

“The red road to yellow nation” – Report of a journey to Bali

During the past summer I spent several weeks travelling, with my son Mamre and Alfonso Perez.

Our destination was Bali, Indonesia, where Evert (originally from The Netherlands) and his Balinese wife Dayu maintain a beautiful healing centre on the north coast of Bali, Pantai Mas. Temukus is the name of the small village where Pantai Mas is situated, by the sea and at the foot of a vast range of hills with fresh green rice fields.

Our purpose was to build a sweat lodge and to lead sweat lodges. And of course vacation, experiencing the beautiful heavenly island with its friendly people and its unique and rich Hindu culture.

The story of how this aspiration to bring the sweat lodge to Bali came about, goes back a long way.

In the time Evert still organised Suci-camps - and this probably goes back 12 years - I gave a sweat lodge at a centre called De Bron (The Source) in Friesland. The people were very enthusiastic. After that there were more Suci-camps with more sweat lodges. I can even remember Evert dropping by in Amsterdam, where I had built a small lodge in the grass strip next to the Amstel river where I lived then. He had brought a friend. We had tightened the water drum. The rain came down in buckets that night, the water streamed into the lodge like a swirling river, we had a good lodge. Evert came by for a talk later and I can remember that I made a tobacco string during that conversation, with the 4 colours of the directions of the wind, with a prayer wishing for a good cooperation and that the sweat lodge would go to Indonesia. After all those years I still have that tobacco string.

Bali is a special island and to me, a very dear place.

In 1988, when I was in my twenties, my life was in chaos and I couldn't connect with the “life” in Holland, I set off on a journey to Indonesia. And here I was overcome by a deep peace, which I had never experienced in Holland.

I stayed during several months in a village on the coast, where I was taken in as a child and underwent a total inner renewal.

Also thanks to the loving people of this Desa. I still feel a deep gratitude and respect towards these people.

And all of this was in Bali. Yes, the people of Bali and Bali as an island have a special place in my heart.

Evert has been living in Bali since several years now and during the past 6 or 7 years he regularly came with the request to build a lodge at his place at Pantai Mas.

All those years it wasn't the time for me and maybe also not for the lodge and the place.

Anyway, during the spring (2009) everything started developing rapidly, Evert came to Holland with his Wife Dayu, and we organised a sweat lodge in Vorden at Jan and Desiree's “Dwaaltuin het Heelal” (Wandering garden The Universe), where many people who knew Evert, and others, came by to sweat.

It was an intense lodge, where we announced “The way of the sweat lodge to Bali” and

prayed for a good arrival of the lodge in Bali.

Dayu did the water ceremony in a beautiful sacred way, so full of loving attention and like I have only seen it in Bali.

Then it was totally round for me, I'm going.

Everything was prepared.

At Pantai Mas a spot was prepared where the lodge would come.

While I was in Germany supporting the vision quest led by Alfonso.

I was there together with Mamre and we slept in the Roundhouse where the fire was kept burning during the whole week, and we slept under the Yellow Flag, that hung from the ceiling in between the Red and the Black and the White on the other side.

On the second day the people were in the mountains, I shared with Alfonso that I was going to Indonesia, Bali to be precise and said that an acquaintance who lives there has a resort and asked to make and do a lodge there. I wasn't exactly sure how to go about all of that in the right way. Bringing a sweat lodge, a ritual originally from the Native Americans, to Asia, and I felt the fire couldn't be lit by a "white man" and because of that Alfonso also became very enthusiastic, and came with me. We organised the ticket straight away and so it happened.

Once we arrived at Den-Pasar airport we let ourselves be immersed in the lively Balinese life and we felt at home almost directly.

During the first weeks we concentrated on building the lodge in the middle part of the terrain, in a lush garden full of exotic plants and many coloured flowers.

And of course we went to all kinds of Balinese rituals and ceremonies, very special.

Alfonso saw many parallels between the symbols and signs on the old Balinese temples and the old Aztec Mexican tradition, he was really in wonder and from time to time deeply moved.

At Pantai Mas we built a beautiful lodge from bamboo, an altar shaped like a turtle which is at the same time a small pond, holding water. (Water is the element of this time, the one that comes forward the most clearly. Water is an element we still cannot comprehend, life-destroying and life-creating, and when we look at the evolution all life was created from it, and we ourselves are made up of 70% to 90% water).

And the natural fire place where we can heat the rocks we brought from the foot of the volcano Genung Agung, all of this embedded within a half moon.

Binter, one of the young men who lives at Pantai Mas with his Family has helped a lot. Beautiful honest open spirit with an easy going flow.

Finally we hung the flags in the 4 directions of the wind (Red/east, Yellow/south, Black/west White/north, Green for the earth, Blue for the sky and Purple for spirit), and under them authentic Balinese "offering houses" that you see practically everywhere at places where offerings are done.

Dayu went around every morning like a sacred ninja to provide offerings at all the places, full of attention and love.

The place was now ready to be used.

We did 3 lodges with those present at Pantai Mas, guests, the people who live there and also several acquaintances of Evert and Dayu.

I still remember clearly what Alfonso shared one night before the lodge started, we were sitting in a circle with all kinds of different people with all kinds of different religious backgrounds. Muslim, Hindu, Christian, etc.

He said there is only one fire and one spirit and that, with the 4 colours connected with the different races that inhabit this earth, the Black and Yellow the Red and the White, we are one.

Religion has through the ages always tried to discriminate and because of that conflicts arose and we have made a mess of the earth. The sweat lodge is a place where we experience the elements earth, water, air and fire purely, for our purification and healing, and to leave behind us the feeling of being disconnected or having a different religion or other ideas or philosophical convictions.

We did a beautiful lodge and it was received well by all those present.

For me it was an interesting process, of many years, to see the way of the sweat lodge to Bali realised in such a beautiful way. Because I recognise and respect the value of the sweat lodge ceremony more and more deeply, and am beginning to understand the lessons more and more deeply.

Yes, we are one as humanity on this beautiful planet earth, although we don't realise and feel it every day.

This is what the elements want to say to everybody, to all colours and races that live on this earth. ONE.

We're back home now, Alfonso is touring through Europe. Dayu has done her first lodge at Pantai Mas with a large group of people and I hope many more will follow so the prayer of Peace and Dignity and Unity among all people on Mother Earth can one day become reality.

Maybe there will be a next time for us to settle on Bali for a continuation, if it's up to me and Alfonso any way.

Yes, yes, yes and yes, and this goes for Mamre too by the way.

Oho metakio oyasin.