

"What I don't know, I don't
recognize."

"You don't need to live in fear."

Author;

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Colophon

*What I don't know, I cannot recognize.
You don't need to live in fear.*

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It's not a fairytale.

In 1979, a twenty-year-old young man arrived in the Netherlands. After a long and fearful journey, during which he tried to suppress his worries and anxieties, he felt an enormous sense of relief when he finally set foot on Dutch soil. Despite his firm decision never to board a plane again, he knew that the future might lead him in a different direction.

Surrounded by strangers who occasionally glanced at him with curiosity or completely ignored him, he took a deep breath. Everything around him was different: the atmosphere, the smell, the light, and the humidity were entirely unfamiliar compared to his homeland. The Netherlands would now become his new home, and he was on the brink of adapting to this new and unknown environment.

With each step on the unfamiliar ground, he began to realize that this change was not just a physical relocation but also an emotional and cultural journey. As he absorbed the first impressions of his new surroundings, he knew he had to open himself up to this new experience, despite the challenges and uncertainties that lay ahead. This journey would not only bring him to a new country but also to a new version of himself.

In his bag, he carried the precious history books of the Vishnuh Society, written on lontar leaves, and the urgent task of protecting the name Pencak-Silat from misuse made his goals clear and compelling. His mentor, Professor Gerrit van Praag, had thoroughly informed him about the Netherlands, but reality exceeded his expectations in intensity. The cold and chill were much stronger than he had imagined, making the transition all the more confronting. Full of hope and determination, the young Gurubesar arrived in the Netherlands, ready to fulfill his important mission. He not only expected support from his family and new members but also believed that their help was essential to accomplish his mission. He thought that his role as Gurubesar of the Vishnuh Society would enable him to call to account those who misused the name Pencak-Silat and to translate the sacred books of his ancestors for a broader audience. Additionally, he hoped that the Dutch government would be open to subsidies and other forms of support to expand the society. He was convinced that bringing the message of peace, happiness, and humanity, inherent in the Vishnuh Society, would be a valuable addition to the Netherlands. He dreamed of integrating the deeply rooted principles of his culture and faith into Dutch society, seeing it as an opportunity to bridge the gap between his past and his new future.

However, the reality proved much more complicated than he had expected. The young Gurubesar found himself in a world steeped in abuse, lies, and selfishness. People who claimed to want to help him took advantage of his trust in ways he could never have imagined. Where in his homeland he could blindly trust others, this trust was repeatedly betrayed in the Netherlands.

This experience turned out to be a harsh lesson: if you don't know something, you can't recognize it. It was similar to learning a new concept; if someone has only learned that a particular object is a table, they won't recognize other objects in the room until someone tells them it's a chair. The same thing happened to the young Gurubesar. Although he was aware of rules and laws, he was unfamiliar with the specific procedures and customs in the Netherlands. If someone did explain something to him, it was often from a different context that made sense to them or with a hidden agenda that only complicated his situation.

In this new and unfamiliar environment, he learned that what he took for granted wasn't always understood the same way by others. The subtle nuances and implications of Dutch culture and the legal system were often opaque to him, and the often-contradictory information he received added to his confusion. It was a time of intense self-reflection and adaptation, where he learned that even the most fundamental concepts

and expectations are not universal but can vary greatly depending on context and culture.

It was difficult for people to understand that the young Gurubesar didn't recognize the Dutch rules and customs simply because he was unfamiliar with this new context. In the Vishnuh Society, where trust and protection were the norms, he had always experienced a natural sense of safety and mutual respect.

This stood in stark contrast to the world he had now entered, where he was often confronted with distrust and misunderstanding.

Safety and trust are universal human needs, fundamental to our well-being, regardless of our diversity. Everyone requires basic care and support, and these needs transcend differences in color, race, gender, origin, and belief. Yet, humanity is often divided into categories based on such characteristics, often stemming from fear of the unknown.

