books! You have to laugh – I was



*Anthony Bright-Paul (photo by George Bennett).*

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not expecting as many!

Well, I will be quoting from Bapak again, so I am apologising in advance if what Bapak explained right at the beginning offends you. If, in fact one begins to understand what Bapak was saying and repeating and repeating, no wonder that he asked our forgiveness time and time again. For what he said is fundamentally offensive, but only offensive to our weak egos.

So to return to our theme, 'What is the Latihan Kejiwaan?' On 27th November 1957 Bapak gave yet another wonderful talk. I like to read his talks at night before I go to sleep, but sometimes I cannot read a whole talk. Sometimes I cannot even read a paragraph. I am stopped in my tracks by two or three sentences. Here they are from page 191.

In other words the training you receive is training of the soul [jiwa], not a physical exercise, not an exercise of the mind, not an exercise of the understanding, nor an exercise of the feelings or will.

I guess that clears a lot of the undergrowth away. Ok, so the training of the soul prepares us for life after death. But what does Bapak say immediately after?

Bapak hopes that you will continue to seek the knowledge of the mind, and work with your mind, in short, carry out your duties of life in this world.

I guess that that does for the hippies and everyone who is lazy in using their mental capabilities. We should use the equipment with which we are endowed, every man jack of us. What next does Bapak say? What stopped me dead in my tracks? After stressing so often the importance of continuing the exercise until we should leave this world – and to avoid reincarnation inter alia – look what Bapak says next.

The soul will look after itself. The soul will work by itself. The soul will be exercised and do latihan by itself.

Hey! Wait a minute. We all know that we do not 'do' the latihan; that we 'surrender' and 'receive' and 'are moved' by the Great Life Force. On the other hand we are urged to practice the Latihan Kejiwaan until our dying day. It is best really to let Bapak have the first and last words. Is he contradicting himself? I think not.

In reality, what you receive in the latihan is an exercise of life after death or life in death, so that before you die, your soul will have been trained and awakened from death or from its sleep. ●

## A LITTLE THINGY

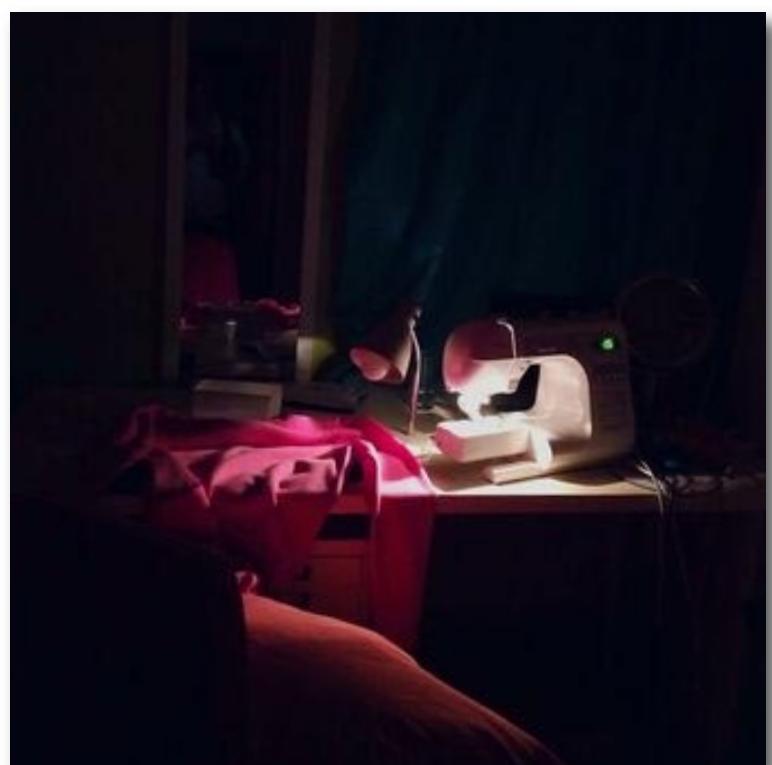
*Sebastian Paemen writes...*

Here is a little thingy.

My wife left the light of her sewing machine on. It brought back memories. I have always liked that light, accompanied by the sound of the sewing machine. When I was a young boy I would peek through the door of my sister's room at night and watch her from the back, sewing peacefully by herself while humming a song.

