



## The tragedy of September 11 2001



*Leonard Lassalle's vision of 9/11. The painting reminds us that Subud exists in a war-torn world, a world of frequent conflict, suffering, injustice and inequality. When will we begin to make a difference? Are we already making a difference? These questions preface an issue of Subud Voice in which we present a range of impressions relating to the "State of Subud".*

### *Léonard Lassalle writes...*

At around 4pm on the 11th of September 2001, I was painting in my studio, fully absorbed by a bouquet of flowers and Frédéric Chopin's piano concerto that was playing on a classical music radio programme. Suddenly the music was interrupted, followed by an announcement: "We have just heard from our correspondent in New York, that one of the Twin Towers has been hit by a jumbo jet!"

Stunned by the announcement, I switched on the television I normally keep behind a curtain in my studio. What I saw was incredible. The same commercial tower that I had visited some years previously was on fire. The camera that was filming the horrific scene must have been some distance away. The sky was perfectly blue, except for the dense smoke rising from three-quarters up the building.

I could not believe my eyes when suddenly another aeroplane hit the second tower in a huge explosion of fire and black *continued >*

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smoke. The camera zoomed in on the scene; I was now seeing, amongst the debris falling from the impact, some human forms the size of ants, floating as in slow motion down alongside the colossal building.

My heartbeat suddenly increased, pressurising the blood round my body; I was feeling suddenly terribly angry about man's stupidity and criminal behaviour. Had the world gone totally mad? My whole body was shaking due to my greatly disturbed emotions. It was hard to believe that what I was seeing was actually real and happening. Fully aware of how upset I was, I asked my inner self: "Léonard, what is the best state and place to be in during such a dramatic moment?"

Right away I switched off the television and stood up, completely letting go of my upset and indignant feelings, ego suffering, and myself altogether. Immediately I felt a neutral deep quietness inside as my consciousness broadened, while my voice went into powerful melodic sounds. The latihan I was doing was very strong and I was fully conscious. My inner eyes opened while the singing went on and I saw a most amazing scene:

From across the Hudson River I could see the city of New York lit by the golden light of the early morning sun. The wind coming from the north-west was pushing the enormous grey black cloud of dust rising from the collapsed towers towards the light of the sun. I saw, in the dusty cloud, the agony of a suffering humanity, yelling and crying out its profound despair.

Then, I heard harmonious angelic singing. I looked up to the heavens and saw that they were full of angelic beings coming down with their arms forward towards the dramatic scene; their light bodies made golden by the rays of the sun. Although the dark cloud of agony that stretched out from the city carried many faces expressing great confusion and suffering, I could also see, reaching out of the top part of the cloud, upper parts of bodies, arms and hands offering themselves up towards the coming of the assisting angels.

There was a balance between the beauty and the agony. It seemed that the chaos down below was man's creation, the suffering was in the dust and smoke. Souls were being saved by the multitude of angels. They seemed to be there to give assistance and reassurance to the undecided souls that were reaching out of the darkness of the smoke. There was no judgment in their action. Love and care were there to assist the souls who had abandoned their anger and suffering.

I did not switch the television on again. I felt the need to share the understanding that I gained from this experience; I rapidly took my large sketchbook and started to draw. After a few rapid sketches, I knew that the painting was already waiting in my inner feelings. I took a large white canvas and started to paint. I felt neutral as I watched what I had witnessed reappear on the white linen cloth.

Some days later, the paint had hardly dried when two visitors came into the studio to see my work. Issa, a psychoanalyst and shaman, and her friend Laura, a professional singer. They both lived in San Francisco. Issa went straight to the 9/11 painting and asked how much? I told her and without any hesitation she bought it on the spot.

They both appreciated my work so much that they offered to give me an exhibition in their home on the outskirts of San Francisco. Also, they suggested that I hold an exhibition of my allegorical paintings at the California Institute of Integral Studies.

*This is taken from Leonard Lassalle's just published book "Source of Life". For an enthusiastic review of this book see Marcus Bolt's response to it in the September 2012 issue of Subud Voice. For your copy of the book, go to:*

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/leonard-lassalle/source-of-life/paperback/product-20336644.html> OR

[www.subudbooks.com](http://www.subudbooks.com) OR [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (or any good bookstore.)

*Source of Life* – paperback 282 pages: £11.00 plus postage ISBN: 978-1-291-03427-1

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## Despair and its antidotes

*The Editor writes...*

It is of course impossible to generalise about the "state of Subud". There are too many different things happening in too many places. Some people are feeling good about Subud and the latihan; others are not. In some places Subud is doing very well; and in others it might not be.

However, in recent months, there has been a kind of groundswell of disillusionment and/or criticism of Subud. Perhaps this is only a few people, but perhaps they also represent a broader constituency who may also have doubts and questions.

We have decided to address these questions in this issue of Subud Voice by presenting a range of different views touching on the situation. They may roughly be divided into "despair and antidotes to despair". Of course, despair is not quite the right word: we could also say "calls for change, and reminders of what is valuable".

People note things like our shrinking, ageing membership. At this rate are we just going to disappear altogether? And where are the young people who are going to take over when we all drop off the twig?

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Some people feel dissatisfied about their own spiritual progress, and collectively, are we making Subud's mission manifest in the world?

This has all been a bit of a taboo subject. You're not supposed to say it. It might make you seem weak, ungrateful or disloyal. I know of someone who edits a Subud magazine who wanted to write something about it and his article was "censored".

However, now I think we can talk about it, without being weak or disloyal, because they talked about it at the recent WSC meeting in Vancouver and Ibu Rahayu has also addressed the issue in some of the recent talks. So I'm sure it is okay to mention it (the elephant in the room).

This issue of Subud Voice is hopefully a range of impressions and reflections about it all, ranging from suggestions for radical change through to joyful celebrations of how we are now...

So we lead off with Leonard Lassalle's article and painting, reminding us about the state of the world... then have a look at what the WSC talked about at its recent meeting in Vancouver... then a rather challenging article from Reynold Feldman... then an offering by myself and Emmanuel Williams scanning some of these issues that are thought to be a problem in Subud... then what does Ibu Rahayu say about it all?, some extracts from recent talks... then a beautiful article by someone just opened, reminding us of how overjoyed and grateful we felt when we first discovered Subud... then good news from Britain where they just had the best Congress ever...then a rather remarkable experience from Rachmadi (Machmud) Fiedorowicz)... then a review of, and some extracts from, a translation published by a Subud member of the work of the 12th century Shaikh 'Ab al-Qadir al-Jilani, the passing of Husain Chung... and then lots of little items of general interest...

When I received the wonderful illustration and article by Leonard Lassalle which opens the issue, I wrote to him and asked if he wanted to say anything further which might relate the painting to the context of the state of Subud and/or the state of the world.

He wrote back that..."About the other issues, such as the state of Subud, the state of the world ... to me what matters is the state of the individual, is the latihan flowing into one's daily life? using all the life forces, instead of being their puppets and staying under their influences. There cannot be a state of Subud, as we are all a group of truly individual people, each with his/her own 'pluses' and 'minuses' struggling to find our way in this disturbed world through the latihan. 'The state of Subud' should rather be 'the state of myself'..."

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## What they talked about...

Minutes of the World Subud Council meeting held at University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada 20 June – 28 June 2012.

*Harris writes...This is a guide and some highlights gleaned from the minutes. It is designed to get you so fired up you will want to go and read the complete (28 page) document.*

*After all, this is the annual meeting of our "peak body". We should pay attention to it and see what they talked about and what they decided. The complete minutes are to be found at [www.subud.org](http://www.subud.org) along with all the Attachments and Appendices. French is there and Spanish will follow shortly...*



*The World Subud Council in Vancouver. (Photo by Hadrian Fraval)*

### FROM THE WSA CHAIR

Luke Pensoney outlined five major building blocks going forward to Puebla:- enterprise, heritage/archive, Subud communities and international centres, organisational development and communication, finance and fundraising.

He reported that since last council meeting, progress has been made on: Archives (major fundraiser ready to start Sept.2012), WSHPP (proposed new development framework), Amanecer (stabilization/new

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development planning), SICA development (new website/activities); Kalimantan liaison (Sinar Investors Association (SIA) supported links to Kalimantan Gold Corporation (KGC)/new enterprise potential) and communications/outreach (new websites and regular Skype meetings across Subud organizations)....

He added...We need to be mindful of Ibu Rahayu's advice not to spend the last half year only focusing on the World Congress. The challenge is to renew enthusiasm for the latihan worldwide...

Read his complete statement in the minutes...

## REPORTS

Then there are many reports from the many entities which inhabit Subud as a body, such as SICA and SIHA and so on. At first, one is mildly surprised to see that there is nothing from Susila Dharma, our most well-developed wing, and one of our greatest Subud success stories. But then one recalls that they were having the AGM during the British Congress. No doubt they will be reporting on that, and maybe we will be able to bring you news about it in a next issue.

## CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING

A discussion I found of interest was about "consensus decision making". I am a believer in this. It means coming up with propositions that get 100% agreement. But this can of course be a very time consuming process, so WSA has come up with a modified definition.

It was agreed by the groups that we need an agreed written definition of our (WSA members) accepted understanding of 'consensus' within Subud and how we function by consensus, so that this definition can be made available to anyone asking how we understand the meaning and implementation of consensus-based decision-making.

Consensus is not 100% agreement. WSA states in its bylaws that "WSA shall seek consensus in decision making". Consensus within Subud is a process leading to a decision.

The minutes describe in more detail the consensus process in Subud.

## FUTURE OF WISMA SUBUD

There is widespread interest in the fate of Wisma Subud. So many of us had so many important experiences there. Currently, the minutes note..

Potential threats are the municipal plan which has a proposed road to pass through the latihan hall and the continued sale of residential property to non-Subud members which may ultimately lead to both a dominant non-Subud ownership block and a possible challenge relating to the use of the latihan hall for latihan.

There is then a long list of points relating to the various issues of management land ownership and so on involved in determining what we can do about Wisma Subud such as trying to get it recognised as a Heritage site... vital reading for anyone interested in this issue.

## THE STATE OF SUBUD

There were many working parties during the meeting including one that addressed some concerns about the current state of Subud.

Zone Representatives reported on the situation and issues in their countries, including Rida (Zone 6) via skype. Some common themes were identified and included:

- Why members are leaving Subud; not satisfied with their latihan; don't want to be on committees
- Why people are antagonistic to enterprise
- Preserving purity of latihan; maintaining Bapak's structure
- WSC/WSA image in the brotherhood; gap between the organisation and the membership

Read it all to see what they talked about and note the other articles in this issue of Subud Voice which touch on this subject.

## EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

This Work Group looked at the way Subud engages with the world and discussed the methods and mediums currently used, noting the need to develop a wide range of materials for different needs and further developing Subud's internet interface. The need to protect Subud's name was also noted.

## SESI: KARMANA

Ruslan Morris and Rasjad Pollard presented information on Karmana, a financial and investment services company that has been set up and replaces Finco which had begun in response to a resolution from the 2011 WSC meeting in Rungan Sari. There was also a brief review of a proposed Palm Oil company currently under consideration for development. Ruslan and Luke reminded the Council that agriculture was a third leg of the triumvirate Bapak had referenced for Kalimantan: i.e. mining; timber and agriculture.

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The WSC supports the development of major enterprises and recognises SESI's role in reviewing such major enterprises. An example of such a major enterprise could be the current palm oil initiative in Kalimantan. SESI would review and inform Subud members of the investment opportunities if it determines the project is feasible.

Ruslan Morris has resigned as SESI Chair to concentrate on the Palm Oil Project. See advertisement for his job in this issue.

*The challenge  
is to renew  
enthusiasm  
for the latihan  
worldwide*

### MISSION STATEMENT

The meeting decided that the amended mission statement (below) be put to member countries for their perusal and ratification.

#### WSA Mission Statement

Preamble: The name Subud is a contraction of three Sanskrit words: 'Susila, Budhi and Dharma'. These words represent the possibility to surrender to the divine power that can touch our inner nature, allowing it to effect change from within that will lead to the qualities of a true human being.

Subud is open to all persons regardless of their religion, race or nationality. The spiritual practise of Subud described above, does not require the acceptance of any dogma but exists to unite human beings through a common worship of God.

Mission: The mission of the WSA network through its member countries and partner organisations is to foster the spiritual training (latihan kejiwaan) that comes from within of the individual Subud members, as well as the beneficial use of the spiritual practice of Subud, including the development of individual talents.

The WSA network nurtures the worldly expressions of this practice that benefits society, aiming towards a more peaceful world in which humans can enjoy a healthier inner and outer environment.

### SUBUD YOUTH ACTIVITIES INTERNATIONAL (SYAI)

This included a discussion about Volunteering at Congresses...

The issue of young (and older) people volunteering at world congresses was discussed. Previous experiences have not been entirely positive. It was agreed that this is an area that needs careful consideration in the early planning stages. Ideas of more professional training programs which could be used on a CV were suggested. Young people wanting to apply for travel assistance through the IYTF are asked for a project proposal for either the world congress or for their country: these should be featured at World Congress.

### SUBUD MATERIALS PROJECT

Materials have been collected from various National Committees and individual members giving information about Subud to applicants, their local communities and more formal entities such as banks and governments. The Selection Team will look at the materials and make recommendations for suitably descriptive materials to be developed in various different formats for various different uses.

### CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS

Topics discussed at this Work Group included:

1. Care support program – Emergency Fund; Education Fund
2. Retirement Communities
3. Networks for support – connections for Subud members in isolated places, countries and regions.
4. Subud members in crisis
5. Younger Subud members

### INTERNATIONAL CENTRES

Luke informed the Council that he has delegated the responsibility for International Centres to Elias Dumit, Deputy Chair, who facilitated the Work Group. They looked at past experiences and future possibilities. Participants suggested that attention be given to existing centres and that support be provided where needed. There was a general positive feeling towards recommending the creation of new international centres.

### 2014 WORLD CONGRESS

Dates – Confirmed: 2 – 17 August, 2014.

Visas – Mexico has an agency that deals exclusively with Visas for international conventions with a 100% success rate for every convention so far.

Puebla - World Congress has been well received in Puebla: government officials have been helpful and friendly and there is potential for many interactive events with the community. WCOT has begun negotiations with *continued >*

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the state authority, local restaurants, hotels, tour operators, meeting venues and service providers. Maya had 40 meetings in three weeks and visited 45 hotels over the course of a few days.

## WSA ARCHIVES

Armand Bisson, WSA Archives Coordinator, presented a full and detailed report on the current situation of WSA's archives including the digitization process of Bapak's talks recently completed by Memnon, an international audio digitization company based in Belgium.

## 2012 WORLD SUBUD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

In his report, Armand explained that the function of the Archives is to collect, preserve and maintain quality and make archives accessible. Plans for a codification system soon to be put in place, funds permitting, were also set out in detail, as is the budget for preservation of talks and on-going maintenance costs. Traceability of Talks, i.e. identification and location of originals and copies is also very important.

## FUNDRAISING / FINANCE & BUDGETS

Stuart Cooke outlined plans for developing a computerised pledge system at no cost to WSA. Stuart is working with Matthew Weiss, Internet Coordinator, on this. It will be launched in 5 English speaking countries by mid-September 2012, with the aim of extending a translated version to other non-English speaking countries by February 2013. This system will be operated by the National Committees in each country in conjunction with the WSA Fundraising team. Sensitivity to cultural diversity throughout the whole process will be necessary. Luke noted that Chile or Colombia would make good candidates for Spanish-speaking pilot countries.

The Council: endorsed the plan to launch fundraising with the electronic pledge system devised by Stuart Cooke in mid-September 2012. The initial focus at the time of the launch will be Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Non-English-speaking countries (such as Indonesia and Colombia) will be included in the pledge system after March 2013.

## MUHAMMAD SUBUH FOUNDATION

Two short films have been made, one about the WSA Archives and the need for funding and the other gives the historical aspect of MSF to act as liaison between WSA, WSC and MSF.

Both MSF and Armand Bisson, WSA Archives Coordinator, working in their respective areas, arrived at a target figure of \$1 million to cover WSA's Archives expenses for the next 10 years.

900 of approximately 1200 tapes have been digitised. The work being done by Memnon in Belgium has necessitated some travel for Amalijah Thompson, WSA Archives Advisor, and further travel may be necessary in the coming year. This has increased the travel budget line. The cost of producing the fundraising film has also added an increase to the budget.

Total amount available in 2012 for project funding is \$236,000. MSF's income from its investment portfolio is decreasing due to the global financial situation and donations and endowments are also down.

It was resolved that WSC agrees that the MSF uses its reserves to fund the revised 2012 Budget up to \$400,000, and approves the Revised MSF 2012 Budget.

## WSC VIDEO

That the WSC produce a short video outlining what WSC does, including success stories and the reasons some entrepreneurs have donated to WSC.

## *Harris adds...*

### SO THERE YOU HAVE IT IN A NUTSHELL...

I have a dream... which is that when we have WSC meetings or World Congresses... as well as devoting time to trying to improve ourselves internally... we will also gaze out at the world and think about how we can help it...

Perhaps we will have a team of expert negotiators whom we can send in to the world's trouble spots to try and sort things out... I've always thought that the latihan should enable us to become really good at resolving conflicts because it enables us to see and understand all points of view and to bring harmony into situations that are conflicted...

Of course it is not the fault of the people currently in WSC that we are not yet at that point... they are very dedicated and hard-working people... it is a collective responsibility that we are not there yet...

And of course we already do a lot even if it is not yet usually on a world-shaking scale... our individual acts, not to mention the work of people like Susila Dharma and its projects, and the people in mining in Kalimantan, and BCU school... and on and on and on... we already do quite a lot...

