



An On-going Discovery Learning

Twenty-four high spirit students of IPMI International Business School class of 2022 are working their ways toward becoming the future transformational leaders. The IPMI discovery experiential learning processes encourage them to unleash their utmost potential by rediscovering their spiritual commitment. The beauty of the process lies in the diversity of the cultural, religious, and tradition background of the students. This book is the third book of my spiritual commitment series.

Here, in IPMI the students learn to appreciate their teammate from different cultures and different beliefs. They learn to overcome the inter-cultural differences and become a part of the cosmopolitan melting pot of The Global Citizen, yet still rooted down to their local wisdom and rich cultural and religious heritage. When it comes to their spiritual commitment, they are ready to become the future transformational leaders for a better world.



Foreword by Prof. Ir. Aman Wirakatakusumah, M.Sc., Ph.D. | Dr. Ir. Amelia Naim Indrajaya, MBA and IPMI Class of 2020

MY SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT

MY SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT TO BE THE FUTURE TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER



Dr. Ir. Amelia Naim Indrajaya, MBA
And IPMI Class of 2022

My Spiritual Commitment To Be The Future Transformational Leader

A compilation of the self-discovery process:

Class of 2022, IPMI International Business School

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Dedication

Thirty-Seven students are going through the Experiential Learning, self-discovery process. The uniqueness is shown through the diversity of the background of the students, yet they all share the same commitment to become The Change Maker. Like the dandelion seeds, they are ready to spread out and grow. This book is dedicated to the Future Leaders who will make the world a better place to live.

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FOREWORD

PROF. M. AMAN WIRAKARTAKUSUMAH, M.SC., PH.D

**Executive Director Of
IPMI International Business School**

The world has seen a lot of calamities, conflicts, and even catastrophes under the issue of political, ethnics, and religious belief differences. The conflicts that arise due to these differences are prevalent despite our belief in democracy. It tends to create a conflict and possible threat toward the unity of a nation, and create a menace of further segregation in the society.

The complexity of different political belief, religious belief, and ethnicities have created a lot of disturbances for peace in the world. As we can see from the news on the turmoil happening around the world for example in North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and other parts of the world. A similar situation is happening in Indonesia. We also hear the start of radicalism in campus life, when a campus should be a place of collaboration and developing synergy in diversity. This is a latent problem and could be a big threat to the unity of the nation.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) comes up with the philosophy of education to stop this conflict, where we need to develop a sound mindset,

especially starting from the young minds. These require a solid mindset to respect differences and a high focus on collaboration and creating synergy. The right education will prevent the conflict which may arise in society.

That is why education becomes really important, to create an ecosystem where the students will see diversity as being a blessing, and unity in diversity is a must, as stated in our national slogan “Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity). In learning, UNESCO comes up with the philosophy of four pillars for education: learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to live together, and through education, UNESCO is building peace in the minds of men and women.

The education should create young minds who long for peace, that solve the conflicts and avoid war, despite the reality that people have a different belief and different race/ethnics or culture. We need to develop an understanding of being part of a global citizen and act as the steward of the Earth.

In Higher Education Institutions in Indonesia, the construction of the curriculum is started from the basic general lectures or MKDU (Mata Kuliah Dasar Umum). One of these subjects is the religious study to develop a pious and wise future leader. We have an alternative to do the traditional approach where each student will be segregated into different religious beliefs, or offering an inter-religious study, and for several reasons, IPMI has chosen the hybrid approach between inter-religious study course

subject that subsequently combined with lectures from all respective religious beliefs.

IPMI international business school has a basic value of embracing inter-cultural and inter-faith belief so that it will create a harmonious living where everyone respects each other. This is why we designed our religious study learning experience in an inter-religious format to develop a human being with characters, values, tolerance, and respect toward differences. Once high respect and tolerance are achieved, parallel sessions are conducted by inviting religious experts from all the respective religious beliefs. This way each student also gets an adequate opportunity to ask specific questions concerning their specific religious belief.

This hybrid inter-religious study would learn in a way to respect each other students with different cultural and religious backgrounds. And these differences should not be an obstacle for a great collaboration. The approach is implemented in the curriculum and would be a good benchmark and reference for all of us to be able to evaluate the outcome of the learning process. This approach accommodates the differences to find a synergy. In the end, the method will become a good practice for Indonesian education to implement the slogan of our nation “Bhinneka Tunggal Ika” (Unity in Diversity). We in IPMI will embrace everyone for universal education to become part of a great quality Global Citizen.

I am really happy with this effort to implement the inter-religious study approach in IPMI and congratulate Dr. Amelia, our faculty member as the facilitator and initiator of this project, and

all the students who are in her class. She had started a personal discovery learning process for each student to find the hero within themselves and at the same time to get ready to embrace differences in supporting each other to become the change-maker for the better world, where she put these observations and findings into this wonderful book.

Jakarta, December 19th, 2023

PROLOG

IN THE MAKING OF THE FUTURE LEADERS DR. IR AMELIA NAIM, MBA

In general, joining a Religious Study class will bring you to a series of Sermon and Speeches by the Ustadz, Rabbi, Pastor, or distinguished scholars on Religious study. This is happening in all schools be it local or in an overseas setting. If you are going to a Jesuit class then this class would be teaching you the Ignatius Spiritualism approach for example. And for the Moslem it would be a further Islamic study and so forth. This is quite easy for a homogeneous class, for example in a class with a majority of a specific religious believer. But being an international class, IPMI students come from various cultures with a diverse background. These had created a challenge to develop mutual respect between the different believers.

The Religious Study class is offered as an opening for the first semester students. If we were to implement the segregation between different believers, we would have up to six different classes based on the six different religious beliefs in Indonesia. This would possibly create a segregation system in supposedly an international blend of diverse cultures. Hence to overcome the problem, Religious Study in IPMI is focusing on the inter-faith self-discovery process of finding everyone's self-commitment for

the spiritual development toward becoming an independent mature future leader and change maker.

Thirty-seven students are going through the experiential learning of self-discovery. Some of them are Moslem, Christian, Catholics, Buddhist, and we acknowledge the diverse backgrounds of everyone in the classroom. One important rule in the classroom is that we have to respect and honor other people's belief and has no right to pressure our own belief toward others. Each one of these different beliefs has the ultimate liberty to believe that their own belief is the best one according to their own religious belief. So there is no pressure of pluralism which tends to have the inference that all religions are the same. But we do believe in the pluralistic approach, where everyone is obliged to respect each other regardless of their different religious belief.

Instead of repeating the previous study on the fundamentals of each religious belief, each of the students is invited to explore their intra-personal religious journey. A self-contemplation of knowing who they are, why they were created by the Divine in the first place, and what are their purpose of life, and what are their spiritual commitments to become more pious as a committed religious believer.

The Life Journey Map

Students have to go through a self-discovery process of understanding the big picture of their life journey. To ease the process, we are using the framework through the template of Life Journey as seen in the following figure. The Life Journey Map is used to understand the big picture about the individual development level and is designed to focus on helping the individual student foster self-reflection and understand more about his or her values, spiritual principles, and sense of purpose.

The Life Journey was designed to help the students understand more about their purpose in life and the map was inspired by Ibrahim (2004). Of course, this is just a framework of thinking. It is giving the perspective, that our life would be a sequential journey of small steps, toward medium steps forming the quantum leap as the long term vision. This template also envisions that everyone serves under multiple roles in their lives. So for example our purpose in life could be seen through our different roles in life: As part of the family, as part of the enterprise once they become part of a business organization and as part of the society, etc.

The following spiritual commitments written by the students will have:

1. Each student will share their purpose of life. This would be according to their dream. For example “I would like to be an agent of change in serving the community. I specifically would like to help the farmers of Indonesia to be free of loan

sharks by setting up an online business system connecting the farmers and the consumers.”

2. Writing the spiritual values. Each student should discover their spiritual values and how they will exercise their spiritual values in order to achieve their vision of life. The following is an example “To exercise my spiritual value, I will engage in spiritual practices to guide me in achieving the noble purpose. The spiritual practices will be in the form of a moment of silence and meditation according to my spiritual belief, for example in Islam through at least the five-time prayers. In Christianity by joining a congregation. In addition, I also join the Youth Religious Friday and Sunday activities in the mosque/church.
3. The students should be able to envision the big picture of how they will leave their legacy. The objective is to start with the end in mind (Covey, 2014) and conduct a self-reflection of how they see themselves in the future in a variety of roles in life, such as a son/daughter, a businessman/woman, activist, social worker, change-maker, etc. Students are encouraged to look at themselves through a variety of roles simultaneously in the future. The development of one role will not sacrifice the capacity for the other roles, as the zero-sum game concept is not applicable in this setting. The spiritual values enable the students to look at all the simultaneous roles as equally

engaging toward an integrated role of servanthood toward The Almighty. The religious belief of Islam as the major religion in Indonesia is looking at work, as well as other purposeful human activities (even including marital intimacy) as part of the act of worship (Beekun, 1997).

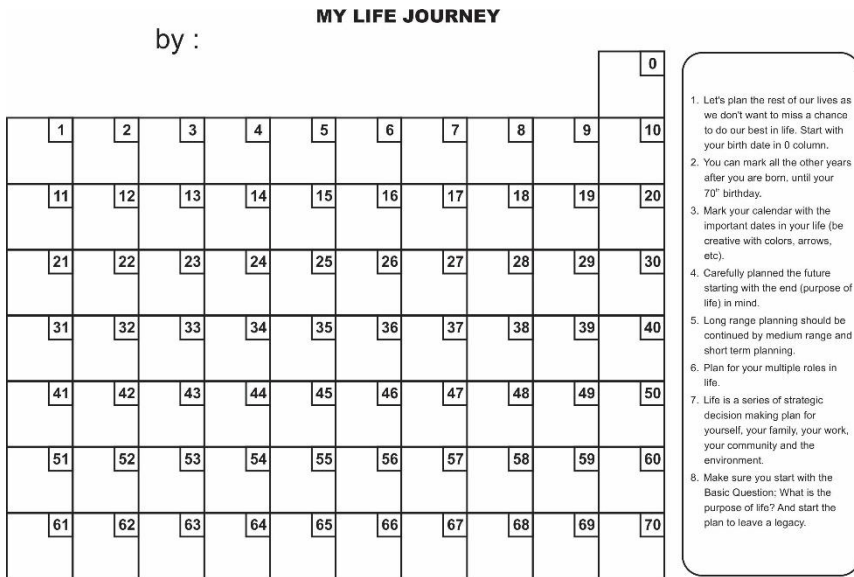


Figure 1

My Life Journey Framework

Adapted from “Peta Kehidupan” (Ibrahim, 2004)

There is a tendency in our Indonesian Eastern Culture to embrace the future in a manner of following the flow, popularly said in the term of “just follow the flow”. This is just to flow wherever and whenever our destiny is taking us to, to let life flows. Unfortunately, this “just following the flow” manner is not suitable

to the religious belief of a continuous optimum effort: A belief that today should be better than yesterday and tomorrow should be better than today. It is also not aligned with the active effort of religious prayer, a belief to always try and achieve the best. According to the religious belief “You are heading the way of what you believe”. It is a great promise of the “Divine” if you believe then He will open up the path toward your Goal. So in this class, we encourage the students to open up their horizons.

We talked about our “Area of control” and “Area of influence” to make a difference as a Change Maker. In filling up the “Life Journey” we use the framework of the Magic Wand. We imagine that the Divine is giving us the Magic Wand and we can achieve whatever we dream of and turn it into a reality, given our real commitments and perseverance toward the goals. It is a total commitment of faith and positive thinking to the foreseeable and unforeseeable destiny.

Each of the sessions is done through a variety of collaborative group challenges. Each group is named after the nine noble characteristics needed to develop integrity: Honesty, Empathy, Humbleness, Responsibility, Tenacity, Independent, Discipline, Courageous and Fairness. Each team has diverse members with different religious beliefs.

Classes are designed in an Active Learning Self Discovery Learning Process and Flipped Learning. In this method, students

become the center of attraction, while faculty serves as the facilitator making sure that the learning target is achieved. And surprisingly sometimes in this flipped learning method, students were able to achieve even beyond the target of learning achievement. Active learning has proven to encourage high class' engagements even though it was conducted during the pandemic era through Zoom. Moreover, there are no more physical barriers. We had a guest speaker from New Jersey, USA, Dr. Kam Venkat, a spiritual Guru who wrote a dissertation on Spiritual Intelligence and Leadership Value, even though we had no less than 12 hours time differences.

In a special class inviting guest speakers, there was a class with a homogeneous religious belief in each breakout room in the zoom, led by the expert of the respective religious experts. This class was held after we have established a level of appreciation and respect for diversity. This special breakout room activity was designed to enable the students to fulfill all questions that they might have concerning their respective religions. The enthusiasm was high, this is shown through the active and intriguing questions coming from the students to the experts who were a Priest, an Ustadz and a Buddhist scholar.

Taking Advantages of The Technology

The diverse religious background enables the students to have cross-cultural religious sharing and discussions between different believers and it becomes easier with the use of technology. In the learning process as a diverse group, we are having more fun and adventurous diverse experiences. Despite the covid 19 pandemic problem, technology had enabled us to experience things beyond our

wildest dream. For example, we had the class aided by the Cardboard of Virtual Reality (VR) Goggles. This self-made cardboard kit was given away by Google at no cost in the first introduction. Now it can be bought for as low as approximately 80 cents USD or 10000 in IDR. By using this very low-cost cardboard VR, each different religious belief students were able to visit other religious' sacred places and points of interest.

The diverse religious background of the group will enable the students to discuss and share their different religious activities through Virtual Reality google. The low-cost (occasionally sponsored entirely by Google) and self-made Virtual Reality cardboard (see figure 2) enables the students to experience almost any Virtual Reality (VR) sites available through the internet. The first step is to let each student browse through several VR sites of sacred places. The students would then conduct a self-reflection and contemplation to describe the feel of various Holy places. Students should be encouraged to be creative in finding high-quality VR sites for the locations on the internet. For the second step, students team up in a group and share sacred place sites in VR, offering their partners the opportunity to experience the look and feel of a variety of the sacred places of different religions available on the internet.



Figure 2.

Virtual Reality Google Cardboard

Students could explore their similarities in terms of ultimate purpose, discussing their understanding of the essence and meanings behind the rituals. The team-reflection should encourage a conversation on the values behind religion-related sites and rituals. The team-reflection (reflection with others) process is an important part of the team development phase (Neal, 2013). The process would boost understanding between different believers and different cultures and promote a culture of appreciation between different beliefs.

Spiritual Commitment

The students are exploring their life journey and try to unleash their utmost potential through their spiritual commitment. The beauty part of it is the colorful story of their background and the honesty of their genuine life story. The diverse backgrounds make the story even more interesting and inspiring.

The students are showing a good effort in writing their hearts out through touching life stories. To me, this is surprising knowing that reading and writing are not the usual high-quality potential of the Indonesian students, especially when it is written in English.

These real-life stories serve as an in-depth written observation as part of qualitative research in management education specifically in exploring the role of the knowing, being, and doing approach through the spiritual journey in business and management education.

But more than a source of research observation these stories are touching and inspiring because it is written from the bottom of the heart of a pure heart ready to start their journey toward becoming the future business leader of Indonesia.

Jakarta,

23rd of December 2023

CHAPTER ONE

ADITYA DJOYO PRASETYO



“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.” **Maya Angelou**

A boy who has a lack of direction

Hey there, I feel compelled to make an introduction that represents the fascinating path that brought me to consider the value of religion. Permit me to describe it in vivid detail as a complex tapestry made of the threads of my many experiences, beliefs, and spiritual quest.

On October 19th, 2004, I, Aditya Djoyo Prasetyo was born to a family of varied religions. My father was a Christian at that time, and my mother was a Muslim. 1 or 2 years after that, my father moved to Muslim. Since the beginning, I am blessed with Muslim as my religion <3.

When I was a youngster, I lived in a less strict religious environment, and my parents never warned me about missing daily prayer (5 prayers each day). Back then, after my father moved to

Muslim, he couldn't read the Koran or other Arabic languages. Additionally encouraged by my educational environment at my previous School, where the majority of students are not Muslims. As a result, I don't completely comprehend my religious feeling or how religion might improve me. I was only aware at the time that doing good is “more than enough”.

While I used to believe that the Kaabah was just a rock (which I regret the most now), I had to consider why we worship it due to my denial. Isn't that the same as idol worshipping? I observed people struggling and even prepared to elbow one another to hold the Kaaba. Is that kind? Were we not created for peace? When some of them are in pain, why are people so unselfish and selfish? Why did God let things occur? That was my impression as a child.

Allah has a way to open the eyes of his blind servant

Everything changed when many problems occurred in our house. There were a lot of disturbances internally and externally when I was in elementary school. Members of my family often fall into a trance and we are confused by hundreds of things going on. My father's business also declined and lost several assets. Until finally we brought in an ustad to be ruqyah. The Ustad was named Pak Anwar, who became my storyteller. Until then, we were all aware of our lack of worship and our poor treatment of religion. Therefore, I started to study the Koran with Pak Ustad Anwar. Pak Anwar always came to my house every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

to schedule the Koran. My father tried to be better especially regarding religion. My mother was becoming more religious than she had previously been. At that time, we always held prayers in berjamaah or together (except when I was at school). There is no bad thought from me about my views on the religion of Islam until now. Everytime I see kaabah directly or indirectly, it gives me a positive energy also felt guilty with my previous mistakes when I was a little. until then, my parents stated that **Allah has a way to open the eyes of his blind servant.**

اللَّهُ

Also, another statement that touched me the most is

وَالَّذَانِ يَأْتِيَنَّهَا مِنْكُمْ فَتَدُوهُمَا ۖ فَإِنْ تَابَا وَأَصْلَحَا فَأَعْرِضُوا عَنْهُمَا ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ تَوَّابًا " رَحِيمًا ۙ ۱۶ "

“Surely Allah is ever Accepting of Repentance, Most Merciful”

Surah An-Nisa 1

My purpose of life

As an 18-year-old young adult, I discovered enlightenment inside the Muslim faith, and it became the compass that guided my life's tasks. I felt a strong connection during my daily prayer at a nearby

mosque. Exploring its teachings, I discovered a faith that emphasizes peace, compassion, and justice, as well as a road plan for living a meaningful life.

Islam's pillars were the foundation of my endeavor. Daily prayers brought me closer to God, and Ramadan fasting taught me discipline and empathy. Giving to charity encouraged generosity, whereas the pilgrimage to Mecca showed unity and dedication.

Islam revealed my path and formed my destiny when I was 18 years old. It promoted personal growth, excellence, and social responsibility. I aim to inspire other Muslim children, dispel myths, and promote unity in our society.

Short-Mid-term commitment

My commitment as a Muslim in the short term is to strive for personal improvement and excellence in all parts of my life. I intend to incorporate Islamic ideals into my daily life, such as insisting on regular prayers, fasting during Ramadan, and doing acts of charity and compassion. These obligations not only improve my relationship with the Divine, but they also build in me discipline, empathy, and compassion.

Furthermore, my ambition to become a successful businessman is consistent with Islamic beliefs. The ideals of honesty, integrity, and fairness in business dealings are fundamental to both my religious

convictions and my commercial goals. I want to develop a firm that not only makes money but also benefits the community and makes a good contribution.

Long-term commitment

As an 18-year-old student with strong Islamic values and aspirations to be a great businessman, I am determined to pursue a long-term journey that is consistent with my faith and goals. In all facets of life, including business, Islam has long emphasized the need for honesty, integrity, and compassion. With this in mind, I want to create a job that not only provides financial success but also preserves ethical ideals and positively contributes to society.

As a businessman, my ambition is to launch an enterprise that promotes justice, social responsibility, and innovation. I want to start a company that offers important products or services while simultaneously uplifting individuals and communities. Through my business, I hope to provide job opportunities, boost local economies, and help people in need. I want to guarantee that money is distributed evenly and that the well-being of society is emphasized by adhering to Islamic principles of economic justice.

I am committed to acquiring the essential information and abilities in business management, entrepreneurship, and finance to realize my objective. I recognize that business success takes commitment, hard effort, and ongoing education. As an 18-year-old student, I am dedicated to devoting my time and efforts to my education by taking appropriate classes, workshops, and internships.

I'm also interested in networking with seasoned individuals who can mentor and help me along the road.

Personal development and spiritual growth, in addition to academic education, are important to me. A deep connection to my faith, I feel, will not only give guidance but also function as a moral compass in my commercial pursuits. As a result, I am dedicated to cultivating my spiritual life via prayer, meditation, and interaction with Islamic teachings.

I am enthusiastic about the chances and challenges that await me as I begin this long-term commitment. I am convinced that through drive, perseverance, and firm devotion to my Islamic principles, I will be able to realize my ambition of being a successful businessman while making a great influence on society.

CHAPTER TWO

ALVARO PUTRA RAMADHAN

“

“.Don't waste your time, or you'll regret it”

Journey

I'm just a human, nothing special. I was introduced to islam at a young age. I was introduced to a fun and exciting way of learning islam. As kids, me and my friends often played at the small mosque before and after learning to recite. I am unfamiliar with the Arabic language, so I was left behind. While the other kids have already reached “Juz " level, I am still at"lqro” level. Most of the time I feel like I'm being privately tutored. having my own session and not with the other kids. Fast forward a couple of years later. I moved away, there was not any “ngaji” at the local mosque. The area that I moved into is new so it kinda makes sense, i don't have friends either since i am the only one at my age at that time. To

compensate for the lack of learning to recite the Quran, my old school provided the activity. The school is also an islamic school, the first islamic school I attended. I also learned a lot of new things such as prayers, how to do wudu, and learned a bit about the history of islam. I remember when I was excited to share what I learned for the first time. I told my parents about what I have learned and I was so excited I forgot what happened next. I believe it was maghrib and I think I was trying to help correct their prayer forms. It was a great idea, however the way I told them was not appropriate. I forgot how, but I can't remember.

Not long after that, I moved again to another islamic school. This time there were a lot of children. Even Though it's an islamic school, religious school, not all the children are good kids. Some smoke, some do not even pray five times a day, and one of the kid we call him "Otong" is the delinquent of the school. I'm glad that Otong got expelled shortly after i joined. At this school however, I feel pressured while learning islam. There is too much knowledge to absorb, it's all good until the exams and homeworks. The hardest activity at that school was learning to recite Surahs by memorizing each verse with the translation, memorizing one by one. I almost never memorized a whole surah with the translation, it's not that i am not trying, i gave all of my effort to memorize, i even try to memorize in tears. The pressure comes from the teachers, and myself. Teachers were strict, and I put too many expectations on myself, like before i am left behind, while others have reached

different surahs i am still stuck on the first one. I also developed an immense amount of suspicion, I never went outside of my house. back then i did not pray at the mosque and did not do friday prayer. I always looked at the window, seeing people go by, especially at fridays. back then i always thought that they hated me, and didn't want me to live there. This terrible feeling of suspicion developed when my uncles and aunts from my father's side slandered my mother. I swore on that day I will do anything to cut the ties between them and my family.

My parents divorced once, we are not a perfect family, there were fights and until now there are still fights. Usually when my parents fight, they give me the option to choose between my mother and father, i always choose my father until the fight that divorced them. Years later, they made up and re-married. However till this day i could not put the past behind. I still can not trust my father's family except for the oldest uncle.

Senior high is where the religiosity went downhill. I used to read the Quran a lot, I used to wake up at night to do Tahajud. The last time I did tahajud was before the result of "UTBK". I did not go to an islamic school for senior high. There are a lot of people from different backgrounds. I need to be careful when choosing friends. There is this one person who gave attention to me. The person was precious to me, but that person changed me. Sometimes we hurt each other. One day I had enough and decided to end it. I'm glad our paths met, but I still feel guilty for what I've done to you. Later at Uni I am involved in another relationship. I am very cautious because I don't want to repeat the same mistakes again.

Reason for Being

I enjoy peace and quiet. Perhaps solitude. Traveling by myself no matter where the destination is. Although, when i'm with nature. Everything felt different. No annoying loud sounds from vehicles, no loud music, the air does not smell like smoke and trash, there is no perfume of people that makes you dizzy inside trains. No tall buildings, or vehicles. Everything is empty, what I meant was no man made structures, and it's just pure nature. Back then when I used to watch Steve Irwin with my father. I would like to explore nature around the world. I also loved watching nature shows that are voiced by Sir David Attenbrough. His voice is very soothing, combined with visuals of forest, ocean. animals, insects, and many more. I really hoped that I could be a nature broadcaster like sir Attenbrough. I remember traveling barefoot to the beach. The reason why is because the area is a conservation area. There was a guide but he told me to just follow the path. It was weird at first but after a while I started to enjoy the journey. From a village to a forest, then mangroves, and finally the beach. accompanied by the sunset. Not long after arriving, the rain arrived and the waves started to be more aggressive, forcing me to headback. Before heading back I had the opportunity to explore the shore, see what's under the sea. Not much tho, not many corals left and pretty dead like a wasteland. When I asked the guide he explained that years ago it was worse. the ocean started to heal, he said. Because of this small journey, my heart was moved. I have dedicated my life to help preserve nature. I am

looking forward to helping this world become a better place. I will start a farm. start with a fish farm, and finally my own wildlife preserve.

I love counting numbers, especially money. When I grew older I had a better understanding of the economy. Life is hard, financially however I am grateful for what I have and was given to me. When I graduated from high school, my goal was to be a business person, and have my own company. I don't have the capital, and the knowledge. My mother suggested that i should choose accounting, and at UTBK i got accounting for UIN. However my gut feeling was against that. So I asked if there is an alternative. And here I am at IPMI. So far I have learned new things from different perspectives. Maybe someday I can give back. My dream is to have a sustainable business, something to do with nature and reducing pollutants. With this I can make money and help nature at the same time.

Commitments

Right now I have to improve and fortify my beliefs. Faith can fade away, and re-emerged. Reading the Quran regularly to increase the connection towards islam. I should be doing more sunnah such as night prayer and Duha, and constantly attend my local mosque to have a better understanding of the content of the Quran and islam. I have to practice what I preach so that i don't become a hypocrite.

To balance my responsibilities I have to develop my time management skills. Setting priorities, planning my activities and to

keep being organized. Later on I have to start looking for internships, and part-time jobs inside my field of interest. I could gain valuable experience to add in my resume. Fostering supportive relationships by cultivating relationships with friends who share similar interests and goals.

I have to learn from my mistakes. Regularly reflect on my progress, finding areas of improvement so that I have a better understanding of my own strengths and weaknesses. I am majoring in finance in order to develop the skills that I desire to pursue my career. Lastly, it is important to prioritize my health. Practice self care activities such as exercising, eating healthy and the most important is having sufficient sleep.



Self Fulfilling Prophecy

*We are heading toward Where We Believe We
Would Be!*

CHAPTER THREE

ANDALAS BINTANG WIJAYA



“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been seeking for and we are the change that we seek.”

I was born into a family that embraces the Islamic religion. As a child, I diligently practiced my faith due to living in an area with a strong Islamic atmosphere. As time went on and I entered the third grade of elementary school, I found myself engaged in a debate with limited knowledge about God's existence. Being a Muslim, I believed that everything that happens is due to the power of Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala). However, during that time, my non-Muslim friend took offense and found an opportunity in the debate to assert that rain is attributed to the power of Jesus. Perhaps, at that moment, they hesitated to claim that their God was the ultimate truth. However, I clarified that Jesus is a prophet named Isa. Eventually, the debate ended with the use of profane and offensive language, as both of us ran out of knowledge and information, and the atmosphere was clouded by emotions.

However, as I reflect deeply, I find that observing the behavior of non-Muslims brings me joy and excitement. The essence of religious beliefs blends in the sunlight during the day, and as time goes by, I find myself becoming closer to many non-Muslim friends. Their way of thinking, grounded in logic and not attributing ignorance to religious claims, propels my thoughts to wander further. This stimulation leads me to a sense of tranquility, where I discover numerous answers to my own questions.

Deify The Self

The water continues to flow, a strong current with bustling ships in their voyages. I venture further into the depths of my mind, contemplating the existence of God. At that moment, I am certain that Allah is benevolent. However, the clarity of that benevolence eludes me from the perspective of my limited attention. I feel displeasure when things are explained solely based on the power of God. The manner of explanation often comes to a halt, leaving behind numerous unanswered questions. I find myself trapped in a labyrinth, desperately searching in empty spaces, where my hands fail to grasp the answers when my intellectual progress remains stagnant.

