

Renata Reid

This morning I decided to go to Starbucks to write my morning pages. Having just returned from the National Gathering, I wanted to continue the human connection. This is what I wrote. “So here I am, in a coffee shop at 8 am writing. At the Congress I did some talent testing. It was a workshop called, “Understanding True Culture and Talent Testing” led by Muhammad Isman. The name seemed ambiguous to me. I knew I wanted to do some talent testing but what does “understanding true culture” mean?

We spent the first hour talking about our personal journeys, culture, Bapak and how our expression of the latihan in our daily lives is our culture. I’ve heard this before, that we are the culture of Subud, that the culture of Subud is us. Sitting through the discussion part of the workshop, I was nodding off, feeling bored, impatient. I realize now how very impatient I am.

But this time it seeped into me slowly, surrounded by words and other annoyances. The message came through, it said “our latihan is accessible all the time. Living with our latihan, letting our latihan come through into our daily life IS our “living” culture. It creates culture around us. It is a way to truly live on the human level. So as I write this, I allow the latihan to come through me, into my hand, onto the page and yes, out into Starbucks and the world. I am the living latihan of Renata. I AM culture.

In the testing, which came later, we tested on our true talents and gifts. We each had an opportunity to feel for ourselves some aspect of our personal talents. Even then I was restless and impatient. I wanted answers! I received aspects of my nature that is becoming more and more clear to me. I recognized talents that I already have that need to be more fully expressed. I also realize now that these gifts are emerging all the time, in my art, my healing work and in the way that I interact with the world around me.

Even now, the richness of our latihan culture continues to seep deeply into me. I almost feel the need to clear some space for it to percolate down into my body. Each time I join my brothers and sisters in latihan I tap back into the well. When I leave, I carry the body of the latihan in mine, it is shaped liked me.”

When I returned from Starbucks, I joined the morning latihan that our Subud brothers and sisters were doing in Albuquerque. I want to stay connected for as long as I could, wherever I happen to be. I feel this connection even now so very clearly and strongly.

Thank you Muhammad Isman for sharing your talents and gifts with us at the Gathering.