*Read all the detail at [www.subud.org](http://www.subud.org)*

## From Subud to You-bud..

“ I am convinced that Subud is trapped in a time warp. ”

*The editor writes...Some of these suggestions may seem a bit radical (Scrap the 3-month waiting period! Men and women do latihan together! I would like to be around to see that day!) but as we all know, if you want your refrigerator to function properly, every so often it is good to defrost it. And this involves taking out everything that's in it and having a good look at it. Maybe the milk and butter still seem okay and can go back in, but there are a few things which have passed their use by date, and some of the leftovers are growing mould...*

*Reynold Ruslan Feldman, Boulder, Colorado, USA writes...*

... Subud is you, and you are Subud. . . .  
(Bapak Muhammad Subuh)

*When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (1 Corinthians 13:11; Webster's Bible Translation)*

To channel Varindra, “Well?” Bapak, the founder of our spiritual practice, died 25 years ago, but we, his spiritual children and heirs, have been slow to take over and make the family business our own.

Having just spent five months living in the Rungan Sari Subud community in Indonesian Central Borneo, I am more convinced than ever that Subud has somehow gotten trapped in a time warp – mid 1980s Java.

Bapak himself was careful to update the organizational rules and regs whenever he felt it necessary. As a result Subud went from no waiting period to three months for candidate members, from long skirts for ladies to whatever (“Just no bikinis!”), from 18 to 17 as the minimum age for membership, from men and women, sitting apart to sitting together for talks, from no regions and zones to regions and zones, from no enterprises to enterprises, from no wings to wings, etc.

Since his death, however, our watchword has been—“Listen to Bapak” and cleave to all the last things he said. Ibu Rahayu has been nothing if not the dutiful Javanese daughter In this regard, carefully curating Bapak’s memory and counseling us consistently that we forget his advice at our peril—and Subud’s.

### Frozen in Time

A chief symbol of this frozen-in-time status is Bapak’s bedroom at Rahayu’s house in Pamulang, Jakarta. My wife, Cedar, and I were able to visit there in mid-January for a “Sabtu-Wage” evening in the pendopo (the large, enclosed Javanese gazebo). For those of you who don’t know what a Sabtu-Wage is, sabtu is the Indonesian for Saturday, while wage is one of the five (!) Javanese days of the week.

A form of Javanese fortune-telling is based on examining the combination of the Western and Javanese days of the week when someone is born to predict a person’s character and life events. Mini-birthdays are also celebrated on that intersection of days. Bapak happened to be born on Saturday-Wage.

That combination, occurring roughly every six weeks, is the occasion for Friday-night celebrations at Subud houses all over Indonesia. If you happen to be in Jakarta, you hitch a ride through the teeming streets of South Jakarta to Ibu’s housing complex in the suburb of Pamulang. At the Rungan Sari Subud Complex, Central Borneo, it’s easier: You just walk to the Latihan Hall.

Anyway, Bapak’s room. It was the place he spent most of the last year of his life. Apparently nothing has been changed there since he left it for his final trip to the hospital the night of June 22/23, 1987. The only exception is the fresh cut flowers replaced daily. The room itself is a faded naval gray-green. Paint here and there is chipped. An old-fashioned big-box TV dominates the room. The visual impact, at least on me, was drab and depressing. The place cried out for re-decorating.

Yet when I visited the room this trip, after latihan and a video of a Bapak talk, a number of mainly sisters, including Westerners, were kneeling on the floor, imbibing the spiritual vibes they believed inhabited the space. It was not so much a room as a mausoleum.

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*Bapak and Sharif in the 1970s. Reynold thinks we may be stuck in a Javanese time warp.*

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It hit me later, though the idea had been slowly forming over the last few years, that Subud itself has become a mausoleum, a memory house dedicated to the wonderful, insightful human being who pioneered our spiritual path, now elevated to wali status, our saint, determining the heft and girth of our spirituality from beyond the grave. No wonder Subud is not growing, I thought.

As a bright Dayak woman, a friend of and collaborator with Subud members in Central Borneo, told me later in Kalimantan, “I’ve been attracted by Subud but haven’t yet joined because, as far as I can tell, it’s a kejawan” (a Javanese spiritual practice based on the ideas and charismatic personality of a local saint, usually a mixture of Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim elements just like Javanese culture itself).

“*The latihan enables us to receive guidance and put it into practice*”

### **De-Javanized**

Now in my 52nd year of our spiritual practice, I’m convinced that if Subud is to reach “all mankind,” in that old-fashioned term of Bapak’s English translators, it will have to bede-Javanized. “Listening to Bapak” will have to be replaced by listening to that still, small voice within as we each develop the ears to hear and the will to follow it.

Bapak’s gift to us was the Subud spiritual exercise, which has the capacity to sharpen our inner hearing and strengthen our will to put that guidance into daily practice. After all, Subud, he told us, was us and we [for better or worse] were Subud. If doing Subud were a matter of simply listening to Bapak and following his advice rather than our own receiving, then doing the exercise would be a vain practice and a waste of time.

We’d simply be members of a new Javanese religion called Subuhim. Non-Subud persons everywhere confuse Bapak’s name with that of our organization. This error is understandable enough. After all, Subuh and Subud differ by only one letter. We Subud members know better of course, at least intellectually. Subuh is our founder’s name. It’s the Indonesianized Arabic for the pre-dawn Muslim prayer.

Subud, on the other hand, is one of those acronyms the Indonesians love so much based on the initial letters or letter of susila, budhi, and dharma. Yet in our hearts or at least our behavior, we tend to make the same mistake: Subud is Bapak and Bapak is Subud. Pak Subud, not Subuh!

I was fortunate to have experienced Bapak many times in person, on several occasions one on one. Having learned Indonesian early in my Subud life, I could converse with him as well as understand talks to a great extent in the original. He was and is the most impressive human being I have met in my nearly 73 years of living.

Yet I have also come to understand him as our training wheels, so to speak, in Subud. As a former Roman Catholic, I am familiar with the comforts of a clear, unwavering set of rules and regulations. As spiritual adults, however, there comes a time when our training wheels must come off and we make that scary but necessary transition to riding a two-wheeler.

In Subud that means, in my view, reliance on our personal relationship with the Great Life Force, or God, developed through many life experiences but clearly intensified for most of us through our Subud practice. Doing so, moreover, should have implications for the language we use about that practice and some of the rules.

Although I know that we’re not supposed to have any rules, I mean things like the three-month candidacy period, separation by gender in the exercise, lack of personal interaction around our spiritual development (the implicit attitude is that Subud is an individualistic practice between the person and the Great Life Force), critical attitude toward non-heterosexual human beings, our constant quoting of Bapak (I’m a huge offender here.), the use of theistic language, and even the initial requirement to believe in God or have the wish to.

### **Standing On Our Own Two Feet**

Bapak tells the story in his autobiography of the big folio volume that mystically plopped down on his table days or weeks after his direct opening from Upstairs. It gave him all kinds of guidance, even answering his questions in the form of videos emerging on an opened page. Then one night, without warning, the book disappeared into his chest. From then on, he recounted, he had only to get quiet and look inside for guidance and answers to his own or others’ questions. No need for outside consultation.

Bapak died the early morning of June 23, 1987. As I write these words, it’s the evening of August 4, 2012, a quarter of a century and more than a generation later. High time, I think, for us Subud members to follow suit and not keep looking for answers to our questions about right living in the thousands of pages of Bapak’s talks.

No. As spiritual adults, we must begin perusing the pages of the book we have each been blessed to receive within ourselves over the months, years, and decades of following our wonderfully simple, dogma-free, and efficacious spiritual exercise. Do I mean never to read Bapak’s advice or avail ourselves of an audio or video of his talks? Not at all.

Rather, it’s all about understanding that Bapak and we share the same Source, and learning that as *continued >*



spiritual adults our first recourse must be It directly, as in our spiritual exercise, and not It through him If not, not only will Bapak's mission to the world have been in vain, but we as his helpers and heirs will bear the primary responsibility for this failure. Thanks to Bapak, we have received a miraculous gift. It's time for us to grow up spiritually, begin standing on our own two feet, and do our part in effecting a global spiritual renaissance needed even more today than when Bapak left us.

*Please note that the views expressed in articles are the views of the writer, not necessarily of Subud Voice, but we believe in a free exchange of reasonable opinion.*

## WCS... stands for Worst Case Scenario

*It is no secret that at the moment many people express the feeling that there is a "malaise" in Subud... they...they feel to some degree disappointed or disillusioned...they feel that Subud is at a low ebb...is not fulfilling its mission.*

*On a recent trip overseas wherever I went there did not seem to be much good news about Subud. One heard of a shrinking and ageing populations. Groups which had 50 or 60 people when I was opened in California in the 60s, now had 5 or 6, or had disappeared altogether. There were arguments and divisions, no or not enuff young people, and so on. In California, I stayed with Emmanuel Williams (author of "An Extraordinary Man" and other books) He had written an account of the situation which is perhaps typical of how quite a few people feel. He wrote...*



*Are we still reeling from the collapse of the "major projects" like Anugraha?*

### Implications of a Declining Membership

As we all know, and as Hanafi Fraval's graph in a recent issue of Subud Voice demonstrated, the membership of Subud USA is declining. All of us, of course, are getting older all the time, and many of us are getting old.