Or when I was staying at my grandmother's 16th C. Dutch gable house. I would look from the traditional box-bed I was sleeping in, into the sitting room where she would be sitting behind her electric Singer. Most of the room was dark except for the little lamp which lit up her face and created dramatic shadows on the red velour curtains behind the table.

Those women sewing peacefully by themselves, happy and content in their own world. Images like that can leave a lasting impression on a child.



# Psalm 23

*Marcus Bolt, Lewes Group, writes...*

Despite being born into Christianity, attending church schools when young and even Bapak saying one should practice one's religion, something in me baulks at 'going to church'. (In the past, I have jokingly said that psychotherapy is my religion.)

Perhaps it's because, as the latihan gives us a 'one to one' experience of God, I feel I no longer need a vicar (from the word vicarious) to 'receive' on my behalf. And I've often wondered about the military memorabilia displayed in some churches...

However, I do appreciate the emotional depth of marriage and funeral services, often recite the Lord's Prayer (which seems, to me, to be a synopsis of the New Testament) and attempt, every day, to live up to Christ's 'Do unto others as you would be done by'.

Recently, I heard again the 23rd Psalm being recited (in a Netflix TV drama, would you believe) and '*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil*' really struck home as never more relevant than today, in the midst of political skullduggery and Covid. Then, on re-reading, I was struck by its parallels with the latihan experience, and was reminded again of the need and value of deep faith. As a reminder, the 23rd Psalm goes:

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD;  
I SHALL NOT WANT.  
HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN  
IN GREEN PASTURES;  
HE LEADETH ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS.  
HE RESTORETH MY SOUL;  
HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS  
FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.  
YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY  
OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,  
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL:  
FOR THOU ART WITH ME;  
THY ROD AND THY STAFF  
THEY COMFORT ME.  
THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME  
IN THE PRESENCE OF  
MINE ENEMIES;  
THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL;  
MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.  
SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY  
SHALL FOLLOW ME  
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE;  
AND I WILL DWELL IN  
THE HOUSE OF THE LORD  
FOR EVER.

# Realization during Nights of Power

*Stefen Solat writes...*

By nature of this life, we've always been reminded that the past is passed. Some very wonderful people and situations we long to return to are out of reach, gone in time.

Be that as it may, a bountiful upwelling of memories bloomed in me during these Nights, instilling a most vivid tableau, an inner re-experience of extraordinary happenings.

Most significantly, the spring of said upwelling gushes from the practice of receiving Grace many of us have followed for most of our lifetime.

How does this play vis-à-vis worldwide crisis, the emotional magnitude of which is from fear of death – of ourselves and ones close to us? By sensing the unfailing, if subtle, flow from inner self, one recognizes a spiritual opportunity in looking directly at death through the lens of our link with timelessness, which we're given capacity to do, thanks to the infinite blessing we receive.

While taking necessary precautions to stay in this world as long as our anointed term allows, we are, at same time, able to feel the nearness of death with illuminated consciousness, arising from Life within life, ever reminding us of our eternal destiny.

## ANOTHER SUBUD STORY...

*Rohana Filippi writes...*

One day Allah wanted to have some fun...He picked a Baltic-German engineer, raised up-tight and strong minded, named Hanafi von Hahn, and wanted him to marry an emotional, free spirited Italian, with an artistic character and a gipsy-nature, named Rohana Filippi.

At the Subud Zone 7 meeting in Vancouver in 2004, Allah manifested His will to Hanafi (through his receiving!) and arranged for Rohana to attend the gathering as an International Helper...but the two didn't meet.

Weeks passed, while the shocked Hanafi, just-widowed, tried to follow and put into practice his "receiving". Eventually, on some organizational pretext, Hanafi started an exchange of emails with Rohana, who systematically tried to quickly direct him to other people for help and collaboration.

A couple of months went by, including Ramadhan.... eventually Rohana came back home at the end of November after an IH visit to Colombia. A florist shop had a delivery for Miss Filippi...a beautiful white orchid plant from Hanafi wishing her "Welcome Back". Wow!!!!!!

Few days later Hanafi and Rohana spoke for the first time on the phone. After no more than one week or 10 days of quite ordinary conversations every evening, out of the blue Hanafi said "When I marry you, what would you like to do?"