As the sun sets, giving way to the night, and the moon fails to illuminate the narrow path, humans find themselves lost in a state of confusion. Trapped within the confines of a stagnant box, blocking the gentle breeze of fresh air from being inhaled. Hence, a feeling of disgust permeates the abode, compelling one to venture out in search of light. The frequency of prayer diminishes, deeming repetitive rituals as futile since tranquility merely lingers in reverie. This tranquility remains elusive, prompting a sense of something amiss with religion, leading one to become their own deity in pursuit of personal truth. Engaging in self-indulgent actions without concern

for religious norms and rules gradually emerges and gains audacity. All behaviors, driven solely by self-gratification, start to unfold.

Descendants and Traditions

Upon entering secondary school, I only prayed whenever I had the opportunity. I didn't believe in the reality of divine punishment, and every day seemed filled with good fortune. However, expressions of gratitude towards God were still conveyed through words, without any formal rituals. Doubt began to creep in, questioning whether prayers would be accepted due to actions that did not align with religious norms.

However, tranquility ensued as I came to believe that God is indeed the All-Hearing and All-Seeing, and His judgment surpasses mere adherence to the routine of the five daily prayers. In that moment, I grasped religion as a matter of faith rather than an Arab tradition. I held firm in my conviction regarding the existence of God as the answer to the unknown, ironically realizing that I myself had engaged in the very behavior I detested in others - attributing answers to the unknown in the name of religion or the power of God.

Journey

I am aware that God possesses power, but for what purpose does God create or write a destiny that is disliked by the creatures He has created? Indeed, all creations are under His authority, but if His followers fail to comprehend the reasons behind God weaving their destinies, it signifies that those individuals are unfamiliar with their own Creator. The principle regarding the existence of God

should be closer to one's very lifeblood, rather than a mere metaphorical concept, but rather a necessity.

The tranquility I have found stems from distancing myself from religious rituals, yet paradoxically, it has deepened my connection with God. With my current understanding, I comprehend that such detachment can be perceived as arrogance. However, my former self as a junior high school student would never have grasped this concept due to a lack of knowledge.

My Life Purpose

Reading several stories about the early struggles of successful individuals, I am particularly inspired by the narrative of Andrew Carnegie. A man born into a poor Scottish family, his family later migrated to the United States in search of a better life. Andrew Carnegie devoted his life to achieving prosperity through various businesses and industries. He was both an industrialist and philanthropist. Carnegie demonstrated a deep sense of social concern, personally funding the cost of Philippine independence.

The attainment of great achievements, even with somewhat embellished narratives, is not limited to figures like Andrew Carnegie. Many non-Muslim individuals, equipped with knowledge, have succeeded in overcoming their life challenges. When blessings seem to stem solely from routine rituals, one would expect the endeavors of such individuals to come to a halt due to the absence of divine approval.

Each sermon sounds like a justification grounded in sacred verses, providing tangible evidence of a higher power that captivates and astounds me. Yet, every weariness arising from the labyrinthine

depths within human beings culminates in what is perceived as the most tranquil activity. I have come to understand, through various articles and educational videos on the internet, that meditation is practiced by many who are striving. The multitude of colors blended in the ink of their struggle stories necessitates the calming influence of spaces and punctuation marks to pause and rest momentarily.

The ultimate state of tranquility I currently believe in lies in contemplating within the realm of thoughts, seeking faults and truths within one's own actions. It entails attempting to comprehend the impact of blending emotions and thoughts to shape actions and decisions. Self-introspection is always soothing, leading to an understanding that rituals are an acknowledgment from a servant to the ruler of the universe.

Achieving My Goals

Gradually, the heart is moved to fulfill religious obligations, and rituals that were once neglected slowly shift position to become priorities. The pillars of religion are steadily erected, assembling the debris and paving the path to truth. I am beginning to understand the role of a servant who is obligated to prostrate before their Creator, acknowledging the greatness that serves as the focal point of life.

The achievement I currently derive from deep contemplation on the existence of a supreme power, though imperfect, is growing. Slowly but surely, my steps continue to move in the right direction, and the inner struggle that is unseen is easily demonstrated. Yet, it deepens my intimacy with the divine, allowing God to assess my thoughts and allowing God to perceive the reasons behind the good deeds I

perform to honor the life bestowed upon me. It is a narrow boundary, but it feels comfortable as I assemble rays of light through the changing years.

My Long Term Goals

The future remains uncertain, as the weather changes its tune like day and night. Whatever harmonies will resonate tomorrow will still sound melodious with a strong faith, a conviction born from knowing the goodness and forgiveness of the Creator. Increasing knowledge will enhance the quality of every action, broadening the foundation of decision-making validations.

My greatest hope is to transform the information that guides the rhythm from week to month, weaving a simple tale of life as a human being, even as I am often engulfed in emotions. Sailing amidst the sea, the iron becomes sharper when struck by waves. The ship grows more rusty as it sails more frequently, yet the incoming waves are detected from the weather and their signs, which gradually become understood.

My Mid and Short Term Goals

Currently, all I hope for is continuity, as long as the knowledge I pursue can be exchanged for the experience of tranquility, it will persist. After that, the manifestation of passion will flow forth, as there are certain desires yet to be fulfilled from my current position. The desire to create films and entertainment, to receive the recognition envisioned. However, several obstacles still fortify these aspirations, the fear of being trapped in hunger as storytelling requires time and energy. That is why I dedicate my life

to gather as much information as I can, until I reach a new starting point to break through the barriers that hinder.

Conclusion

Every unexpected event carves a history, leaving a mesmerizing impression from simple steps. Then comes the realization that every impact occurs on things closest to us, and self-reflection approaches through the judgment of those near. Divine enlightenment comes from the ever-growing knowledge, from the significance found in small things. The truth of beliefs becomes palpable as awareness slowly awakens, consciousness rises from the depths of continuous self-reflection. Puncturing the black box to pave the way for the light to illuminate the dark corners, understanding the sincerity towards God and life as the written masterpiece of the Creator.



Once your goals are set, everything you do from then on is either moving you towards or away from your goals.

CHAPTER FOUR

ARSY AHMAD HOLIOSRI



The whole secret of a successful life is to find out what is one's destiny to do, and then do it..

I am a child born on May 21, 2001 from a mother named Laili Savitri Noor and father named Holiosri, also the second child of three siblings. My brother's name is Akram, 3 years older than me. Meanwhile, my younger brother, Ardi, recently turned 15 years old this year, which means he is 7 years different from me. Born in a family with a big heart, who has a belief in God's destiny that will not disappoint his servant. The beliefs and values brought up by my parents have guided my life to this day.

7 years apart from my younger sibling, I am used to being spoiled since childhood, being a crybaby and not being able to be away from my parents. However, everything changed when my little brother was born, at first I was very happy and excited because I was going to be an older brother, but I never thought that there would be many changes after that. My mindset and mentality as a child at that time thought that my role had been replaced by my

younger sibling, I don't know, just a spoiled little child who was sad because he was no longer spoiled by his parents.

Facts of Childhood

There are several facts about my childhood. Since I was little I always moved where I lived and went to school, from kindergarten to 1st grade I lived and attended school in the Manado area, North Sulawesi, then from 2nd grade to 4th grade I moved to Condet, East Jakarta. Then continued in grade 5 elementary school to grade 7 junior high school in Cibubur, Bogor. It didn't stop there, I still moved to another Islamic boarding school in the South Bandung area from grade 8 junior high school to grade 11 high school, and then grade 12 returned to Cibubur. Due to the constantly moving places where I live and my school environment, I have many references to life that affect me now.

Since childhood, I got used to living in a new environment and was forced to adapt at all times, learn to adapt and accept uncertainty. This has made me not have much desire but can only learn to accept and be prepared for the challenges that will be faced next. I remember, the moment that made me understand myself more and more was when I was in 11th grade in high school, where at that time I was at the Islamic boarding school in Bandung, and that was the first time I really felt I had to depend on myself. One thing I realized afterwards, the more we are pressured into a situation, the more we are forced into a situation, when we are forced to be uncomfortable but we have to live life, that is what makes us more mature in viewing and responding to life.

Another fact is, my childhood life was not so beautiful, since childhood I had to struggle with my mother, and accompany her struggle from the beginning. Why do I say it's not so beautiful, is because I have to witness the struggles of my parents for their children while I can only watch and do my best so as not to disappoint. It's not uncommon for me to always accompany my mother to do side jobs outside of workdays, such as being a salesperson, selling, and keeping a part-time shop. This journey since childhood also gave me a reference for how to live life. My mother is my role model.

I miss those days, maybe because I was able to be closer to my parents, or maybe because I miss not being afraid of the future. Who knows.

About My Belief

In living my faith, I am oriented towards my parents. I am a person who cannot easily believe what other people say, so I really believe in what my parents did, the causes and effects they did, as well as the values given to me based on what they have done. It was only after I saw the beauty of the Islamic values applied by my parents that I could live it with a sincere heart, without being forced and because of my self-awareness that I needed it.

The matter of faith became my support and motivation when I was down and when I was struggling. Matters of belief and divine

values become my strength in living life and calm my heart which is often troubled. Prayer accompaniment becomes soft poetry in the night of despair. However, everything i wrote above is only when the point of my faith is at its peak, i will not be naive, this self is often caught between ignorance and dissolves in deeper sadness. Make myself more afraid of tomorrow's threats than the end of the day. Making myself more focused on what has happened and forgetting the beauty that will come if we have faith in the destiny that God has given. Everything is like a wave that ebbs and flows, changes so quickly, what this heart agrees with, hopefully one day it will be firm in time.

However, no matter how this self behaves, no matter how far away it is, the closer its greatness is shown. There is always a point where this heart is reminded of the best place to return, when everything has no answer, this heart always knows where to ask. The condition of my family at home, one of the things that always binds me to my beliefs and my faith which often goes up and down. The togetherness that is created like the Subuh prayer in congregation which is obligatory and we always do at home, becomes the rope that binds me to divine values to go through each day, or at least gives a religious spark every time I go through the day.

I can not tell about the form of the religion that I believe in, but I can only tell my way and my experience in carrying out and believing in what I believe in. I am not a religious expert who can tell the wisdom of the Islamic values that my religion teaches, I can only tell about how Islamic values brought me to this point. That having faith can strengthen one's heart.

The Commandments for My Religion

As far as I know, in Islam there is not as famous as the word "commandments", rather in Islam there are 5 Pillars and 6 Articles of Faith as a foundation for Muslims so that their faith is always maintained in social life. The 5 Pillars of Islam are obligatory for a believing Muslim to know and understand, this is because one of the legal requirements for becoming a Muslim is if you have practiced these 5 Pillars of Islam. The pillars of Islam can be interpreted as physical actions or practices, and the Articles of faith are inner practices or beliefs in the heart. The 5 Pillars of Islam consist of:

- 1). Shahaadah - To bear witness that there is no deity and none worthy of worship except Allah.
- 2). As-Salaah - To perform the five daily prayers.
- 3). As-Siyaam - To fast in the month of Ramadan.
- 4). Az-Zakah - To pay the alms of 2.5% of your wealth every year to the needy.
- 5). Al-Hajj - To perform the Hajj at least once in a lifetime, provided you have the financial and physical means to do so.

The Articles of faith are the basic knowledge that must be understood by all Muslims. Faith is a human way to believe in the

heart, practice it with deeds, and say it verbally. Articles of Faith consists of 6 pillars that must be believed as follows:

- 1). Allah - God
- 2). Rasoolihi - His Prophets
- 4). Kitaabihi - His Books
- 3). Malaikatihi - His Angels
- 5). Yawmul Qiyaamah - The Last Day (i.e. Day of Judgment)
- 6). Al-Qadr - Divine Will & Decree (i.e. Allah has decreed everything - nothing happens unless Allaah Wills, Allaah knows all that will happen and He either allows it to happen or does not)

Even so, of course there are also "commandments" of Allah SWT to the Prophet Muhammad, such as the Prohibition of Associating Associators with Allah, the Commandment to Do Good to Fathers and Mothers, the Prohibition of Killing Children for Fear of Being Poor, the Prohibition of Approaching Abominable Acts, the Prohibition of Killing Human Souls, the Prohibition of Approaching the Assets of Orphans , Orders to Perfect Measures and Scales, Commands to Speak Fairly, Commands to Fulfill Promises to Allah, Commands to Follow Allah's Straight Way.

These commands and prohibitions are at least listed in Surah Al An'am Verse 151, the meaning of which is said to be as follows: "Say: "Let me read what your Lord has forbidden you, namely: do not associate anything with Him, do good to both mothers father,

and do not kill your children For fear of poverty, we will provide sustenance to you and to them, and do not approach abominable deeds, whether visible among them or those that are hidden, and do not kill souls that are forbidden by God (kill him) but with something (cause) that is true ". That is what you have been commanded so that you may understand (it).” Prohibition of approaching the property of orphans, orders to perfect measurements and scales so that orders to say true and fair, one of which is found in Surah Al An'am Verse 152, One of the commands to fulfill promises to Allah is found in Surah An Nahl Verse 9, and the command to follow Allah's way one of which is straight is found in Surah Al Imran Verse 51.

My Dreams in Life

My dream in life will always be to be an independent man who can stand in my own way. Since I was a child, I have always been given visuals of the beauty of struggling on my own, going my own way and succeeding on my own. However, at that time my dream was too scattered to be defined in detail. It wasn't until I started growing up that I could decide which direction to pursue. Since high school, the world that I have been involved in has only been struggling between Martial Arts, Fashion Retail Business, Graphic Design and Social Activities.

It never occurred to me at first that until now I am still in the same realm and continue to try to develop myself in that circle. Until

finally, I realized that maybe this is the way it should be, and I have to focus more on seeing this, so that I can give my best in every action I take. After I tried to look more broadly, it turns out that everything can be threaded to determine 1 thing that I really want for my final goal. For now I still don't have the courage to determine what or which one I really want, however, one thing is certain, from now on I have to give more effort and best effort in every activity to reach that point. The point where I am ready to take the opportunity when the moment comes, the point where I am more mature in making decisions, the point where I have more provisions to carry forward.

The journey and all the efforts that I have made since the beginning of high school or if it has been around 6 years, I have felt a lot of progress in every field that I am involved in, but it never feels enough and is never satisfied. I always feel like I haven't given my best, there's always a reason why I'm still not optimal in achieving it. I don't know whether this is a good thing or a bad thing, but I often focus more on what I haven't been able to achieve, on the other hand, this really gives me motivation and encouragement to keep trying and evaluating what I'm doing

My Commitment

As a commitment, I always stick to the process. A directed and measurable process will definitely produce the desired results. By always making plans and evaluating each activity, I will always be able to measure whether my achievements are successful or if there are any obstacles. In short, my commitment is to always be

measured and planned, so that my life is not on the verge of uncertainty.

Making an achievement a process for even greater achievement, and making failure a learning process to get even greater results. The point is, whatever is felt or obtained, I will focus more on the big things ahead.

My Short and Mid-term Goals

For a short period of time, I would categorize it for the year. My focus this year is to build trust in my relationships, in the field of martial arts that I am passionate about, business, campus and socially. Why do I say that, is because I feel the need to position myself in front of the new people I meet. In terms of positioning myself, it means that I need to show how other people will see me and how I want to be seen by other people. In the field of martial arts that I am passionate about, namely Muaythai, this year I have started to focus on competing again and send my coached athletes to compete. This is to introduce myself as well as the name of the gym that I bring, apart from being in touch, this is also to show my quality in this field. In the retail fashion business, the brand that I work on is a fashion brand with an eastern street culture scene. This year I had the opportunity to attend several community events in the scene, such as skateboarding, rap music and graffiti. This is to strengthen the brand image and also as an opportunity to find acquaintances. In my social activities, this year I tried to join several

communities, such as the Senopati Circle and the Siam Boxing Martial Arts Community, and also took part in several social volunteer activities. Since this year is still a few months away, I hope there will still be many opportunities ahead.

For medium term goals, I would categorize it as 3-5 years. Within that time frame, I set a target that I would have graduated as a graduate. At this stage, I am targeting that my business has formed the right system and can run on auto-pilot, so that I personally can seek new experiences by working in companies. At this stage I also imagine that I have opened my own Muaythai gym, my provision as a Muay Thai trainer for the last 2 years, and will have more experience in the next 3-5 years. It is very possible for me to open my own gym. Where right now I am indeed preparing everything, to build the gym. Of course this will be achieved through the cooperation of several parties, bearing in mind that my capacity is not yet possible to bear everything alone. Hopefully whatever experience I will get this year, will open up many opportunities in the next 3-5 years.

My Long-term Goals

My main desire for the long term is to stay in the business industry. Although it is not certain that in the future I will do business in the clothing industry or the world of martial arts. Or maybe both, seeing that both can be signaled. To reach the stage where I am ripe for the position, I need to focus on developing myself from now on. Building trust, practicing discipline, improving skills and maintaining the relationships that have been built will be very important for me in the future.

In detail, what I mean by wanting to do business in the world of martial arts is to build a gym, in which people can practice various kinds of martial arts such as Muaythai, Boxing and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. With a vision to bring up new athletes who are qualified and will continue to advance the fighting industry in Indonesia. As well as building a gym, I also want to become a promoter to put on show fighting events that combine both sports and entertainment, where I can put on an exciting show for the audience while also giving qualified athletes the opportunity to compete in the ring. Making sports equipment that can support the performance of martial arts fans is also part of my plan, such as training clothes, training shorts, boxing gloves, punching bags, training equipment and so on.

Apart from that, I also want to continue the brand that I created in the field of street fashion. Creating trendy fashion products by combining the image of the eastern cultural scene and attracting related communities to move forward together. Having a shop with an open space concept with a skateboard area, music production house and creative space to become a place for actors in related communities. In this brand, I really prioritize forms of collaboration from the communities we attract, such as collaborating with rap musicians, skateboarders, graffiti, graphic designers, video editors and also fashion designers. Apart from attracting a cross-market of talent, this is also a form of strengthening relationships in the existing community. I view this field as my creative and social space, therefore the form of business that is run

will also be in harmony with that. I hope to achieve my dreams and be able to give positive energy to those around me.

So, in conclusion, I want to be a person who goes forward without forgetting my background. Strengthening my background, such as the values taught by my family and religion, will strengthen the foundation of my life so that I can continue to face challenges in the future. With a strong foundation, I will be able to continue to enrich myself with knowledge and experience and not be easily shaken. I believe being aware of the importance of values taught by family and religion will be the capital to sail the ocean of life and will be a strong motivation in living it.

Hopefully knowing myself better will be an encouragement to be even better in the future. Facilitate in making decisions and become a material consideration in achieving my dreams and goals.

CHAPTER FIVE

AYOM BENING I. S.



*“It’s not happiness that brings us gratitude. It’s gratitude
that brings us happiness. “*

– Anonymous

Being a human means having doubts, yet still continuing your path. Being a human is difficult and some people make it more difficult than others. I was one of those people back then. I wish not anymore.

Hi! It’s 19 years old Bening who wrote this. An ordinary human being who is still trying to decide her path, her purpose of life. Like many others my age, I find myself grappling with existential questions that seem to permeate every thought of mine. Who am I? What do I have to do? What is the meaning behind this vast and mysterious universe? These were big questions to me, urging me to dig for answers that lay within me.

And this is a story about my journey, an extraordinary journey of self-discovery. Through 19 years of life, I met many different people, went through many ups and downs, and experienced transformative moments. Along the way, I'm finding answers to the deep questions about why I exist in this world.

Dealing with Life

It started when I was about to enter my college studies. Unfortunately, back then, I wasn't accepted in several tests either because there's an issue saying that my high school was blacklisted by the university I chose or simply that I didn't pass the test. It really hurts my feelings because I thought that I've done my best and I was optimistic before. The pressure of knowing that I'm not accepted in several tests really made me down.

As the first daughter in my family, I felt ashamed and I felt like I made my parents disappointed. That time, dealing with life and accepting the situation was really hard. It was too hard to hold the tears. But I have to. I don't want people to see me broke, especially my family.

Hearing my friends feeling happy because they got accepted into their dream university is confusing. At some point I was happy for my friends, but on the other hand it made me think, "when is my turn?" Seeing parents who were proud of their children entering the best university also made me think, "what about me? Can't I make

my parents proud of me? I failed.” It breaks my heart when there’s someone asking me or my parents, “*lanjut dimana? Sudah diterima di universitas mana?*” and the only answer is “Not yet, still trying.”

Until one day, my mother told me that God knows better. She said that we should be thankful for everything, not only the good things we got but also something that may disappoint us. To accept means to be thankful. There are a lot of things that can show your gratitude.

She taught me that if God put us in a situation, there will always be a meaning behind it. She even said, “if it's good for us, Allah will allow it. If Allah hasn't allowed it, surely Allah has good intentions too... for our good too, it's just us who don't know.”

In a short story to show my thankfulness towards God, I bought some cooking oils and distributed them towards people who may need it. It is also influenced by my mother's ideas. With the intention to show my gratitude, I rode my motorcycle on a hot afternoon, and went to a traditional market in my village which I thought there were people in need. It’s also because back then, there was an oil crisis, and the price of oil became really high which means people will really need it.

Commonly, people will share something when they get something great, in my culture it is called “*tasyakuran*”. But from what I have been going on, I learned that when we are going through something miserable, the key to accept it is to be thankful. After I had distributed the oil, somehow I felt very very relieved. The smile of the people who got the oil can be an encouragement for me. I don’t know how just by doing small good deeds can loosen up the burden which I had been kept alone all this time. And that was the heaven of earth feelings I have ever experienced. I accept what was going on me, it feels like, oh God, it’s all up to you, you know the best. I’m sincerely grateful for whatever I am right now.

I’m not praying for my dream university anymore, I prayed to God, “God, please guide me to the right path, make it easy for me to accept any situation of my life. You are the one who knows best what is best for me, so I leave everything to you. Please God, make me have patience and sincerity.” That night, such a beautiful and long night, for a creature that can only depend on its creator. The tears were not sad tears anymore, but tears of sincerity and tears of belief that God has always been there for me.

Not so long after that, I got a notification from Google about scholarship opportunities. I think it’s because I often search for something related to it. It led me to know about the PLAN Indonesia Scholarship that collaborates with IPMI University. I read the requirements carefully and feel like I can afford all of it. Going

through the assessment process, the interviews, and so on until the D-Day of the announcement.

It was 30th of August 2022, that day was my birthday and also supposed to be the first test announcement day. But until night, I accept nothing. The first thought that came to my mind was “did I fail again?” However, that night, there was no denial at all. “Nevermind, maybe it’s not my fortune yet. It’s okay, I’ll just keep trying and God knows best,” I said.

That time Bening had just already passed the 18 years of life, and has her new chapter, the age of 19. You know what? On the first day of my 19th year, 1st September 2022, I got a super special gift. An email saying that I passed the test and I’ll have my interview on the 2nd September.

Right now, I have already come this far. Studying at IPMI International Business School, meeting new friends, and getting to know kind lecturers. What a blessing.

Mirroring what I am right now made me think again about how magical the blessings of God is. We never know what will happen in the future and what kind of problems are in front of us. But I tell you now, I tell myself, never ever leave hope for two

things: 1. Mercy of God 2. The power of Dua. Good things come to those who patiently wait. Trust God.

Life Map Journey and what I found

At the very beginning of the class, we got a piece of paper containing rows and numbers. I didn't know what I was supposed to do with those rows? But then it turned out that it was a map of our life. The numbers mean our ages, and we should fill in the rows with what we are going to do at that age. By introspecting and thinking about what I will do for 1 year, 10 years, up to 100 years, I slowly reach the stage of thinking about my spiritual values and life goals.

I started to see that life's path was more about developing meaningful relationships, having an influence, and finding inner peace than it was only about collecting achievements and material belongings. The columns on the paper helped me understand myself better.

Finding My Way of Life with Ikigai Intersection

In a religious study course, Bu Amel guides us how to find our reason's of living by using the Ikigai concept. Ikigai, a Japanese idea, is the meeting point of four fundamental elements: vocation, profession, mission, and passion. It is frequently referred to as one's "reason for being" or as the cause for living that gives life fulfillment. She gives us 4 questions to make it easier: 1. What do you love to do?, 2. What do you think the world needs?, 3. What can you get paid for?, and 4. What are you good at?

Those 4 questions made me think deeper about myself? What do I love? What are my abilities? And it helps me find my intersection. I conclude that I may be a good and generous food business owner. Since I feel like I love cooking, I think the world needs good people. I can get paid as a chef or food blogger and I'm good at cooking. I feel excited to find something new and having a clear self-reflection, I decided to embark on a journey to bring my ikigai to life and pursue my passion.

Purpose of Life and What I Commit

There is no greater gift you can give or receive than to honor your calling. It's why you were born. And how you become most truly alive.

-OPRAH WINFREY

As living things in this world and society, the earth, the living, belongs to all things inside this world, not just us. That's why, as a person, we should be beneficial towards others. I thought that my life purpose is to worship God, be a good adherent, get along well with other people and be beneficial for them and for the world. From my experience, showing gratitude by sharing with others made me realize that I was really happy to see other people happy. This leads to the thought that I should always think about

others, not just myself. When I'm happy, I should share my happiness with others.

I want to do what I did in the long-term. The feeling of happiness when we are grateful and able to share can never be replaced. This really encourages me to continue sharing with others. Sharing happiness, being a useful person is something that will really make me proud and happy living in this world. I hope I can keep doing it for the rest of my life.

However, to be able to share with others, some effort is definitely needed. My short-term goal is definitely to gain as much knowledge and experience. I want to actively pursue opportunities for learning and personal growth. I realize the great value of acquiring knowledge in different areas and engaging in diverse experiences to broaden my understanding and skills. Furthermore, in mid-term commitment I excitedly engage in a wide range of activities that introduce me to many cultures, ideas, and challenges. I genuinely think that by doing this, I am giving myself the resources I need to develop my intelligence, foster my creativity, and improve my adaptability so that I can succeed in a world that is constantly changing and be beneficial for others.

In the long term I want to be able to share and spread benefits to others. Either my capability, my knowledge, or my experiences, anything that I can share. Either for the people around me or broader than that. I want to give sustainable benefits to my environment and my surroundings.

Conclusion

The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane. When you apply this in your life, you will find the path toward heaven on earth. Heaven on earth is where people feel happy, peaceful, and fulfilled. All people live side by side without any conflict that may disintegrate. The earth will feel like heaven where everything makes us feel free spirited and pure. I will wish for a place where the fundamental necessities of every person would be provided. With no threat of reprisal or dictatorship, people would be free to express who they are, their values, and their thoughts. Heaven on Earth would be a place where people are content, healthy, and pleased and where they are free to fulfill their potential. It is also where there's no discrimination and people will help each other easily. The basic needs of all creatures are met, not only food, clothing and shelter but also clean water and air. There should be good treatment and respect for the existence of fellow creatures, not only fellow humans but also animals and plants and nature. Last but not least is a key, civilized society.

CHAPTER SIX

CUT AZZAHRA TEUKU ZUELKIFARA



“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”

~ Robert Louis Stevenson ~

Hi, I am Zahra. I was born on Friday, January 9, 2004, in a small town that bordered Central Java and East Java, my beloved hometown, Cepu. So I often move around from Central and East Java easily, haha. A fun fact about me is that I was born on Kliwon Friday night, which means that it’s the night that almost every person in Java knows as scary night. This is a sacred day in Javanese culture, and it is related to mystical things. This myth has continued to exist across generations until now. I spent my whole life in my hometown, at least until I was 18 years old. After that, I moved to the capital of the country to continue my studies. I remember when I was in kindergarten, my parents asked me to make sure that I had to go to school until a higher level, and I was told that I never wanted to go higher because I was afraid to fall down. I mean, I am afraid because it is too high, so I can fall down. I didn’t understand what

my parents were saying about the education terms. My parents have always laughed about it, until now.

City Dwelling and Family Ties

Cepu is a small town located in central Java. This city serves as the border between Central Java and East Java. We just have to cross the Bengawan Solo Bridge to reach one of them. Cepu is known as the crude oil city. In 2005, Cepu gained national attention due to the discovery of abundant crude oil deposits in the Cepu Block. That's what made me think that whether in Jakarta or Cepu, the level of solar radiation exposure is not much different. So when my friend asked if I was surprised by the conditions in Jakarta, it didn't affect me much. I live in my great-grandmother's house, which is located in the center of the city, so thank God I can easily access anything in Cepu, starting from the medical center, school, culinary, and other public places.