I believe it's appropriate for us to consider what's going to happen if the decline continues, AND how to prepare for it.

I should make it clear that, in spite of all the evidence, I don't expect this decline to continue, and I certainly don't want it to continue. But, just in case it does, here are some issue and scenarios to consider.

1. The pool of members willing and able to take on Subud jobs at the local, regional and national levels will go on shrinking. Already, most groups no longer have a full committee. Many of us have spent years being a treasurer or a chairperson or a helper at either group, regional or national levels. How can we best prepare for the time when there may be too few members left to fulfil even the basic legally required positions? Should we consider radical changes in our admin. structures in case we run out of people?

2. It will be increasingly difficult for us to maintain our Subud properties, or to keep up with payment schedules on loans already made for repairs.

3. The elephant in the corner that should be acknowledged is the apparent lack of interest in Subud displayed by 2nd generationers. I was hoping the LA congress would attract a fair number of them, but no. Maybe they don't turn up because most active Subud members are old, although this need not be a problem.

I don't pretend to have answers to these questions. But I believe it's right that they be raised. I don't believe it's necessarily defeatist to contemplate some of the bleaker possibilities and prepare for them. And I don't believe it's right to say: "Leave it all to God." Trust in God and tie up your camel.

### Harris adds... Unwise To Generalise About Subud

Of course, it is extremely unwise to generalise about Subud. There may also be lots of people who are feeling great about Subud. I have found usually that the degree of disenchantment about Subud is directly related to how well or badly one feels oneself is doing

And there are some young people, and some of them are *continued >*

*Some feel that Subud is not fulfilling its mission*

stepping up to the plate, and no doubt somewhere in the world, Subud is forging ahead.

However, during a recent trip to various places, and knowing about things in my own group, I think it is fair to say that many people do express these disappointed feelings.

There are many reasons for this of course, going right back to the collapse of the major enterprises in the 1980s, a blow to our collective high hopes about Subud, which perhaps to some extent we have not yet fully recovered from.

But what does Ibu Rahayu have to say about all this?

## What Ibu Rahayu says...

*In recent talks, Ibu Rahayu has addressed this issue of “what should be done about Subud”. Her answers usually combine two things (1) that the development of Subud is in God's hands and (2) it is in our hands in that we should become people more manifesting the qualities we aspire to, rather than worrying about the “state of Subud”, as in this extract from her talk in Yogyakarta on February 24 this year...*

Well, to us this (the growth of Subud) seems ordinary: even though it has been only a hundred years, say, but we have been able to introduce Subud to so many people. I am saying this since many members are pushing me, ‘If we don’t promote Subud, when will it spread? It will end up disappearing.’

‘Well, if it disappears, let it. It will spring up again.’ I said. [Laughter.] ‘This is God’s will; we cannot force it.’

So, in my case, many look on me now as the most senior member in Subud. Some are happy about that; others are not. When I tell them, ‘Don’t promote it,’ they think that I...

[One said] ‘Why do we always have to follow what Bapak said? We have developed, we have our own souls; we have to spread Subud.’ One of them said, ‘If you don’t agree to change, Subud won’t last another ten years.’

That is what one of them said. He is an American. He is still alive. I have his letter. [Laughter.]

I told him, ‘The power of God determines everything. If God wants Subud to end, so be it – if indeed that is God’s will. However, no human being can tell or predict when Subud will end.’

He said, ‘If we don’t make changes in Subud, Subud will be finished in ten years.’ Well, we leave that to God. Subud exists thanks to God. If it has to end, we leave that to God.

So, indeed ... this is why I always have to be careful when ... well, although I have no official position in Subud, but I feel I have to be careful with Subud members like that. I told him, ‘If you want to promote Subud, you have to be credible.’

Look at yourself first. Look at the state of Subud first. Are we good people? Are we sufficiently perfect to be seen by others, to be an example to people who are not in Subud?’ The reality is we are not. Many members still cannot fulfil what God requires. Many are still far from being what we call *susila, budhi, and dharma*.

You must start becoming like that. Do not wait until you are dead to be like that, it will be too late. No one will be able to see; you will not be able to promote Subud once you are there, will you? What for?

So, this is it, brothers and sisters, in truth Subud’s survival or demise, or the cause of its lack of progress lies in each of us.

*(From Ibu Rahayu’s Talk to Members during the Regional Gathering in YOGYAKARTA on 24 February 2012, Recording 12 JOG 1. Final Translation by Raymond Lee. Copyright 2012, World Subud Association. All rights reserved. The complete talk, which is for Subud members, can be found at [www.subudlibrary.net](http://www.subudlibrary.net))*

*And in a similar vein, but perhaps even more pointedly, from the talk she recorded in June this year for the WSC Meeting and Americas Gathering...*

Brothers and sisters, as conditions and situations develop over time, we certainly face change. As a result, some members think: Is it not time for Subud to change? However, as we know, before Bapak left us, he laid down the guidelines and the framework we need for the organisation and for the spiritual side. And history tells us, the history of religion, that when changes were made, those changes caused fractures in the unity and togetherness of the original religion, its authentic form. The result was, when changes were adopted, out of a single religion, many different lines of thought arose causing its adherents to have no unity in their worship of God.

So, brothers and sisters, unless it is absolutely necessary, why should we make changes? Bapak’s guidelines and framework do not need changing. But – perhaps – they may need augmenting, depending on the situation. *continued >*



*Ibu Rahayu in Christchurch.*

How far can we change Bapak's advice? That advice – when Bapak received it, Bapak received it from God – is advice that one can say comes from the power of God.

Therefore, if we want to make a change, if it is really necessary, that change must be proposed and discussed at the World Congress. That will avoid self-interest coming into play, since the change is likely only an idea arising from the interests of a particular faction or from someone's need for achievement. Because of those interests, we have to be aware that such ideas are probably only a product of someone's mind. As such, those interests will not survive death. After death, our self-interest will not help our situation in the next world; we cannot take that into our next life.

This is why we must be cautious. Do not hurry to change something – the guidelines that Bapak set out – that you probably think is out-dated. And to keep up with the times you think you can make things go faster and make changes that you think are sure to be right.

Apart from that, many people have asked me: 'Isn't it time we promoted Subud?' To answer this question, I turn it back on those who ask. 'You want to promote Subud. Have you really witnessed that the state of Subud matches what the Subud symbol represents? If you want to go round proclaiming that Subud is good, Subud is this and that, Subud will make your life easier, and so on, I ask you: Has Subud achieved that? Are all Subud people good people? Do Subud people already embody the qualities of their symbol: susila, budhi, dharma?'

So, people are pressing for this because they want to succeed quickly, since they are concerned, probably, their term of office will end soon and for other reasons. Consequently, they believe that through propaganda, Subud will become well known.

Bapak was asked this question too and I am sure his answer was the same. This is like, to give an illustration, a seller of an herbal remedy. The seller claims, if you drink that remedy, you will gain weight. In reality, the seller is not well built but skinny. That shows the seller is making a claim, meanwhile the seller's own condition invalidates that claim.

Subud is like that too. If we want to promote Subud, then each of us must prepare our self first. Do not assume that we will become a good person just by joining Subud. We are only at the point of wanting to become a good person; we want to become someone with the qualities of susila, budhi, and dharma. Remember, Subud has existed for almost a century now. A century is a hundred years. It has been established a long time. So why are people still pressing for this? Well, not everyone is pressing, just a few, a few dozen, perhaps.

The problem is not everyone will come to Subud wanting to worship God. Some will come because they are ill and seek a cure; some to find a job; others to find a spouse, and so on. So, this is the point, we are still lacking. So let us not tout grandiose claims when we are not ready yet; we are still on our journey.

*(12 CDK 1 Ibu Rahayu's Address to WSC Meeting and The Americas Gathering, CILANDAK, 17 June 2012 Recording 12 CDK 1 Final Translation by Raymond Lee. Copyright © 2012 by World Subud Association, Inc. All rights reserved. The complete talk, which is for Subud members, can be found at [www.subudlibrary.net](http://www.subudlibrary.net))*

*These talks were given for people practising the spiritual exercise known as the Subud Latihan. For those not practising this exercise, reading the talks is not recommended as they could be misunderstood. For this reason Subud Voice does not publish complete talks but extracts from talks on particular topics.*

## The best Congress ever

*There may be despair and doldrums in some parts of the Subud world but it appears that in Britain they recently had the "best congress ever". Here are a couple of reports of that event, but there is much more besides in the current issue of the Subud Britain journal [www.subudvoice.net/subud-britain-journal](http://www.subudvoice.net/subud-britain-journal)*

*First of all the Subud Britain chair, Leonard Hitchcock, talks about "Connecting at Malvern"...*

I immediately connected with my relaxed and rather alarmingly laid-back 'inner chairman'. So many members commented on this that I started to get worried and thought I should cultivate a bit more gravitas ... or at least look as if I took the whole thing seriously.