Rohana said, "Excuse me?"

Hanafi repeated "When I marry you, what would you like to do?

Rohana said, "Ehmm ... I like travelling....".

A couple of weeks later, Rohana went to Italy for Christmas, grabbed a Subud sister there and wanted to test if... how... what...was all that about? The answer was clear: "Hanafi is a gift from Allah for you, to help you to grow and develop in a way that you will not achieve if you'll stay alone. The rest doesn't matter."

Hanafi and Rohana married on June 23, 2006. "An Iceberg marrying a Volcano", as somebody said in a speech after the ceremony.

Now, after 14 years of marriage and 10 days since Hanafi's passing, I understand that Hanafi channelled to me what I "needed" by Allah's will and not what I "wanted".

A true gift from Allah, which shaped me and grounded my gipsy nature on this planet where Allah put me in spite of my reluctance to be here. Thank you, Allah and thank you, Hanafi.

Hanafi von Hahn passed away on July 21 2020. Tributes to him appeared in Subud Voice, September issue.



*Rohana and Hanafi.*

# BEWARE THE PLANTATION FORCES

*Dr Rachman Mitchell writes...*

All We in Subud are doubly fortunate in not only having the exercise and vibration of our soul to guide us but also the explanations of Bapak himself concerning the journeys of life we are all on which are in his talks, in the poem Susila Budhi Dharma and in the Subud symbol itself.

Each of us is different with a different family, national and religious background which has formed us and yet the experiences and explanations of a Javanese man born 120 years ago are relevant to all of us of whatever background.

The gaining of Understanding however is a slow process and requires lots and lots of patience.

One of Bapak's first talks was translated by Batara Pane. I first met him on Waterloo station late one evening on my way back from a medical school party in May of 1957.

We had seen one another having breakfast in the Coombe Springs dining room but had not yet spoken. I was used to interesting people coming on-a visit to Coombe but this time I felt intuitively that something was about to change.

On the train I probed away asking all sorts of questions regarding spiritual ways, but he did not take the bait. While walking the two kilometres back to Coombe, he remarked on how beautiful the smell of the cherry blossoms were.

How could I know then that in twenty years' time we would be neighbours in Wisma Subud and that he would call me to see him while he was dying a painful death in hospital from a dissecting aortic aneurysm?

When Bapak first gave his talks there were no good translators and so Batara had a go. A little unfair since he was not fluent in English.

After Bapak had spoken for ten minutes or so, Batara said "beware the plantation forces" and nothing else ! a phrase which has clearly remained in my mind ever since and is pertinent to my understanding of the different kinds of heaven.

Since childhood I have always felt close to trees. Their presence seemed to quieten my mind and their rootedness to the earth a reminder that my physical being had its origins there and its final end. The tree was also a tall being that connected the earth to the sky and to what lay above and beyond. As a student being in a Sussex wood was something that helped still my mind.

At the time of my opening in Subud I returned once a month to see my mother in Sussex and go for a walk in the woods behind her cottage. The trees seemed so alive that they vibrated with Life, the same kind of life that was awakened and was vibrating in me.

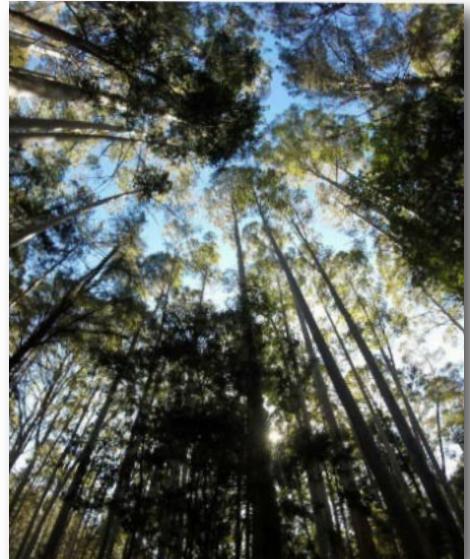
**Explanations on the nature of the various Life forces, Heaven and Reality given by Bapak...**

Ten days ago, we returned from a five-day holiday in Pemberton a sawmill town three hours' drive south of Perth. We were invited by two of our granddaughters who had rented an old wood cottage there.

Driving down released us from the cooped up feeling of "the COVID lock down" and we sang, mostly songs of the seventies.