I'm moving on to my family right now. I would say that I am a little bit interested in them. My mom is originally from Javanese people, whereas my dad is originally from Sumatran people. They met each other when my dad visited his friends in Cepu. Actually, my dad is from Aceh, so they are both different in terms of culture, ethnicity, language, and so on. They are both very different, but they have been united in a relationship until now. I am very in love with the diversity in my family. I love Javanese culture as well as Sumatran culture.

Outside of the diversion, however, you must see that our family is lovely, but actually, I could say it is not. My dad is typically an abusive man. He often subjected me to both physical and verbal violence when I was a child. My mother could only remain silent and sometimes counter him. But I realize that perhaps I was a mischievous child who encountered my father's temperamental character. However, I think that's what shaped my personality to become someone who finds it difficult to socialize, is introverted, and tends to be indifferent to everything around me at least until I was in senior high school.

Until junior high school, my father would still hurl insults, and as I tried to resist everything, I became a detached child who despised him. However, as I entered senior high school, I began to understand and realize some of the reasons that made him behave that way, and eventually I decided to gradually ease my hatred I had been harboring since childhood. His temperamental nature may have been a result of his stress due to the difficulty in finding a job and thus being confined at home to take care of me while my mother had to work every day. It made me think that financial, mental, and parenting readiness are essential for those who plan to get married and expect to have children.

Spirituality Shaping My Existence

In the past, I felt like my life was in chaos, being in the midst of abusive parents, which led me to lose faith in God and tend to blame the circumstances that happened to me. But now, I have slowly managed to make peace with it all. I am fully Muslim, and I am faithful to Allah SWT right now. I still remember vividly that

when I was in senior high school, I had a problem that made me feel incredibly uncomfortable in my life and in my heart. That is when I truly started surrendering all of myself to Allah SWT, trusting Him with everything, and praying to Him every day. One morning, when I woke up, miraculously, I felt light, as if the burden in my heart had vanished instantly. That is when I discovered his unmatched greatness. It was a turning point where I felt I had to change my path towards Him. I wanted to embark on a spiritual journey, but it was not easy, as I said. There were many temptations along the way, even until now. Nevertheless, I always strive to be better in the future.

Embarking on a Path: Navigating Communities and Religious Beliefs

I would say that my journey of religious belief begins since I had a miracle after surrendering myself to Allah SWT when I had the problem as I told before. It was my turning point to develop and strengthen my religious belief but it is so complicated. My bigger family has members who have different beliefs in the teachings of Islam. The majority of them follow different teachings compared to my father, and my mother also switched to my father's beliefs. However, when I moved to pursue higher education, my aunt and uncle asked me to follow our grandfather's teachings. In my opinion, both teachings are equally good and sacred, but my grandfather's teachings are more distinctive, which may face opposition from

those who have never encountered it before. However, the problem arises not because the teachings are a misguided approach, but because there are inner struggles within me. That is how I am at the moment. My dad clearly opposes my decision to change beliefs, even though both are still within the realm of Islam, while my mother leaves all the decisions up to me.

I have tried to assimilate into the particular form of Islam, and I felt comfortable because I was guided there. However, upon further reflection, I realized that my comfort stemmed from being guided, and I still felt uncomfortable with certain aspects. That is when I realized that the process of spiritual journey is incredibly challenging and comes with many obstacles. Therefore, I need guidance from someone who is capable, and I am currently seeking to find it.

My journey for the community increased when I entered this college. I feel more comfortable and have become happier mingling with others and more open minded since being in my current environment. I have come to realize how influential the environment is in shaping people's perspectives, thoughts, and actions. The environment plays a crucial role in building and developing a person's character. I have experienced a complete 180-degree change in my life thanks to my current environment. I have become more open and gradually discovered what I have been searching and desiring for all this time so I am extremely grateful for that. However, there are still many challenges I must face in pursuing my dreams.

From the communities I have joined, I have learned a lot—starting from interacting with others, dealing with internal and external issues, and merging into a unified entity that strengthens the community's collective goals. I have continuously grown within various communities to strengthen myself in navigating my life because that is where I learn so much.

Life Purpose

I see myself as a person who continues to grow every day. I strive to grow little by little, just like a plant that keeps growing every day. It doesn't matter how small the growth is; what matters is that it happens consistently. At least, let there be one percent growth every day. To make enormous changes, there's no need to make a grand movement. The most important thing is to continue piecemeal investing every day until eventually those investments bear fruit in the long run. When we build it little by little, gradually, even by just one percent, the changes may not be noticeable now, but they will be exponential in the long run. I believe the best improvement is one made gradually and persistently, where the impact is not immediately realized but is consistently pursued. The effects will be felt after a while of continually enhancing ourselves and making incremental advancements on our own. Everything begins with small things, and small progresses towards making enormous changes.

Long-term Commitments

I want to continue my education abroad and reach the business technology sector. Developing career advancement in that sector and achieving financial stability and independence by creating multiple streams of income, investing wisely, and building wealth over time. Then I desire to start and grow my own flourishing business or venture to combat the challenges that spread around the world. The IT sector is noted for its high rate of innovation and disruptive potential. Being involved in this industry can allow me to create cutting-edge products, services, or solutions that can transform industries and address unmet market needs. Being proactively on the forefront of innovations and technological advancements allows me to differentiate myself from the competition while gaining an advantage over them. In the past few years, Indonesia's digital economy has grown significantly. With an evolving middle class and a huge population, there is a growing need for technologically advanced products and services. This provides an opportunity for technological businesses to branch out into a potentially lucrative market.

I desire to cultivate my personal growth and self-improvement in areas such as emotional intelligence, communication skills, and physical fitness in order to empower myself to take control of my own life and make wise decisions that align with my goals and values. It can also enhance my self-confidence and self-esteem as I develop new skills, overcome challenges, and achieve personal milestones. Come up with a sense of competence as well as belief in our abilities to take on new

opportunities, overcome challenges, and pursue our aspirations with greater enthusiasm.

I want to get involved in philanthropy and social impact so that I can make a positive impact in people's lives through my contributions to social causes or charitable organizations. Advancing social justice and equality that aim to eliminate discrimination, prejudice, and systemic inequalities throughout by supporting marginalized communities, advocating for human rights, and promoting equal opportunities for all individuals. Furthermore, dealing with pressing social, economic, and environmental issues through supporting causes such as education, poverty alleviation, healthcare, environmental conservation, and more through philanthropic efforts will go a long way toward enhancing a more equitable and sustainable world.

Enchanted Balance: The Essence of My Ikigai

Ikigai is one thing that we learned together in the last session. Ikigai is a Japanese concept that refers to the intersection of four key elements of life: what you love, what you are good at, what the world needs, and what you can be rewarded for. It is commonly referred to as the perfect balance of passion, mission, vocation, and profession. Recognizing and pursuing your ikigai can provide you with a sense of complete satisfaction, meaning, and fulfillment in life. It is all about discovering your own unique purpose and living with purpose-driven motivation.

I tried to find my own Ikigai, and the result is that my Ikigai is a flourishing business and a foundation to combat many issues. Why did I think that? It is because my intersection with the key elements above resulted in my Ikigai. I love traveling by myself, and I am passionate about learning something new with enthusiasm and focus on pursuing it. I believe that the world needs sustainability, equality and justice to combat discrimination, and global cooperation to tackle challenges. Additionally, I can get paid in terms of business, foundation, and more by investing in potential companies. So that's why my Ikigai is establishing a flourishing business and foundation to combat many issues spread around the world.

Short and Mid-term Commitments

In order to reach my long-term goals, I have to set up and start working on both my short-term and mid-term goals as my current objectives. To easily achieve my long-term goals, I have to focus on doing many things that are relevant to my preferred future life. Currently I am a student in business school so my short-term goals are more focused on it. My short-term goal is to start building my own personal brand and this journey cannot be easy and must take time as well as effort so I decided to start growing one of my current objectives first. This is an ongoing process, and it evolves as I grow personally and professionally.

Indonesia suffers from a wide range of social and economic challenges. Indonesia has a large population of people with numerous backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and socioeconomic positions. We are able to assist and support local communities to

grow and perform well through volunteer work. Volunteering allowed me to see the world in a new light and get involved as an agent of change in society, encouraging positive changes. It gives me a great sense of fulfillment and delight whenever I see the positive impact that each dedication delivers. Being a volunteer allows me to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and professions, which enables me to establish an extensive network and cooperate with other individuals, groups, or institutions that embrace similar interests and goals. Those are some of the reasons why I really want to do volunteer work. I desire to take part in many volunteer activities outside campus and develop many positive connections with others. I want to learn new things that I have never done before to compound my knowledge and skills. Also, I want to be an agent of change for a better Indonesian future.

For educational purposes, I want to become more proficient in English so that I am able to communicate effectively with others as well as engage in learning experiences with all kinds of professionals. In the medium term of educational purposes, I'm committed to successfully completing my academic program and meeting all the necessary requirements set by the institution. Then, with the scholarship offered, I intend on continuing my studies abroad since I want to meet many new people and learn some of their perspectives on seeing something that aligns with my long-term goals.

CHAPTER SEVEN

CHERYL CALISTA JUSUF



“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

A “Human-Being” is to “being Human”

Although it sounds puzzling– its quite simple if you can take a step back and reflect on the pieces of what is “human being” and to be, what is called, “being human”. The main difference between human beings and being human is that 'human being' is generally defined as being a member of the “Homo sapiens” or human race, while 'being human' means displaying characteristics that are unique to human beings— that makes us different from one another. As a result, I was inspired to make my own version of humans-being-humans.

So, my name is Cheryl. I was born on February 13, 2004 and lived in Jakarta, Indonesia my entire life. I wouldn't consider myself to be the most articulate nor artistic person out there and even be given the opportunity to write about my story and spiritual commitment, but I believe as humans– we all have a voice and dream. Hence, this is a very good opportunity that can encapsulate

many things that are meaningful and valuable to me— things that make me human. As an example, studying and struggling through my exams, buying a cup of my favorite Green tea Matcha Latte while studying, playing video games with my friends during break-period, jogging on the weekends to refresh myself, spending time with family and friends, and so on. However, not all days are like this, actually some days are duller than others, but that's okay because everyone has their own good, happy, sad, stressful days— As long as I continuously embrace my thoughts and emotions— the constituents that make me human— and hopefully act upon my belief that everyone is human and i shouldn't be ashamed of my “human being human” self.

What it Means to Lead a Purposeful Life

Have you ever heard the question “*Are you living or just existing?*” Well, at one point this question devoured me in-and-out. I was a shy and introverted girl, born and raised in a competitive environment— where I see my family and friends being successful and never lacking in my eyes; including; academics, social-life, prestige, status, accomplishments, appearance-wise and many more. Because of this, I was always comparing myself to others and always under the impression that I needed to outdo them in every aspect of life. However this mindset engulfed and spiraled my mental health to go downhill. Additionally, I was not the only one going through this— I witnessed many of my family members and

friends also experiencing this issue. Hence, growing up I always thought to myself, in order to achieve something in life, we need to give up something in return. In other words, it was my dilemma between sacrificing happiness for success, or vice-versa.

However, after having the time to reflect upon myself and pray to my god, Allah. I finally felt better and at peace with myself. It was a feeling of epiphany and serenity. Although there was still so much I had to learn– I felt like I found an answer. I believe that realistically, I cannot give up a successful career or financial stability for happiness, or give up happiness and fun for success. Those two are too meaningful to me. That’s why I concluded that life is not about achieving happiness or success, but accomplishing things that are meaningful and valuable to me in order to lead a purposeful life instead of having other people’s opinion to decide for me.

Personally, what I would like to accomplish in life that is considered meaningful includes; fulfilling myself with new experiences, traveling, learning, spending time with loved ones, doing self-care, doing my favorite activities and hobbies, doing and enjoying every small and insignificant things in life as well as— also being financially and career stable. In order to achieve that, lately I have been focusing on my academics, trying to do well in my classes. I have also taken internships and joined competitions, programs, and volunteer opportunities with my friends. I believe that in order to grow and achieve our goals, there has to be our hard work, discipline, and perseverance.

However, not all humans are perfect and they can fall back to their old habits. For example, Something I've been feeling lately when I look at others and ask, "why haven't I achieved as much this year?" Well, I have a lot of genuine goals, but I've noticed my progress has been slower lately compared to my momentum in the past. Why am I slower? It's because I'm recovering. Sometimes I forget how burnt-out I was at the end of high school. The challenges I had, the fatigue I experienced. It was big for me. It's like after running a long long marathon and you get so tired that you need to take time off to rest and recover. Nevertheless, I know for a fact that resting and recovery is not giving up or ignoring your life responsibilities and goals. I've learned that resting and recovery requires me to take my responsibilities still consistently, just lightly, without the pressure and need to speed up. Just like how its physically exhausting and impossible to run all the time, its mentally impossible to run all the time. That is why I remind myself that there are rest periods and recovery periods in everyone's journey.

To be a Change-maker

It has always been one of my long childhood dreams to be a change-maker. To be a change-maker means to be able to bring about positive changes in society. I think as humans one of our purposes in life is to spread kindness, do good-deeds, and become a change-maker. One of those dreams or goals of mine is to create a positive impact to the Indonesian community such as our youth. I

hope to become a person capable of aiding students (especially Indonesians) to pursue their dreams by opening or building a school, becoming a spokesperson to inspire quality education and the importance of it in economic development, or something more simple as being part of an organization that helps the youth and become a supporter of the movement. The reason behind this goes back during my childhood. I was lost and felt like I had no sense of direction. During this time, I barely saw my parents because they were constantly working and sadly, I didn't have genuine friends to express my true-self. So by helping others— it's sort of a closure to my inner child that was asking for help— that child that had no one to turn to. As a result, I finally turned to religion; religion made me realize on my own toxic thoughts. Therefore, during a period of being lost, religion helped me go back on track through being interconnected with our community, being humane, and showing compassion to each other.

However, not everyone can be a change-maker because it's challenging and very taxing on a person. Therefore, to even make my dreams come true, I need to work and educate myself. I am starting to realize that there are so many factors that come into play— just because I have the drive and ambition to achieve such goals in life does not mean it will be possible. That is why in the past, I would have been upset with myself if I could not reach my goals, but what I did not understand at the time was that there were other factors I missed or lacked. Interestingly, these factors I overlooked are all the seemingly little things such as important life skills like emotional management, time-management, decisiveness, strategizing, implementing the growth-mindset and many more. That

is why, to change even a tiny part of the world starts with changing ourselves to our best version first.

My Promise for the Future

I believe “Yesterday's dreams are often tomorrow's realities”, only if we work for it. If I strive harder and take more opportunities, I get to experience more things life has to offer. Although it feels like I'm a child in an adult's body, I will continue to grow as a person and it will take me a step closer to achieving whatever goal I want to achieve. That is why I will create a promise with myself and never forget where I once was, my religion, my experiences. Especially as humans, we have a heart that allows us to connect with nature and each other, as well as a brain to think about our life's purpose.

These principles align with the foundation of Islam, which is "Rohmatan lil alamin." While some people may solely focus on the religion of Islam, it is important to recognize that it was sent down from Heaven by God through Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him). Hence, Being a good person and contributing to society is not only encouraged, but required by Allah, even if it is just a small act of kindness towards someone. Overall, to close my chapter, “being human” and reconnecting with our religion is an essential part of our obligation to become change-makers and to achieve or lead a purposeful life.



Don't underestimate yourself

We all have a special "something" inside us

CHAPTER EIGHT

Daffa Abrari

““

***“You are exactly where you deserve to be.
Change who you are and you will change how
you live.”***

Where it all started

Bukittinggi, the place where it all began. This charming small town nestled in the heart of West Sumatra holds a special significance in my life. It is not only known for its breathtaking natural beauty but also carries the title of "Kota Wisata," meaning the City of Tourism. Growing up as the oldest child in my family, I quickly realized that I had a significant responsibility on my shoulders – to guide and set an example for my younger brothers.

Being the eldest sibling comes with its own set of responsibilities. I have taken on the role of a guide and mentor for my younger brothers. From helping them with their schoolwork to teaching them life lessons, I strive to be a positive influence in their lives. It brings me immense joy to witness their growth and development, knowing that I have played a part in shaping their futures.

I consider myself fortunate to have been born into a privileged life. However, this privilege comes with its own set of sacrifices. One such sacrifice is the physical separation from my father. While my parents are not divorced, my father's work commitments require him to be away from home on weekdays. He is based in Jakarta, the bustling capital city of Indonesia, and can only spend weekends with us in Bukittinggi.

The absence of my father during the weekdays has shaped my perspective on family and taught me valuable lessons. I have come to understand the importance of cherishing the time we have together as a family and making the most of every moment. While it can be challenging at times, this arrangement has strengthened the bond between my father, mother, brothers, and me. We have learned to appreciate the quality time we spend together and make it count.

Do I really know my religion?

As a child, my educational journey took me to a Christian elementary school, which had a profound impact on my religious

upbringing. Immersed in a different faith environment, I found myself gradually drifting away from my own religion. The routines of Friday prayer were the only reminders of my Muslim identity during those years. Additionally, my parents were occupied with their demanding work schedules, and they inadvertently overlooked the importance of teaching me to pray regularly.

This pattern continued into my junior high years when I relocated to Jakarta. It was during this time that a shift occurred within me. I began to reflect on my faith and question its authenticity. Doubts plagued my mind, and I pondered whether Islam truly represented the true path to spirituality. Seeking answers, I turned to my parents, but their responses failed to satisfy the depths of my inquiry.

Despite the lingering questions, I felt a growing desire to reconnect with my faith. I embarked on a personal journey, striving to incorporate the practice of praying five times a day into my life. Admittedly, there were occasions when I would forget or neglect my prayers, but I remained steadfast in my determination to fulfill this religious obligation.

When I reached the eighth grade, a significant turning point emerged. Recognizing the importance of a comprehensive Islamic

education for my brothers and me, my parents made the decision to enroll us in a Muslim school. This transition marked a new chapter in my spiritual development. Immersed in an environment that prioritized Islamic teachings, I had the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the faith, connect with fellow Muslim students, and engage in meaningful discussions about religion.

Attending a Muslim school provided me with a solid foundation in Islamic knowledge and practices. I delved into the study of the Quran, learned the principles of Islamic jurisprudence, and expanded my understanding of the Prophet Muhammad's teachings. These experiences not only helped me solidify my beliefs but also fostered a sense of belonging within a community that shared my religious values.

While my faith journey continues to evolve, I am grateful for the experiences that have shaped my relationship with Islam. The period of questioning and self-reflection allowed me to examine my beliefs critically and develop a more personal connection to my religion. It is through this ongoing exploration that I have found strength, comfort, and a renewed sense of purpose.

As I navigate the complexities of life, I strive to maintain a balance between my spiritual journey and the demands of the modern world. I recognize that faith is a deeply personal experience, and each individual's path is unique. My experiences have taught me

the importance of understanding, tolerance, and respect for others' beliefs, while staying true to my own convictions.

Moving forward, I am committed to nurturing my faith, deepening my knowledge, and embracing the values that Islam teaches me – compassion, justice, and humility. I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended a Christian elementary school, as it served as a catalyst for self-discovery and led me to a deeper appreciation for my Muslim identity. The decision to enroll in a Muslim school further enriched my understanding of Islam and provided a supportive environment to strengthen my relationship with Allah.

In this ongoing journey of faith, I am mindful of the importance of continuous learning, introspection, and seeking knowledge. By doing so, I hope to find answers to my questions, deepen my spiritual connection, and ultimately find peace and contentment in my religious identity.

Life Purpose

From the depths of my heart, I have always believed that our purpose in this world is to worship Allah and strive to accumulate numerous good deeds. However, since my childhood, I have nurtured a burning desire to become a successful businessman while

upholding the principles and teachings of Islam. My vision encompasses more than just personal success; it extends to creating job opportunities for numerous individuals and offering support to those in need.

I firmly believe that Islam encourages entrepreneurship and the pursuit of success, as long as it is within the boundaries of ethical conduct and in accordance with the teachings of the Quran and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). With this conviction as my guiding light, I aspire to build a business empire that not only thrives in the marketplace but also acts as a beacon of ethical business practices and compassion.

One of my primary objectives as a businessman is to create job vacancies for as many people as possible. I understand that meaningful employment not only provides individuals with financial stability but also contributes to their overall well-being and self-worth. By establishing a company that values and invests in its employees, I aim to empower them and enable them to support their families, fulfill their aspirations, and lead dignified lives.

Moreover, my ambition to give back to society stems from my desire to alleviate the suffering of those who are less fortunate. The Islamic principles of charity, kindness, and compassion serve as my moral compass in this endeavor. As my business flourishes, I envision utilizing a portion of its profits to support charitable causes, such as providing food, shelter, education, and healthcare to those in

need. Through this philanthropic approach, I hope to contribute towards creating a more equitable and compassionate society.

In pursuing my dreams as an entrepreneur, I am fully aware that success is not measured solely by material wealth. Instead, I believe true success lies in the ability to impact lives positively and make a meaningful difference in the world. By adhering to the principles of Islam, I aim to create a business that not only generates financial prosperity but also fosters a culture of integrity, fairness, and social responsibility.

Ikigai

Ikigai is a Japanese concept that represents the intersection of four fundamental elements: what you love, what you are good at, what the world needs, and what you can be paid for. It is often described as the "reason for being" or the "purpose in life." The term "ikigai" comes from the Japanese words "iki," meaning life, and "gai," meaning value or worth.

My passions and interests encompass various areas. I love to do business, which is why I joined a business university to further my understanding and expertise in entrepreneurship. I also have a deep passion for travel, finding joy and inspiration in exploring new places and immersing myself in different cultures. Additionally,

playing video games brings me great pleasure and serves as a means of relaxation and entertainment. Another area that sparks my interest is the automotive industry, particularly in relation to cars and their components. Lastly, I have a fascination with architecture, and I thoroughly enjoy creating miniature models and constructing structures.

When it comes to my strengths, I find that I excel in leadership roles. I have a natural inclination towards guiding and motivating others, which allows me to foster a positive and productive work environment. Being able to lead effectively brings me a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment.

In terms of what the world needs, I strongly believe in the importance of eliminating corruption and promoting peace. I aspire to contribute to a society where integrity and fairness prevail, starting with my own business practices. By conducting myself ethically and transparently, I hope to inspire others to follow suit. Additionally, I believe in the power of open-mindedness and the need for people to prioritize matters that truly hold significance rather than focusing on trivialities.

As I consider potential business opportunities, I see the possibility of establishing a travel agency that not only offers unforgettable experiences but also promotes responsible and sustainable travel. Through this venture, I aim to provide individuals with enriching journeys while fostering cultural understanding and

environmental consciousness. Furthermore, I envision utilizing my love for video games by offering console rentals. This would provide access to gaming experiences for those who may not have the means to own their own consoles, fostering a sense of community among gamers. In the automotive industry, I can leverage my knowledge and passion for cars by establishing a business that specializes in selling high-quality car parts. This endeavor would contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of vehicles, ensuring their reliability and safety.

Short and Mid Term Commitment

As a university student, my primary commitment is to excel in my academic pursuits. I strive to not only attend every class but also apply myself fully to understand the course material and actively engage in the learning process. With a strong sense of responsibility, I am determined to pass each class I undertake, ensuring that I meet the necessary requirements for successful completion.

In addition to attending classes, I have set ambitious goals for myself academically. A minimum GPA of 3.5 serves as a benchmark, motivating me to consistently perform at a high level and achieve excellent results. This commitment to academic excellence reflects my drive for personal growth and the pursuit of knowledge.

Furthermore, I am committed to graduating on time, without the need to repeat any classes. I understand the importance of efficient time management and diligent preparation, which are vital to successfully completing my degree within the designated time frame. By carefully planning my course selection and maintaining a focused approach to my studies, I am confident in my ability to meet this goal.

Looking beyond graduation, I recognize the significance of gaining practical experience in my chosen field. To supplement my academic knowledge, I plan to pursue internships or engage in practical training opportunities. This real-world experience will provide invaluable insights, allowing me to apply theoretical concepts to practical situations and further develop my skills.

Moreover, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from my parents' business. By immersing myself in their operations, I aim to gain firsthand knowledge of the intricacies of running a successful business. This experience will equip me with the practical skills, insights, and expertise necessary to navigate the dynamic world of entrepreneurship.

In parallel with my academic and practical pursuits, I also aspire to establish a small business of my own. While initially focusing on generating pocket change, I view this endeavor as an opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills acquired throughout my university journey. By undertaking a small business venture, I can gain valuable entrepreneurial experience, develop my business acumen, and foster financial independence.

By combining my commitment to academic success, timely graduation, practical experience, and entrepreneurial ventures, I aim to build a solid foundation for my future career. My dedication to academic excellence, coupled with hands-on learning, will empower me to make informed decisions and contribute meaningfully to my chosen field. Through this multifaceted approach, I strive to create a successful and fulfilling professional path while embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Long Term Commitment

In addition to my academic and professional goals, my long-term commitment is to build a loving and harmonious family. I believe that a strong and supportive family is the foundation of a fulfilling and enjoyable life. I am dedicated to creating a caring and loving environment for my future family, using the values instilled in me through my upbringing. My goal is to prioritize open communication, mutual respect, and shared experiences that foster strong bonds and create lasting memories.

Additionally, as part of my long-term commitment, I envision expanding the family business with my brothers. Building on the foundation our parents laid, together we will drive innovation, growth and sustainability. By combining our expertise and leveraging each other's strengths, we can create successful businesses that not only benefit families, but also provide employment opportunities and contribute to the local economy.

As a devout Muslim, it is another deep duty for me to perform Hajj. For many Muslims, the Hajj is an important spiritual journey and a lifelong dream. I wish to fulfill this religious duty and seek spiritual cleansing and deep connection with Allah. Hajj is a momentous personal milestone and I recognize the immense privilege it brings.

Additionally, as part of our commitment to Islamic values and employee well-being, I aim to send employees to Umrah every year. This act of generosity and support provides them with an uplifting experience and strengthens their connection to their faith. By providing this opportunity, we hope to encourage gratitude, togetherness, and spiritual growth in our employees.

In addition to my personal and professional activities, I also participate in charitable activities. I believe in the power of giving and the positive impact it can have on individuals and communities. As my business grows, I envision creating important charitable foundations and organizations that address pressing social issues and provide assistance to those in need. We want to make a lasting difference and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others by making significant contributions to education, health care, poverty alleviation and other important areas.

CHAPTER NINE

FULVIANO CAHYA SIRINGO - RINGO

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"To write about life you must first live it." - Ernest

Hemingway

Adventures from birth to present

Hello, everyone who reads my writing, I feel very excited to create a story that summarizes the stories, memories, struggles, problems, thoughts, changes that I have experienced until now. In addition, I will also discuss the religious values that guide my life. Allow me to describe it in vivid detail as sheet after sheet describing my adventure story. enjoy it all.

Hello my name is Fulviano Cahya, you guys should know that my name comes from two different languages, Hebrew and Greek, the meaning of my name is a ray of luck, therefore my parents hope

that I am always cheerful and can lead my life to the right path and I always give a positive impact on my surroundings. I was born on February 18, 2004, I am the first child of a father named Dedy Hisar and a mother named Wahyu Juli, I was born from two different backgrounds, my father is Batak while my mother is Chinese, they often told me that at first their marriage was not approved by both my mother's family and father's family, the reason was because of different ethnicities, but they said that with effort and faith they could get the blessing so they could get married. I used to think that they were really matched by God, my father used to say that he had liked my mother since he was in junior high school, they only started dating when they both graduated, my mother was the younger sister of my father, and at that time my father graduated first, in the end they went to different schools, but when my mother was in high school, my mother went to the same school as my father, in my opinion it was a very interesting love story even to be made into a movie. I have one younger sister named Calista, the age difference is about 7 years. I was born in the middle of a warm family and supported each other, we were taught from childhood to share and take care of each other, we were also taught moral values, ethics, and religious values.

