



On a journey...

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By Susan Griffith-Jones, Exclusive

I hop off the bus early. The weather is so perfect that I just want to strut along Hollywood's 'Walk of Fame' and feel the warmth breezing onto my face. This is a real first for me in months, how clearly happiness and warm weather are linked! Later that evening, I leave early for the Bel Air Hotel, which is pretty much back up the same end of town I was in for lunch. I don't want to risk being late as Dr Bhaumik's secretary has rung me to make sure I can get there on my own and has requested me to be on time as 'Dr Bhaumik is very busy'. As it turns out, he himself is late, but I don't mind waiting in an alcove of the restaurant, as the environment is so pleasant. I'm surprised when I see him walk in, no sign at all of his 86 years in his brisk step, he's obviously as fit as a fiddle. Small talk doesn't last long. He asks me about my family and we order within minutes and then he's off into his latest quantum theory that he's currently posing to the scientific community, who he refers to as 'archaic in their thinking' or words to that effect.

I then talk about my project, which he listens to without interrupting and at the end of my spiel asks me, while tapping the solid table in front of him, of what use this will be to the real, tangible world that we can see before our eyes. I reply that I'm surprised that a quantum physicist should ask such a question but launch into replying that the headset I'll be producing to translate the brain fluctuations of each individual, who walks through the passageways of the installation simulating the Tibetan Book of the Dead, into corresponding augmented images reflected into its environment, will thus show participants exactly HOW his/her thoughts are creating his reality. It is imperative we embrace the fact that WE ourselves are creating our environ-

ment around us with our attitudes and perceptions and that is exactly what the tangible world around us needs in order to meet the challenges of 21st Century living. Cleaning up the way we perceive things is the first step to automatically building a better world.



Susan at Bel Air Hotel, LA, USA

Although I suspect he does, he says he still doesn't get it, to which I draw a picture of the main bardos of the treatise onto the back page of the copy of The Tibetan Book of the Dead I'm carrying with me. It comes out looking pretty much like an atom and I describe it to him as I scribble away bit by bit. At the end, he tells me that I've just described 'Quantum Field Theory', to which I reply, "No, I've just described the Tibetan Book of the Dead!" along with a 'See what I mean' look, to which I add, "Except I'm looking at it from this side and you're looking at it from that". I further add that it's just a question of seeing it all as 'quantum consciousness', to which he relaxes back into his chair and admits that he does get it. It's been a long haul conversation and we haven't finished, but they're clearing up around us when we leave at quarter to midnight. I promise to connect when/ if I come back to LA again later in the year, hopefully because I may have got the grant

for the proposal I've just put in for last week.

Next morning I visit the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. A Persian carpet that was used at the 1902 Coronation of King Edward of England is on display there and I really appreciate a room packed with Monet pictures. I don't spend much time in each gallery, but enjoy picking up the sense of it all. Stephen, someone I met in 2010 while I was doing some research for Dr Modi in LA on the Buddha movie project, is coming to pick me up from there and I message him from a sunny spot in the museum courtyard. Having studied meditation with a native Hawaiian, Zen Roshi and Theravadan Buddhist master in Thailand, he's now closely connected to a Sri Lankan Buddhist organisation here in LA, which is where I met him. Nowadays, he's concentrating on marketing his latest book, 'The Connectivity Principle', in which he states that humanity has two options at this critical juncture of time; one to stay in separation mode, which is dominating the world today, or secondly, to embrace each other in connectivity, which is what we need to do. We eat and talk about these issues over lunch at a diner on Sunset Boulevard, where I fight to get a huge veggie burger much larger than my mouth down that nevertheless perfectly suits the venue and taste buds today.

We are driving the rest of the length of this magnificent Boulevard towards the ocean when on the way, he pulls into the Paramahansa Yogananda Self-Realisation centre where there's a lake shrine temple. We walk the perimeter of the water and the setting is so calm and beautiful that everything actually seems in balance. Stephen used to be involved in marketing, but before the social media age and gives me some tips on what I need to focus on regarding the project; a title - we toy with 'THE BARDO', a logo, a one sentence slogan, a project report that can go out to anyone and a 2-3 minute trailer. He says I should also focus on getting money into the project so I can do these things, and soon. I agree! Asking him where this money could come from, he replies that as he sees it, I should simply continue doing what I'm doing and it will probably just pop up somewhere! I too am totally inclined to believe it will happen synchronistically!!!

Along with comments I've been getting from tech companies, my gut feeling is that I need to really get to grips with the artistic content, so much so that when I go to meet another company in Downtown LA the following morning and find myself on a Hollywood set, whereby people are asking me



Susan and Barbara on the beach near Encinitas, California, USA



Susan enjoying Monet's work at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LA USA



Susan in the courtyard of Los Angeles Museum of Art, LA, USA

"How the hell did you get in here?" I am not perturbed when I can't reach the 16th floor of the building where I'm actually meant to be going, to meet another company producing Augmented Reality glasses. It's like I'm being told, "Enough! Stop...! you know what you need to do now!" I laugh and muse at how one may desperately try to end up on the set of a Hollywood film production and I simply walk in without realising where I am, because I was not trying to be there at all!

I'm feeling so relaxed in the warm weather and also looking forward to a break in the pace of the last weeks, as from Union Station later in the afternoon, I take a train south to Solana Beach, near Encinitas, where my dear friend Barbara lives. She picks me up and we return to her home and a warm bowl of vegetable soup she's prepared. It's so nice to be in a home again!! But my relaxation is short lived when I go to check in on something

on my computer and find that I've left my plug converter on the train! This journey is full of small things happening, that cause inconvenience and this is another instance just to remind me to remain absolutely alert! I really need to get into my computer, so the next morning, walk a mile or so to the nearest complex of shops, first trying the Dollar Store - no such luck (!) and end up purchasing a plug converter and new day planner for 50 bucks from a large Staples store. I swallow the price for two mistakes I've made on this journey. I just need to get new ones, simple as that.

Walking on the beach later with Barbara and her dog, Louie, I remember how much I love this Californian stretch of ocean between LA and San Diego and enjoy watching a glorious sunset melting over the horizon of the Pacific.

To be continued...
Susan's website may be found at www.pyramidkey.com



Hollywood Hills with HOLLYWOOD sign, LA, USA