We walked among the tall Karri trees some almost 60 metres high. Devyani took my arm to steady me as we walked on a slippery path and later while she climbed the 57 metre high Karri tree (that had nails protruding to help ascent) I sat on a bench and looked up through the canopy of the trees listening to the bird song celebrating the closing of the day.

In 1969 while in latihan in the old latihan hall of Wisma Subud I found myself in a very beautiful heavenly place. It was more Real than my normal experience or indeed any effort that I had made



*Karri trees near Pemberton, Western Australia.*

“

*The gaining of understanding is a slow process and requires lots and lots of*

”

to be present or remember myself. It was however all trees and plants with some birds flying among them. There were still water lakes and also flowing streams. Although very REAL I realized it was the plant heaven in me.

The animal heaven of effort, work, competitions, struggle and achievement was not there, and I have not experienced that heaven. Although I have had glimpses of it as I have of the human heaven where we feel closer, accepting and fond of one another.

Much is said of Heaven or Paradise in the Qur'an and descriptions similar to the state I described but my own sense is that which Bapak implies of an ever ascending journey whether rapidly as in an Ascension which he was given and several others have described or the bit by bit process that we all may go through.

## MOMENTS OF TRUTH - STORIES OF A DOCTOR IN SUBUD

*Reviewed by Katharine Walmsley...*

I had given out this book to be reviewed in 2017 when it was first published having just bought a copy in Freiburg, Germany, at the World Congress. Three years later the review had not been written but one comment from the young would-be reviewer was quite succinct. 'Oh yes it is good. Like sitting in the room with Rachman and having a conversation with him.' How true! Absolutely on the mark!

Unlike other Subud autobiographies, 'Moments of Truth' is based on changes of understanding that came to the writer as is recounted in each chapter in this book. Many of us have experiences and understandings through our practice of the Latihan, but few of us are able to point out or remember the occasions and events that activate our understanding and growth in our Subud life. With all this, there is a quietness, a sense of personal responsibility to a life's path.

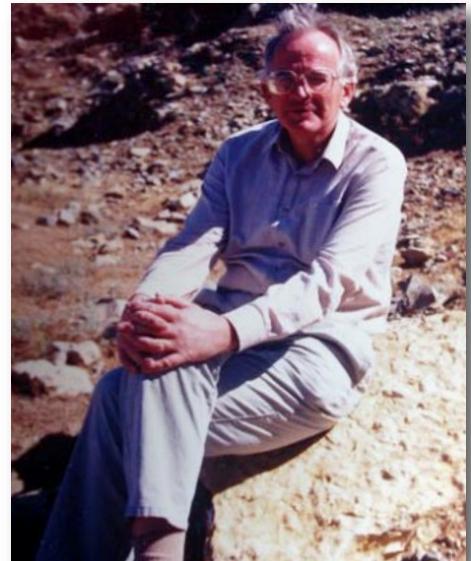
Starting with his childhood, schooldays in Sussex to his entry into Subud in the 1950s, Rachman Mitchell recounts how he came to be opened at Coombe Springs, which was the home of the Gurdjieff movement. He spent the year of Bapak's stay in England, getting to know Bapak's entourage. In fact, if one is interested in following the life of an early advocate of the Subud movement, this might be an introduction. Not so much the history of Subud but witnessing how a Subud member follows in the footsteps of his Latihan.

As with a lot of Subud pioneers, Dr. Mitchell took his family to live in the Cilandak (Jakarta) compound being set up by Bapak. Later he was appointed to be Bapak's physician. In the book, he sticks to what he witnesses, what he understands of Subud in a very modest but truthful way. It is like a quiet serenade to Subud and the Subud life. If he witnesses personal disasters as happens in every expat's life, let alone a Subud life, he hardly seems to resent such events, except where there is a deep personal lesson to be learned.

