

14 PAM 1

Ibu Rahayu's Remarks to SICA

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Recording 14 PAM 1

Final Translation by Raymond Lee

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Brothers and sisters whom I love and respect, welcome. I say that because this is my first opportunity to see you all. I am delighted that the members of SICA took the initiative to hold your meeting here in Indonesia. However, I apologize; it is still not easy for me to go out. That is why I said to Muti that, if you are willing to come here [to Pamulang], I might be able to join you.

I am also happy because it is a long time since I was active giving spiritual guidance, even though letters keep coming and I get many letters now, especially, from the Spanish-speaking countries. Is that not so, [Paloma]? [*Ibu laughs.*] Have the SICA meetings begun?

Muti: Yes, Ibu.

Ibu: Already. Of course, my hope is that the meeting that SICA has begun at Adi Puri will go well and prove useful in preparing for the coming world congress.

Brothers and sisters, of course, I am not going comment on or add to things SICA is discussing; that is your job. But, perhaps I need to add a little, that SICA is one of the Wings that are really needed. Why are the Wings so needed? By having Wings – SICA, Youth, and SDI – they will provide explanations or whatever gets expressed from the latihan through your inspirations while doing SICA activities, namely art and culture.

Since SICA [activities] are directly connected with the *kejiwaan*, whatever you express or possess is a channel for the soul. Other people will not know whether that comes from the soul or low forces, but they will get a pleasant and enjoyable feeling as they watch or listen or participate in whatever you produce. I say this is necessary because we cannot demonstrate the latihan to the public, who, of course, are not in Subud and do not understand the latihan.

And to the other visitors who have come from far away to attend my birthday... Actually, it is not a birthday celebration; I am just holding a thanksgiving. Why a thanksgiving? The reason is that before today, I was unwell for a month. I have only been able to walk in the last three or four days. I still have to keep this in a sling. [*Ibu indicates her left arm.*] I had a fall. Then I remembered what Bapak said when he was still here: 'Make sure you never have a fall. If you fall, it is the sign that you are losing your physical balance.'

Since that happened, I am much more careful. My activities are even more limited. However, thanks to Almighty God, everything went well. I did not need to go to hospital, and everything went well and it looks like I will return to normal.

Certainly, I am extremely grateful; by coming here, I have received an honour from all of you who came all the way here and who are still actively following this spiritual path, by God's will.

When I fell, I even asked myself: 'Has the time come when I have to go home?' [*Ibu laughs.*]

Strangely, the answer was, 'Not yet!' That was the reply.

What does 'not yet' mean? Am I going to get even sicker? [*Ibu laughs.*]

Brothers and sisters, this concludes my brief address. I hope the members of SICA are not disappointed, since along with all of you, I also invited those who came from far away. Well, this way I can see all of you in one go. [*Ibu laughs.*]

Do you members of SICA object if these other members listen to the report from the SICA chair, who wants to report on what you have been doing so far? Actually, it is not necessary. All the same, once you make your report, you will probably feel more motivated. That is why I am happy and willing to listen if that is your plan. [*Latifah*], you can stand up if you like.

[*Latifah Taormina and Harvey Peters report on the meeting.*]

Brothers and sisters, indeed it is not easy to uncover something. There are SICA [activities] and there are others. In truth, they are connected. However, one will use one [ability], while another is seen as unnecessary because it does not earn money; therefore, one does not upgrade that ability. It gets ignored.

In truth, everyone, each individual, has art and culture. The problem is that, since we usually do not know our true selves, so instead we pursue what is easy, what is easy to achieve. But we tend not to pursue what comes from the true self, each individual's art and culture. [So, people think], 'Forget about it. God is the only one who knows what that is. Let it be.' Even I did not know what [my] art and culture was when in fact everyone has art, and has culture. This is why Subud is called Susila Budhi Dharma. *Budhi* is a power that every human being has. After being opened one should know one's true self.

