

# The Trauma of Transplantation – Raja Arasa Ratnam

DALMENY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA, November 24, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ -- I offer extracts from my book 'The Karma of Culture,' written as an Asian settler in Australia; that is, both as an 'insider' and an 'outsider.' While immigrants do need to adapt to the institutions and social mores of the nation they chose to enter, in particular, to dispense with or modify those cultural practices which conflict with the prevailing standards of the host people, they are free to be upheld by those enduring religio-cultural values of their ancestors.

EXCERPTS from 'The Karma of Culture'

## Chapter 1 Be True To Thine Self

There is a tide in the affairs of men  
which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.  
- Shakespeare

"I am an integral part of a nation founded in fear. It

lives in fear. While it struts the world stage – for example, as a "wannabe" mediator between two nations with nuclear warheads, or as an effusive preacher on human rights to any Asian or Pacific nation which might listen - it continues to be a little fearful."

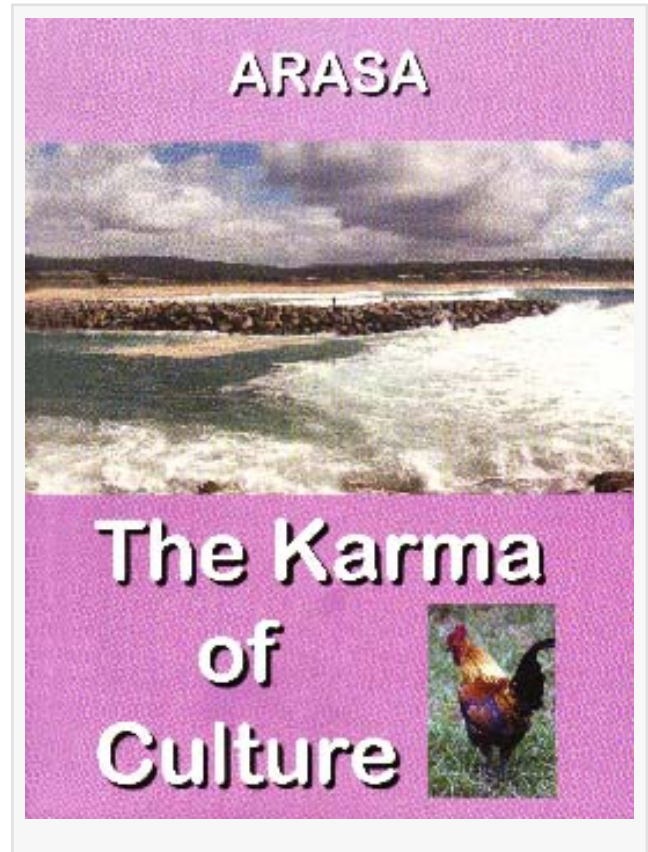
## Chapter 2 Unity In Diversity

She tried to found a salon  
but only succeeded in opening  
a restaurant  
- Oscar Wilde

"My relatives and friends, whether living in South East Asia, the USA, Britain, or Australia, speak a lot of English at home and in their ethnic community relations. Some have given away the Hindu religious taboo against beef. Some ignore the social taboo against pork. Yet, in almost every way, their life in their countries of residence is governed by their social customs and cultural traditions."

## Chapter 3 A Silent Slippage

People will not look forward



to posterity, who never look  
backward to their ancestors.

-Edmund Burke

“Anyone brought up surrounded by what is known as Asian values, in that escalating culture war between East and West, will be quietly despondent about the deterioration in Australian families. What are the changes which have emerged, like a slowly rising volcano from the deep seas of a violently disrupted ocean? When and how did these changes come about? What impacts of these changes are manifest, and what are their consequences?”

#### Chapter 4 Keeping The Bastards Honest

All animals are equal  
but some animals are  
more equal than others

-George Orwell

“A colonial subject dreams of the day when the hated, arrogant, oppressor has gone. His people will be free to rule themselves. But, before his reluctant departure, the coloniser sets up a new form of government. In doing so, he is quite certain that the people are not yet ready to govern themselves. Has he not been preparing them for that great day when they are able to rule themselves in an acceptable manner? (I was told that this was taught to children in British schools.) “

#### Chapter 5 Here Comes The Neighbourhood

Her frocks are built in Paris,  
but she wears them with an English accent

- Saki

“For more than half a century, I have watched with amazement (and some embarrassment) at the way the official Australian, his media acolyte, and many ordinary citizens, hold, so assiduously, onto that antiquated “whitefella” view of the neighbourhood beyond the nation’s shores. “

#### Chapter 6 We are one

The whistle shrilled and, in a moment, I was chugging out of Grand Central’s dreaming spires, followed only by the anguished cries of relatives who would have to go to work. I had chugged only a few feet when I realized that I had left without the train, so I had to run back and wait for it to start.

-S.J.Perelman

“In spite of some quibbles and a few strong criticisms, I do aver that Australia is a wonderful nation. It is indeed the nation of the future. We, the people, are a mix of diverse origins living together amicably. As one of the very large influx of post war immigrants, I can say that most of us work very hard to improve ourselves and thus have a positive impact on the nation. Both by choice and by opportunity, I myself have made a small contribution to the direction taken by my nation over the last half century.”

Addendum:

Neither Christianity nor the ultra-West’s vision of democracy has a claim to be unique or even durable. There are many paths to our Creator, as the tolerant forest faiths of Asia have demonstrated for more than two millennia. The paths to political freedom have to evolve, not to be imposed. And more equitable treatment of our indigene, with equal opportunity for all coloured people, is a must, lest the

Creator finds us wanting!

We might then expect that there will be less divergence from the intent and impact of Asian values as against Australian practices in all spheres of human action. Then we can all claim to be equals, and our babies can continue to wiggle their toes at us with mutual joy.

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None

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