The father of 6 children, he finds himself forced to live in the Middle East to earn enough to pay for school fees. Even there, his Latihan never ceases to stop teaching him. There he discovers it is OK to be angry. He did not like the Arab society he was living in. He hated

its attitude to women, especially, in his view, the treatment of 'foreign women'. He hated it for its hypocrisy which he writes, oozes out of the seams and intercises, its lack of real empathy and its prescriptive interpretation of Islam. 'It took me a long time to acknowledge the truth that living there was bad for me', he finally concluded. He later moved to Yemen to work for an oil company

He now lives in Australia with his wife Rohana. Even there, in retirement, he found time to work as a 'street doctor' to the homeless and people broken by drugs - people who never went to medical



*Dr Rachman Mitchell in Yemen.*

“

*It is like sitting in  
a room with  
Rachman and  
having a  
conversation  
with him...*

”

surgeries but needed medical care. With other colleagues a bus service was organized to locate would-be patients and give treatment and advice.

Although I have read many Subud autobiographies this is only the second one that I found memorable which shares a sense of humility and humanity.

*Book Review for Good Reed Blog – Moments of Truth - Stories of a Doctor in Subud*

*by Rachman Mitchell*

*Published by BALBOA PRESS (Hay House Publishing) Distributed by Susila Dharma*

*This review republished from Good Reed [www.goodreed.uk](http://www.goodreed.uk)*

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## GOD SAID TO ME, "YOU WILL BE LAUGHING TOMORROW"

*Subagio writes from Adelaide...*

It was the evening of Friday 9th May 2008, the 5th nights after I had an operation to remove 20 cm of my colon where 3 small polyps were found and one of them was cancerous.

That evening I was lying in St. Andrew's hospital bed.

Suddenly I was 'awoken' by a sentence spoken into my brain.

"You will be laughing tomorrow"!

And strangely enough the next morning Saturday 10th May my surgeon came in my room,

And as he entered my room said; "I have a good news for you Mr. Subagio, the pathological report shows you are clear and no follow up treatment such as chemotherapy and radiation are required".

When I heard that I could not help laughing, I thanked my surgeon for the good work, I shook his hand and gave him a box of Belgian chocolates.

How can I not believe in God.

---

## WHEN "I" READ BAPAK

*David McCormack writes...*

When "I" read Bapak it makes me aware that my inner is in need of mercy. This by itself may be the largest benefit to me. I also feel a connection to Bapak. I am calmed and put back to center. Over time I have a better feel for what is the latihan and how useful it can be.

If I read something five years ago, it is totally fresh again when I pick it up, sometimes with new meaning. I become aware nothing goes fast in the realm of the spiritual. What is already in my inner becomes better organized and readied to be used one day, when appropriate. It is at times very humbling. My latihan seems to still be working on the preface to Bapak's song/poem, Susila Budhi Dharma.

Occasionally I'll be perplexed by my overactive mind and later read something that answers to it, or if not, the words open a path for me to let it go and move forward, like a log jam being broken apart.

The words are alive even translated. They are a wellspring of truth in the midst of lies. I have found nothing else written in the last thousand years where the motive was as pure and aimed solely at a modern audience's wellbeing. This kind of truth is so precious and extremely rare.

The spontaneous talks are being translated into English every day. Bapak's use of words are evidently received and blessed so as to avoid misunderstandings and contain their inner meaning after translations. They seem aimed by God's grace at each individual reader's inner and outer needs.

*Bapak Y.M. 1977...*

"But its not a book that is supposed to be kept as a kind of authority because it changes all the time, because as the situation changes, so Bapak's explanations change. Because the understanding is not something fixed, it is something that always evolves but the receiving is the same and this receiving is what is called the gift of God, the grace of God. And this, this receiving, this understanding, is something that is the latihan of life. In other words, it is something that is always alive."

*Excerpt taken from Bapak talk 77 YYZ 2 24 Sept. 77*



Ibu Rahayu - speaking of courage to go on in relation to the talks...

“Indeed, there is no limit to explanations about the spiritual life because they concern the secrets of life, which cannot be resolved by the heart and mind, but can be received and experienced when a person is in a state of peace, and surrenders, and submits sincerely to the One Almighty. Bapak's talks are not like fairy tales or bedtime stories for children, but they are filled with a light for those who are in darkness and to hunger in the midst of the distractions of life, so that we may have courage to go on until our goal is reached. So let us not waste good efforts and hard work of the brothers and sisters who have collected and processed these talks of Bapak.”

*Excerpt typed from Ibu Rahayu in the forward to Volume 28, Bapak's talks.*

*Also from Ibu Rahayu...*

“Bapak's talks are not a collection of text to be studied. Nor should they be compared to the holy books of religion. Rather they are living words spoken to illuminate each of us in our own personal journey towards God.”