My childhood, you could say beautiful or bad, being born in a warm family does not mean that my childhood has no problems, my little family is indeed very warm and caring, but there are many problems that come from my father and mother's extended family, this is what initially made me think that two families with different backgrounds will not be able to unite. I felt that both my family and my mom and dad didn't like my family. They still couldn't accept the ethnic differences between my papa and mama. I saw many different types of people, people who were ungrateful, people who were willing to sacrifice their siblings for their own interests, and people who came

only to ask for help, but left when they had received help. From a young age I was planted with seeds of hatred by my uncles and aunts, whether they realized it or not.

The thing I don't understand first is, my father still loves them all, even though my father has been disappointed many times, my father told me not to hate them, How could I who hated them so much be advised not to hate them, even I felt why my father was so stupid like that, I felt so angry and resentful towards them, even I used to think that a relationship was built only based on profit and loss.

But even though it all happened, I thought that it should not affect my social life, I still maintain good relationships with others, I have a lot of friends, but for me the people I can really trust are few. I felt that my trauma towards my extended family would only lead to bad things if I brought it to my social life. I also felt that there was no way I could never disappoint others. But I am grateful that God still brought me together with people who are sincere towards me.

Although my extended family is not what I imagined, I am very grateful to have a family that is so warm, comfortable, and upholds religious values. I am also grateful to have friends who are there and accompany me when I am in the worst state. Many beautiful memories, sadness, new experiences that keep coming every day, every day I feel God's love for me so deep, I always want to try new things, I feel this sheet has only reached the first paragraph in the content of my life journey story. I have to struggle a lot and always improve my skills, to face the future.

God Save me (always)

I am very grateful that from a young age I was instilled with religious values, a family that was obedient and diligent in going to church, you could even say that we always waited for Sunday. I feel God's great love for me, when I read the Bible there are so many verses that rebuke, strengthen, and guide me to be a strong and good person. When I was little I was very happy on Sunday morning, Sunday was the day I really looked forward to. I couldn't wait to listen to God's Word, play with church friends, sing, I really enjoyed that period.

If you ask me, are you proud to be a Christian? I would answer that there are thousands of reasons for me to say that I am proud to be a Christian. God's love for me was so great, there were so many problems, mental shocks, hatred, sadness, disappointment, but God always guided me in solving these problems. I believe that all the problems that came were God's way of making me a more mature and stronger person. I want to make myself radiate and spread kindness to everyone, so that people can see the greatness of my God.

Why I am so proud of the Lord Jesus, I feel that I am always restored, even with my extended family, I feel God leading me so that all the grudges and anger in me are fully cleansed I realize that it is not good to live in hatred and bitterness, I believe in the promise of the Lord Jesus, I just thought that even if I did good and they forgot about it, at least when I was down, God would provide support from other people who were not even me, and it turned out to be true, when I was down there were family, friends who supported and helped me. I just realized that hatred is a natural thing, but when I look further ahead there will be other kindnesses that come my way. Then why should I live in hatred?

I just hope that when I face the future, I stay with my stance, I don't become a changed person and fall into worldly pleasures. I don't want to be a person who has a negative impact on my surroundings. I don't want to be a person who forgets about morals, ethics and religion just to satisfy his lust. I don't want to become what is called a monster. I believe God will always guide my every journey ahead.

What am I living for?

As a young adult at the age of 18, it can be said that I am currently in a productive phase where what I do and what I strive for will greatly impact my future. That is why I believe that I must live according to the Word of God, and it serves as the compass that directs my life's tasks. I feel a strong connection when I pray every day at the nearest church. In exploring its teachings, I have found a faith that emphasizes love, compassion, justice, and a meaningful life for myself.

The values of Christianity form the foundation of my efforts. Daily prayers, such as morning devotions and evening prayers, bring me closer to God. Christianity guides my life's path and shapes my destiny up to this point and in the future. My goal is to inspire other Christian children, strengthen our relationship as co-workers of God, and be a light and salt in the world as commanded by the Lord to His people.

My short and mid term goals

I have established short- and long-term objectives that reflect my ambition to create stunning, significant, and unforgettable experiences as I embark on the exciting era of my life as a college student. These objectives reflect my desire to broaden my perspectives, develop deep relationships with people from all walks of life, and maximize my time in college. I want to seize every chance that comes my way and build a tapestry of experiences that will shape my future. I have an adventurous spirit and a passion for knowledge.

I wish to have a deeper understanding of many cultures and create bridges of empathy through embracing variety. Additionally, I'm determined to enjoy every second of college life and take advantage of everything it has to offer. I aim to make the most of my time on campus by engaging in extracurricular activities, going to stimulating lectures and seminars, and discovering the surrounding area. I will not only enhance my college experience by actively participating in activities, clubs, and groups, but I will also acquire priceless qualities like leadership, teamwork, and time management.

In conclusion, As a college student, my short- and mid-term objectives center on making unforgettable memories, discovering new worlds, connecting with others in meaningful ways, and excelling in the classroom. I am convinced that by immersing myself in a variety of situations, pushing myself beyond my comfort zone, and embracing the entirety of college life, I will leave this transformational time with a wealth of information, personal development, and a promising future.

My Long Term goals and my Ikigai

Before I delve further, let me explain what Ikigai is in case some of you are not familiar with it. Ikigai is a Japanese concept that describes a meaningful life purpose that brings satisfaction and happiness. The term "ikigai" consists of two words, "iki" which means "life" and "gai" which means "value" or "meaning." This concept focuses on the combination of four core elements: what you love, what you are good at, what the world needs, and what you can contribute through your actions. I have discovered my Ikigai and condensed it into my long-term goals. I hope my story can inspire you to find your own ikigai.

In the journey of life that I have traversed, I have witnessed and experienced numerous challenges, the abandonment of ethical values, encounters with different kinds of people, problem-solving, moments of doubt in decision-making, disappointments, sadness, and letting go of someone I deeply loved from the chapters of my life. However, regardless of whether it was happiness or sorrow, disappointment from others, I want all of these experiences to serve as lessons for me. I also acknowledge that I am not a perfect person and have, at times, let others down, but these are the challenges I must face. As I look towards the future, I know that there will be even greater challenges on a larger scale, but I firmly believe that God has never forsaken me.

In the process of searching and exploring my life, I have finally discovered my true Ikigai. I am now fully aware of what I love, what the world needs, what I can do in the future, and what I can do well. My deep passion for the culinary world has motivated me to

establish a long-term goal of creating a culinary business. I aspire to combine my creativity in crafting delicious and innovative dishes with my entrepreneurial skills to build a successful and thriving enterprise.

However, my goals extend beyond mere business success. I also strive to be an individual who brings benefits to those around me. I realize that true happiness lies in making others smile. Therefore, I intend to utilize my culinary business as a platform to provide enjoyable and satisfying experiences for my customers. I aim to create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere filled with smiles, while serving food that not only delights the taste buds but also brings happiness and joy.

In the journey of life, filled with challenges and failures, I believe that every experience holds valuable lessons. Each moment of happiness and sadness, every disappointment and despair, contributes to shaping and enriching my individuality. I intend to embrace all these valuable lessons and apply them to my journey towards success in my culinary business. I will learn from mistakes, hone my skills, and commit myself to continuous learning and personal growth.

In all my endeavors and struggles, I firmly believe that having faith and trust in God is a strong foundation. In every step I take, I will rely on Him to provide guidance, strength, and peace in facing the challenges that lie ahead.

CHAPTER TEN

INSANUL QISTY AZZAHARA D.



"When we do the best we can, we never know what magic can happen in our life or the lives of others." - Helen Keller

Hi. My name is Insanul Qisty Azzahara Dzulhijah and let me tell you about my life. I was born in west Jakarta on the 14th of February 2004. My parents were born in Central Java but my father moved to west jakarta when he was 17 years old and then my father continued his career in Jakarta until he finally married my mother in Jakarta. I am the second child of two siblings. When I was a child, I was an active child and was very happy when I met new friends. But one thing that was not good was when I was little I didn't socialize much with my home environment because my house was close to my cousin's house so I often hung out with my cousins compared to

my neighbors. One thing that I have started to learn until now is that socialization is important because we can maintain group integration in society and get closer to each other.

Amazed by The Rules in Islam

When I entered elementary school around the age of 6 I was a little surprised because at my school there were lots of religious activities in the morning, maybe about 3 days a week we carry out religious activities in the morning. At that time I still didn't understand why we had to carry out activities for 3 days, what impact would it have on us? The activity that we do is read short letters or we can say read juz amma and then read the meaning of each letter that is read. when I was little I just followed the readings that were read without really understanding the meaning of the short letter from juz amma that was being read.

Since I was a child around the age of 7 I still did not clearly understand the benefits of reading juz amma, praying 5 times. I only follow orders from my parents, if ordered to worship because my parents have strict principles in matters of religion so I'm afraid if I don't carry out orders from my parents.

Then as time goes by when I often do worship sincerely without fear of parental orders, I feel the raciness in prayer. Communicating with God by praying is a precious time for me. And if I leave worship, for example, such as leaving prayer time, I feel sinful and feel uncomfortable in my heart. In my opinion, this is a guidance or miracle for my life from Allah so that I can be closer to the Supreme Creator.

The knowledge that I got from the Islamic religious activities that I have done is very beneficial for my life. I am amazed at the presence of religion in my life. The benefits that I feel may not be counted by numbers but can be felt in my heart. Without realizing it, it turns out that when we are close to God, our lives will be made easy by him, all the problems we face will be given a way by him.

The Benefits of Al Quran in My Life

The Quran is an extraordinary holy book that can change my mind and my characteristics. At first I rarely read the Koran because I didn't really study the contents of the Koran, I only read the holy verses without reading the meaning. But when I watch a video from one of the ustad who tells me that the contents of the Quran contain facts that can provide advice on the problems I face and contain motivation so that I can be enthusiastic about living life when I feel like giving up. That statement is proven because I felt at the lowest point in my life and then read the contents of the Quran as a suggestion from Allah to get up, don't get carried away by sadness.

The contents of the Quran also provide new knowledge for me, maybe I didn't know the information before, then I came to know when I read the Quran. What amazes me is that the Quran is a book that provides instructions and proves phenomena that occur when scientists have carried out their research. None of the scientists who did the study were able to interpret what this phenomenon meant. Likewise, there has never been a natural occurrence that can

interpret it. However, the only interpretation that can be found is in the Quran. It is extraordinary that the contents of the holy verses of the Quran provide many benefits for human life.

Finding My Pleasure from “IKIGAI”

Ikigai is a word that I just heard at a meeting for Ms. Amel's subject is religious study. It was very exciting because I could get to know Japanese culture which might be foreign to Indonesian ears with the word ikigai, as well as me, who at first didn't know what ikigai meant, what were the benefits of ikigai. It turns out that the concept of ikigai is a purpose in life, basically a guiding idea that gives people's lives more purpose, value and balance. It's as if you wake up each morning and decide what to do for the day before living it to the fullest.

Basically, Ikigai is the intersection of four venn diagrams: 1) what are you passionate about, 2) what are you good at, 3) what the world needs, 4) what makes you valuable. Finding Ikigai means finding the midpoint of these four things from ourselves.

From the religious studies section, I conclude that I enjoy and find satisfaction in this ikigai because it combines my abilities and interests in various fields. I can explore careers such as teaching, where I can use my enthusiasm for learning and love of reading to inspire others. To address the need for creativity and a moral compass in the world, I can also use my knowledge in fashion trends and design to develop innovative campaigns and projects.

Keep in mind that ikigai is a personal journey that changes over time as you develop new interests and skills. In order to find your own special ikigai, it is very important to reflect and investigate what truly fulfills you and aligns with your values.

My Purpose of life

The purpose of life is the most important thing that must be owned by everyone. without a purpose in life, stories in life will be less challenging, but with goals, life will be more directed. My goal in life while living in the world is to try to be a useful human being like my Instagram bio. If we think about it, it is difficult, but if we have the intention insha allah we can achieve our dreams. I think whatever we do sincerely will bring grace that may have never been felt. I learned from my father that if you want to help others, do it selflessly and it can bring lasting happiness. It can help you build long-term relationships, and lead to meaningful success. Those words are motivation for me to always do good selflessly.

Actually words of motivation from those closest to me can change my characteristics and thoughts for the future. To be honest, the motivational words of those closest to me are my guide for the future. Their presence is a gift for me. My life goal is the application of motivational words from those who are present in my life.

Short term & Mid Commitment

In the short term, I've committed to training myself to actively participate in activities offered off-campus or on platforms that are not on-campus, including attending seminars or online classes to develop skills that will be valuable in the future. It's difficult for me to manage my time exactly because timing is a problem, but I have to take responsibility.

My current abilities are still insufficient to satisfy the demands of working in an office, therefore I attempt to fill my leisure time with activities outside of university. At the present age, this is the right age for students to develop and train themselves. I remember the words of one IPMI lecturer who once said that if you are young, use your time for something useful, don't waste time in your youth because you cannot repeat your youth. That word is one of my motivations to train myself to be bolder in making decisions at this age.

My Long-Term Commitment

My long term plan is to become a student with grades. I mean not just the GPA score, such as having performance or branding values like me trying to do an internship because I want to have experience of how to be a worker. As well as I want to be a student who always remembers God and Istiqomah in the road of Allah, not easily tempted by bad things that change my behavior, Aamiin Yarobbal Alamin.

My next long term plan after graduation is to want to create a campaign or platform to help many people in need such as helping many people when there is a natural disaster or like helping people to continue their lives by giving them a place, food, etc. the vision of this platform is to try to help people without seeing any difference.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

IVAN FADILLAH



“When a man learns to love, he must bear the risk of hatred.” – Madara Uchiha

ECHOES OF THE SOUL

Everywhere you look in this world, wherever there is light, there will always be shadows to be found as well. As long as there is a concept of victors, the vanquished also exist. The selfish intent of wanting to preserve peace, initiates wars. And hatred is born in order to protect love. We live in such a world where contrasting forces intertwine to shape the tapestry of our existence. It is a place where joy and sorrow coexist, where hope and despair sway in unison. Within this intricate tapestry, the intricacies of existence unfolds, exposing heartfelt teachings and pathways for personal development. I truly believe that in this vast world, where light illuminates the darkest corners, echoes of the soul resound with a profound truth, and It is a truth that reminds us that amongst the grandeur of life, the small troubles that befall upon us should not be viewed as insurmountable obstacles. Instead we should look at them as opportunities for personal growth, urging us to focus on the more

significant aspects that shape our existence. There are bigger problems that we should worry about. Poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, social injustices and wars, affecting the lives of countless individuals, these are the problems we must think about and aim to fix. We are all human-beings, and we need to start being humans. We are the only ones who can change this imperfect world.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE

My name is Ivan Fadillah Prabawa, born and raised in Jakarta on the 23rd of July 2002 and just like everyone else here with me today I have been bestowed with the extraordinary gift of life. We human beings have been granted the opportunity to breathe, to feel, to see, to love and to experience the intricate symphony of our existence. Whether we see it as a gift sometimes in the midst of the complexities of life, there are moments when we may think of it as a curse. Life, with its ups and downs, can sometimes present challenges that make us question its purpose and meaning. We may encounter hardships, pain, and heartbreak, leaving us to wonder if this existence is more of a curse than a blessing. It is in these moments of doubt and struggle that our resilience is tested, and we must gather the strength to persevere and overcome in order to become a better human being. Yet, even in our darkest of times, it is crucial to remember that the very fact we are here, breathing and

contemplating our existence, is proof of the unbeatable spirit within us.

In the past, I have a long history of misconduct, as I have been involved in many fights and many wrong doings. This was a phase where I had no intention to seek a purpose in my life, where I was lost and surrounded by the wrong kind of people, but I had no one to blame but myself and thanks to a change of nature and my surroundings I could leave that past version of myself and have somewhat of a vision of what kind of man I truly want to become. I have no enemies, I seek no enemies, I have no reason to hurt, I strive to embody principles of kindness, respect, and forgiveness. I am dedicated to nurturing the flame of peace in my own heart.

I may not look like it, but I consider myself as a very emotional person. I sometimes find myself trying to hide my true emotions from my friends and family, and by doing so It makes me lose track of who I really am and who I am truly meant to be. I promise you, the way you see me now is not a fake, don't get me wrong, what you see Is the real Ivan however Ivan is just a name, and who am "I" really? This is the question I hope I can find the answer to during the journey of my life, but all I know now with the gift of life comes the responsibility to leave a positive imprint on the tapestry of existence. My purpose other than seeking who I truly am, is to contribute to the symphony of change, to inspire others to join me in the pursuit of a more compassionate and peaceful world.

CRAFTING A VISION

As I go on this journey of crafting a vision for my life, I have a desire to become an influencer with keeping in mind that my main goal, my driving force, is to inspire and empower others through my words, actions, and presence. To me, being an influencer means leveraging my platform and voice to uplift individuals, encouraging them to embrace their unique qualities and pursue their passions with unwavering determination. Crafting a vision as an influencer involves curating content that resonates with the souls of others, providing them with practical guidance, motivation, and a fresh perspective. With this goal of mine in mind I have a secondary goal, which is to create a flourishing business where it could help me achieve my goal of making a change in this world much more efficiently. In order to achieve this goal, I'd have to work harder than others.

Building a successful business requires strategic planning, innovation, and a deep understanding of my audience's needs and desires. I am committed to hone my entrepreneurial skills and I am aware that I must go above and beyond, pushing myself beyond the limits of comfort and embracing the challenges that come my way. I am prepared to invest the time, effort, and resources necessary to develop the necessary skills, expand my reach, and create a sustainable business model that aligns with my values and purpose.

I consider myself as a somewhat creative person, and I hope most people that know me agree. I will use my creativity and knowledge to make my goal into reality. That being said this goal is almost impossible, well I wouldn't want to say Impossible but I am a realistic thinker so it may be true that it is impossible to achieve this goal alone. That is more of a reason why throughout my life I want to build the best of connections with all the right people, in order to help me achieve this goal.

SEEKING HIGHER TRUTHS

I was born and raised in a muslim family and I am a proud muslim however people can say my actions say otherwise. Well It is true I may seem like an unfaithful muslim, I lack the knowledge of what most proud muslims have, and I am disappointed to say that it is true. However I hope you'd understand and do not jump into conclusions too quickly. I truly believe that everything happens for a reason, and my journey of seeking higher truths within Islam is a testament to that belief. I believe in the existence of Allah, our Creator, and I trust that He has a unique plan for each and every single one of us. It is through this conviction and my yearning to deepen my connection with the Divine that I find solace and strength.

I remember asking one of my lecturers many questions about islam and asking its meaning. I asked her many questions about my own religion and does that make me unfaithful? She replied that having these many questions is fine, the more you are asking the more you believe in your own religion. I have come to realize that questioning is not a sign of unfaithfulness but rather a testament to

the sincerity of one's beliefs. Because I learned that Islam encourages us to seek knowledge, to question, and to strive for a deeper understanding of our religion. As the famous saying goes, "The more you know, the more you realize how much you don't know."

As I continue my journey of researching higher truths within Islam, I do so with an open heart and a willingness to learn. I understand that knowledge is a lifelong track, and I am committed to embracing the wisdom, teachings, and guidance that Islam has to offer. My faith lies not only in the rituals and practices but also in the continuous growth of my understanding

CHAPTER TWELVE

MARIA MARICE J.



*“Educating the mind Without Educating the heart
Is No Education at all”
-Aristoteles-*

Hello, I'm Maria Marice Jari. Right now you are on the page that will start my story since I was present in this world and through the pages of life. My story begins in 2004, when I was born a tough girl. Why do I call tough? Because I was born in a simple village on the eastern tip of Indonesia, I didn't enjoy the warmth of the temperature in the hospital at that time, but only in my mother's arms at my house.

I was born at 4 a.m. At that time, the family tried to take my mother to the hospital, but before leaving, God allowed me to be present in this world at that moment. Stories after stories that I heard from my parents about how my father had difficulty finding health workers at night and how my mother went straight to work normally the day after giving birth made me feel that my process of being present on this earth was full of challenges.

But I am also a very happy person because I can be part of this family. Of course, being the last child of four siblings is a matter of pride for me because I received so much love and affection from this family. My father is a farmer, and my mother is more than a housewife (whatever she does, "for the sake of the child"). My parents' limited education is not an obstacle to our future. Whatever they do, with the hope that we can change the fate of this family. We've slept under a special roof at night that lets us see the beauty of the moon and stars directly. We once enjoyed the coolness of the night when rainwater soaked every part of our house. And that's really worth it to me.

I am proud because my parents always say, "Even though I sleep with a hole in the roof, the point is my child goes to school, even though I eat without eating, the point is that the child's education comes first." This sentence makes me always try to never give up on my education, even though so many challenges are coming.

The Beginning of My Religious Journey



I was born into a Catholic family and have become a complete Catholic. When I was a baby, I was represented by my parents to be baptized as a member of the church. With the preparation of faith that I went through when I was 11 years old, I received first communion on my awareness and choice that I was ready to accept God and become a follower of Christ. and at the age of 13, I received confirmation as a token of acceptance as a gift of the Holy Spirit and as a way of becoming more perfectly united to the Church.

This process is what brought me to and accompanied me as a member of the church. Of course, there were many challenges and trials that I went through, but I still firmly believe that, as followers of Christ, our lives are a journey of the cross. The cross of the cross in life is what produces the salvation that God himself promised. In

living life as a Catholic, I was also taught that we not only struggle with a personal cross, but sometimes we need to be like Simon from Cyrene, who also carried the cross of Jesus. This means that we are invited to carry the cross with Jesus. Jesus himself is the Jesus who is present in us and our neighbors.

Even though they come from a simple family and are not wealthy, their father and mother always give when someone is in need. When I was in elementary and junior high school, I often forbade it, saying that we ourselves are still very limited, but why always give?

My father replied, "We give from shortcomings, not from strengths". a simple sentence that I myself did not understand at that time. But when I was a high school kid and am currently in college, I understood that those words really have power. Whatever shortcomings my parents or I experienced, there was always assistance from an unexpected party.

*The Lord Jesus said in the Gospel of Mark, "**Because they all gave out of their abundance, but this widow gave out of her lack, all that she had, that is, her entire livelihood.**" (Markus 12:44).*



I understood that this verse of the Bible was what my parents taught us. How is a widow who gives from lack, and we always share even though we ourselves are still very limited.

Manners & Tradition Becomes Behavior

I grew up in a family that really values custom and culture. My parents always taught us to respect family traditions and listen to their advice. For me, openness and cooperation in solving problems are very important values. I am always comfortable sharing experiences and new things that I have gone through and learned with my parents.

One of the customs that has become a tradition in our family is praying. We have always been taught that God is the key to everything, and the way for this key to work for both of us is through prayer, which creates a strong spiritual bond between us. Eating together is also a routine that we never break. We not only enjoyed the food but also shared valuable advice and life experiences. For us, honesty is a very important value. We are used to sharing everything and being open with each other. Mutual cooperation is also a principle that we adhere to. If a family member needs help, we are always ready to help without hesitation.

Since childhood, I have had the courage and determination to pursue my dream of becoming an entrepreneur. I dream of owning a shop, a cattle ranch, a boarding house, and a laundry. I put aside everything that doesn't match my dreams and choose entrepreneurship as my life goal. I started a small business selling snacks, masks, women's clothing, and accessories. I have never been afraid to try business things such as attending seminars, training, and gaining knowledge through business content. My passion and determination never wavered, and my efforts paid off when I received a scholarship to the IPMI Business School. Every small step I take and every sacrifice I make is part of a journey that strengthens my courage and determination.

Customs and traditions are not only part of my family; they shape my behavior, values, and outlook on life. All of these values influence the way I interact with the world around me and influence my life's journey towards my dream of becoming a successful entrepreneur.

Mightiness Behind Faith

One of the strengths of my faith is my courage and determination to face life's challenges. I was born into difficult circumstances, but I never gave up. I have always struggled to get an education and change the fate of my family. My faith and trust in God's support give me great inner strength to overcome obstacles and live a passionate life.

Mazmur 37:24: When he falls, he does not lie down because the Lord supports his hand.



My religious life also gives me spiritual strength and a sense of closeness to God. When I participate in Catholic sacraments and religious traditions, I feel blessed and supported by God's love. My belief in and commitment to religious teachings provide a strong moral foundation and values that guide me in making decisions and acting according to religious principles.

Another strength lies in my family's experience in teaching kindness, humility, and concern for others. My parents always taught me to do good because of the greatest law, the law of love. These values have been ingrained in me since childhood, so I show selfless and genuine concern for the people around me. Overall, the strength of faith in my life story lies in courage, determination, closeness to God, moral values, and generosity. All of this creates a solid foundation for living, overcoming challenges, and helping others. I

am grateful for this power in my life, and I look forward to strengthening my faith and applying it to all areas of my life.

My Purpose of Life

As a Catholic, my goal in life is to achieve happiness and salvation. For me, happiness means feeling successful in finding a place that accepts me and allows for personal growth. More specifically, I feel happy when I feel like I'm at home. However, the meaning of this happiness is very broad for me. I don't just fixate on home or personal happiness; I always try to get out of my comfort zone and explore new things that can add to my happiness. My goal is not only to find happiness for myself but also to give happiness to those around me.

In the Catholic Church, we believe that salvation is a journey to God that involves faith, good works, the sacraments, prayer, and living in church communion. For us, salvation is not only the ultimate goal but also a process of soul transformation and character building that lasts a lifetime.

I realized that despite the good upbringing and culture of my family, I also had flaws that led me to sin, which God didn't want. Therefore, I continue to study and deepen my religion so that what I do and instill in this world can produce the salvation promised by God.

I believe that each individual has a unique experience and understanding of their religion, and the journey to safety and happiness can be different for everyone. I keep trying to develop my faith, understand the teachings of the Church, and live according to Catholic values in my daily life. If I have further questions or doubts, I will seek guidance from a Catholic priest or chaplain.

Long Term Commitment.

I have many dreams, and I believe that all of them will come true if God allows it. I realized that in order to go further, I have to start with small steps from where I am now. My childhood dream has brought me to where I am today—to become a student at IPMI Business School—and I see it as a wonderful plan that God has shown me. This makes me even more excited to dream bigger.

I commit that with prayer, hope, and effort, everything we do will not be in vain. I want to make it clear that this commitment is not about being a human who is never satisfied but about having dreams as high as the sky, so that if you fall, at least you will be among the stars.

Short and Mid-term Commitment.

I have a short-term commitment that will lead me to my long-term commitment. I believe that as a student at the IPMI business school, I am also part of God's plan. I believe that God placed me here so that I will always be with God in every action and decision I make.

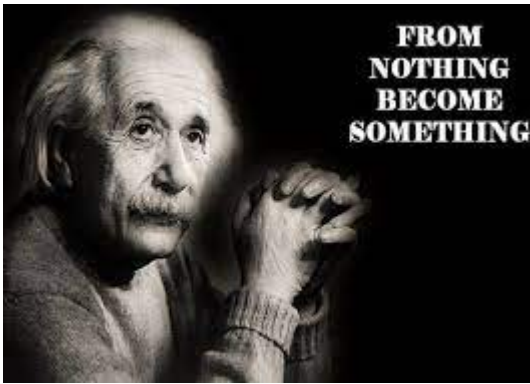
Being a student on this campus is a responsibility that God has given me. I have faith and trust that if I put in real effort and develop the talents that God has given me, it will produce good long-term results for me.

I realize that every step and decision I make is part of a journey planned by God. I am committed to living my life with integrity, applying Christian values in every aspect of my life, including my education and career at IPMI's business school.

In everything I do, I ask God for guidance and try to live a life according to His will. I believe that through dedication and genuine effort, I can make a positive contribution to the world and take advantage of the opportunities that God has given me on this campus.

In this journey of life, I always try to acknowledge God's presence in my every step and hope that by involving Him, I will achieve the long-term commitment that I have set.

From Nothing Will Become Something.



From the story that I tell above, this point and how This, and How My Future Of course, on the journey of the future, there must be a point where it is not as beautiful as I expected and everything is not yet going smoothly. as my normal human self. Also estimate bad things that might happen from the process I'm following. Forecasting this is not to scare me, but I made it manageable. I'm ahead.

However, I am sure that an intention and hope accompanied by prayer and action will produce good things. 2 Thessalonians 3:1–15, " Pray and Work: God Is Faithful," verse of the book This also taught me that when we pray, we must accompany it with action, namely work, and vice versa. These two things have to be in balance, so that what I taught God is that faith without action is death.