Any lingering anxiety about how it would all go seemed to evaporate and the space where the anxiety was became connected to a rather warm feeling that everything was as it should be and just to follow it – which I did. It turned out to be a rather astute policy – at least in terms of the sheer pleasure I derived from the week, *continued >*



which was immense. And not feeling any responsibility! I admire that inner dude. I'd love to be like that all the time – life would be great.

There seemed to be an expansion over the week; from individual to collective, self to selfless. Horizons widened and possibilities increased: the inner space to receive a gift.

Did we really dare to think we could make a difference? Or that we had something to give to the world? An elderly lady told me that it was the best Congress yet because at breakfast she saw and heard many groups of members talking about what they were going to do together. Plotting a joyful cooperation! Hatching plans like eggs – midwives to a better world. I suspect that lady has a good yardstick to judge success by.

Connecting to the Absurd: Muchtar caught a grasshopper on the day the Mad Hatter laughed in the summer rain at St. Anne's. A good day for hats and tangos in the puddles, and unexpected wonders.

Connecting to the world – France came to visit and enjoyed the food, and Holland came too – and was impressed by the organisation. Spain loved the festival spirit and Greece thought the debates were wonderful and North America said 'you guys are really together'. Italy, Israel and India joined in the dance and Oz came with a boisterous fun. And the world continued to describe a slightly more perfect arc.

Connecting to gratitude – thank you Adelia and Davina and all the team! All the delegates and visitors and the school and the staff! To you and me and the time of our lives, the space within and the chance to be free!

### *And Muchtar Nankivel tells about that Grasshopper...*

What a wonderful, truly remarkable Congress we have just experienced. I sincerely believe we have witnessed a significant breakthrough in the way we conduct ourselves in Subud Britain...

I would like to finish with a little story of my own from Congress that really happened, mid-way through the Enterprise workshops: We were deep in discussion when one of our younger sharper eyed members spotted a grasshopper /cricket amongst us.

We immediately stopped talking and focussed on young Marcus as he tried unsuccessfully to catch this quick witted grasshopper. Suddenly this charming but very agile and lightning-quick insect landed in front of me, the ancient, creaking, dim witted coordinator of the workshop.



So what was so significant about this, apart from of course my amazing courage at fighting and vanquishing dangerous wild animals? Well it was days later that it came to me. The realisation that I had instinctively

A strange feeling descended and I realised this was an important, significant event and I was now to demonstrate how the capture of this grasshopper could be achieved. Impossible, ridiculous... but before I could question this further I found myself crouching with cupped hands, focussing intently on the grasshopper like a coiled spring ready to attack. It was all over in a second. I sprang the trap and caught the grasshopper alive and well to the great surprise and admiration of the assembled, and quickly released it through the open window to freedom.

moved at great speed and actually cupped my hands a good 6 inches to the right and above the grasshopper which had somehow obliged by jumping into that very space and my waiting hands.

It's just a story...

*As well as that, there is news of a "new way to look at enterprise"; what is happening at the Lewes New School; a social project in India, and a very interesting article about drugs and the latihan. Who would've thought that David Meacham used to hit the pot?*

Read it all at [www.subudvoice.net/subud-britain-journal](http://www.subudvoice.net/subud-britain-journal)



“ An expansion from individual to collective, from self to selfless ”

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# From a new member

*Many of us are hardened battle-scarred veterans of 30, 40 or 50 years. Do we focus too much on the problems, the hurts, the failures personal and collective?. Can we still remember what it was like when we first joined? How grateful we were to have found it? How hopeful? A new member in California reminds us... Victoria Farina writes...*

Dear Subud sisters and brothers,

I was asked to share a short account of my impressions of Subud so far as a new member. First and foremost what I would like to say is that when I think about the fact that Subud even exists in this world and about the great gift that the latihan is, I feel a deep sense of gratitude and overwhelming joy.

Even after having been opened for about four months now, I still feel like it is my own personal miracle to get to experience the latihan and be so fortunate as to have come upon this in my life. I was introduced to Subud through a Subud brother named Burhan Gebhardt from Germany who was in the Bay Area doing Inner Alignment work. The energetic inner alignment that I received was a very powerful and profound experience for me and there was something about Burhan and his wife Arifah that seemed very special to me.

Later, during my first talks with the helpers at the Palo Alto house as an applicant, I noticed that there was something subtly different about them as well, and although it is difficult to describe, there was something special about their energy, and something in their eyes.

As I continued meeting with them regularly, I began to notice how I would enjoy just being at the Subud house and in their presence. I also noticed a feeling growing within myself, a feeling of well-being, happiness and excitement as I learned more and more about the latihan. I would very much look forward to these meetings and enjoyed this process of slowly learning more about the latihan.

I was grateful for this gradual introduction, not only because I began to understand more about the latihan intellectually, but because I was beginning to feel on an inner level what it is and it was a feeling that made me so very happy and excited because it felt like I had finally found what I was looking for. It seemed so natural that this would exist, yet at the same time so miraculous and unbelievable. It was like discovering a great gift and a wondrous secret and feeling so very excited and fortunate to get to receive this and have it in my life.

I feel that, for me, finding the latihan was an answer to prayers I had had for a long time without even knowing that it was possible for something like this to exist. In the months before learning of Subud I had been asking God to help me to be stronger and to come closer to being able to fully be who I am. In so many ways I know that the latihan is an answer to those prayers and what I have been seeking for a long time.

I am still in awe of the grace of God that I have been so lucky, but indeed, god is great. To be able to stand in a space of surrender to and complete trust in the universe and be able to let go of all the daily stresses of life and that which gets in the way of us being in communion with the universe, our higher self and each other is such a gift and a great remembrance of God's love which helps on so many levels.

I wish more people could experience that because it changes everything and indeed, could change the world. I was also fortunate enough to be able to attend the California Congress this May. It was such a nice experience to be around that collective energy for a number of days and to meet such exceptionally wonderful people. I really noticed a sense of family there and felt myself so warmly welcomed.

At the end of this month I will be moving to Europe for a while and I hope to meet more Subud sisters and brothers over there. To be part of a global community of people who understand and can share in the spiritual side of life is such a great comfort and is so much fun! I am also truly grateful for the friendship and guidance I have received from the members at the Subud Palo Alto house and others here in California and will miss them dearly while I am away.

In closing, I would just like to thank everyone reading this note for their commitment to the spiritual side of life and bringing that light into this world, indeed being that light. It is not the easiest path and is one that takes great dedication to maintain in the world we live in today. Yet, as I am sure you all are aware, we are so fortunate to have this most wondrous gift in our lives!

I believe that there is a reason that the latihan has come to us at this point in modern history and I think it is a very good sign! We are all bearers of the light so thank you for being who you are and bringing that *continued >*



*Victoria Farina.*

remembrance of God's love and grace into this world. Much love and blessings to you all from your sister Victoria Farina and hope to see you somewhere along the way! [vpfarina@gmail.com](mailto:vpfarina@gmail.com)

“ I feel a deep sense of gratitude and overwhelming joy...”

*I wrote to Victoria to ask her permission to use her article and she wrote back this succinct and germane comment...*

Thank you, I'm glad you liked what I wrote and sure, it would be an honor if you would like to include it in Subud Voice! I can see how it could be worrisome that membership is shrinking and this is unfortunate. It could also partly be due to the times we are living in, too much distraction, materialism, etc. There is so much in the world today to turn our eyes away from God and our higher self and as the times we live in grow even more precarious and frightening still,

I wish that more people could have that reassurance and strength of knowing the warmth, peace and freedom of God's love and grace. At the same time, who knows, perhaps we will witness a greater awakening than ever before and with it more people will find their way to their spiritual self and practices such as the latihan. We certainly cannot allow such a gift to go forgotten, and I don't believe that it will, just as the light cannot be overcast by shadow.

## Machmud's experience

*About 20 years ago I published a book called "Sixteen Steps" a collection of Subud members' experiences. From time to time, people still come up to me and talk about this book and nine times out of ten, they will refer to a particular passage in it as having made a particularly strong impression upon them.*

*This passage comes from the story in the book about Machmud Fiedorowicz as he was known at that time, now Rachmadi Fiedorowicz. The story tells how he grew up in Newcastle-on-Tyne and became a heroin addict and then how he was rescued from this by a doctor, and how after that he became a Subud member. He goes on to describe his early years in Subud and then comes the passage which has made such an impression on so many people...*

In the early part of 1981, I experienced many difficulties in my personal life and felt myself left with absolutely nothing. Everything I had worked for seemed to have disappeared or been taken away. At this time, I tested with some helpers and I received that I should work on a Subud farm building in Edinburgh.