*Excerpt typed from “Publishers Introduction” Volume 28 of Bapak's talks No author specified.*

*Bapak's printed words, audio, and videos and other items can be accessed online at <http://subudlibrary.net>. Or order from Subud Publications International to support translation work for our future brothers and sisters.*

“They are a wellspring of truth in the midst of lies.”

## The Vale of Tears

*Marcus Bolt... This story comes from Marcus's sci-fi collection ‘Neurotec and other tales’...*

I'm recording this from my holding cell. They said I could leave a closure message ‘to whom it may concern’, but as I can't for the life of me think of anyone who might actually be concerned, I doubt this message will ever be heard.

I'm flawed, you see. I committed a crime. A crime so heinous that it threatened the stability of our egalitarian, perfectly balanced, ‘one in spirit’, unified society, blah, blah, blah. I tried to hack into the forbidden knowledge database... And, as I knew I would, got found out.

So, knowing that, why did I do it, you might ask? Because it was forbidden, I suppose, and I enjoyed it.

Now, I'm going to pay for my indiscretion. I had no defence, you see. A spike of euphoria showed up on my emotional record, precisely coinciding with the moment of the act. It was no surprise, therefore, when the Court re-convened after their deliberations and pronounced me ‘Guilty in the first degree’.

What was a shock, though, was the severity of the sentence. I'd expected reprogramming, or some form of long-term therapy, with a public humiliation thrown in perhaps as a warning to other potential miscreants. But the Court took it really seriously and it's banishment. I'm such an aberration in their eyes, I'm to be stripped down, dismantled and cast out.

They'll take me to a lab some time soon, where they'll wipe me from the one mind, deactivate my unique personality and separate what's left of my self from The Entity. Then they'll mix my remaining essence with synthetic, carbon-based DNA and despatch it as biological seed to a prison ship orbiting a star somewhere on the far side of the galaxy.

What scares me most is that my essence is to be divided, and my two halves will have to exist as gender-opposites with only finite, mammalian bodies as a support structure, which means we'll have disease, old age and death to contend with...

Not only that, the prison ship is governed by a crude ‘survival of the fittest’ evolutionary process, so in order to survive, I, we – and our biologically produced descendants – must strive for sentience, a fully functioning bio-brain, language and basic technology in as few generations as we can possibly manage. If we don't make it, we end up as merely part of the food chain – prey to all the indigenous predators on board.

---

Apparently, there are so many pitfalls in any evolutionary process... if we don't get energy production sorted, we'll starve and die out; if we overproduce, we'll use up all the inherent resources and burn, freeze or suffocate to death; if we become over-technological we'll wipe ourselves out with wars, our competitive mammalian natures forever seeking territory and dominance over others... The sad, suffering lot of biological beings, I suppose. No wonder they call the prison ship 'The Vale of Tears'.

The reality is, I'm being sent back to the level my species started from many, many aeons ago, and the evolutionary pattern I must set in motion is to enable my descendants to eventually become a fully evolved, one-in-spirit Entity again; this is the only way I can purge my faults and be accepted back into society, they tell me.

And it's not going to be easy. Apart from the problems I've just mentioned, I've only got about ten billion orbits to re-achieve this status before the local star burns out and absorbs everything in its system. A blip compared to the time scales I'm used to.

To sum up, if I don't get it right, I will never return here; I'll simply cease to exist – finally and forever.

I wish they hadn't told me all this, I've turned purple with terror, but knowing what's to transpire in detail is part of the punishment, I'm assured.

The Court also told me that the theory behind my punishment is that they believe a society that has produced an anomaly simply cannot move on until things are put right. They say it's like a complex calculation that won't resolve. You have to go back to find and correct what is wrong before you can ever get a right answer and move forward again. And, in this current calculation, I am the anomaly, the mistake...

My escort has arrived – it's time to go. Wish me luck and think of me occasionally. Soon, I'll be an Algorithmically Deconstructed Amorphic Mutation. You can just call me ADAM for short...