The parable of the talents is also one of my foundations for fighting. When I trusted Threat to have passion and interest to strive and struggle in the business field, I added my thanks through the

scholarship to be able to continue education in this business school. And now that I am sure and believe that it was God who put me here, I will work for God and develop the talents and blessings that God has given me so that I can reach my purpose in life and the glory of the name Lord.

IKIGAI

I really love art, especially music, singing, and art. Whenever I engage in these activities, I feel happy. Through art, I can express myself and find inner peace. I also feel attracted to the business world. I aspire to have my own business in the future. In the business that I want to build, I want to combine my artistic interests with social activities that benefit society. I want to make a positive impact and make a difference in the lives of others through my business.

I have expertise in playing basic musical instruments, such as the guitar. In addition, I also have experience as an MC at several events and have leadership skills that have been recognized within the organization. I enjoy being involved in social activities and participating in projects that help others. I will use this expertise and experience in the business and social activities that I want to be involved in.

I believe that through the business I build, I can create income for myself. As an MC and through social activities focused on education, I can provide useful services and earn from them.

I think the world needs people who are able to make a positive impact and contribute directly to public change. I believe that the world also needs people who have skills in English and the arts and who have a focus on education and social issues. Through my business, I want to be part of the solution and make a real contribution to overcoming the challenges facing society. I want to be an entrepreneur in the social and educational fields. I want to create opportunities in English and arts education, especially in my area. My personal experience learning English has inspired me to help others master this language. I see a need, and I look forward to providing the services needed in education and the arts.

In my ikigai, I find a balance between my passion for art, my mission to make social impact through business, my vocation in music and leadership, and my profession as an MC and social activities that focus on education. By combining all of this, I believe that I can live a fulfilling and meaningful life and make a contribution to the world around me.



No one can damage your self-esteem unless you give them permission. We all have a Self-esteem Bank Account, every time we do something great we deposit points in our account. Every time we mess up, we withdraw points. Only YOU who has the PIN to your Self-Esteem Bank Account.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

M. ANAS SYAUQI ROVERDI

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*“Educating the mind Without Educating the heart**Is No Education at all”**-Aristoteles-***A boy named Syauqi**

Names hold significance as they are considered a reflection of a person's identity and often carry spiritual and cultural meanings. Anas has the meaning of human and Syauqi has the meaning of beautiful / loved , if my name is combined it will possess a meaning of beautiful / loved person.

In the city of Jakarta, on a cool December day, a quiet and unassuming child came into the world. Born on December 2nd, 2004, named after the world's most beautiful / loved person, prophet Muhammad, Muhammad Anas Syauqi Roverdi began his journey.

As a child, I possessed a calm and reserved nature, often preferring the solace of my own thoughts. I often spend hours lost in books, eager to absorb and to learn knowledge and explore different worlds through the pages. My inquisitive mind led me to embrace

the label of a "nerd," finding joy in unraveling complex concepts and seeking intellectual challenges. While having a passion for learning was evident, another passion of mine blossomed on the fields, football. I found solace and freedom in the rhythm of the game. Whether playing with friends or practicing alone, football became an integral part of my childhood. The hours spent perfecting my skills, chasing the ball, and scoring goals filled me with a sense of joy and accomplishment.

Growing up in a multicultural society, I embraced the values of acceptance and understanding. As a practicing Muslim, my faith played a significant role in shaping my character. It instilled in me a deep sense of humility, compassion, empathy, and respect for others. I found solace and guidance in the teachings of Islam, which provided a moral compass to navigate life's challenges.

Since day one, until the end

Family. Family is a group of individuals that are bound by blood relation. Family is not just about biology it's about the emotional bonds, support, and shared moments that tie us together. In a family, we find a nurturing environment where we are raised, cared for, and supported. It's a place where love, guidance, and protection are freely given, shaping us emotionally, socially, and psychologically.

Being part of a family gives me a sense of belonging and connection. It's a network of relationships that shapes our personal growth, values, and identity. Families are there to support in tough times, celebrate our accomplishments, and create cherished memories through shared traditions and experiences. That's what I

felt in my family, even though sometimes we argue, get mad and don't talk to each other. My family is a Muslim family consisting of 5 members: my father, Decky Roverdi, my mother, Mira Dewi Putri, my brother Kinan Fata Roverdi, and my sister Naura Hana Roverdi.

My family is a very Islamic family. Even though my father was educated in a Christian school, it didn't make him give up on Islam, in fact, he really upholds Islamic knowledge, that's why we were taught very hard to apply Islamic knowledge in every step we made.

My father would get very angry if I didn't pray, so he always reminded me to pray wherever and whenever. Once several times I felt uncomfortable because he often reminded me to pray, because I already felt big enough to carry out my own obligations, I ignored my father's invitation, he was silent and then prayed alone, when he finished, he approached me while showing a very annoyed face and said "If you are annoyed by my invitation, I will not invite you to pray again" his words were like a strong wind that blew to me, I was silent for a while then I don't know what came over me, a feeling of guilt began to envelop me then he said again while walking away from me "A good Muslim will not be lazy to pray if there is an invitation to prayer whether it is from the adhan or from the person closest to him" like a small sharp thorn his words stabbed me, I always prayed 5 times but somehow those words bothered me, then I realized, I always prayed at the end of the time. At that moment I was amazed by Allah. He always had a way to remind me from such a close way, yet unpredictable, namely through family.

Unlike my father, my mother is a gentle person who always reminds me in a subtle way. In the same case, I also ignored my mother's invitation to pray but the reaction she gave was not angry, but she came to me and rubbed my head. My mother and I argued rarely, but once when I was a child we had a big fight shouting at each other, the atmosphere heated up, and I was carried away by the

atmosphere and said things that a child should not say to his mother, my mother just fell silent after hearing that, the look on her face seemed to hold back the sadness she felt, then she went to the room. After that I realized I had said something I shouldn't have. The feeling of guilt enveloped my whole body and I rushed to apologize to my mother, opening the door to the room with a loud cry whining to ask for forgiveness. My mother saw me, with a beautiful smile, so beautiful it could light up a pitch-black night, she rubbed my head while saying in a soft whisper "Syauqi, it's okay, don't cry, mom will always forgive you, **because mom is the one who always will accompany you from beginning until the end**".

The Beauty of Islam

I was educated in an Islamic school during my elementary and middle school years. There I felt the beauty of Islam that made me believe that Islam is the right path. I felt the peace when praying, the fulfillment of various requests, getting all the love, forgiving and being forgiven, all that I felt. When I was in elementary school, I was taught basic knowledge such as the pillars of Islam and the pillars of faith.

Pillars of Islam :

1. Shahada - Believing that There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God
2. Prayer - To do the prayer 5 times a day
3. Zakat - Donate a fixed portion of their income to community members in need at 2,5% of your wealth

4. Fasting - To fast in the holy month of Ramadan
5. Hajj - Every Muslim whose health and finances permit it must make at least one visit to the holy city of Mecca, in present-day Saudi Arabia.

Pillars of Faith :

1. Faith in Allah
2. Faith in Rasoolihil
3. Faith in Kitab
4. Faith in Angels
5. Faith in Day of Judgment
6. Faith in Al Qadr

In my school every morning there is always a directive to read the Quran and pray dhuha and when I do it I see my friends are not doing it, they look like they are playing and running around in the mosque while laughing, immediately I feel lazy to carry out the recommended sunnah, the feeling of wanting to join them for fun is very big, but in my heart there is a feeling that it is not the right thing to do.

Looking back on the incident I realize I did the right thing not to follow them because it was wrong. Because one of the values islam teaches is about ethical and moral guidance, Islam provides a comprehensive ethical framework that guides individuals in their daily lives. The Quran and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) offer clear guidance on matters of honesty, integrity, kindness, forgiveness, and good character. Islam encourages believers to lead a virtuous and righteous life, which benefits both the individual and society as a whole as stated in Quran surah At-Tawbah : 119

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ
الصَّادِقِينَ

"O you who have believed, fear Allah and be with those who are true."

Cruelty of The World

As time goes by, I'm getting older now I'm 18 years old. Last year I experienced something that made me quite down, making me realize that this world is not fair. When I was in 3rd grade high school, there were many things that I needed to prepare to enter college, at that time I really wanted to study at UI, or ITB. From that, I prepared many things in order to be accepted at the college. Every day I studied at the tutoring place, putting my blood sweat and tears to get a seat at the college that I wanted. Do not forget also to pray to the almighty to ask for ease, sometimes even wake up when people are still sleeping to perform night prayers. But all that did not go according to plan, when the day of the announcement arrived I failed to enter the education I wanted. My whole body felt weak, the loss of spirit, the absence of appetite, all that I felt. Maybe it sounds like an ordinary thing and looks like an exaggeration, but for me at that time everything I felt was real.

As time went by I often got news that my friends had gotten into the places they wanted to go, good for them, but there were some of my friends who hadn't prepared at all for college but they got in. I wondered why someone like him could enter top college, and also he was not someone who was religious, he often admitted that he rarely prayed. It also made me jealous why I, who worked hard to do everything to get what I wanted, didn't get anything while my friend who didn't do anything got everything I wanted. that question often popped into my head at night. I felt the world was unfair, my trust in Allah even diminished, my prayers became negligent, even the feeling of guilt when not praying slowly began to disappear. I often saw other examples of the unfairness of this world such as the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, a lot of news circulating at that time that the rampant corruption was getting more frequent. It made me feel that if the world was like that, I didn't need to be a person who always obeyed religion, that's what I thought at that time.

لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا ۗ لَهَا مَا كَسَبَتْ وَعَلَيْهَا مَا اكْتَسَبَتْ ۗ
 رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِنْ نَسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا ۗ رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا إِصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِنَا
 رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ ۗ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَارْحَمْنَا ۗ أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ

"Allah does not charge a soul except [with that within] its capacity. It will have [the consequence of] what [good] it has gained, and it will bear [the consequence of] what [evil] it has earned. 'Our Lord, do not impose blame upon us if we have forgotten or erred. Our Lord, and lay not upon us a burden like that which You laid upon those before us. Our Lord, and burden us not with that which we have no ability to bear. And pardon us; and forgive us; and have

mercy upon us. You are our protector, so give us victory over the disbelieving people."

Acceptance

Accepting that this world is a very unfair and cruel place is not easy, you must be able to understand yourself fully and must be ready to accept all the conditions that will hit you. Therefore, self love is important, as in the Quran surah Ar-Rum : 41 and Al-A'raf : 31

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ
أَيْدِي النَّاسِ

لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

"Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of [the consequence of] what they have done that perhaps they will return [to righteousness]."

يٰۤاَيُّهَا اٰدَمُ خُذُوْا زِيْنَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ 

وَكُلُوْا وَاشْرَبُوْا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوْا اِنَّهٗ لَا يُحِبُّ

الْمُسْرِفِيْنَ ؕ

"O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess."

These verses emphasize the importance of recognizing one's inherent value as a creation of Allah, and the need to maintain balance in one's actions and behaviors.

Another way to be able to accept the situation is by being grateful. One night before going to bed, I was scrolling tik tok and there was a small account containing motivational quotes saying the word "Gratitude". Gratitude is a word that I hear very often, so often I hear it I underestimate "Gratitude" but at that moment somehow the word "Gratitude" sounds like the right path, so peaceful, as if it would be like fireflies shining in the dark forest, even though it is small but very meaningful. Instantly I began to try to understand myself, I began to try to think that people have their own portion of sustenance and I began to believe that God always has a plan for all his servants, because maybe I might not get what I want but maybe what I get is the best for me. From here I began to feel like there was direction, even though this world was unfair and so cruel I began to accept everything, but being part of the injustice and cruelty of this world was not the right step, but rather recognizing its existence and

using it as fuel to spark change was the step I was after. Injustice may overwhelm you but to change it must start from within. It starts with accepting that while we cannot control the world around us, we can control our own actions and attitudes. By living with kindness, compassion and integrity, we can create ripples of goodness that spread far and wide. Once again with the help of Allah I feel saved, because if not by Allah, by whom else?.

Purpose of Life

I had a deep longing to become a better version of myself and make a positive impact on the world. I yearned to succeed in various aspects of life and inspire those around me to do the same. Most importantly, I sought to walk a righteous path guided by my faith and values.

From a young age, I found solace and guidance in my religious beliefs. I turned to the teachings of Islam, seeking wisdom and enlightenment to shape my purpose. I understood that true success encompassed not only material accomplishments but also spiritual growth and compassion towards others. With this understanding, I embarked on a personal journey of self-improvement, hoping to become a shining example to those around me.

I embraced every challenge that came my way as an opportunity for growth and learning. I devoted myself to acquiring knowledge,

delving into various subjects that fascinated me. Through dedicated study and exploration, I expanded my understanding of the world and developed a well-rounded perspective. This knowledge helped me make informed decisions and navigate life's complexities.

However, I soon realized that knowledge alone was not enough to fulfill my purpose. I believed in translating my beliefs into actions. I sought to embody the teachings of Islam in my everyday life, treating others with kindness, respect, and empathy. I understood that my success would be meaningful only if I could uplift those around me and contribute positively to society.

As my journey progressed, I encountered numerous obstacles and setbacks. Life wasn't always smooth sailing, and I faced moments of doubt and uncertainty. During those challenging times, I turned to prayer and reflection, seeking guidance and strength from Allah. My faith in a higher power provided me with the resilience and determination to persevere, believing that there was a greater plan for my life.

Gradually, through consistent effort and unwavering dedication, I began to notice positive changes within myself. People around me took notice of my genuine nature and the values I embodied. They saw my genuine commitment to personal growth and were inspired by my actions. I became a source of encouragement and support for those who sought guidance or struggled to find their purpose.

Spiritual Commitment

The future is unpredictable, to commit to doing good things of course requires consistency. Therefore, I inshallah commit to doing good things in the present, to be able to bring significant changes in the future. Commitment must start with action, not thoughts and to start action, of course, there must be a thought. Therefore, I want to be someone who can inspire others for the actions I make. To be the beacon of light that always brings goodness. By always doing the prayer and always reminding of Allah.

Short-Term and Long Term Goals

For the short term goals, my commitment is just wanting to focus on my education and graduate as early as i can.To make my parents believe in me more. And another thing I want for my short term goals is to be able to gain weight because if I'm honest I am looking quite skinny, so I want to be able to gain weight as much as possible. But to be able to do that, I need to eat quite a lot and my stomach can't accommodate a lot of food. Anyway. Wish me all the best for me

For my Long-Term Goals, I would love to have a legacy. You may ask what kind of legacy, if I'm honest I haven't fully thought about what kind of legacy I want to leave behind, which is weird. At first I was inspired by the great people in this world because if I'm honest, being known because something you do has an impact on this world for me is pretty cool. To be able to do your hobby as your job and be able to leave everything you do, that's what I was looking

for, but I know enough to know that it's not easy. It takes months to achieve that, even years. It takes patience and consistency, and I'm not that kind of person, either I'm not confident or I'm not that kind of person, but if one day I make it to that stage, remember, this report helped me through it.



*You are only a failure when you stop trying. Never,
ever give up!*

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

M. HASAN ADABI

“Without commitment, you'll never start, but more importantly, without consistency, you'll never finish!”

Background Story and Identity

My name is Hasan, and my full name is Muhammad Hasan Adabi. I had the privilege of being born in a city known as the "city of kretek," Kudus, located in the heart of Central Java. Growing up as the only child in my family, I remember every moment of my journey from elementary to high school in this city. Countless memories have been etched into my heart, each one too precious to capture in words.

When I left my hometown to pursue my university studies in Jakarta, there was a part of me that missed for the familiar comforts of home. I dearly missed the refreshing morning breeze and the serene atmosphere that enveloped my city. I am grateful for the

upbringing I received in Kudus, a place that shaped my character and instilled within me a deep appreciation for the simple pleasures of life.

Engaging with people from other backgrounds, especially foreigners or people who have traveled various real - world routes, is one of my passions. As I dive into their experiences, learning from their failures, successes, and unique viewpoints, these meetings present me with a variety of educational opportunities. By conversing with these people, I develop my communication skills as well as my empathy, which helps me better understand the world around me.

My Fate and Love

Since my birth, I have grasped the Islamic confidence, guided by the lessons of Islam. When I was young, my parents taught me that it's important to read the Quran, go to the mosque, and live according to our religious values.. Be that as it may, as I transitioned into my young a long time, I started to address the noteworthiness of these hones. I pondered why we were committed to lock in in these ceremonies and what affect they really had on our lives.

In my last year of middle school, there was a difficult problem I had to overcome: getting really good at English. As the important test got closer, I found it really hard to do well in English. I felt very frustrated and wanted to quit, which was even worse because I was never good at English. At that time, my mom and dad comforted me and gave me advice. They said, "As long as you exert effort to alter

your destiny, Allah will intervene. Truly, Allah is the most compassionate and merciful."

Inspired by their remarks, I committed to a year of hard study leading up to the exam. The day of reckoning approached, and I was filled with apprehension about the outcome. When the results were finally presented, I witnessed a fantastic moment—I had received the highest English score, surpassing even my Indonesian language score. It was an unexpected victory, one that confirmed my trust in the existence of God and reiterated the thought that the seemingly impossible may become a reality with devotion and effort.

As a Muslim, I understand that prayer, fasting, and devotion are all means to get closer to Allah SWT, the Almighty. We gain peace, wisdom, and confidence that all issues have a solution through these acts of worship. With unshakeable faith, I think that any difficulty we confront has the opportunity for relief, as long as we remain steady in our recollection of Allah..

Islam is not just about rules and ceremonies, it also teaches important things. It shows us that when we try hard and believe in God, we can overcome even really tough challenges. This belief empowers us to face life's challenges with resilience and hope, knowing that Allah's mercy and guidance are ever-present.

Happiness is simple things

Every child dreams of having rich parents who can provide them with everything they want, like fancy cars and luxurious possessions. I used to imagine having that kind of life too, thinking it would bring happiness. But I've come to realize that happiness doesn't always come from having a lot of things. It comes from being together with the people you love.

I grew up in a family that didn't have a lot of money. My parents couldn't always buy me everything I wanted. I learned that being happy doesn't require having a lot of money or expensive possessions. Being with your family and sharing good and bad moments is what makes life meaningful. Even if we are eating a simple meal together, it feels extraordinary because we cherish the time we have as a family. When we sit together and laugh at the end of a tiring day, we feel good because we are with our loved ones. These little moments make me very happy.

I've learned that living a simple life is not as bad as I thought it would be. It is beautiful. My parents have lavished me with love from my impoverished household. They are the ideal parents for any child. They constantly put my pleasure first and teach me the importance of patience and enjoying the little things in life. I'm grateful to them for their kindness..

I've learned that true happiness comes from being together with your loved ones, no matter how simple or ordinary your life may be. It's not about material wealth, but about the love and unity that exists within a family. And for that, I'm grateful, even though I come from a simple family.

Purpose of Life

I have come to understand that my goal in life comprises both spiritual fulfillment and monetary achievement, and this realization has been influenced by both the perspectives of religious teachings and the experiences of a successful businessperson. I think that pursuing a closer relationship with a higher power and acting

morally are what it truly means to be alive. I work to foster my spiritual development and find inner peace via prayer, meditation, and deeds of compassion.

I recognize the importance of using my skills, resources, and influence to create a positive impact on the world. I am motivated to give back to society, enhance people's lives, and promote a sustainable and bright future since. I want to add value for people and communities by engaging in ethical business practices, advocating these principles, and giving back through charity. For me, it is crucial to strike a balance between the material and spiritual aspects of life. While I pursue financial prosperity and worldly achievements, I do so with integrity, compassion, and humility. By integrating my pursuit of wealth with higher spiritual values, I am able to find true fulfillment and meaning in my endeavors.

I want to do something that will be remembered even after I'm no longer alive. My goal is to empower individuals to become effective leaders and achieve their aspirations, thereby contributing to a better society. My goal is to pass on my important values and beliefs to the next generation by sharing what I know, what I have, and what I've learned.

My purpose in life, influenced by my religious beliefs and successful business experiences, is to seek spiritual fulfillment, make a positive impact on the world, balance material and spiritual aspects, and leave a meaningful legacy. By embracing these ideals, I strive for personal growth, contribute to the greater good, and find fulfillment in both my spiritual journey and worldly achievements.

Short-term Commitment

As a college student, I've devised a thorough plan that combines my ambitions as a great businessman with the tenacity of my religious beliefs. In the immediate term, my main priority is to strengthen my spiritual underpinnings. I set aside time each day for prayer, meditation, and study of religious books in order to get a better knowledge of the ideas that guide my faith. By engaging in these spiritual practices, I hope to develop a deep connection with a higher power and align my actions with divine guidance.

I recognize the importance of excelling academically to lay a solid groundwork for my future business endeavors. I set specific goals for each semester, maintain a high GPA, and actively participate in relevant coursework, discussions, and extracurricular activities related to business and entrepreneurship. For instance, I might join a student club focused on ethical business practices or attend guest lectures by successful entrepreneurs who integrate their religious values into their ventures.

Networking and guidance are also important parts of my journey. I look for opportunities to network with business leaders who share my religious beliefs. Attending networking events allows me to make significant relationships and create a supportive group of like-minded people. Furthermore, I actively seek guidance from seasoned businesspeople who have effectively integrated their faith into their professional lives. I acquire excellent ideas, suggestions, and perspectives from their assistance that help mold my own route to success.

Mid-term Commitment

As I approach the midterm, I hope to obtain practical industry experience to supplement my academic understanding. I actively seek internships or part-time work in the business field, with a focus on roles that correspond with ethical standards and my religious convictions. For example, I may intern with a socially responsible organization that seeks to make a positive difference in the world while upholding high ethical standards.

One of my significant goals is to pursue an MBA degree at Harvard Business School, renowned for its rigorous curriculum and prestigious reputation. By gaining admission to this esteemed institution, I aim to immerse myself in an environment that fosters innovation, leadership, and global perspectives. Attending Harvard Business School will provide me with unparalleled opportunities to connect with accomplished faculty members, successful entrepreneurs, and like-minded individuals who share my passion for integrating religious principles with business excellence. During this experience, I will learn from different viewpoints, advanced research, and powerful business methods that will impact my future entrepreneurial adventures.

Upon completing my MBA at Harvard, I will be equipped with a comprehensive skill set, refined leadership abilities, and a global network of influential professionals. This distinguished degree will open doors to new professional prospects, allow me to have a larger impact on society, and establish my status as a successful businessman with strong Christian convictions.

Philanthropy is an important part of my path. I am actively involved in charitable efforts that solve societal issues while also upholding my religious values. For example, I may volunteer for local

charities, start fundraising campaigns for causes that are close to my heart, or donate to organizations that give education and healthcare to underserved communities.

By pursuing these comprehensive short-term and midterm goals, I am laying a solid foundation as a college student to become a successful businessman with firm religious principles. I am creating a meaningful and impactful journey that harmoniously intertwines my faith with business objectives by integrating spiritual practices, academic excellence, networking, mentorship, industry experience, entrepreneurial enterprises, leadership roles, and philanthropy.

Long-term Commitment

My long-term vision includes a serious dedication to making a lasting influence as a successful businessman deeply anchored in religious beliefs, building upon the foundations established in the short-term and midterm aims. I hope to start an entrepreneurial journey that demonstrates ethical leadership, social responsibility, and sustainable practices with the excellent education and network I have received from Harvard Business School..

One of my long-term goals is to establish a globally recognized business that not only achieves financial success but also serves as a beacon of inspiration and positive change. This company will prioritize ethics, environmental sustainability, and social impact, demonstrating that profit and purpose can coexist peacefully. I hope to inspire others to embrace the transforming power of ethical business through generating creative solutions, promoting inclusive workplaces, and implementing responsible supply chain practices.

As my company grows, I hope to form strategic alliances and collaborate with like-minded businesses both within and outside of my industry. By fostering alliances that share a commitment to making a difference, we can amplify our collective efforts to address pressing societal challenges, uplift communities, and contribute to sustainable development on a global scale. Through these relationships, I aspire to create a paradigm shift in which compassion, justice, and environmental sustainability are at the heart of global business practices.

After that, I hope to establish myself as a respected thought leader and advocate for the combination of religious values with corporate success. I will share thoughts, experiences, and knowledge through public speaking engagements, publications, and powerful platforms, highlighting the significance of connecting personal ideals with professional activities. I hope to inspire future generations of entrepreneurs to take a holistic approach to success that includes both financial success and spiritual fulfillment by leveraging my knowledge and influence.

In addition to economic initiatives, my long-term aspirations include charity endeavors that broaden the scope of my impact. I hope to uplift marginalized communities, promote education, empower individuals, and solve systemic injustices by devoting a major portion of my finances and time to programs consistent with my religious views. These philanthropic endeavors will be a monument to the compassion and empathy that have driven my journey as a successful businessman with strong religious beliefs.

Finally, my long-term goal is to create a significant and lasting legacy that exceeds the limitations of success. I want to be remembered not only for my financial accomplishments, but also for the good change I've facilitated, the lives I've touched, and the

transformational connection I've built between spirituality and business. I hope to leave a legacy that inspires future generations to pursue their own ambitions while protecting the values that actually matter by embracing the ideals of integrity, compassion, and purpose.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

M. SAEPUL BAHRI



“Knowing others is intelligence, knowing yourself is true wisdom.”

My great-grandfather believed that Muhammad Saepul Bahri Yuda Permana was a cursed name. As a result, my name was changed to M. Saepul Bahri. I was born on March 31 in Sukabumi, although my uncle often calls me Yuda. I was brought up by a big family. grew up in a prosperous family. In the past, my parents didn't pay much attention to me, sometimes I was entrusted to my grandmother or abandoned me at home, and my parents worked hard. I always try to get my parents attention. Immediately when I was six years old, I played the game for the first time. have a feeling it is my world. I was immediately addicted to the game

My Hobbies and dreams

My hobby when I was little was football. Actually I have an interest in sports first. Every day to school I always bring a plastic ball that costs 5000. After junior high my dream is to become a pilot. I always follow scout activities. The tragedy of the ship crashing into Mount Salak made me afraid to become a pilot plus my eyes started to close so I did not continue with my dreams. Have a dream that

comes true even if only briefly, which is to become a YouTuber. Became one of the gaming content creators at that time. I'm inspired by tara art, gema show, and sejati gamers. Game-related content contains tips, strategies, game combos, and clan war schedules. The games that I made content at that time were Point blank, Xshot, Counter strike, Lost saga, and dragon nest. Actually being a YouTuber was forbidden by my parents because my income was not much, but my parents didn't know that I became a YouTuber, only my brother and sister knew because my brother and I worked together to buy my sister's number just to create an email for 30,000.

Religius belive

my religion is Islam attending a religious school, well, even though it's only up to grade 3. I always think about what I've been looking for, always imagining what God is, what shape it is, can we be gods, how does God feel, who created language, and so on. find a way to really seek God. if there is no activity I usually sleep in the mosque, there are people praying I always pay attention to whether God will come. the result is nothing but I got the knowledge of how to pray. from that moment on I often went to the mosque to pray and pray and it always came true, from here I concluded that God is an invisible being who can grant anything. Unknowingly, I always received religious knowledge by accident, such as when I was in junior high school helping friends and teachers clean the mosque. If there was a listening event, over time I was always invited by

teachers or friends to their events. Finally, I joined the mosque welfare council extracurricular. I deepen religious knowledge given stories of the prophet and also practice, for example, praying for the dead.

Story addicted

I am ambitious for something I like, I dare to sacrifice something for something I like, I am used to torturing myself. Evidenced by me sacrificing food for the sake of playing games. Allowance money is not used for eating or drinking snacks. I saved that money to use to buy weapons in the game. I've never stolen money. My parents bought me a computer. Most of my free time every day is just in front of the screen, even though I bought a computer, sometimes I go to the internet cafe. When I was 10 years old, I took part in a small competition provided by an internet cafe. I won the competition. Competition strengthens my addiction to games. I started to feel the feeling of being recognized through the competition.