I began to travel to this building on weekends. At first many people worked on the building, but gradually fewer and fewer people came, until one day, I found myself working alone. It was a very cold day and pouring rain. I was smashing concrete with a sledge hammer. My hands were cut and bleeding and swollen. I felt utterly depressed.

I decided to leave Subud at this point. I felt fed up with Subud, with Bapak, with Islam, and I went into the latihan hall and lay down to sleep, determined to go home and forget about Subud afterwards. I woke up to a knock on the door.

I answered the door and there was no-one there. I began to tingle and I searched around the farm to see if anyone was there and found no-one. I came back frightened.

I sat for a while staring at the open door. I saw a vibration in the doorway as if the air was hot, but I thought to myself that I had just been staring too hard. The heat wave seemed to pass straight through me and then I heard a voice. The voice was one of someone who had been with me all my life, but whom I had almost forgotten. It was very calm, very sensible and very normal.

The voice said: "Machmud, stand up." I stood up. "Now put your hand in the air. Be honest, how does it feel?"

I said aloud: "If I am honest, it feels like having my hand in the air." I couldn't say more than that. That was all I could say.

The voice said: "Now move your finger, how does that feel?" I replied: "It feels like I am moving my finger."

The voice continued: "Next finger, how does it feel? Next finger..." And went through the various parts of my physical body.



Rachmadi (Machmud)  
Fiedorowicz.

*continued >*

When this finished, the voice said: “This is the latihan kejiwaan which is completely normal: you are responsible for every movement you make in your life. The latihan has been with you 100% from the time you were opened. Stop waiting to be moved, move in any direction you choose. The latihan will guide you.”

Then the voice said: “Machmud, experience Susila.” Here I felt nothing special, simply being normal and healthy.

“Now experience Budhi.” There was a slight difference. I became aware of something greater, something outside myself.

Then the voice said: “Experience Dharma.”

Here I experienced a real difference. The only word I have to describe it is “incredible” and I don’t like to use that word because I don’t like to exaggerate.

I began to move around the room, giving everything I had to the latihan, until there was nothing left. I wanted to stop, but the voice said: “Keep going, find people, ask them for what they need, and help them find what they need.” For the first time, I felt who Machmud was.

The voice said: “This is Susila, Budhi, Dharma, Subud. In Christianity it is known as Faith, Hope and Charity. Susila is Jesus, a man of perfect faith, the Son. Budhi is the Power of God the Father who fills the universe, before whom you can only hope, and the Holy Spirit is the power of love, charity.”

Then the voice asked: “Machmud, how many Gods are there?”

I said: “One.” And became afraid.

“No, Machmud, be honest, how many Gods are there?”

I answered: “None.” Then felt: “Allah, Allah, Allah, this is God, God is.”

Later that day, many of the group came to work on the property and I took a rest. That night I had a dream about Bapak and his grandson, Mas Adji. Bapak was seated in the corner of a room with a look of concentration on his face. There was a powerful light shining onto Bapak and the room was filled with a golden rain which enveloped Mas Adji and myself. Mas Adji and I were looking at each other and he said: “Machmud, talk fast.” We both talked very fast until it became crazy, just gibberish.

Adji said: “No more talk. Now work.” We didn’t know what we were doing, but we worked until the sweat poured off us.

Then Mas Adji said: “Now, Machmud, no more work, think.”

Our minds became one mind, we thought the same thoughts at the same time and we made the appropriate movements for that thought together. I entered a state of consciousness which I cannot recall.

I looked at Bapak and saw the light was shining straight into him still, but the rain had disappeared. Bapak was smiling and relaxed. I looked at Adji and saw the light was shining directly into him. I looked above myself and saw a light shining into me. As I looked back at Bapak, I felt: Now, at last, I’ve understood something.

The next morning, being a Muslim, I got up and began to say my prayers, but I found I couldn’t do them in the usual way. It wouldn’t work because I couldn’t use my mind in any way. Then I experienced inside myself the sound of counting very slowly. I couldn’t stop counting. I thought I would die counting.

It went on and on. I thought it would stop at 100, then 250, then 500, 750. I gave up and finally counted to 1001. I felt after this that I couldn’t neglect anything in my life. Every little thing is really important. You can’t reach the end until you have covered every detail. I then received a kind of vision like a movie.

First there were some islands and I was travelling over them and there were lots of young kids. I was surrounded by them. They were all looking at me and looking very happy. I wondered what they were all doing around me because I didn’t have anything to give them or tell them. I felt they’d all be disappointed when they found out I didn’t have anything to give them.

I saw a bridge and lots of people moving around on this bridge. I saw Bapak and Adji on this bridge. They were both smiling and just laughing at what was happening. I received I would travel the world, that I would have something to do with Adji and something to do with children or young people.

The story goes on to describe how Machmud went to Cilandak soon after and met Bapak. Then at the 1984 Anugraha World Congress he was appointed as the first coordinator of the newly formed Subud Youth Association.

He immediately went on a trip around the world stirring up interest in this new development in the course of which he came to Melbourne. He gave a wonderful talk there and Simone Melder, a member in the group, wrote down everything that he said including the passage just quoted, and she was kind enough to give it to me to put it in my book.

Rachmadi now lives in Indonesia, I believe, where he has become extremely successful as a painter (or visual artist as we say these days).

*There are still copies of the second edition of “Sixteen Steps” available for anyone who would like one.*

*Contact me, Harris Smart, at [www.subudvoice.net](http://www.subudvoice.net)*

“ Now, at last  
I’ve understood  
something...” ”

### *The Removal of Cares* by Shaikh 'Abd al-Qadir al Jilani

*Lawrence Brazier writes...*

I recently read and became very interested in a book by Shaikh 'Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani - *The Removal of Cares*. The book was translated from the Arabic by the recently passed Muhtar Holland, for Al-Baz.

I immediately set about writing a review of the book (please find in the attachment) in the hope that you could find space for it in Subud Voice.

I got the review passed by Ruslan Moore - who asked me to specifically inform you that the review was in no way commissioned. This is true, it is something I spontaneously wrote before contacting Ruslan at all. The book really does have a strong Latihan element - Bapak has said that the Shaikh received the same opening as himself..

Here is a book that Bapak himself would have been likely to recommend. *The Removal of Cares* is a work comprising forty-five discourses given in the 12th century by Shaikh 'Abd al-Qadir al Jilani. Bapak has said that Allah had bestowed on the Shaikh the same opening experienced by Bapak in the latihan kejiwaan of Subud.

Translation from the Arabic was commissioned by Ruslan Moore and undertaken by Subud brother, Muhtar Holland, who recently died and has certainly received his due blessing. This attractive volume is made available to us by Al-Baz Publishing, Inc. in Florida.

Thus, at the risk of reviewing a book that many Subud members and others beyond our spiritual organization may already have become acquainted with, it is with considered recommendation that this writer would humbly suggest a reading.

The forty-five discourses are related with soul-shaking acuity, which does not mean they lack beauty. All, or many, of our human frailties are addressed. In the First Discourse, for example, the Shaikh sheds light on envy, which he naturally considers a massive hindrance to the life of the spirit.

The discourses continue in the same light (see Second Discourse in which the light of Allah is spoken of, and the Shaikh throws light on to just about everything that concerns the inner and outer worlds). It is not without reason that patience, trust and sincere submission are all addressed, for these qualities are seen by the Shaikh as being absolute requirements for worship offered to God.

Throughout the book a recurring theme is the control of one's lower self, the passions, the natural inclinations, the devil, the influence of this world, and the desires of the flesh. The parallels to Bapak's Talks are more than evident. The world is seen in much the same way as given in the testament of Christ who said: "...I am in this world but not of it."

This is not the stuff of otherworldliness, however, for one sees that the mystic, as opposed to often common understanding, deals with absolute reality. There is no escape from duty unless Allah wills otherwise after submission. We are admonished to abstain from self-will and personal preference, and refrain from idle fantasy.

These Discourses are strong meat. Read with a submissive heart and mind they are still a challenge, but somewhere within them is given the advice for coming close to God. May God bless those who find that advice, because Shaikh 'Abd al-Qadir al Jilani persistently maintains that all is dependent on the will of God, and God dispenses as He sees fit.

In conclusion I am convinced that these Discourses, together with the Holy Books and such works as *Susila Budhi Dharma*, rank high in the canon of spiritual guidance.

Al-Baz Publishing, Inc. is an enterprise of long and deserved standing, which gives benefit to Subud as well as other charitable organizations.

For those wishing to sample the Shaikh's discourses, Ruslan has also configured a website at [www.al-baz.com/shaikhabdalqadir](http://www.al-baz.com/shaikhabdalqadir). Click on the link "List of books from which excerpts of the Shaikh's works are presented" and from there choose any of the discourses from *The Removal of Cares*, *Revelations of the Unseen* or *The Sublime Revelation*, and several more works.

Information about *The Removal of Cares*, and an estimable number of similar works, can be acquired by contacting Ruslan at the following address:

Al-Baz Publishing Inc.