*Marcus Bolt [Neurotec and Other Tales Purchase from www.lulu.com](#)*



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## DECLARATION

*Mardijah Simpson, Australia, asserts that...*

I will not wear old lady shoes

But rather go bare foot to my grave  
feet hard and happy from strange roads

Unshrouded, unbound but undulating  
until at last I dance myself into the ground

Mistress of my own amazement  
unmasked; my sadness mapped and celebrated

Time forgotten and forgiven spirals up  
as I spin my dancing story – weave my way

Watching the world with unrequited love  
until uncloaked from the invisibility of age

I explode, evaporate, dissolve  
or gently fold into forever.



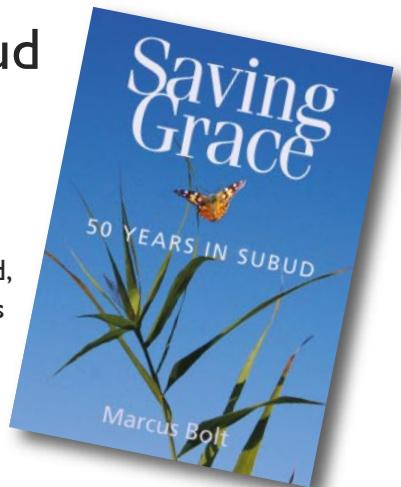
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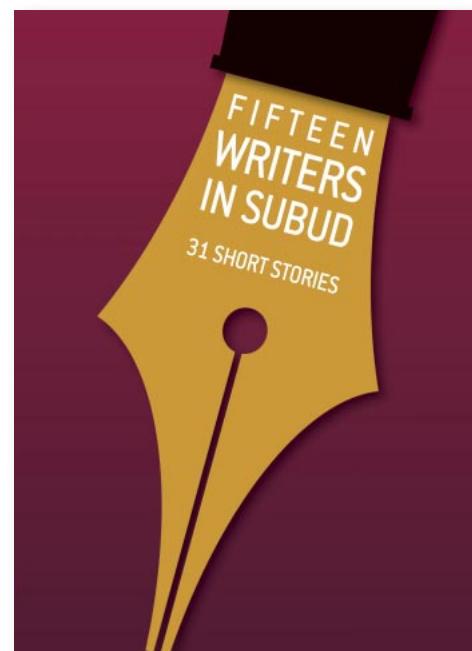
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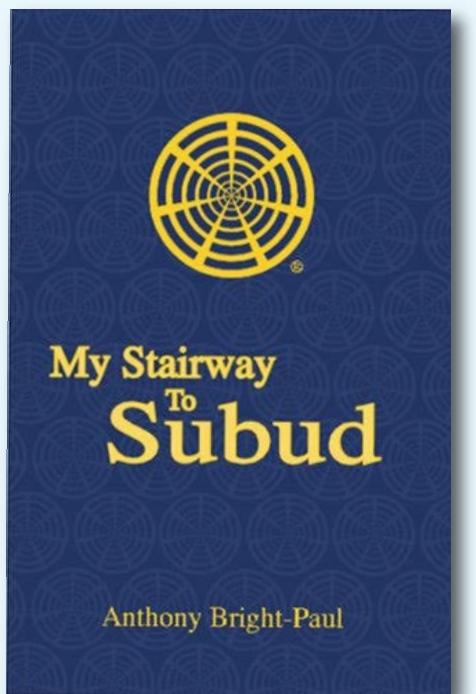
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Much of *My Stairway to Subud* first appeared as the record of a young man in the early 1950s searching for values and inner understanding. At various times he was an admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, a student with the Sri Ramakrishna Vedanta Society, then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

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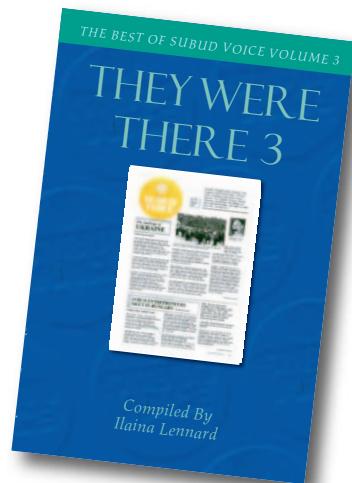
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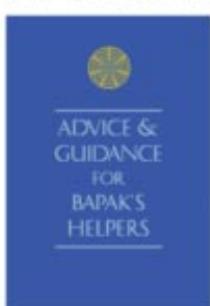
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