Ikigai

I like to play games, spend time just for games. From a game gave rise to a community. Community can be a place to discuss, vent, share fun and find friends. Most of the pioneers of the community are content creators. Discuss what the audience wants, share news, vent about game problems, add to the excitement by inviting the community to play. Do you get income, of course, for example YouTuber echo show Indo GSI community. I have the ability in the field of games when I was 10 years old I participated in

small competitions in internet cafes and won the competition. Not long after about 2 years, the cafe closed because people moved

Short term

Self-intropection as a human being, I have many shortcomings, so complacent with the world that I forget my obligations. I want to improve myself, do my obligations to the fullest. changed my vices for the better. Don't torture yourself to achieve something. do a lot of good things. increase the mark for the sake of seeing my mother who is smiling proudly. give kindness to others. not only with words but also with actions. I want to apply short goals like in every day I do 5 full prayers without holes. set aside time to read the book. 2 hours on holidays. closer to religion. grateful to have been given life. have good friends and family. improve socialization

Mid term

every year I will remember whether I have done self-improvement. I want to find experience by taking online editing courses to develop my skills, looking for connections for internships I and my high school friend had plans to teach at an orphanage, actually it was a friend's college assignment, but a friend asked me to help out. all reward. hopefully there are no problems. nambha adds experience to presentation reduces embarrassment. practice if there is a chance I want to follow the competition related to the

game. When I was in high school, there was actually a competition but unfortunately the competition required 5 people so it failed. I hope there will be another competition because now I have 5 friends who want to take part in the competition. to increase knowledge as well as repressing I want to travel abroad. looking for something new so that my life won't be boring Indonesia again Indonesia again right

My Life Purpose

maybe right now I'm still in a period of emptiness where I don't know where my life is going. that life feels monotonous. The enthusiasm that was initially full 100% gradually decreased. The feeling of laziness is increasingly becoming. Living days full of obscurity, as if it will merge with the bed. As long as the condition is empty without a purpose. I like walking in an empty space, dark, and without direction. But, after finding remembering my mother figure as a goal, I looked for a purpose in life. try again not give up. seeing my mother's efforts to raise a child who lacks a lot to find a way. From the mother figure, I did not find light but created light. indeed for now I do not have a purpose in life but one day I will find it. give maximum effort. changed for the better. do all activities. like Shia LaBeouf said he did. just do what you want. Yes, do what you want to do. as long as your life and the people around you are good

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

NIKE



*Challenge yourself to be the best version of you!
If you don't, you will never realise what you become.
If it scares you, it might be a good thing to try.*

A Piece Of Me

I was born on October 22, 2003, in Jakarta, and I consider my childhood to be a blend of happiness and challenges. While I don't have vivid memories of those joyous moments, I take pride in how I was raised and the person I have become. It feels like I've undergone a transformation compared to my past self. If I were to describe my childhood, it would be like a beautiful dress adorned with thorns.

I was a charming girl raised in a Christian family, with an older brother and sister. My grandfather was one of my biggest supporters during my early years. He would often encourage me by saying, "You are destined to be the luckiest and most beautiful girl in the future." Although I was aware that my parents initially had concerns

about bringing me into the world due to financial difficulties, I never felt hurt by that. I believed that all parents want the best for their children, and as I grew older, I was surrounded by an abundance of love from the people around me.

In my childhood, I sensed a lack of attention from my parents, which led me to become an independent girl. I strived not to rely on them and started making my own decisions from elementary school onwards. On the other hand, I had a close relationship with my grandparents, living with them and feeling somewhat distant from my parents. Unfortunately, when I was five years old, my grandma passed away from cancer, which plunged my family and my grandfather into difficult times. At that young age, I believed my grandma was simply sleeping and would wake up as usual, but that wasn't the case. I felt a void, and my grandpa underwent significant changes. Over time, he became stricter and more emotional, although I knew deep down that he loved his family and just needed his own space.

As the years passed, I gained a better understanding of right and wrong. I realized that my childhood was like a trap that I needed to escape from. Although I yearned to change the past, those experiences made me stronger and more mature. Despite enduring pain from an early age, I take solace in the belief that God is always with me, understanding my every struggle. These moments have shaped me into a resilient individual, and I am confident that I can bring about positive change for my family. Instead of dwelling on my fate, I choose to move forward and accept myself. I refuse to shy

away from or hide behind problems; instead, I want to show the world that I am making the most of my life.

My spiritual journey and long-term spiritual commitment

I have been a Christian since birth, despite coming from a family with Chinese heritage where Buddhism and non-belief are more common. My father's background is Javanese, but his grandfather hailed from China, while my mother is from Bangka Belitung. Despite not resembling a typical Chinese girl and being unable to speak Mandarin, I grew up in a Hindu-Buddhist school from kindergarten until junior high. This exposed me to Buddhism and its traditions, including meditation and prayers in a small temple before and after classes. During this time, I was still grappling with my own religious identity and often followed the practices I observed in others.

Additionally, I attended Sunday school at my church with my older sister, where we learned about the basics of the Bible and how to pray to God. As time passed, my faith in Jesus Christ grew stronger, and I developed a personal and meaningful relationship with Him. Despite this, my mother's family still adhered to Buddhism, and there were occasions when I felt obligated to participate in certain traditions, such as offering prayers with incense during Chinese New Year. Although such practices were not aligned with Christianity, I followed them due to familial and cultural expectations.

However, I recognized the conflict between these traditions and my Christian beliefs, so I sought guidance from a mentor in my

church. I asked how to handle situations where traditions contradicted biblical teachings. The response I received was to do everything for God, to let my life shine as an example, and to avoid becoming a stumbling block for others. This advice prompted a shift in my perspective on my faith.

In junior high school, I made the decision to be baptized, signifying a new chapter in my spiritual journey. Since then, my life has been transformed, particularly during my lowest moments. Jesus Christ has been my refuge, providing safety and peace. My faith in Him goes beyond viewing Christianity as a mere religion or a product of my family's beliefs. It is an intimate and personal relationship that has brought immense comfort and guidance to my life.

“not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.” I Peter 3:9-10 NKJV

This Bible verse became my vision of life and long-term spiritual commitment. I’m hoping I can make a positive impact for society.

My Purpose Of Life

I used to feel that my life had been designed to go the road chosen by my family. They had high expectations for me, pushing me to achieve more than I believed possible and live the life they never had. The clash of perspectives, however, inspired me to establish my own independent thoughts and objectives. I began to challenge their expectations and began to carve my own path, finding what was genuinely important to me. As a result, the purpose of my life revolves around embracing authenticity and personal freedom. I create decisions that are genuine to my real self by being faithful to

my beliefs, passions, and inner voice. This allows me to live a life aligned with my own ambitions, free of the weight of regret.

This principle of self-awareness and mindful decision-making has had a profound impact on my life. By understanding my strengths, weaknesses, and core values, I am able to navigate through life with clarity and purpose. This heightened self-awareness empowers me to make decisions that align with my long-term vision, reducing the likelihood of future regrets. I view each choice as an opportunity for personal growth and self-discovery.

One significant instance in my life that exemplifies this principle was when I made the decision to pursue fashion design as my major in senior high school. Despite facing opposition from my family, who believed that a career in design held no future prospects, I remained steadfast in my dreams. I was determined to create my own brand and envisioned walking confidently in my own fashion show. Hence, I pursued fashion design and concurrently studied business to equip myself with the necessary skills for establishing my own fashion business in the future.

Although my family initially expressed their disapproval, I quietly pursued my objective by secretly registering for the public school. When I eventually revealed my decision to them, there were moments of scolding and disagreement. However, I stood firm in my belief and explained my reasoning to them. I emphasized that I did not want to burden them with the responsibility of paying my tuition fees and that my passion for fashion design was what truly fueled my drive. After patiently communicating my intentions, my family began to understand and eventually granted me permission to pursue my chosen path.

From this experience, I learned the importance of effective communication and involving my loved ones in significant decision-making processes. I believe that by including them and expressing my aspirations, they can better comprehend my perspective, and together, we can find common ground. I recognize that their support is essential, and it is my responsibility to prove to them that I am committed to achieving my goals and forging my own path in life.

Every decision, no matter how big or small, is an opportunity for growth and learning. A regret-free life does not imply an absence of mistakes or setbacks. On the contrary, it is about embracing these experiences as valuable lessons. I approach challenges and setbacks as opportunities for personal development and self-reflection. By extracting meaning and wisdom from each experience, I transform regrets into stepping stones that guide me towards a more enlightened and purposeful existence.

Furthermore, for me living without regret means valuing the present moment and cherishing connections with others. I prioritize nurturing relationships, creating meaningful memories, and savoring the beauty of life's simple joys. By immersing myself fully in the present, I minimize the chances of regretting missed opportunities or unexpressed emotions, fostering a life rich in love, connection, and appreciation.

In conclusion, the principle of self-awareness and mindful decision-making has shaped my journey, allowing me to make choices that align with my long-term vision. Despite initial opposition, I pursued my passion for fashion design, relying on effective communication and patience to garner understanding and support from my family. Every decision and experience, even the smallest ones, contribute to my personal growth and transformation. By embracing these lessons, I strive to lead a life free of regret, constantly evolving towards a more purposeful and enlightened existence.

My short-term and mid-term goals

In a world filled with obstacles and difficulties, I have discovered a profound calling to support and uplift my local church through charitable efforts, specifically aimed at church construction. One of the primary reasons behind this commitment is the essential role my community plays in my life; they have become my second family. Their presence has brought about significant changes in my life, inspiring me to reciprocate their love and support.

My short-term and mid-term goals revolve around assisting the church in its mission to spread love, compassion, and hope to people. Through acts of charity, I aim to strengthen the church community, bring about positive change, and leave a lasting impact on the lives of individuals within our congregation.

In the short term, my focus is on addressing the immediate needs of our church community. This could involve organizing food drives or selling clothing to raise funds for church construction. By engaging fellow church members in these activities, we can foster a sense of unity, support, and empathy within our community. It is important for everyone to feel valued, cared for, and supported, especially during times of hardship.

To maximize the impact of our charitable efforts, it is crucial to raise awareness about the church's initiatives. We can achieve this through various communication channels, such as social media and community events. By sharing stories of transformation and highlighting the positive outcomes of our collective efforts, we hope to inspire others to join us in spreading compassion and love. The goal is to ignite a ripple effect of generosity, encouraging more individuals to be a source of light and support for one another.

In conclusion, my commitment to supporting the church through charitable initiatives, specifically for church construction, stems from a deep sense of gratitude and a desire to give back to the community that has had a profound impact on my life. Through addressing immediate needs and raising awareness, I strive to strengthen the church community, foster positive change, and inspire others to embrace the values of compassion and love. Together, we can create a supportive and united community where everyone can find solace, hope, and the opportunity to grow spiritually.

Discovering My IKIGAI

The search for a meaningful and rewarding life has led me to embrace the profound philosophy of ikigai, rooted in Japanese culture. Ikigai symbolizes the convergence of passion, mission, vocation, and profession, resulting in a profound sense of purpose, happiness, and contentment. For me, this essence of ikigai is embodied in my aspirations to become a designer and establish my own business. This delves into my personal odyssey in discovering ikigai through the pursuit of design and entrepreneurship, as well as the transformative impact I aspire to have on the world.

Design has always been a burning passion inside me. From a young age, I found comfort and inspiration in expressing myself through art and fashion. The act of creating something distinctive and visually captivating brings me immense happiness and fulfillment. This unwavering love for design motivates me to constantly explore new possibilities and challenge my creative limits.

Beyond personal satisfaction, my ikigai is rooted in making a positive difference in the lives of others through my stories. I firmly believe that design possesses the ability to shape experiences, evoke emotions, and influence perspectives. By crafting innovative and purpose-driven designs, my goal is to improve people's lives, infuse their surroundings with beauty, and inspire meaningful change.

Whether it's through eco-friendly fashion, practical products, or transformative environments, I aim to leave a lasting impact on individuals and communities.

To actualize my ikigai, I have chosen to pursue design as my chosen path. I began this journey during my senior high school years, immersing myself in a formal education that equipped me with the essential skills, knowledge, and tools to bring my creative visions to life. Continuously expanding my understanding of design principles, keeping abreast of industry trends, and honing my techniques are all integral parts of my growth process. Through persistent learning and refinement of my craft, my aspiration is to become a proficient designer capable of transforming ideas into tangible and impactful creations.

The establishment of my own design business signifies the culmination of my quest for ikigai. It exemplifies my entrepreneurial spirit, ambition, and yearning for independence. By venturing into this realm, I not only have the opportunity to pursue my passion but also shape my own destiny. My vision encompasses establishing a brand that embodies my values, champions sustainability, and fosters meaningful connections with clients and collaborators. Through my business endeavors, I strive to not only create visually stunning designs but also contribute to a world characterized by harmony and purpose.

The discovery of ikigai through my journey as a designer and entrepreneur has been profoundly personal and transformative. It represents the convergence of my passion, mission, vocation, and profession, resulting in a life filled with purpose, happiness, and contentment. Through design, my aim is to ignite my creative spark, make a positive impact on society, embrace design as my chosen

path, and build a business that reflects my values. In this pursuit of ikigai, my ultimate aspiration is to inspire others, leave a lasting legacy, and contribute to a world where beauty, innovation, and purpose intertwine harmoniously.



*We all have as much as we think we deserve.
Lift your opinion of what you think you deserve and
it's amazing what you'll start to attract!*

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

NINGSI SELAN



“Be true to yourself, and never let the opinions of others weaken you. Your past is just a chapter in your life, not the whole story.”

Hi, I'm Ningsi Selan. I was born in Enonapi on November 1, 2003, and I am an orphan. Now I am 19 years old and studying business at IPMI International Business School. Many interesting and valuable things in my life have happened, and there have been many ups and downs that I have learned from. From my personal life, my social life, and the life around me, many lessons have been learned from all directions.

I am an only daughter. Being born into a simple family with a history of sexual violence was a bad thing and became a very heavy emotional burden for me. My father did not recognise me while I was still in my mother's womb. At that time, my mother was still in high school and had to drop out of school because she was pregnant with me, but because my father did not acknowledge and was not responsible for me and my mother, after giving birth to me, my mother chose to complete her education because, according to her, it was very important for his future as well as mine, even though with only a high school education he managed to raise me and educate me well. Currently, my mother works as a volunteer for

children who have foster parents abroad and also as an administrator for Posyandu BKB-HI (Bina Keluarga Balita (BKB) Holistik Integratif), which is facilitated by an NGO, but that does not get paid every month but annually in an amount that is very little. Besides that, my mother has to find other income by making a woven group, and the results of the woven group are for our daily needs. She always tried to work hard to support me and taught me to always learn, to be disciplined, and to prioritize education. Until now, education has been a big thing for me, even though I only have a mother. I can now live peacefully and get a good education.

My mother is the best role model for me. She's not like other people. Even though he only struggled alone to care for me from childhood and raise me, she never tired of continuing to guide me. One thing that makes me sad and makes me want to continue learning and make him proud is that she looks emotionless; she is cold and never shows what she feels, and for me, that is a very sad thing because I don't know what he feels if he doesn't tell meaning and make him proud is that he looks emotionless; she is cold and never shows what she feels, and for me, that is a very sad thing because I don't know what she feels if he doesn't tell me. But as a kid, I could feel things she might have felt but didn't want to share.

As a child born into a Christian family. Since childhood, I have been educated to attend church services every week and perform services according to the teachings of Christianity. My mother always taught me about Christianity and always reminded

me to go to Sunday school, and the most important thing about being a Christian is to behave properly and correctly. Compassion is the main thing in Christianity. My mother always motivates and advises me to become a child of God because we believe that life is God's gift to us and that we live only for God. God has blessed us with many things, such as talent, longevity, the breath of life, and many more.

In Christianity, we are taught that by believing in and accepting the death and resurrection of Jesus, sinful humanity can be reconciled with God and thus obtain the offer of salvation and the promise of eternal life. We are also taught that love is the most important thing; loving one another and loving our nature is the main thing that is instilled in our hearts as Christians. We must love one another, be kind, and be compassionate to one another. I am Ningsi Selan, and this is my story.

Challenges Give You Lessons

Have you had times when you felt confused or lost in your life? Maybe you feel unsure about what steps to take or how to achieve your life goals. Perhaps you have lost your purpose in life. In life, everyone must find their purpose. The purpose of life is an important journey for many people. It involves self-exploration, personal values, interests, and aspirations. Every individual has a unique journey to find meaning and purpose in their life. Ruling the earth, being a partner of God, glorifying and exalting God, and loving God—I have been looking for my purpose in life since I was a child, and now I find that my purpose in life is to bring change and be a role model to my environment. Let me tell you something.

Regarding the purpose of life, which is to bring change and become a role model in your environment, it is a noble goal. Using your strengths and talents to positively influence others is a great way to make an impact in their lives. Through positive action and influence, you can become a role model and help create the desired change in your environment.

Here's my story: From a young age, I have been trying to find my purpose in life with the support and encouragement of my mother. Mother always encouraged me to pursue my goals, have a positive effect on others, and contribute to educating the environment about good things. My goal is to create a better world without neglecting anything that matters. My life journey is always full of various experiences, challenges, and ups and downs. Through this journey, I have learned how important it is to face downtime. If you ever feel uncertain or fail, the most important thing is to bounce back and learn from the experience. I'll be sharing some examples of experiences I've had, so please take good notes.

I am an orphan who grew up without a father's companion since I was still in my mother's womb. I am not a child from a financially rich family. In the past, I faced situations where I was harassed by bullies, but people know me as someone who dreams big and is always driven to never give up. Throughout my life's journey, I have experienced many downfalls, but my ambitious and positive spirit continues to push me forward. One of the things I enjoy is motivating and educating others to follow the good stuff.

For example, I educate them about the importance of avoiding early marriage, not committing violence against others, staying away from a promiscuous lifestyle, and informing them about the impact of early marriage. It is a way for me to show my affection and concern for others. When my friends face difficulties and need help, I am always ready to help and motivate them. Being a motivator and activist is one form of my love for others. That's my life goal: to pursue my personal dreams and make a positive impact on others. While some may find it insignificant, to me, it has significant meaning. Doing good for others, even in small ways, can have a big impact on their lives. The impact may not be immediately visible after the action is taken, but sometimes it's the little things that can change a person's life.

How I See the World

I see the world as a beautiful place corrupted by the human ego. Even though this world has natural wonders, positive social relationships, and great potential in human beings, we also cannot ignore the fact that many problems and conflicts arise due to selfishness, injustice, and a lack of awareness of our impact on the environment and fellow human beings. The way individuals perceive the world can vary based on their personal experiences and values. Some people see the world as a place of opportunity and potential, while others focus more on the problems and imbalances that exist. However, when looking critically at the world, it is important to remember that humans also have the capacity to create positive change. Despite the enormous challenges facing the world today, there are still many individuals, groups, and movements

working to create positive change, repair environmental damage, promote peace, and fight for social justice.

With awareness of the problems and gaps that exist in this world, I have the determination to become an agent of change by contributing to existing efforts, raising awareness, and acting according to the values that I and my environment consider important. In looking at the world as a whole, it is important to integrate discernment of beauty and potential with recognition of challenges and weaknesses.

So, seeing the world as something beautiful that is damaged by the human ego is a perspective that can inspire me to do more so that I can improve the condition of this world. By acting consciously and responsibly, I want to be able to contribute by minimizing my negative impact and strengthening my positive impact on the world.

Long-term Commitment

I, as an individual human being, have the desire to adapt to the surrounding environment and continue to develop myself so that I can become a better person day by day. I hope to make a positive impact on others so that they feel valued and important. Based on my life experience, I realize that high self-confidence, strong enthusiasm, and the goals and dreams that I have are very important. One of my main goals is to complete my current study programme and obtain an appropriate academic degree in that field. In addition,

I also wish to continue to develop skills and knowledge relevant to my field of study. I believe that by following the path of life that God has set and by pursuing my dream, I will not give up easily because I have a deep love for and interest in it. I am sure that with persistence and strong commitment, I will be able to achieve the goals I have set. The more I love something, the greater my commitment to continue to grow and become a better person.

For me, I love education and never complain about it. Even when facing obstacles, I feel it is my responsibility to overcome them. My love for education drives me to develop myself every day so that I can become a better version of myself. This attitude should exist in all aspects of life. Therefore, it is important for us to see the world clearly, my friends. We need to open our eyes and hearts to the world and accept that sometimes the world is not predictable, pleasant, or fair. However, we must remember that the world is also a place where stories happen, miracles happen, and wonderful things can happen. We need to see the world from that positive perspective. In this way, we will understand the world and the mysteries of life better, so that we will not feel hopeless and can achieve our desired goals.

I always talk to myself with the goal of becoming a better person and going beyond my previous achievements to achieve my goals. We must not forget the importance of adapting in life. We need to have intelligence and skills to adapt to the situations we face. Our agility in dealing with everyday problems will teach us valuable lessons. Problems are a part of everyday life, and we face them every day. Therefore, every day we have the opportunity to

learn. My long-term goal is to continue to grow and become a better person than before. I really value the time I have and try to make the best use of it because life's opportunities are limited. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift. Therefore, we call it a gift. Time is a precious thing, like a surging ocean, interrelated and having complex cause-and-effect relationships.

Short-term Commitment

Because I have long-term commitments, I also have short-term and medium-term responsibilities, which I'll talk about in a moment. In the short term, I am committed to improving my study results in various ways, such as increasing grades on tests or assignments, actively participating in class discussions, or achieving certain goals in my coursework. In addition, I commit to doing good deeds every day, such as providing assistance to those in need, helping others, or providing support to those who are marginalized. I also want to strengthen my relationship with religion and shape my character according to my religious values. In the medium term, I will continue these efforts consistently and try to develop my skills gradually.

Mid-term Commitment

My mid-term commitment is to expand the reach of the relationship and continue my short-term commitment. I want to continue to show meaningful love, affection, and appreciation to my

mother. In addition, I have a dream to join a student exchange programme at a university abroad. Even though it may not be realized at this time, I admit that I have been a good child and make my mother proud. I continue to make sacrifices for the happiness and well-being of my mother, family, and friends because I care about them. Even though it looks simple, many people don't do it. I believe that this simple act can have a big impact on others. Sometimes we don't know the struggles and needs of others.

For example, if one of your friends is having financial problems, you show love and compassion by providing emotional and practical support. You can help them find financial solutions, provide advice, or even provide financial assistance if you can. These actions may be important moments in their lives and help them through difficult situations. Many people often ignore the importance of long-term commitments, medium-term commitments, and short-term responsibilities, even though these things are very relevant and have an impact on our lives. By having clear goals and breaking them down into measurable steps, we can achieve those goals more effectively and improve ourselves gradually. This approach has proven essential to many people's success in their lives.

The World Can be Better

In conclusion, my life goal and commitment is to show concern for others by educating them about positive things and reminding them about the negative effects of actions that should be avoided (examples of violence, promiscuity, early marriage, and drug abuse). Through this effort, I hope to influence and improve the

lives of others. I have experienced many challenges in life, which have shaped me into a stronger person. One of my biggest worries is making decisions that don't make my mother and those closest to me happy. I don't want to cause disappointment or regret for them. Therefore, I am excited to have the courage and confidence to show love, affection, and success to my mother, family, friends, and people I don't even know.

Finding Ikigai in My Life

In the Religious Study lesson, Ms Amelia tells us how we find our reason or purpose in life by using the concept of Ikigai. And she gave us 4 questions to find our purpose in life using the Ikigai concept : 1. What do you love to do?, 2. What do you think the world needs?, 3. What can you get paid for?, 4. What are you good at?

From the 4 questions, I can answer that 1. What I like to do is educate other people about positive things (for example, stunting, the impact of child marriage, and gender equality), learn new things that have a positive impact, and share with each other. 2. I think when the world needs a change, people need a little support to make that change, so I want to be one of the people taking part who can support people to change (for example, changing their mindset about good things), and right now my place is having a lot of problems, so I think they need support for the problem. 3. What you can do to get paid is work as an influencer or do any job that can be paid. 4. What

I have done is succeeded in preventing stunting in my place, being a role model for others even though I come from a simple and imperfect family, and being able to educate many people about the impact of child marriage, stunting, and gender equality.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

PRISILYA RAJ KAUR

“Believe in yourself, for within you lies the power to defy expectations and achieve greatness. Don't wait for permission or validation from others; embrace your unique journey and let your light shine.”

Welcome to an exhilarating journey through my personal growth and self-discovery. In the depths of uncertainty and the embrace of my passions, I have come to realize that the path to self-discovery is anything but linear. It is a continuous process of growth, interwoven with the threads of perseverance, resilience, and an unwavering belief in our own potential. Life itself is not a monochrome existence, but a vibrant canvas yearning to be adorned with the hues of joy, purpose, and fulfillment.

Together, we will embark on an exploration of the chapters that have shaped my story, witnessing firsthand how each experience has contributed to my personal evolution. Through moments of triumph and challenges overcome, I have grown into the person I am today,

forever seeking new avenues of self-discovery and growth. Let us celebrate the moments of self-discovery, the transformative power of personal growth, and the relentless pursuit of purpose and fulfillment

Growing up in a loving and caring environment,

I was instilled with the belief that our lives should be useful to others and that balance is essential in navigating life's challenges. Religion played an integral role in shaping my values and guiding my actions, providing a strong moral compass. From a young age, I was immersed in the teachings and practices of my faith. The rituals, prayers, and community gatherings were not mere formalities but meaningful expressions of my spirituality. Through these experiences, I learned the importance of compassion, empathy, and spreading positivity. My religious upbringing taught me that we are all connected and have a responsibility to care for one another. It instilled in me a deep sense of gratitude for the blessings in my life and a desire to use my talents and resources to make a positive impact on the world. This foundation of faith and spirituality has been a guiding force as I navigate the challenges and joys of life. Rooted in these spiritual values, I strive to embody kindness, love, and understanding in my interactions with others. I believe that every individual deserves respect and dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs. This inclusive and compassionate approach has shaped my relationships and how I navigate the world around me. Join me as we delve into the roots of my resilience and the nurturing of change from within. Through my upbringing and the influence of my faith, I have learned valuable lessons about the

importance of serving others, finding balance, and embracing the transformative power of love and compassion. As we embark on this journey together, let's explore the profound impact that spirituality and a strong moral compass can have on our lives. Through our shared experiences and reflections, may we discover the immense potential for growth, resilience, and positive change that lies within each of us.

Nurturing Change from Within: The Power of Faith and Resilience

Allow me to introduce Prisilya Raj Kaur, a baking enthusiast with an insatiable zest for life! I was born on September 28, 2004, which means I'll be turning 19 this year. Fun fact about me: I love baking as much as I love cherishing every moment of my existence. It's a passion that fills my heart with warmth and joy. In addition to my love for baking, I find solace in the pages of captivating novels. There's something magical about immersing myself in extraordinary stories and getting lost in their enchanting worlds. It's as if the characters become my dear friends, accompanying me on thrilling adventures and touching my soul with their experiences. When I'm not whipping up delicious confections or embarking on literary journeys, you'll often find me in the water. Swimming has been a part of my life since I was a little kid, and it has become one of my cherished hobbies. There's a sense of freedom and tranquility that comes with gliding through the water, leaving all worries behind.

Now, let's talk about my eyes. When I entered this world, they sparkled with a vivid blue hue, reminiscent of the vastness of the ocean. But as time flowed gracefully, my eyes underwent a fascinating transformation, revealing a mesmerizing shade of dark green. It's a unique feature that sets me apart and adds a touch of mystery to my persona. Join me as we delve into the roots of my resilience and the nurturing of change from within. My upbringing has been shaped by the strong bonds within my family, where my mother's strictness and my father's chill demeanor provided contrasting yet valuable lessons. Growing up in a loving and caring environment, I was instilled with the belief that our lives should be useful to others and that balance is essential in navigating life's challenges. The journey of change continued when I moved from Medan to Jakarta, a transition filled with both excitement and challenges. Adapting to a new city, school, and friends was initially daunting, but it ultimately became an opportunity for personal growth and independence. In Jakarta, I discovered the importance of being self-reliant, handling my own problems, and embracing the spirit of productivity. Through resilience and determination, I overcame the initial hurdles and found my place in the bustling capital city. The challenges I faced in adapting to a new educational system and curriculum at my national school were met with perseverance. Along the way, I formed a deep bond with a friend named Sergio, who provided invaluable support and assistance. Now, armed with the lessons learned and the resilience developed, I am committed to being a change-maker. My experiences in Jakarta have reinforced my values and principles, driving me to create positive change in the world. With the support and encouragement of my family, I have set my sights on making my dreams come true,

choosing a path of business studies at IPMI (Institut Pengembangan Manajemen Indonesia) that aligns with my aspirations. As you embark on this extraordinary adventure with me, Prisilya Raj Kaur, together, let's embrace life's flavors and stories. Let's savor every moment, share our passions, and make a meaningful impact in the world around us. One thousand four hundred and fifty-six kilometers. I've searched the distance out of curiosity. If taken by plane, It would've been a three and a half hours flight. But in the end, distance doesn't mean a thing, right? Nobody knows where and when they will meet the love of their life.

