

Australia - a Confusing Nation

'Musings at Death's Door: an octogenarian bi-cultural Asian-Australian ponders about Australian society'

DALMENY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA, October 20, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In this whitish outpost of the West, set in coloured waters, and surrounded by worrisome foreign faiths, myth meets reality in challenging ways. Myth – Australia is a Middle Power. Reality – Australia is a satrapy of the USA. It rushes behind its hoped-for protector into wars which have no bearing on its existence.

An octogenarian Asian-Australian author (Raja Arasa Ratnam) would like to see his adopted nation (of which he is strangely proud) become the next state of the USA. Why? Australia would become less welfare-oriented and more enterprise-driven; it would enjoy the military protection it seeks (while not having to pay for its armoury); it can strut the world stage without being uncertain about the way it might be viewed by its major export customers; and less subservient to foreign investors (the nation will not survive without an on-going inflow of foreign capital); and it will become a republic which elects its presidents directly (a majority preference).

Myth – Australia is multicultural, with more languages and ethnicities within its borders than any other nation; and it upholds human rights. Reality – the 'ethnics' being broadly spread throughout its electorates, the nation is well-controlled by Anglo-Celts. Its social policies are dominated by the values of the Vatican. Voluntary euthanasia is anathema; a legislated charter of human rights is opposed by those 'of the faith'; and race discrimination legislation offers (sort of) protection against being offended, even by spoken words!

'Musings at Death's Door: an ancient bicultural Asian-Australian ponders about Australian society' (published 2012) presents a rear-vision mirror assessment of Australia after the author's highly interactive and contributory life of more than 6 decades in his adopted nation. It was only after a professor of history and politics had written (in summary) "There is wisdom here" that the author decided to publish this book. It was then recommended by the US Review of Books.

The book covers a range of issues: religion; the Cosmos; professional ethnics and multiculturalism; migrants, refugees and unlawful arrivals, viz. asylum seekers; racism and tribalism; national identity; governance; family and society; empires – gone and going; subservience (of the political class vs. the stand-tall workers); and biculturalism. It is hard-hitting but fair. The analysis is deep, the commentary incisive.

The author is a communitarian small-l liberal (thereby a political orphan). He has an extensive record of contribution to civil society: national president of Australian Rostrum (akin to Toastmasters); foundation chairman of a school board (when he wrote an accepted outline of a program for teaching primary school children about religion – no indoctrination); founder of a public speaking competition for primary school children in the national capital and surrounding townships; chairman of a union committee which established merit protection procedures in the federal public service (receiving a Meritorious Service Award); co-founder of a national public speaking competition for secondary school students; and an appointed member of the health advisory committee in his shire. There were sundry other contributions. His activities led to him being a luncheon guest of the Governor-General; and as co-guest of honour with a State Governor on two occasions.

The author's two memoirs - 'Destiny Will Out' (1997) and 'The Dance of Destiny' (2010) show that the spirit world 'hijacked' him to Australia, and kept him there. His experiences include the wheels of his life-chances cart falling off from time to time; and him falling into holes which were not there! The US Review of Books recommended 'The Dance of Destiny.'

It was after a significant psychic experience – when the spirit of his favourite uncle materialised to offer him spiritual guidance – that the author began to write. This was in response to his uncle's advice that he could “contribute to building a bridge from where you came to where you are.” 'Destiny Will Out' reflected both his own settlement experiences and his work – over 9 years – (at the level of Director) on policies relating to migrant integration.

The book was so well received by senior academics and a wide range of readers that he wrote 'The Karma of Culture' (2003) and 'Hidden Footprints of Unity' (2004). Both were recommended by the US Review of Books. The supportive pre-publication endorsements by senior academics and other appropriate notable persons have since been confirmed. Both books cover issues relating to successful migrant integration.

'The Dance of Destiny' describes (in Part 1) life under British colonialism, the Japanese military occupation of Malaya, and an interesting but short stay in Singapore by the author and his Anglo-Australian wife. Part 2 of this book covers the author's travails during the White Australia era. The book ends with a strong spiritual overlay.

'Pithy Perspectives: a smorgasbord of short, short stories' (2011) reflects the author's whimsical approach to life. It was reviewed favourably (as was 'Destiny Will Out') by the US Review of Books and, most strongly, by a state president of the Federation of Australian Writers.

Raja Arasa Ratnam's books are available as ebooks from amazon.com and its associated outlets at \$US 2.99 each. They are now receiving customer reviews to complement the earlier endorsements and reviews.

For what it is worth, the author has been described as “an intellectual who cannot be categorised” and his writings noted as representing “a sliver of Australia's post-war history.” (Refer Prof. Greg Melleuish of Wollongong University, Australia). Although the author arrived in Australia in 1948, when the White Australia policy had sharp teeth, he has no recriminations. Australia is on its way to joining the Family of Man, he says.

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