A talent, in truth, is something that everyone has; but we never attend to it. What we pursue is what will earn money, what is easy to achieve. But we do not

uncover what we have within us. Well, indeed, we live in this world and we tend to prioritize our needs in life in this world.

So, in reality, suppose someone asks me, 'What is my talent?' The truth is I do not know. Oh dear, I would have to... I would have to delve into this person's soul and that person's soul. That is too hard to do! Bapak used to reply: 'I have given you the latihan. With your latihan seek whatever it is that you need from your latihan. Do not ask Bapak what your talent is, what your ability is, no. If you can, ask your self. Examine your self.'

As such, it is indeed hard to say what each individual's talent is. It is also hard because, for us in Subud, we find that we can do all kinds of things. If only to some extent, we can do all kinds of things. That is why, when trying to find the right one, adjust it to your situation: are you healthy, are you intelligent? Match it with your situation. Therefore, putting SICA into practice is difficult. It is hard enough to achieve that for your self. It is even harder for someone else to understand your feelings, to understand how far God has touched you. This is the difficulty. In some cases, one's talent emerges only after one is old. But once one is old, one probably cannot do it actively. That can happen.

But, in your own case, do not get disheartened and think, 'If that is so, what am I working in SICA for?' It is so that you will get experience. So, I recommend... While we cannot say that SICA is a success yet in that there is no enterprise that is SICA based, yet, one based on members' abilities or progress, but there needs to be. Otherwise, we will not be able to put this into practice. So, your job now is to find a way to ensure that SICA can continue and not disappear. Therefore, create opportunities for young people; they indeed have talents. They have talents, but those talents can be tucked under or be blocked by their physical condition or other factors. So, if you have spare time, coach young people to develop their talent in a good way, meaning, on a track that leads to God.

In art and culture there are tracks that are not from God, but the low forces. For instance, in Indonesia there is *Jaran Kepang* [a traditional dance where men in a trance state ride mock horses]. It does not come from God, but from low forces. Well, it probably originally came from a horse. [*Ibu laughs.*] It means that the horse rides the dancers; those dancers do not ride the horse. There are many things like that. By doing that, because one submits to a low force, one will end up not human. That is an example.

Whereas on other tracks... As I said, art and culture is inside everyone. What would be an example? Suppose someone has ability as a leader. However, while being a leader, they find that they get interested in preparing medication. While preparing remedies, how come they come up with something new that can cure

people? That too is art, the art in the talent of healing people. However, it is not the cultural field, but the health field, yet the reality is it can develop and progress. But it is there. It develops. Yes it does. This is the point. That is just one example.

I think this is all I want to say, since I am not an artist or involved in culture. [*Ibu laughs.*] However, I admire Bapak. He had many talents. Although he did not have much education, he had abilities. Although his education was limited – not like people today – he had abilities.

In the field of sport, Bapak enjoyed martial arts. He did not learn his martial art from someone else; it grew out of his latihan. Since it came from the latihan, it could be very powerful. By his own account, if during training, martial art training, Bapak hit someone, that person would pass out. [*Laughter; Ibu laughs.*] Eventually, Bapak became apprehensive, so he did not continue. That is an example.

He also researched and compiled a dictionary. Compiling a dictionary is hard. Especially, compiling a Javanese one, he had to study *Kawi* – the archaic form of Javanese. Where did he learn that? He was guided in his latihan. That is just one example. This is why I said, if we have to be like Bapak, it is hard.

So, do not be disappointed that, after so long in Subud, why is SICA not self-sustaining yet? SICA cannot stand on its own feet yet, correct? To stand on its own feet means SICA can function and support other activities, it can support the spiritual side and the financial side. That is all.

I think this explanation about SICA is sufficient and, hopefully, you will realize that it is not that easy to find one's own talent. That is because... Well, we do the latihan and that means we make the effort. But whether [a talent] will bring us success in life, we leave that to Almighty God.

That is all and I thank you.