Embracing My Ikigai

In this chapter, I delve into the concept of ikigai and how it has become a guiding force in my life. Ikigai, the Japanese term for "reason for being," encompasses the idea of finding fulfillment and purpose by aligning one's passions, talents, and the needs of the world.

I reflect on the activities that bring me immense joy and fulfillment on a daily basis: baking, watching, and gardening. These pursuits have become my personal oasis, offering solace and inspiration during both happy and challenging times. Through baking, I create delectable treats that not only satiate the taste buds but also bring smiles to the faces of those who indulge in them.

Watching, whether it's films, documentaries, or plays, transports me to different worlds, expands my horizons, and evokes a range of emotions. Gardening, on the other hand, allows me to connect with nature, nurture life, and witness the beauty of growth and transformation.

As I reflect upon these passions, I begin to see the potential to turn them into a business that not only brings me joy but also meets the needs of others. The thought of opening a bakery and a florist shop fills my heart with excitement and possibility. It's a dream I hold close, envisioning a space where people can find comfort in freshly baked goods and be surrounded by the vibrant colors and fragrances of carefully arranged flowers.

Although I have never participated in competitions related to my hobbies, there was a pivotal moment during my senior high school years when my homeroom teacher selected me to represent our class in a reading contest and a trashion show. The trust he placed in me, despite my self-doubt, taught me a valuable lesson about not underestimating myself. Surprisingly, I emerged victorious in both competitions, proving to myself that with dedication and effort, nothing is impossible.

These triumphs ignited a flame within me—a belief that if I set my mind to something, I can achieve it. I carry this motivation with me every day, pushing myself to become the best version of myself. While my planning may not always be flawless, I trust that my

commitment to personal growth and self-improvement will guide me towards success.

Furthermore, the unwavering support and encouragement from my family have been instrumental in nurturing my passions and embracing my ikigai. Their belief in my abilities has instilled in me the confidence to pursue my dreams, no matter how unconventional they may seem. Their presence reminds me that I am not alone on this journey and that the transformative power of personal growth and self-discovery can be shared and celebrated with loved ones.

In this chapter, I have explored the concept of ikigai and its influence on my life. By aligning my passions with the needs of the world, I have discovered a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Through baking, watching, and gardening, I have found avenues for personal expression, creativity, and connection. The challenges and triumphs along the way have shaped my character and propelled me forward on the path to realizing my dreams.

Each day, as I indulge in my passions and pursue my dreams, *I am reminded that life is not meant to be lived in black and white. It is a vibrant canvas waiting to be painted with the colors of joy, purpose, and fulfillment.* And as I navigate the challenges and

triumphs of my journey, I know that I am inching closer to discovering my true Ikigai and creating a life that brings me *happiness and meaning*.

Change And Personal Growth

In this exhilarating chapter, I delve into the moments that have ignited my personal growth and propelled me forward on my path of self-discovery. Brace yourself as I recount the tale of my transformative journey from Medan to Jakarta, a leap into the unknown that redefined my perspective on life.

Picture this: Leaving behind the familiarity of my childhood, I embarked on a thrilling adventure that challenged me in ways I never imagined. The move to Jakarta taught me a profound lesson—life is not just about ourselves. It's about being ready for whatever the future may hold, embracing the unexpected with open arms. From the moment I arrived, I was determined to conquer the bustling city, armed with nothing but my courage and unwavering spirit.

As I settled into my new surroundings, I faced a whirlwind of challenges that demanded my utmost resilience. With my parents often occupied, I learned to rely on my own abilities, transforming into an independent force to be reckoned with. Every obstacle I encountered became an opportunity for growth, a chance to unlock my true potential. Through perseverance and determination, I

overcame the odds, proving to myself that I was capable of surmounting any hurdle that dared cross my path.

Education and self-improvement became my guiding lights, propelling me towards newfound horizons. Stepping into the realm of independence, I discovered the power of self-reliance and the joys of acquiring new skills. No longer could I lean on friends or cousins for support—I had to stand tall on my own two feet. As I embraced this new chapter of my life, I delved into uncharted territories, eager to expand my knowledge and broaden my perspectives.

Yet, my journey was not without its share of setbacks. The unfamiliarity of my new environment tested my resilience and adaptability. It was in these moments of uncertainty that I learned the true meaning of acceptance. Rather than resisting change, I opened my heart to the transformative power of embracing the unknown. This pivotal mindset shift allowed me to navigate the twists and turns of life with grace, discovering hidden strengths within myself that I never knew existed.

While I may not have idolized actors or actresses, I found my ultimate inspiration within the walls of my own home. My parents, my unwavering pillars of support, became my mentors and role

models. Their unconditional love and guidance shaped the very essence of my being. From the very basics of life to the invaluable lessons of resilience and perseverance, their teachings have become the bedrock of my personal growth.

No story of self-discovery is complete without tales of venturing beyond comfort zones. I embraced the exhilaration of the unknown, challenging myself to try new activities, forge connections with diverse souls, and conquer uncharted territories. Each step taken outside my comfort zone unveiled a world of untapped potential, nurturing my personal growth and infusing my life with purpose.

I invite you to join me on an electrifying voyage of embracing change and personal growth. Together, let us explore the boundless possibilities that arise when we dare to venture beyond the familiar. Through my journey, I have learned that the challenges we encounter and the changes we embrace mold us into extraordinary individuals. So, grab hold of your curiosity and embark on this captivating chapter, as we uncover the transformative power of personal growth and self-discovery.

My Long-Term Commitment

Throughout my journey of personal growth, one aspect that has remained constant is my unwavering commitment to long-term goals. I believe that true growth and transformation require

dedication, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to the path we choose.

From a young age, I developed a deep understanding that success and fulfillment are not achieved overnight. Instead, they are the result of consistent effort, resilience in the face of challenges, and a willingness to endure setbacks. With this mindset, I have embraced the concept of long-term commitment, recognizing its power to propel me towards my aspirations.

Long-term commitment goes beyond mere passion or temporary enthusiasm. It is the unwavering dedication to a vision, a purpose that extends far beyond immediate gratification. It is the willingness to put in the necessary work, even when the road gets tough, and the obstacles seem insurmountable.

My long-term commitment is reflected in the goals I set for myself, whether they are academic, personal, or professional. I understand that achieving these goals requires consistent action, perseverance, and the willingness to adapt and learn from each experience along the way.

This commitment has taught me the value of patience and delayed gratification. It has instilled in me the understanding that meaningful

growth takes time and that the rewards are often sweeter when earned through persistence and dedication.

Moreover, long-term commitment has shaped my character and helped me develop essential qualities such as discipline, resilience, and perseverance. It has taught me to stay focused on my goals, even when distractions arise or when faced with the temptation to give up.

In my pursuit of personal growth, I have encountered numerous challenges and obstacles. There have been moments of doubt and uncertainty, where the path ahead seemed unclear. However, my long-term commitment has acted as an anchor, grounding me and reminding me of the bigger picture.

In times of adversity, I draw strength from my commitment, reminding myself of the purpose and the long-term vision I have set for myself. This commitment serves as a guiding light, leading me forward and helping me navigate through the darkest of times.

Long-term commitment is not just about reaching the destination; it is about embracing the process and the journey itself. It is about finding joy and fulfillment in the everyday steps we take towards our goals. It is about understanding that growth is not a destination but a lifelong pursuit.

Through my long-term commitment, I have come to appreciate the beauty of continuous growth and the immense satisfaction that

comes from seeing progress over time. It has taught me that true transformation occurs when we remain committed, stay the course, and persist in the face of challenges.

As I continue on my path of personal growth, I am committed to nurturing my dreams, pursuing my passions, and never ceasing to evolve into the best version of myself. My long-term commitment is not just a pledge to achieve specific goals; it is a commitment to live a purposeful and fulfilling life, constantly seeking growth, and embracing the endless possibilities that lie ahead.

My Mid-Term and Short-Term Commitments

As I reflect on my personal growth journey, I realize that long-term commitment is not the sole driver of progress. Alongside my enduring dedication, I have discovered the significance of setting mid-term and short-term commitments that keep me focused and motivated on my path. These commitments act as guideposts, directing me towards my larger goals while celebrating the smaller victories along the way.

My mid-term commitments represent the milestones I strive to achieve within a defined timeframe. They serve as stepping stones, propelling me closer to my long-term vision. One such commitment is to further my education and expand my knowledge in areas that align with my passions and aspirations. Recognizing the transformative power of learning, I have embarked on a journey of self-improvement through formal education, online courses, and workshops. Each new skill acquired and each lesson learned brings me closer to unlocking my full potential and embracing new opportunities.

Another mid-term commitment centers around my professional development. I am determined to cultivate a fulfilling career that combines my passions, talents, and the ability to make a positive impact on others. To achieve this, I actively seek growth opportunities, networking events, and mentorship programs that expose me to diverse perspectives and open doors to new possibilities. By continuously honing my skills, expanding my professional network, and seeking challenging projects, I am paving the way for a successful and fulfilling career journey.

In addition to my mid-term commitments, I recognize the importance of setting short-term goals that provide a sense of accomplishment and momentum in my daily life. These commitments are the building blocks that contribute to my overall growth and well-being. They can be as simple as developing a

consistent exercise routine, dedicating time for self-care, or nurturing meaningful relationships with loved ones. By prioritizing these smaller commitments, *I create a harmonious balance between personal and professional aspirations, ensuring that my journey is not solely focused on the destination, but on the present moment as well.*

Through my mid-term and short-term commitments, I have come to appreciate the value of intentional action and perseverance. They remind me that personal growth is not a one-time event but a continuous process that requires dedication and adaptability. Along the way, I have experienced setbacks and encountered obstacles, but my commitments have served as beacons of motivation, guiding me through challenges and pushing me to overcome them.

As I continue to navigate my journey, I am fueled by the belief that every commitment, no matter how big or small, contributes to my growth and fulfillment. Whether it's a mid-term milestone or a daily goal, each commitment shapes my character, expands my horizons, and propels me forward on the path of self-discovery.

In this chapter, I have shared the significance of my mid-term and short-term commitments in fueling my personal growth journey. These commitments act as catalysts, propelling me towards my

long-term vision while allowing me to savor the joys and triumphs of the present moment. With unwavering dedication and intentional action, I am steadily progressing towards a life that aligns with my passions, values, and purpose.

Conclusion

In the depths of self-discovery and personal growth, I have embarked on a remarkable journey, one that has taken me through the highs and lows, the challenges and triumphs, and ultimately led me to a place of profound transformation. As I reflect on the chapters of my story, I am filled with gratitude for the lessons learned, the connections made, and the person I have become.

Throughout this journal, I have discovered the power of embracing change, pursuing my passions, and embracing challenges as stepping stones to my personal evolution. It is through the embrace of these experiences that I have unlocked the potential within myself and discovered the true essence of who I am.

Along the way, I have encountered countless moments of self-discovery, where I have delved deep into my passions, explored new territories, and allowed myself to be guided by the inner compass of my heart. Each step has been a testament to the limitless possibilities that await us when we dare to step outside our comfort zones and explore the vastness of our potential.

In the pursuit of my dreams, I have come to understand the significance of long-term and short-term commitments. It is in these commitments that I have found the strength to persevere, the resilience to overcome obstacles, and the determination to never give up. They have been the guiding lights that have illuminated my path and propelled me forward, even in the face of adversity.

As I stand at the precipice of this transformative journey, I am reminded of the words that have echoed within me throughout this journal: "Life is not meant to be lived in black and white; it is a vibrant canvas waiting to be painted with the colors of joy, purpose, and fulfillment." These words encapsulate the essence of my journey, reminding me that life is a tapestry of experiences, and it is up to us to infuse it with meaning, passion, and authenticity.

In closing, I leave you with a quote that resonates deeply with my spirit: "Embrace the unknown, for it holds the key to your growth. Embrace the challenges, for they forge your strength. Embrace the passions that set your soul on fire, for they lead you to your purpose. Embrace your journey, for within it lies the power to create a life that brings you happiness and meaning."

In the end, my story is not just about finding myself; it is about creating myself, like painting a canvas of happiness and purpose

with every choice I make. And so, my dear reader, May this journal inspire you to embrace your journey of self-discovery and personal growth, to pursue your passions unapologetically, and to live a life that is authentically yours. In this pursuit, you will uncover the true power within you and create a life filled with purpose, joy, and fulfillment.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

RIVALDEAN ALDRICH ADRIEN



*“Failure is not the end. It is a necessary part of the path.
Hope will always survive in those who continue to fight.”*

Eno Cordova

The Beginning

My name is Rivaldean Aldrich Adrien, Rivaldean meaning “winner of trust”, Aldrich meaning prosperous and Adrien being a combination of my parents’ names - **Adrianto** and **Helena**. I was born in Jakarta on the 16th of February 2003. I was born into a fairly devoted Muslim family from both sides of my family. My dad originates from Solok, West Sumatra and my mom ethnically being batak but born in Jakarta. Religion remains at the core of my family and it unites and binds us to a common understanding. Although I was born here, I lived here up until the age of five after finishing Pre-KG (TK) where my story picks up and a whole new world awaits.

New Flower

Ethiopia is where I grew up, more specifically its capital city of Addis Ababa, it means “New Flower” when translated. Everything changed when my dad got assigned a respectable job there and he moved and lived alone initially the same year as I was born. It was only until five years later, in 2008, where myself, my mom and brother moved. Ethiopia in many ways is a land of opportunity. I have learned so much from there spiritually and culturally. As Islam is also a major religion there so I’d still feel connected to Islam by still being able to find Masjid’s to pray, and celebrate various religious holidays with the Muslims there. Despite being so far away from Indonesia, I remain an Indonesian in my core thanks to the guidance from my parents. My dad would often teach me about Indonesia from what he learnt from his dad or my Grandfather; which are from his upbringing as someone from Sumatra. Often with very philosophical teachings and wisdom about what it means to be human. As well as the importance of family. My mother taught me what it means to be a good person. She along with my dad had instilled strong values of compassion and love to others. She would be the person that would always ensure I was safe, loved and protected, just as any wonderful mother would. Apart from my parents, the other Indonesians I’d meet are diplomats at the Indonesian Embassy. We had a small community that would feel like a family as they’d invite us for various events related to Indonesia. Examples being celebrating together during Eid, Independence day, and various events. My favorites were the ones where we held a bazaar showcasing Indonesia to many other diplomats and locals. We would cook Nasi Goreng, Sate and many of Indonesia's culinary

masterpieces to showcase and delight people with our culture and food. We would also have an Angklung orchestra or dance to various traditional dances. In a lot of ways, the small community we had also taught me how to be a good Indonesian as I got to see us united and teaching people about our remarkable country and sharing that love and pride. Growing up I befriended many people from different religions and so it became very second nature for me to respect and appreciate others' religions as many others did the same for me. Other than that, Ethiopia is a second home for me and has influenced the way I am. The people are proud and very down-to-earth with their culture, religion and beliefs. It represents my childhood and I grew up with the city as it developed and that always fascinated me seeing how far the city has gone from 2008 until present day. I will always cherish my friends, teachers and people I've met there and my experiences and memories will always stay close to my heart.

2020

2020 was a year of many downturns, with covid running amok and causing destruction and all that. It also was the start of some of the most difficult times I had to endure. My mom passed away due to cancer. It was a painful moment in my life and it severely impacted me in different parts of my life. Her loss was a heavy blow to my family. When I lost my mom, I lost a part of myself. She and I were very close and she was beloved by everyone from my family,

especially me. One final lesson she instilled in me was to keep fighting just as she bravely and strongly fought. When you're lost in the dark, look for a light, and that light was Allah for me.

Hope

Despite what I went through, the best thing to come out of a dire situation would be that I became more religious. I would pray more than I did and every time after I had finished praying, I would also send or dedicate a prayer to my mom, often Al-Fatihah. Moreover, I have been able to slowly come to terms with her passing and I learnt that she will always be a part of me. Not only does my last name consist of her name, but also her guidance, love, lessons and values will continue to live on through me. I feel safe when I am reminded of this and I'm thankful that turning to religion has healed me and was instrumental during my grieving process. My quote came from one of my favorite games and franchise, Star Wars. It surprisingly has some deep wisdom and teachings when it comes to aspects of spirituality such as love, compassion, anger, grief and so on. But I feel as though the quote by a character called Eno Cordova best represents my situation, as just like my mother, he encourages to keep fighting and hope will always persist. There will always be challenges and hardships but as long as we keep fighting, it will all be worth it

Beyond

In the future, I hope to continue my studies and graduate S1, doing my best to accumulate as much experience and knowledge as I can. I hope to one day be financially independent and work at a reputable and respectable job, hopefully finding work at a

flourishing business. From my ikigai, I found a powerful link of exploration. This does not surprise me as I've frequently traveled to many countries at such a young age. Along the way I've been to many countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, but I still want to explore more of the world and I hope I get that opportunity. Additionally, I intend on deepening my knowledge and spirituality for Islam. It will be a lifelong mission. Along the way I will remember where I came from and would tell anyone that I'm proud of my upbringings.



How comfortable you are with yourself determines how much tolerance you have for people who are different from you. If you feel safe within yourself, there is no fear of the world around you!

CHAPTER TWENTY

SHAVIRA FEBRYANTI

““

“You should not rip yourself to pieces just to keep others whole.” - Emma Bleker

What a great quote isn't it? I used to be “Yes” kind of people or – people pleaser, yes, that’s the term to this kind of people that agree to every thing others ask them to do, even if it hurts them through and through. I used to be that, but not anymore. I feel like I would be judged if I say those thing outloud in front of people with more experience than me, but so what? Hahaha.

I don’t remember exactly when I changed, but what I remember is that, ever since I began to follow that quotes, I can refuse pretty easily when people ask me to answer a silly question, or when they try to persuade me into doing something that I absolutely abhorrent to. I know that sometimes people quite taken back when I refused them, but at the end of the day, I don’t really want to be a people pleaser anymore.

About Me

After reading the prologue above, what is your assumption towards me? Is it good or is it bad? But before you make any judgments, let me provide you with more information about myself.

My name is Shavira Febryanti, spelled without the letter 'i' between 'r' and 'y'. It genuinely bothers me when people misspell my name, so I kindly ask you to remember the correct spelling here, hehe. As you may have guessed from my name, I was born in the month of February. Although I was born in Jakarta, I have spent most of my life in Depok, specifically in a place called Sukatani for around until I was in middle school. My family and I were moving to another house when I'm in my 8th grade, and until now, we're still living in the same house. I move to a place called Cimanggis – still in Depok though, that's why I mentioned that I spent most of my life in Depok. In my family, I have two brothers, one older and one younger. Being the only girl, I hold the position of the middle child in our home.

During my childhood, I only remember spending time at home with my mom and brothers. I didn't mention my grandparents because although I visited them weekly, they weren't constantly present at home. Now, you might be wondering about my father. Unfortunately, my father couldn't be with us often due to his work. He is an engineer in an oil company, he works by the sea and there were times when he had to work for extended periods of time without returning home. At the shortest, he would come back every two months.

Ok, long story short, although I told you that I lived in Sukatani and later Cimanggis, Depok, but all my schools – from Elementary to High School, were in Cibubur, Jakarta. As Cibubur is not really that far away from my house, so commuting to schools were not really an issue at that time. After completing my Junior High School at Al-Azhar 19 Cibubur, most of my friends were planning to attend the nearby private school, Labschool Cibubur. However, my parents had a different plan for me, as they strongly wanted (almost forced) me to enroll at Nurul Fikri, located in Depok. Now, let me share with you what my 14-year-old self did. Can you guess? Well... I refused.

Making Decision for Myself

I always been an obedient child to my parents, be it their wish or whim, I never really refused them. But I don't really remember what actually happens to me at that time. I only remember that I feel a really strong urge within me to refused my parents decision to enroll me at Nurul Fikri, I also remembered their faces. Their "*I'm so taken aback*" face when I refuse to adhere their wish. I think at that time, deep down, I want to try to make a decision for myself. Or maybe, it's just puberty.

Long story short, the big fight between my parents and I that I thought was going to happen– didn't happen at all. All I need to do actually just try to communicate with them, and they will listen. But 14 year old me apparently didn't know it, and expecting the worst

out come (I actually prepared a few threatening threats to my parents at that time, but phew, Alhamdulillah I never really used them to forced my parents to allow me enroll in Labchool Cibubur). Then, after I communicate peacefully, I went to Labschool Cibubur.

Religious Belief

As someone who grew up in a family that placed great emphasis on Islamic teachings, I have been learning about Hadith, Fiqh, and Islamic history since a young age. My parents always encouraged me to perform the five daily prayers, recite the after prayers *Dua*, and sent me to join an Al-Quran recitation group or *Pengajian* near our home to further my Islamic education. I vividly recall that every day at 4 pm, I would ride my bike to the *Pengajian* place. However, there was one incident that stands out in my memory when I was just 6 years old.

On that particular day, something happened that I can't quite recall, but I accidentally crashed my bike into someone's car headlight. Overwhelmed with fear, I lacked the courage to ring the car owner's doorbell and apologize for what I had done. I was aware that escaping the situation went against Islamic teachings, but in that moment, I was trembling with fear as I rode my bike back home as quickly as possible. Consequently, the car owner remained unaware of my involvement in the incident, and even now, passing by their house still triggers a slight trauma within me. I wish I can bravely come to their house to apologize for what I did, maybe I'll do it after I write this journal, but I deeply regret my actions and sincerely apologize for what I did on that day.

Moving forward, I mentioned to you that I went to Labchool Cibubur for my High School. A lot of you may already know about this, but Labschool is not an islamic school. It's just a normal school, but private one. Ever since kindergarten, my school uniform always comes with Hijab – because it's a compulsory uniform for the girls. But that only last until junior high.

In Labschool, I had the option to choose whether or not to wear the hijab as part of my uniform. I made the decision not to wear it, and I'm grateful for that choice. Previously, I had worn the hijab simply because it was required, not because it was a personal choice. It was during my high school years that I began to realize that I wanted to wear the hijab out of my own volition.

Throughout my journey, what I'm truly grateful for is that my parents never imposed the hijab on me. While others may not agree with their approach, I believe that forcing someone to adhere to something against their wishes can lead to resentment and a hidden rebellion. In my case, if someone were to compel me to do something I didn't genuinely want to do, I would comply outwardly but inwardly it would be a different story.

Therefore, I appreciate the fact that my parents allowed me to explore and make my own decision about wearing the hijab. It has allowed me to develop a personal connection with it and embrace it on my own terms.

Purpose of Life

Believe it or not, I used to be a pretty relaxed person. I didn't have any big ambitions or goals for the future. My routine was simple: go to school, study for exams, hang out with friends, and that was about it. Whenever someone asked me what my goals were, I struggled to come up with a good answer.

But then, I got tired of always having to think about what to say when that question came up again. So, I started thinking more seriously about my future, my plans, and how I wanted to approach life.

A while ago, I told my mom that I wanted to open a farm and do a dairy business. However, I knew that was something far off in the future. So, I decided to set some smaller goals for myself in the meantime. My short-term goal became finding a job in a food company. I really wanted to work there because not only would I get to enjoy the company's food from time to time, but I would also gain the knowledge and experience I needed to eventually become a dairy entrepreneur.

By setting these smaller goals, I'm taking steps towards building the skills and knowledge I'll need for my long-term dream. I'm excited about the opportunity to work in the food industry and learn valuable things that will help me become a successful dairy entrepreneur in the future.

Ikigai

Our class learned about this in the last session before the final exam for our religious studies class. At first, the term *Ikigai* sounded very foreign to me. However, after our lecturer, Ibu Amelia Naim, explained to us what *Ikigai* was about, I gained a clear understanding of what it is. *Ikigai* is basically asking, "What is my life purpose? What is my reason for living?" Based on the test I took in class, it turns out that my reason for living is books. Yes, books. Not educational and full of heavy knowledge kind of books, but more focused on entertainment. I really enjoy reading novels so much that there are times when I wish a day would consist of 72 hours instead of just 24. I can stay in one position for more than 4 hours just reading books. That's why I can't say I'm surprised that my *Ikigai* turns out to be books. However, my purpose of living and my goal are different. I enjoy reading, yes, but I also still want to pursue my dream of opening a dairy business. Perhaps if one day I have to choose between pursuing my hobby of reading as a career or working in the food industry business, I would still choose the latter. Maybe it's because if I start doing my hobby as a job, I wouldn't choose it anymore as an escape from reality.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my upbringing in Cimanggis and my role as the middle child in a loving family have shaped my life journey. Despite my father's absence due to work, my parents instilled strong

Islamic values in me, emphasizing prayer and providing opportunities for learning. But when it came to choosing a high school, I defied my parents' expectations and enrolled in Labschool Cibubur, where I had the freedom to decide whether to wear the hijab. And that experience allowed me to develop a personal connection to my faith.

Moving on to realizing the importance of having goals, I decided to pursue a career in the food industry as a stepping stone toward my long-term dream of opening a dairy business. This decision reflects my newfound determination and desire to make independent choices. Overall, my experiences have shaped me into the person I am today, and I am grateful for the support of my family and the opportunities that lie ahead.

In summary, my life has been a journey of personal growth, communication, and self-discovery. From the stability of my family life to the important decisions I made regarding my education and personal beliefs, each experience has contributed to my journey. I am grateful for the lessons learned, the opportunities presented, and the support of my parents along the way. With newfound purpose, I am excited to embark on the path toward realizing my dreams and becoming a successful dairy entrepreneur in the future.

CHAPTER TWENTY ONE

SUCI NANDITA PUTRI



“I’ve been lost. I’ve been found. But I don’t feel down”

Daydreamer

When I was a little kid, my mom usually brought me some comic books that she borrowed from the library in her workplace. I would be so delighted and reading them in just one sitting. I remembered, they were comic series about great people around the world, like; Hellen Keller, Marie Curie, Hans Christian Anderson, Walt Disney, Isaac Newton, Galileo Galilei etc. Reading those comic books really gave me the perspectives of what it is like to follow our dreams. Chasing our dreams, oftentimes can be lonely. I know that when we have dreams, not everyone would believe and support us, others might call us crazy because our dreams sounded unrealistic.

And I realize all the main characters in the story have one thing in common; they always believe in their dreams no matter what people say and keep putting a lot of effort into making their dreams come true.

Nowadays, reflecting on the comic books I have read, I can pretty much relate to those main characters, their struggles, and their stories. My parents were busy working, so my grandparents were the ones who took care of me when I was a child. I know that my family loves me, but I was feeling like none of them really give me attention and actually care when I told them I want to be a scientist like Marie Curie, I want to be an English teacher, I want to be a singer, I want to be so many things. Most of the time, they will listen to me and then just shrug it off without giving me the more enthusiastic response that I expect from them. There were times when I felt so lonely and no one loved me because of that.

I have lived in a Muslim household since I was born. Everyone in my family are Muslims. It's just my grandfather from my mom's side, he used to be a Confucian follower, converted to Islam when he got married with my grandmother. When my grandfather converted to Islam, the rest of his family were still Confucian followers, so it makes the environment where I grew up unique. Not just from my grandfather's family, most of my neighbors are also Confucian followers. Up until now, I've been surrounded by both; Muslims and Confucian followers. I grew up to have a more understanding about diversity, since I was just a child. I celebrated both Eid and Lunar New Year, my relationship and connection range

is pretty wide, I have a lot of friends, I learn about both cultures and the beauty of their teachings.

Lucky me, I'm blessed that I have good friends from any other backgrounds. As we know, loneliness can possibly turn into a dangerous thing. Since I don't really get much attention from my family, I feel so comfortable expressing myself around my friends. My friends do not judge me if I tell them about my dreams and my ideas, it feels so safe to share everything with them, and I love it too when they share their insights with me. Maybe it is because my friends and I are still young, so we are more open to any new ideas, compared to my pretty strict family.