This fear of the unknown often leads to division and misunderstandings, making it difficult for people to connect with one another. The young Gurubesar painfully experienced this divide when his attempt to navigate a new culture was hindered by prejudices and limited understanding of his situation. Despite his desire to spread the message of peace and cooperation, he found it difficult to break through the barriers of cultural differences and mistrust.

The realization that safety and trust are not guaranteed in all circumstances, and that cultural and social differences can deeply impact how people understand and treat one another, became an important lesson for him. This insight became a crucial part of his journey and contributed to his growth and adaptation in a world that proved to be both challenging and rich with new possibilities.

Mirroring

Human beings are naturally social creatures who mirror themselves to others in order to learn and develop. From a young age, a child imitates its surroundings to acquire skills and prepare for adulthood. These imitations are essential for growth, but it is important to recognize that many of these skills are learned and not always authentic.

While certain skills, such as walking and talking, are universal and acquired by everyone in a similar manner, the way someone expresses themselves and moves is often a reflection of their personal identity. This expression and movement are shaped by cultural norms, personal experiences, and individual preferences. The realization that many of our skills and behaviors are not innately authentic but arise from social and cultural influences helps us understand that personal authenticity is a process of self-discovery and self-expression.

It is the task of each individual to break through learned habits and discover how to express their own unique identity, both in their personal and social lives. This search for authenticity goes beyond following cultural norms and social expectations. It requires deeper reflection on who we truly are and how we can present ourselves in an honest and sincere way. It is this

balance between learned skills and personal identity that enables us to lead an authentic and fulfilling life. The young Gurubesar learned the hard way that trust, and safety are not guaranteed in every society. His journey through the Netherlands turned into an adventure full of great challenges but also rich life lessons. What began as a hopeful search for a new home soon became a process of profound learning and self-discovery. In a world that often turned out to be different from what he had hoped or expected, he found himself seeking help, understanding, and recognition.

The contrasts between his previous experiences and the reality of his new environment were stark and made his journey both challenging and educational. The confrontation with the lack of inherent trust and the need to constantly adapt taught him that true safety and recognition are not simply given but often must be earned and built. Despite the difficulties, he also discovered valuable insights into human interactions, cultural differences, and the essence of authenticity and perseverance.

His experiences in the Netherlands formed a crucial part of his personal development and deepened his understanding of the complexity of human relationships and culture. This journey taught him that, although the world may not always meet our expectations, the challenges, and lessons we encounter

can help us grow and prepare us for a deeper, more authentic way of living.

Take myself as an example. All the learned behaviors were shaped around the core of who I already was. By developing my potential, I came closer to discovering my true self and found out which behaviors, norms, and values truly align with me. This process didn't happen overnight; it was a long and ongoing journey that required constant attention and maintenance. What I've discovered about myself is not static or unchanging. Stagnation in my development would mean limiting myself and putting myself in a box. Life is dynamic, and so are my personal growth and development.

This continuous evolution allows me to adapt to new insights, experiences, and circumstances. Getting to know myself and adjusting my behaviors and values in line with my growth keeps my life rich and meaningful. It is an ongoing process of self-reflection and adaptation, where I continually work on strengthening my authenticity and adaptability in a world that is constantly changing.

Within the Society, where members support and encourage each other, I will undoubtedly find the necessary support and encouragement in my choices, even if not everyone has to agree with them. The Gurubesar is always ready to help members gain a clear vision of their path, even when that path seems

invisible through the mist. This community offers a beacon of help and understanding in a world that can sometimes be confusing and challenging.

In the modern world, full of asphalt and concrete, support from others is not always a given. The people around me often seem as rigid and unchanging as the gray cement that surrounds us. Rules and laws have created boxes in which everyone is placed, supposedly to provide safety and order. But in reality, these labels serve to determine how you fit into their world and what your utility is to them. Labeling is never about you as an individual; it's always about how you fit into their preconceived system.

This false sense of security offers little room for the nuances of individual existence. Even within the same boxes, there are countless variations and unique personal experiences. What is presented as safety through labeling often turns out to be a limited and superficial approach to reality. Real life, with all its complexity and diversity, can never be fully captured in the strict categories imposed upon us.