E-mail: [albaz@bellsouth.net](mailto:albaz@bellsouth.net)

URL: [www.albaz.com](http://www.albaz.com)

Phone: (425) 891-5444

“Bapak said the Shaikh received the same opening experienced by Bapak.”



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# The Fourteenth Discourse

The following introduction is provided to the Removal of Cares at the web site [www.al-baz.com/shaikhabdalqadir](http://www.al-baz.com/shaikhabdalqadir)

*Please let it be noted that Subud is not an Islamic movement but respects the traditions of all the great religions.*

In the Name of Allah, All-Merciful and Compassionate!

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of All the Worlds, and may Allah bestow blessings and peace upon our Master Muhammad and his family and his companions.

The following discourses were delivered by the Shaikh, the Imam, the most learned scholar, the pious abstainer, the dutiful worshipper, the knower by direct experience, the avoider of excess, the Shaikh of shaikhs, the proof of Islam [hujjat al-Islam], the axis of the human race [qutb al-anam], the upholder of the Sunna, the suppressor of heretical innovation, the crown of those who know by direct experience, the love of those who tread the spiritual path, the pillar of the Shari'a [the Law of Islam], the mainstay of the Haqiqa [the Experience of Reality] and the signpost of the Tariqa [the Spiritual Path], the chief of the saints, the leader of the pure, the lantern of those who travel the spiritual way, the guide, the captain of those who are devoted to their duty, the lamp of the people of devotion and purity, Shaikh Muhyi'd-Din Abu Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir, son of Abu Salih Musa al-Jili the grandson of 'Abdu'llah the Hermit. May Allah sanctify his spirit and illuminate his mausoleum.

May He gather us at the Resurrection as members of his company, and may He grant that we die in the embrace of his affection. May He allow us to enjoy the benefit of his blessed grace and of his spoken words, both in this world and in the hereafter.

And may Allah bless our Master Muhammad and his family and his companions, each and every one of them, and may He grant them peace in great abundance. And praise be to Allah, Lord of All the Worlds.

The first of these discourses [majalis] was delivered on a Friday, the 9th day of the month of Rajab, and the last of them was delivered on the 14th day of the blessed month of Ramadan, in the year [A.H.] 546.

The Fourteenth Discourse

O servants of Allah! Be sensible, and make a serious effort to get to know the One you serve [Ma'bud] before death comes to you. Ask Him to supply your needs, both by day and by night. To put a request to Him is an act of worshipful service ['ibada], whether He gives or does not give you what you ask for. You must not harbor doubts about Him. Do not get impatient for a response, and do not get bored with asking. Put your requests to Him with an attitude of humble submission, and do not remonstrate with Him if you do not receive an immediate response, for He is more Aware [A'lam] of your best interests than you are.

You must listen to these words. You must grasp their meaning and put them into practice. These words of mine are on a straight highway. They are the words of a man who has passed the test of experience [muja'rab].

What a pity for you, that you should die without having come to know your Lord (Almighty and Glorious is He). How unfortunate for you, that you should arrive in the presence of One with whom you have never had any dealings, of One with whom you have never done business, of One to whom you have not offered hospitality, and have therefore not been nourished by the memory of entertaining Him.

You must do business with Him, for that will be a profitable transaction for you! Establish credit with Him before you arrive in His presence. Be generous to the poor and the needy, for then you will establish credit with Him. Let them share some part of your goods, for then you will establish credit with Him. If you do this, He will treat you generously and grant you His favor both in this world and in the hereafter.

This property you hold in your possession does not really belong to you. It is a deposit entrusted to your custody. It is meant to be shared between you and the poor. Do not try to appropriate the deposit you hold in trust for its Owner, for He may remove it from your control. Whenever one of you cooks a pot of food, he must not eat from it alone.

He must share the meal with his neighbor, with the beggar who approaches him or comes to his door, and with the guest to whom he offers hospitality. Beggars should never be turned away, as long as one has the capacity for making them welcome and giving them something to eat. To turn them away will cause one to suffer the loss of blessings. The Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) is reported as having said:

If someone turns the beggar away from his door, without having a valid excuse to offer, the guardian angels [mala'ikat al-hifz] will not come near his door for forty mornings.

See how you have deprived yourselves! At the very moment when those poor beggars appear on the scene, Allah is ready to enrich you and assist you. But you turn them away, even though you could in fact give them *continued* >

“ Grant us  
the blessings  
of conscious  
awareness  
before death ”

---

something. Has He not assured you that He will therefore make life easier for them—and more difficult for you?

Woe unto you! You used to be poor. You did not possess as much as a single atom, but then Allah (Almighty and Glorious is He) made you rich. He abolished your poverty and multiplied your benefits and blessings beyond your reckoning. Then He sent a poor man to you. He referred him to you, so that you might share with him part of what He had given to you. But you turn him away empty-handed and do not make him welcome.

The time is now close at hand, when Allah will remove from your possession everything that He has given you. He will cause you to revert to your former state of poverty and beggary. He will instill a hardness toward you in the hearts of your fellow creatures, while endowing you with little strength to bear it.

O Allah, grant us the blessings of conscious awareness [yaqaza] before death, of right guidance [hidaya] before death, of direct knowledge [ma'rifa] before death, of doing business [mu'amala] with You and resorting to Your door before death, and of admittance to the abode of Your nearness before death. Amin.

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## Husain passes on

*Husain Chung has passed on to the great psychodrama in the sky...*

I received word this morning, Thursday, September 20, that Husain Chung has passed away in Palo Alto, California. I believe that he was in his 80s.

Two of his children, Rachman Chung and Harfijah Chung Oliver, write that “this morning (Wednesday September 19) at approximately 6:00 AM, Husain David Chung passed from this world to the next. He had just been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer last week and had his first radiation treatment on Monday so this is very unexpected for our entire family.”

I have much reason to be grateful to Husain because I, like many others, was brought into Subud by Husain. During the period in the 1960s in which Husain operated his psychodrama business, The Human Institute, in California, he bought perhaps hundreds of people into Subud.

Husain was born in Shanghai and moved to the United States in his late teens. He has described his vivid life in colorful detail in his autobiography, *God The Therapist*.

He had a childhood of extreme suffering. Because of a deformation of his hips he had to leave his family when only 2 years old to be hospitalised in Hawaii for a long series of painful operations. It was during this period of intense suffering and isolation that his faith in the Spirit grew so strong, as is described in his autobiography.

Husain was not your conventional Subud member. He was an outrageous and vivid personality. One who pushed the limits. One who knew both extreme highs and extreme lows in his life.

He became an expert in psychodrama and Jacob Moreno, the founder of psychodrama dubbed Husain, his heir apparent, hoping that Husain continue the development of this therapy. Husain chose to go his own way, coming up with his own personal approach to psychodrama, an eclectic blend of many different spiritual and psychotherapeutic influences.

In the context of psychodrama, he was a person of extraordinary insight and ability to support people through processes of profound transformation. He had honed his psychodrama skills working with the criminally insane, murderers and rapists, and let loose in a room full of ordinary middle class neurotics, he was dynamite.

Husain found Subud in the “early days” when he was living at Big Sur on the California coast and had notable friends, such as the writer, Henry Miller. Husain was opened in San Francisco by John Bennett.

Husain will be missed by many. He was a unique and vivid personality. Small in physical stature he truly was a “larger than life” individual”.

I am thankful that I was able to visit Husain not long before his death to thank him for the gift of inestimable value he had brought to me.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife Lusijah and to Husain's children.

A celebratory selamatan and potluck is to held at the Palo Alto Subud house on Saturday (9/22), starting with a Latihan at 5PM. Husain's request for the food at this celebration was that everyone would bring whatever food they would like to have as their own last meal.

Lusijah adds, “After having been diagnosed a month ago with stage 4 lung cancer, Husain Chung has been liberated from this earthly life. It is a mercy that he left prior to going through the rigors of treatment (treatment was to begin soon) and experienced a relatively short brief period of discomfort.”

Others are invited to write about Husain and further tributes can be included in the next issue. Send to [subudvoice@gmail.com](mailto:subudvoice@gmail.com)

*Harris Smart Melbourne, Australia, September 20 2012*

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*Husain Chung*

## Bright publicist wanted

We think we do a very good job of producing Subud Voice, but we think we do a very bad job of letting people know about it.

Not enough people know about Subud Voice and read it regularly.

We want some bright person to come along and design and execute a publicity program for us.

There will be a little bit of money in it and the job satisfaction will be enormous. We imagine there is some bright young person out there. You might be still studying marketing or something like that. This will make an excellent case study for you.

Contact Harris Smart at [subudvoice@gmail.com](mailto:subudvoice@gmail.com)

## Recueil de conférences de Bapak

This is the first issue of a series of selections of Bapak's talks, to be published regularly – two books of ten to twelve talks per year – translated into French from the original Indonesian transcript.

These translations attempt to express in written French language, as accurately as possible, the content of talks that Bapak gave orally.

