

*Siti Rahayu Wiryojudoyo*

Pamulang, 27<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Brothers and sisters of Subud Australia whom I love and respect,

In the spirit of the New Year, I wish you all 'Happy New Year'. I hope that our lives this past year gave us experiences in life that were meaningful and that we enter this New Year with the enthusiasm to face all the possibilities as the flowering of our lives in the coming year.

Brothers and sisters, even though we feel fresh enthusiasm, I ask those of you who will work on the committee and the helpers' *dewan* to continue to run Subud in the way Bapak laid out as the founder of Subud. And to make sure that the development of Subud outside Indonesia complies with local laws and regulations to ensure we have legal status in every country. This is to avoid any suspicion that we are not law-abiding people. For that reason, in Subud, the committee and helper's *dewan* must have a good and solid cooperation so that, as they carry out their respective tasks, everyone moves in parallel toward the same goal.

Subud has been in existence for more than fifty years and there are no significant problems at present. God willing, Subud will be around for a long time to come, if that is God's will. As it passes from one generation to the next we need to have close and sustainable ties between the generations. The facts that we have old Subud members and newer much younger members means that they need to work with each other to give each the support and understanding they need.

The latihan is only our training and education. One can say it is our education from within – from the power of God. That is why, before one can do latihan, one must be opened. At the opening, one's true self is introduced to

one's 'Teacher'. That is why for instance we registered Subud with the Department of Education in Indonesia. This is just an example.

At national as well as international meetings, it is important to report on the progress and state of individual groups so that, if there are problems or undesirable things going on, you will deal with those problems together. Especially for the work in the *kejiwaan* -which is closely connected to our daily lives -helpers need to get along in their work. They need to be able to command respect and to act as good examples for the members. But it does not mean that helpers make the decisions or have to be trusted. Many helpers are not able or not willing to be introspective and look at themselves yet.

Once people in Subud can live their lives according to God's will, then, although the progress of Subud life in this world will have its ebbs and flows and there will be setbacks, but it will continue to grow. One of the problems we face is that the workings of the forces of this world are extremely powerful with the result that many people have lost their compass and are not aware of the influence of desire and do not know how to live in the right way.

In our case, we have the latihan as our provision; it is time to put it into practice in our lives. God equipped us with all the equipment we need to live as human beings in this world – our body, our organs, our senses, our mind and so on, and each part of us has its own duties. So our brain steers our thoughts to meet the outer needs of our life. So, do not get the wrong idea that we do not need to use our minds in Subud. In fact, God intends that people should have clear thinking, so that they can evaluate their needs and have a secure and complete life.

But we also have to remember that we will not have a physical body to equip our lives forever. When the time comes for us to leave this world, we will leave everything we have in this world behind – it will not function in the realm there. For that reason, God sent messengers to humankind who brought advice and instruction from God through religion, so that people would not lose their way in life and would be able to return to God. But through the eras, the influence of the world has become ever stronger. Now disasters are occurring

everywhere, there is so much chaos and wrongdoing that it is as if people have lost their excellent human qualities, with the result that many are predicting that, perhaps, this is the end of the world.

It is a grace from Almighty God that in this high technology era, God has once again shown human beings the way – the essence of God is there inside a human being. But it can only be reached by the power of God, once a human being puts his or herself in a state of surrender, willingness to let go and acceptance. This is when people are not required to use their minds, even though they remain in a state of complete consciousness. That is why when you do latihan you should not use your mind or imagination – it will block the way for you that connects to the soul.

This concludes my address to you, so that it will awaken you and you will feel again what we feel when do the latihan.

I wish you a good national congress. I hope the congress goes well and will be beneficial for the development of Subud in Australia in future.

My warmest regards to the members there and thank you all for your prayers when I was non-active, as I needed a long break. My condition is much better; however, I have to limit my activities because of my age.

Thank you.

IBU,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siti Rahayu', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo