

Author Profile – Raja Arasa Ratnam

DALMENY, NEW SOUTH WALES, COUNTRY,

November 16, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ --

This author's life-path has been convoluted. The wheels of his life-chances cart tend to fall off, or he will fall into holes which were not there. Yet, he is a survivor. Like steel tempered by fire, his soul has been strengthened by hardship.

He was hijacked by the spirit world to racist White Australia in the late 1940s, but was sustained by his cultural heritage - even to achieving leadership positions in civil society: eg. national president of Australian Rostrum (akin to Toastmasters), chairman of a school board, recipient of a Meritorious Service Award from a trade union, director of Rotary, etc.

He qualified as a psychologist, but was rejected as 'too black.' His actual colour is light tan! He then qualified as an economist, but was rejected by corporations offering good career prospects because 'the Australian worker is not yet ready for a foreign executive.'

The federal public service, however, promoted him rapidly: statistician, economic analyst, and policy

director of immigrant integration. But he was denied promotion to the Senior Executive Service twice - first by a WASP (white Anglo-Saxon Protestant), then by a head for whose henchmen the word mass had great weight.

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As fire tempers steel, so
hardship strengthens the
human soul

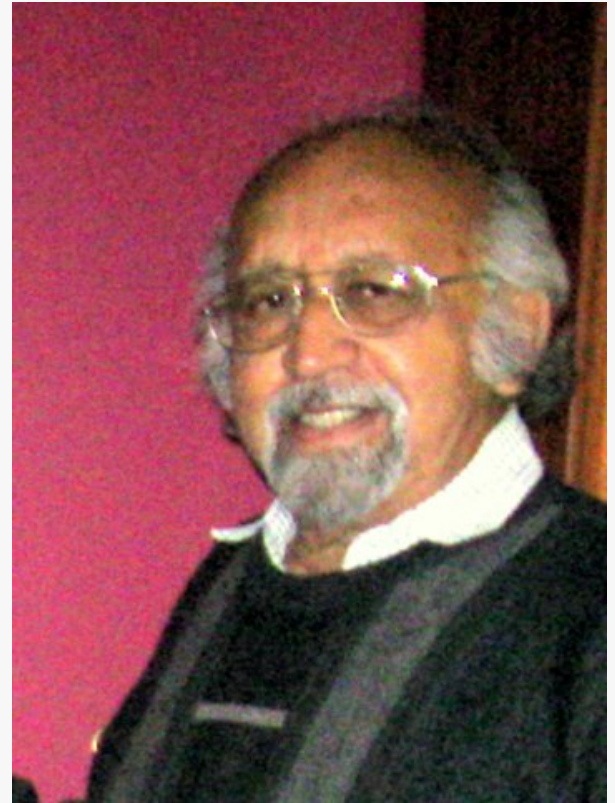
Raja RATNAM

However, as a metaphysical Hindu, he was uplifted by the Upanishads above such material matters as racism and tribalism to the spiritual realm.

He began to write after the spirit of his uncle (sent to guide him by 'higher beings') suggested that he 'contribute to building a bridge from where you came to where you are.' Based on personal experience and knowledge, he has

combined Eastern philosophy and Asian communalism with Western operational ideology and individualism. He is both 'insider' and 'outsider.' Born in the Year of the Dragon, he soars into the sky of solitude while simultaneously dipping into the sea of humanity, singing songs of praise to the Divine.

In terms of bridge building, his books stress 'Unity from Diversity,' underpinned by a shared citizenship, with religious practice a private matter.



Author Raja Arasa Ratnam

A few personal details:

He is an octogenarian, Malaysia-born, of Ceylonese descent. He was accepted by senior academics and other notables as knowledgeable about migrant integration into society, because of his work experience as Director of Policy (over 9 years) in the federal bureaucracy.

It was the advice from the spirit of his uncle which led him to write his books – 2 memoirs, 2 on policy issues, 1 on Australian society, and a bicultural book of short, short stories. All of these were favourably endorsed/reviewed by senior academics and other notables, with the US Review of Books recommending 4 of the non-fiction books.

Over a 12-month period, he then wrote 44 articles for www.exinearticles.com, and has (to date) written nearly 900 daily posts on Wordpress (refer 'An octogenarian's final thoughts' on rajarasablog.wordpress.com). His posts cover a wide range of topics, reflecting his life experiences and wide reading, as well his tendency to seek (or tentatively infer) patterns of significance.

He has been described as 'an intellectual who cannot be categorised.' He is also a political orphan; a communitarian small-I liberal.

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None
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