To this effect, after multiple 'considerations' and verifications, a translation of the essential terms used by Bapak was established, corresponding as best as possible to the reality described by Bapak.

This issue – as well as those that will follow – aims at making accessible a selection of talks given by Bapak along the years, in Indonesia and in various countries, on the occasion of his visits and world congresses.

Here is, at present, the contact to order copies. I believe in the future order will go to SPI. The price is 12 Euros per copy

For more information contact: Harlinah CHALOM, Les Sénoriales - App.D4 Route des Tours de Castillon, 13520 Le Paradou, FRANCE.

## Nominations for SESI coordinator

Ruslan Morris, Subud Enterprise Services International (SESI) Coordinator, is stepping down and anyone who has experience in enterprise or working for Subud internationally or both should consider taking on this important role.

SESI's stated goal is to develop a sustainable income for the World Subud Association (WSA) and its affiliates so that they can meet their obligations and become financially self-sufficient. Its' purpose is to motivate and support the establishment of Subud Enterprises, especially large scale ones.

The SESI Coordinator is a member of the World Subud Council (WSC) and attends meetings, wherever possible. As this is a mid-term appointment it is expected to run until the World Congress in 2014.

For more information about Subud Enterprise Services go to [www.subudenterprise.com](http://www.subudenterprise.com)

For more information about SESI Coordinator's role and to put your name forward for testing, contact Ruslan Morris at [rrmorris@clubbali.com](mailto:rrmorris@clubbali.com) or Rashad Pollard at [pollardrr@aol.com](mailto:pollardrr@aol.com) or the WSA Executive Team at [wsa@subud.org](mailto:wsa@subud.org)

## Americas gathering

As the Americas Gathering in June and July - the third such gathering and the first in North America - was such a unique and memorable event, the editors of SCAN (Subud Canada's newsletter) and Subud USA News decided to put together a special edition newsletter about it. We hope you enjoy it. Click here to open the newsletter. Some features include:

- Ibu Rahayu's Address to the Americas Gathering and World Subud Council
- Personal Highlights by Dave Hitchcock, Zone 7 Representative
- Message from Mauricio Castillo, Zone 9 Representative
- Several Personal Impressions
- Lots of photos!
- Life beyond El Zocalo by Petrice Brett, Vancouver
- A Travel Diary of the Gathering by Lachlan Hunter, Christchurch, NZ
- Bapak's Birthday Celebration at Subud Vancouver (Capri) Hall
- Subud Canada Annual General Meeting & Congress
- World Congress, International Helper, WSC, MSF, and SICA Photos and Reports

Lester Sutherland, Co-editor SCAN, [lesters1@shaw.ca](mailto:lesters1@shaw.ca)

Valentine Narvey, Co-editor SCAN, [vnarvey1@yahoo.com](mailto:vnarvey1@yahoo.com)

Julia Hurd, Editor Subud USA News, [newsletter@subudusa.org](mailto:newsletter@subudusa.org)

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## Book by Farlan Carre

*From Raphaelle Vivier...*

A few months ago our Subud brother, Farlan Carré, who lived in Geneva, died after a long illness.

After a period of 37 years dedicated to the support and economic development of the third world, Farlan dedicated his life to research work and wrote three books with a geopolitical perspective. This is an opus which had been his life mission. Thanks to Armand Bisson the book has been digitized, and it appears on the [www.subud.sica.fr](http://www.subud.sica.fr) in french and in English as well. Please check it out.....

with love, Erica for Sica France (Erica Zoltan Sapir, La Maison en Paille, 30760 SALAZAC tel. +33(0)466792420

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## The Meeting (a Subud satire)

*Emmanuel Cahill writes...*

At the recent Vancouver congress, a bunch of us got together and made a short film. It's a Subud Satire. I wrote the script for it. Please, have a look (and remember, please, that's it's a satire – we're not being serious!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2gYp1lZ66c&feature=youtu.be>

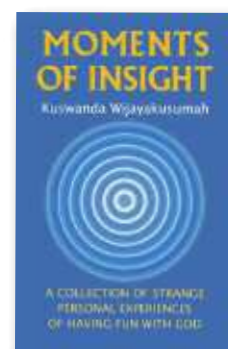
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## Subud Voice books

*Subud Voice has recently published two new books...*

### Moments of Insight

Moments of Insight - a collection of strange personal experiences of having fun with God is a new book by the Indonesian Subud member Kuswanda Wijayakusumah, better known to his many friends as Pak Kuswanda...Moments of Insight is available both as an e-book and a printed book from [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). Price 10 Pounds.



### They Were There

They Were There by Ilaina Lennard, the best articles from Subud Voice during the time Ilaina edited the magazine, is also available.

*Ilaina writes...* This new book is a selection of all the best Subud stories – as published in Subud Voice itself during the time I edited it from 1987. For the benefit of those who were not in Subud at the time, this first volume describes what Subud is, and tells quite extensively about Bapak's death. Here is one response to the book.

*Saxon Aldred sent the following comments to Ilaina about 'THEY WERE THERE', Vol 1 of the best stories from SUBUD VOICE...*

"I've just finished reading "They Were There", and I just have to tell you how very much I enjoyed reading it. I'm just sorry I've got to the end!! It was great re-reading all those stories – some of which I had almost forgotten, whilst others brought back vivid memories; they appealed to so many levels.

On the one hand they were just ordinary stories of 'everyday' life, but they all had an extra-ordinary dimension, and demonstrate so clearly the wonderful Subud family we all belong to. In the first sentence on page 155 Muftiah Arnold puts it very succinctly when she says, 'Our Subud family is not a closed circuit, but expands and spirals constantly into the Spiritual Brotherhood of Subud'. I liked that a lot, and also when she says the word 'brotherhood' is shop-soiled and inadequate. But I can't think of a better word at the moment!!"

### HOW TO ORDER 'THEY WERE THERE – The Best of Subud Voice Volume 1'

1. Go to [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)
2. In 'search', select 'books' and type "The Best of Subud Voice" (NOTE: NOT "They Were There" or Ilaina's name).
3. Click 'GO',
4. When the page comes up, follow the on-screen links to the shopping basket, setting preferred payment method, delivery & billing address(es) and postage rate as and when prompted to do so. Note: Books normally take 3 – 5 days to arrive depending on postage price opted for.

### PLEASE HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT USE A COMPUTER

Those who cannot use a computer may find it very difficult to know how order the book. Please help them. by ordering it for them, or, if they live in the UK, please draw their attention to the following.

### FOR MEMBERS IN THE UK ONLY

As a special offer to UK members, a single copy of the book can be ordered at a cost of £12.50 (including postage). Add £11.50 (also includes postage) for each additional copy.

Cheques payable to Ilaine Lennard, 8 Sissinghurst Grove, Cheltenham, Glos. GL51 3FA, UK.

Payments can also be made direct to Ilaine Lennard, Sort code: 07 02 46 A/c number: 278 775 19.

Any queries by phone – (0)1242 707701 or e-mail to [ilaine.l@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ilaine.l@blueyonder.co.uk)

(NOTE: This special offer is made to help older members who have difficulty using computers.)

UK members can of course also order the book from [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) (see 'How to Order' above).

The book is a paperback, 186 pages: price £10 plus postage.

**Profits from sales will help keep Subud Voice FREE and ongoing for another 25 years!**

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The premise on which the Quest is based is very simple, and it applies equally to all ages and stages of life – if you want to explore your outer potential and new opportunities, then look inside. What the Quest does is to provide a space and a process where a group of committed people can do this together.

The first ever Adult Quest will run from Jan 25 to Feb 4 2013 at the Eco-Village, Rungan Sari, Kalimantan. Cost is \$1,000 inclusive of program, facilitation, accommodation, food and 3 day excursion up-river.

For more information on the Yes Quest, visit [www.yesquest.org](http://www.yesquest.org)  
For an application form, please email Silvana at [silvana@yesquest.org](mailto:silvana@yesquest.org)

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MONTHLY ONLINE

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

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[www.subudvoice.net](http://www.subudvoice.net)

A Spanish facsimile edition usually appears a little later on the same web site.

**SUBMISSIONS**

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

email: [editor@subudvoice.net](mailto:editor@subudvoice.net)

Tel: + 61 3 95118122

Submissions are invited which relate to Subud life or are from Subud members. We cannot guarantee when or if a submission sep be published. Preference will be given to articles of about 2000 words or less accompanied by a photograph, well-written in English and dealing with the activities of Subud members, or expressing a Subud member's perspective on a subject.

Articles should be written in such a way that they are intelligible and interesting to both Subud members and the general public. Sometimes this sep mean providing an explanatory introduction or notes for the non-Subud reader

There is no payment for submissions. Correspondence about articles will generally not be entered into.

Submissions to Subud Voice sep be edited for a variety of reasons including the need to shorten them or improve expression. If you do not want your submission to be edited in any way, please mark it clearly NOT TO BE EDITED.

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