I have had a shortcoming where I almost gave up on my dreams to go to college because my family's financial situation cannot afford the tuition fee. I was filled with negative thoughts and I was behaving bitterly towards others, I blame everyone for whatever bad things that come to my life. I was hateful and blinded by my emotions. My friends were there for me at my lowest time, they accompanied me, made me laugh by joking about how life sucks. Their presence is what made me still here, keep going no matter what life throws at me, reminding me that everything is going to be alright, I just need to stay and hold on a bit longer. At that time, I feel like I am a burden but I listen to my friends, I keep going and keep trying, I apply to any job vacancies and any scholarships, in hope I can earn money to continue to study at college. It felt like forever, until finally one day, I got an acceptance email from IPMI.

That email felt like a miracle, the answer to my prayers and hopes. Now that I look back, I want to thank myself for not giving up, and also to my friends who made me stay and to not stop believing in my dreams.

I am so grateful that I have my friends in my life. I am also thankful that God has sent me some good friends as a way to make me feel seen and heard. Of course, I still love my family, however I prefer to be surrounded by my friends. Recently, I tried to understand why my family does not really recognize me as a person, and it turns out it is that my family has bad communication skills, they don't used to express how and what they truly feel and it caused many misunderstandings between us. However, that example of my family's bad traits gives an important lesson to me. Now, I have become a more patient and understanding person. I have been lost when I think my family doesn't love me. I have been found that when my friends listen to me, I'm not feeling down easily when people don't understand me, instead I try to give in to love, try to be patient, and try to understand them more. Also, despite everything, I feel okay when people do not believe in me and my dreams, the most important thing is I believe in myself. I always have faith that whatever things that meant for me will not pass by, it will come to me eventually, in the perfect timing God has set for me.

Watashi no Ikigai

The thing that I love to do is journaling. I love to write down my thoughts and my feelings to get to know myself better. I also enjoy interacting with new people and making friends. By doing that I feel connected and I can also broaden my perspectives. I also like

to travel and explore new places, it reminds me that this world is big and wide while I am and my life problems are so small compared to the outside world. Learning foreign languages, memorizing, and intonation when I speak are the things I'm good at. I can quickly memorize new words from the foreign language I'm learning and I also love to practice pronouncing it and build a sentence as if I'm already fluent in the language I'm learning. I often speak in front of a mirror when I am alone in my room, I talk to myself about random things that happens to come across my mind. And when I need to speak in front of the public, I realized that I actually enjoy the thrill and feel satisfied when I deliver the messages I want to deliver to others.

In this crowded and chaotic world, I bet many people are confused about life. Whether about what they are going to do with their lives, where they are going to reach their goals, even the simplest thing like who they really are. Therefore, from my point of view, role models are what the world needs. Role models to lead and inspire others with many stories the role models have experienced or witnessed by themselves. Role models help give people examples that we as humans are capable of so many great things, and for every action and decision needs to be balanced with a kind and genuine heart, we need to use our moral compass to navigate our lives in the right direction. For that reason, I think I could be paid as a translator or an interpreter, a language teacher, a mentor or a motivational speaker. As I said before I love interact with people

and I'm quite good with languages, so if I combine it to paved a career, I want to be a translator/interpreter, a language teacher, a mentor/motivational speaker because I can help people understand each other and spread a messages to more people in different language as I understand some languages.

Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Consistent, Be Content (Long-term, Mid-term, and Short-term Goals)

As I am aiming to be a translator or an interpreter (and also a language teacher and a mentor or a motivational speaker as other options), my long-term goal is to master more foreign languages so I can be an expert in my fields and become successful and able to help my family's financial situation. To achieve my long-term goal, I am planning to be consistent to learn languages, practice routinely everyday and then I will take a certification test to see how far I have gone. I will not give up and stop if it starts to feel like I am alone. Meanwhile, my short-term goal is to try to improve myself to be a better person. I want to get to know myself better, so that I feel so close to God, and try to understand why God created me this way. And as gratitude for the talents and everything God has given to me, I will develop my talents and explore my potential as a human being.

I also have decided that during the process or the journey of reaching all of my goals, I make the KCCC principal for myself to always reflect on what I did. KCCC stands for Kind, Calm, Consistent, and Content. Kind means I need to be patient with myself, give myself the love I give to others. Calm means I will

remain calm in every situation, because if I am panicking, I will not be able to solve the problem. Consistency will keep me going through whatever obstacles awaits me, and because I believe small consistent actions will also give impact to my life. Content means I will enjoy every stage I am in and be able to find purpose in everything that happens to me.

CHAPTER TWENTY TWO

SURYA AULADIANSYAH PRIAS

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“BE KIND, FOR EVERYONE YOU MEET IS
FIGHTING A HARD BATTLE “

MY LIFE WAS BEGAN

A fact says that every second there must be a baby born in the world, whether the baby is in the continent of Asia, Africa, Europe or Australia. And on January 31, 2003 a baby boy was born in Pekalongan, and with the hope that the boy will become something big in the future.

Not many things were remembered at that time as a child, only a dimly lit memory always flashed through his mind. You can see a bluish-white ceiling, a brown roof, and a gray floor, and then there are many passers-by looking at the baby. That memory always

stunned the baby boy for the next 20 years. That is a sign that the baby's life has already begun.

Thanks to two people who met each other, then said a promise to each other that they would live life in joys and sorrows together. Struggling in the unevenness of life, then shaping and smoothing the path until they can live in peace, then come 2 people who are ready to give them surprises, things beyond reason, something they have never experienced before, and it will be a memory that will not be lost by the wind, and will always be engraved in their memories all the time.

The baby boy also grew up, he was even more stunned and interested in the things around him. With the beginning of learning to walk, he became even more eager to explore his environment. Something he remembers about his childhood, that he lived in a village that made him comfortable with the surroundings, the scenery, the facilities, and the people. Although he didn't know who they were, slowly getting to know them, the boy smiled slightly, and the longer the child laughed.

every step of the boy meant that he did not like to stay in one place, he wanted to explore, the vastness of the village increased his desire to travel. Accompanied by a friend who had been his friend since

infancy, he went out with him. His first trip was to pick up his siblings at kindergarten, start to get to know his surroundings and realize that the environment he was facing was too big for him as a child.

The second trip he remembers is a cd tape, containing his favorite superhero. He always watched it at his cousin's house, while waiting for his mother to come home from work. It is never forgotten that it was his favorite thing as a child, and it is still in a neatly stored cabinet, even though many of the CDs have disappeared. But the memory will never be lost, engraved and embedded so well that he can tell these things to the next generation.

NEW LIFE ADAPTING

Moving on, there were new things that the boy always encountered. Adaptation makes the child's heart and mind indecisive, even if he only occasionally feels it, sometimes it makes him nervous in making decisions. At such a young age, the decision was quite a tough thing for him to decide. Therefore, there are 2 companion figures who help him in making decisions. Parents who help choose and decide to practice the use of the word "decide". The new thing he has decided with the help of these two figures, makes him feel new things to adapt.

The entry of the boy in kindergarten, was the time when he met other children who were the same age as him. It is not too difficult

for him to adapt to the environment and the children around. For him, silence is the first way to adapt to the surrounding environment. It is heavy but does not look heavy, the challenging thing about it is communicating with people around it. It was a great challenge for him to talk and he chose to remain silent and wait to be spoken to. The surprising thing during the years he went through those times was that he had a close friend who took him and his friend to the same school.

Only friends with people he knew, but slowly he got used to all these challenges. In elementary school, he started trying new things that led to a new experience for him. He got the thing he never forget: his friends who he met almost every day and always played with them. Various kinds of experiences, whether pleasant or sad, he had experienced in those times. The memory he likes most is when he went out with his friend on Saturdays from morning to evening, at the end of the afternoon until his father picked him up.

The situation made him have to be able to adapt quickly, from environmental factors to technology he had to adapt to all of it. Happy with the changes that happened to her, by trying new things trying something she had never done, she felt challenged for what she faced. On the other hand, with new things, of course, there are times when he feels beaten back. Thirst for new things, of course,

there are costs that must be prepared, namely fatigue and full of pressure. Too many things he tries to make him tired and sometimes too much direction he can get depressed that makes him angry or feels like he doesn't want to do those things. But as he got older, he began to realize that those challenges shaped him into a stronger individual mentally as well as physically. As for the problems he encountered in the future, it felt easier and made him calmer.

When he arrived in the wider high school period, at one point he took part in an activity that changed him completely. The extracurricular activity he is interested in is called pencak silat, from that activity he feels something has been different in himself and the surrounding environment. In the early days of school he only faced the surrounding environment silently, choosing to follow the flow of his school only, the longer he felt that he just sat and stayed rarely to try to communicate with other children. It was time for him to participate in martial arts activities. Since participating in the activity, he slowly felt a change in himself, the environment around him began to follow the changes in him. You could say he changed because the activities he participated in forced him to change. The first point he underwent changed when he was asked to practice sparring with others. The practice made him grow up and start to enter a more serious world to pursue his martial arts activities.

Practicing every day for the next three years was probably a decision that made him feel up and down sometimes. In between

training, sometimes he feels too tired to want to continue his training. But what is power, that is the price he must pay to be able to raise his level. The price he deserved with the results he got, the few times he participated in the championship he managed to bring a medal he coveted. Gradually the child also won many awards and made him change faster and faster. At the end of his high school days he did not regret that participating in the activity, because at the end of the story the activity helped a lot in growing his confidence, and certainly expanding his knowledge.

THIS IS THE BEST EXPERIENCE I EVER FELT

People used to tell me that high school was a good time in a human being, those were the most awaited things. Going out with friends, getting ID cards, even feeling in love with their first is all part of a schoolboy's life that people talk about. Children who have grown up, feel very interested in continuing their schooling. His early days were like a stressful math exam, his orientation was like a million guns aimed at him, but he was able to deal with it. Against all the experiences he has gone through, for him this is not difficult. It used to be an easy time to go through without the amazing experience in the boy's life. Together with his new friends, the boy begins to explore his world and search for his true self, what he wants in his life. People said they were looking for that identity by

trying something new, but the man turned his face to something uninteresting around him.

People said, face and do work based on your passion, but until then the man had not found anything that made him feel that it was his passion. The boy tried all the activities that he found interesting to do, whether they were things he had already done or something he had never done. Something new that brought him to the wider world, as well as brought the child to do something that really challenged him was the activity of nature lovers. He only thought that it was an ordinary activity whose core of the activity was only preserving the surrounding environment, it turned out that the child was wrong, he just saw something from the outside alone which made him look down on the activity.

The deeper the activity, the more the child knew that the activity had many steps and not just doing it carelessly. Starting from learning about plants, how to plant plants, to planting directly where these activities are directly carried out on a large scale with other organizations. The boy didn't think that planting would be done in a place that was beyond his expectations, the boy had to be able to face planting plants directly on the mountain which he had never done.

In 2021, it has been a year since the covid pandemic has hit Indonesia. The boy graduated from school and will continue to higher education. He thought that he might not continue his studies

to a higher level, because he thought that education does not always require higher education. He only needs a skill that can be honed to become sharp, and that skill will pay off in the future. Both parents of the child had given him input, at the end of his thoughts became hesitant about 2 choices, namely continuing or not. Came to an idea decided to think for a while for a few months, and he decided to take a long break for a year. While resting, he decided to take non-formal education outside the porch city to fill his rest time. A few months out of town while taking courses, he finally thought about continuing to take a job there.

For almost a year, the child had various kinds of experiences that he would never forget the memory. Starting from talking to new people easily, getting to know various kinds of people's characters, the various choices he has to face to the risks he has to face. Until he arrived at the end of the period, and one day while talking to his friend he got an answer that made him determined to continue his education. Until he returned home, he enrolled himself in the high school. The words of his friend that made him change his mind were "things that you can learn for years, can be done faster by taking the opportunity"

HIS LIFE AIM

There are so many purposes that boy want to achieve. Many views of life that make his life clearer, have many views of life that allow him to choose which path of life he wants to take. If indeed a choice can determine the future, really the boy wants to know from now on. What future will he get if he chooses his current decision. Many points of view made him interested in continuing it. On the other hand, he is very enthusiastic to dream of becoming a person who can help many people. One of the choices she made as her life goal was to be good, not only today but forever.

He believed that if he did something nice to someone, it would come back to him one day. It's not always about the material, even between traits makes him feel comfortable and enjoy life. She likes to go about her day feeling peaceful and calm. While there are many people out there who go about their day with a complicated heart and even emotions. He sees the person as a disastrous attitude. Therefore, if nature can spread like a virus, then the child wants to do good things, starting from the child's nature to his attitude.

There is one more thing in his life goal that he really wants to experience and achieve, which is to travel to a place that really makes him calm and peaceful. With a view full of natural things, low noise levels and friendly people. That's what he's really dreamed of all along. For him something that made him feel challenged as

well as visiting these places, made him feel at peace and he felt that all the burdens that were on him were completely let go.

Either only himself or others also felt it, but if one day there was that opportunity coming, the boy would definitely take it. If there is a moment when a star of hope falls, then he will wish that he could go to those places. Just imagining all that, the child always feels calm. From the bottom of his heart he felt that it was where he belonged. Mingle with the nature of nature, and hear what nature desires and its heart.

THE RELIGION MAIN PURPOSE

From birth to adulthood, the child lived in a religious environment; he was born into a Muslim family and his siblings were Muslims. As a child, he only knew that Islam was the only religion on earth, until he grew up and learned that Islam was not the only religion. When he was a boy, he wondered why he embraced Islam, why not other religions, why his parents only told him about Islam and not about other religions. Of course he would not find the answer now. The boy was brought up in a completely religious environment when he is a Muslim. Since kindergarten he had attended children's recitation, until his elementary school and high

school he was in a Muslim school. Of course, with all this, his conviction about Islam was firmly planted.

After many years, he entered a public school where basically all religions were mixed together. After hearing stories from his non-Muslim friends, he seemed to realize something that made him feel more respect for his friend. Whether they were Christian, Catholic, or Confucian, they also felt what the boy felt and thought as a Muslim. As a boy who was born Muslim and lived in a Muslim environment, he felt what they felt.

Questions that he had thought about as a child, then came to mind again. Now that he had some answers to some of those questions, there was one thing that confused him from what he had thought before. What was the purpose of the religion? What makes them different from us, even though they follow what their religion teaches, so why are they different. In one situation the boy thought that there was something that the boy should limit and not interfere in the matter. Finally after a few stories from some of the religious leaders out there, the boy realized that it is not their differences that make us one and appreciated, but their goals that make us united in a large scope. A difference will not always be one or one direction, but how we see the direction of that difference makes us know that our goal is the same, to be good and better in the future.

MID AND LONG TERM GOALS

Something we can achieve with our own hands is the most fulfilling thing in life. Whether it's a runner who struggles past other runners to win a championship, a racer who is chasing time to get his best time, or a child who sets aside his pocket money to buy a favorite toy, everyone has their own goals in life. The boy was no exception, who had a great imagination of what his life would be like in the future. A book called "Think & Grow Rich" by Napoleon Hill, cites that if something he believed would happen, then the percentage of chances that it could happen was even greater. The quote made the child believe even more that what he had been thinking could definitely happen.

There are many things that he dreamed and hoped for since childhood, even though his dreams are always changing. It is normal for humans if during their lives, they can change to dream something. A little boy dreams he could become a soldier one day, when he grows older the boy replaces his dream of owning a company. The problem is that he hasn't understood what kind of company he wants to have in the future. During the boy's non-formal education outside the city, he knew one thing that something big starts with something small.

The boy decided to make some bucket lists for the first year to what he wanted in the next few years. He always thinks about being able to help people with the easiest things first, which is a small thing but has a big impact in the future. Then it crossed his mind to join volunteer activities which focused on helping people around them who at least they could not afford to have a conventional education. I don't know why the boy feels calmer and happier when he can help people who are more in need.

With the above plan, continuing the child's desire to build an online educational institution where he wants everyone to be able to learn something easily and simply. They don't have to struggle out of their dwellings to reach a certain place. They can study anywhere, anytime, and of course at an affordable cost. Of course there will be many challenging things that the child will face, but that is the adrenaline thrill of building what the child wants. With the formation of mutualism symbiosis, the child and people who want to learn online each get a decent benefit. Minimal facilities, capitalized on a device and the internet should be a small capital to be run by individuals.

Move forward to a bigger thing, namely shipping goods abroad. The child wants to have his own product. Of course it is a thing that is not fast to reach. It takes some process for the child to reach that level. The boy planned to send goods abroad by buying goods

belonging to farmers in Indonesia. It can be finished goods or raw goods, with the aim of helping to sell their possessions as well, the child has the principle that all things in the world have a reciprocal relationship. Either between humans and humans, humans with plants, or humans with animals. Humans can get what plants and animals produce, while animals and plants can also get what is produced by humans.

Then the goal that the boy is still thinking about is to have his own restaurant. Because based on something he liked, namely food, he thought of creating some kind of restaurant. With a wide variety of food that he knew, a variety of recipes, a variety of views, and a wide variety of tastes, he wanted to create a restaurant that everyone could enjoy. Whether they are young or old, he wants to have a restaurant in which the 2 groups can enjoy. Whether in taste or atmosphere, that's the right thing for him to apply in the kid's restaurant. By wanting to have a different concept from other restaurants, he did aim to build his restaurant with a unique face, so that people could remember his restaurant,

Having some goals or commonly called something to aim for, does not hinder the child's mind to continue to imagine. Are the above things the end?, of course the answer is no. Thoughts and ideas continue to grow and develop, keep up with the advancing

times and the desire of the child will always continue to rise and change with the things around him. The key to all that is that there is no limit to imagination, as long as the child continues to want to imagine, then strange ideas will always come out of his head, although sometimes they cannot be digested by other people's thoughts, but isn't it a good idea. Making people think that a strange idea is difficult to live with, then the percentage of success of the idea is higher.

CLOSURE

Of the many years that have passed for the child, all the moments in his life have their own meaning. Even moments that he does not like will have his own place in the child's head. A thing happens accompanied by a certain purpose, all we cannot predict with only calculations and thoughts, only God knows what will happen, and there must be a certain purpose that will happen and be obtained. That's the lesson he's learned by living for 20 years, and those moments will continue for years to come until he doesn't know what he does.

There are many moments that this boy has to experience and face. It can all be obtained from all factors in his life. Internal and external factors, spirituality, kinship, friendship, and romance, these are the moments that the boy will feel. There are times when a decision he will take that decides he can survive for the future or not. Looking at this boy, he is impatient with what he will face the

next day, he never knows what he will face tomorrow, he does not know what he will do for tomorrow's events, how exciting.

This world is too vast for him who is small, there are still cities he has not visited, there are still islands he has not flew, there are still countries he has not explored, and it will all be done in his lifetime. A sense of trembling and excitement will be experienced while doing these things. Indeed, hobbies can always excite someone, including this child. His desire for this vast world, made him want to visit all places on this earth. His interest in things he had never seen was one of his motivations for achieving that.

With his confidence to be able to achieve all that, he is grateful for the moments he has lived and felt. In closing this post he would like to thank God who always helps, as well as the supportive family and friends who have been present in life, then the people who make those moments happen. With a name Surya Auladiansyah Prias, as the main character in writing this story he thanked him very much.

THE END.

CHAPTER TWENTY THREE

TASYA PUTRI SANDI AKIL



“ Be a person full of love and affection without any announcements because people’s views cannot determine your good sleep so take a good one and forget the other one.”

Life Journey

On September 15, 2003, in Ternate, Province of North Maluku, I came into the world. Now I am curious about my parents' reaction upon laying eyes on me for the first time in this world. However, with my curiosity, I still don't wanna ask my parents directly. Perhaps it's because I don't consider myself a sentimental individual. The fact is I love them the most, especially for my mom, who has been my steadfast support throughout life. I don't know how my life works if not for her by my side. Without me knowing it, I hope that one day my parents will find my part and read this book, whether by their own discovery or through the assistance of my siblings, and gain into my perspective and experiences. Okay, another fact about me. I spend my whole life with very long names.

I don't think so but some people surrounding me told me about that. Sometimes I think about removing some of my name but it's a very beautiful name and I believe there is a good meaning behind my name so, should I remove my dad's name ? "of course not". I got annoyed on the day of the national exam when I was in school at that time. The teacher came across my class and asked me to make my name simple. Now I realize I have a variety of nicknames in every part of people I know, including my family.

In a short, I move to Jakarta and continue my study after some story behind that like I try to join any test to enter the university but my dad he doesn't allow me to study outside, because in his mind I'm a girl who will life alone in some city where there is no parents even though I have my mom family here. Yes, I know. He truly cares about my safetines, and I am deeply grateful for that. However, after all of that without my fathers knowing and with the establishment to study outside, I persisted in my search for the opportunities , before I should commence studies in my hometown at that time. Eventually, I was accepted to study at IPMI. Thus, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to all of the people who have intervened on it, including my parents and family.

As an ordinary person I feel myself still need improvement to stay alive. Like anyone else, I acknowledge that maintaining a

consistently positive mindset can be challenging. There are moments when I find myself overthinking, which hampers my peace of mind. One aspect of myself that I am personally uncomfortable with is my nervousness or it's more like facing a panic attack because sometimes I can't control these feelings and fear of attention. However, it is important to note that despite this, I like to do social activities and communicate with a number of people even though I'm kind of an introvert but I enjoy doing it.

Now in a new environment I can see some difference between me and people surrounding me, and it's not always negative but otherwise positive like I can learn from them and try to appreciate it. Maybe sometimes it's hard but I believe when we do good, we will also receive the same. Even though I face some struggle in this new environment, but still believe God will help me to get over it and to start my day I try to remind myself like should be grateful to God from the day that I already pass and ask God what I need for today so, after that I just let it go because I know it works. Other than that I am immensely grateful for having a family and parents who consistently strive to support my decision and be by my side as long as it's good. Their unwavering support means the world to me. I fervently hope that my family will always appreciate and value this quality, as I genuinely regard them as my cherished and beloved individuals, even amidst occasional disagreement and if sometimes each of us make a mistake.

I would say life is a challenging journey, but it is worth it for us to set our purpose in life and understand our path. Life has a unique meaning and purpose for each individual and of course it will be different for one another, moreover we should know finding purpose in life is an ongoing process and can change with personal development and life experience.

For me, my purpose in life is to be someone who brings a good impact for others from my passionate job and any activities that I am satisfied to do. Moreover, when I do things that bring me happiness and peace because all I need to live this life is just surrounded by good and beloved people who know how to appreciate what they have in this world.

The purpose of life is not an isolated concept, but rather there are long term, medium term, and short term commitments. It is synergy between these elements that gives birth to life goals. To ensure our lives align with our past plan, it is essential for us to make a commitment that keeps us on the path towards those goals.

My long term commitment as a kid in a family is to become someone who is mature enough to take care of my parents by meeting all their needs. I want to make them feel safe and comfortable in their life. Someday no matter where I go my parents

are the two people that I keep waiting for their presence. Looking ahead to the future, If I have a family of my own, I hope that my partner will shower love and care upon my parents. In return, I am determined to reciprocate such affection to his parents as well. On the other hand as an individual, my commitment is to begin on a journey as a businesswoman driven by my passion for my work. To make this vision into reality, I dedicate myself to continuous growth by actively engaging in studying and learning from the environment and professional people in the field. By keeping myself connected to industry experts, my aim is to gain valuable insight and knowledge that will enhance my abilities and enable me to create meaningful opportunities through Jobstreet for those in need in the future.

In my medium term and short term commitments, I understood the importance of setting both commitments to excel in my studies. During my study period, I am determined to enhance my learning approach to achieve exceptional grades. This entails dedicating specific time to thoroughly comprehend each subject taught in class, preparing me comprehensively for exams. By adopting this approach, I will develop a solid grasp of the course material. Moreover I will actively participate in group study sessions and engage in meaningful class discussions to further enrich my academic development.

In addition to my commitment to academic growth, I also place great importance on refining my professional skills. I aim to

refine my public speaking abilities, as it will improve my communication skills and boost my self-confidence. To achieve this goal, I will actively involve myself in relevant communities or clubs that offer opportunities to hone these valuable skills.

Furthermore, I am enthusiastic about cultivating my photography skills, a cherished hobby of mine. As I initiate on my life journey, whether exploring the beauty of Indonesia or the world, I aspire to capture captivating moments through photography and share them with others, spreading joy and inspiration.

Ikigai

Ikigai is a beautiful concept originally from Japan, that I learned from our last class before the final exam for class of religious study with ibu Amelia Naim, which can actualize the essence of a fulfilling and meaningful life. It represents the intersection of four fundamental elements such as what I love, what I am good at, what the world needs, and what I can be rewarded for. Discovering my ikigai means that perfect balance where my passion aligns with my talent.

In pursuit of ikigai, I start on a journey to promote peace through travels, capturing the essence of serene landscapes that

evoked a sense of serenity in others. I could use my photographs, stories, and experiences, using them as educational tools to foster global understanding and appreciation for the beauty of diverse cultures and environments.

Through the entrepreneur spirit, I found a sustainable travel company that emphasizes responsible tourism, promoting the continuity of the environment and supporting local communities. In the future my business thrived as she not only sold travel experiences but also sold the idea of creating a compatible world by respecting nature and embracing cultural diversity.

Ultimately, my ikigai was embodied in the ability to blend love for family, travel, and photography, with the world's needs for peace, sustainability, and education. Through elaborate ideas, selling prowess, and promotional efforts, I have not only created a rewarding life for myself but also inspired others to embrace their passions and contribute meaningfully to a better world.

CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR

TIMOTHY IMMANUEL



Train while they rest. Save while they spend. Work while they sleep. Pray while they are party. Celebrate while they regret. Flex when they hide. Live like they dreams.

Background Story and Identity

In this part of my story, I will tell you about my life experience from when I was little to what I want to achieve in the future. I am telling this story by myself and in my own language. I also tell this story with great passion and professionally for writing it. I am grateful for what I have experienced in the past and I know what I have to improve and what I did in the past so that in the future it can be even better.

Nineteen years ago, My mom gave birth to me on September 10, 2004. My parents were blessed with a first born child, and that child was named Timothy Immanuel. I was born in Bekasi to be more precise at Bunda Mitra Keluarga Hospital. At first, I lived in

Harapan Indah, East Jakarta, from a baby until I was eighteen years old. I spent all my childhood in Harapan Indah. Many people and all people that are close with me said that I was a hyperactive person, and very naughty. I always do something that isn't necessary and I am very lazy to study. It makes my parents frustrated about how to make me more focused and not being lazy.

I have two little brothers. My first little brother is named Philip Immanuel and my second brother is Joshua Immanuel. When I was still living at Harapan Indah I entered a kindergarten school called Saint John. I went to school there because my parents asked me to go to school when I was four years old. I was very hyperactive and made my friend who was in kindergarten at the time mad at me. Then I continued the kindergarten at their school Saint John until I finished my elementary school. At the age of six, I finished my kindergarten in Saint John and am still in the same school but I am already an elementary school student. And at that time I started again being lazy to learn and got bad grades. When I was in the first grade , my parents already got a letter from my school about my attitude and my grades. I don't know why I was very lazy at that time, but I think it was out of curiosity in learning or only thinking about only playing. Until finally my parents got to the school and met my teacher and also my principal about my attitude because I don't want to listen to my teacher and do something that make my teachers mad and also makes me get bad grades, my parents were very mad at me at that time because I can't be like other students, just study and get a good grade, my parents telling me about what i wanna do in the future if i always do something like this.

I went to school in Saint John for 8 years until I finished elementary school and I moved to another school when I was in junior high school. My parents always give a good example of life. When I was still at elementary school my parents always taught me about life and how to compete in this hard life, so I decided to start learning at that time.

Time passed until I was 12 years old. I already finished my elementary school and I was very happy because I finished my elementary school and I was very confident to move to a new school with a new challenging school. At that time I moved to a new school, and that school name was Penabur Harapan Indah and it was one of the best schools in Bekasi, and I am very happy that I can move to this school because I'm very excited with the new environment. While studying there I gained various kinds of knowledge, achievement and experiences, although I sometimes still feel lazy and my parents also get called to the school for many times, but I was able to graduate with satisfying results and I'm very proud of myself because I can graduate my junior high school in one of the best school and in the competitive environment because in that school all the student is afraid of staying in the same class next year and many student didn't pass the class also. In SMPK Penabur Harapan Indah, I have many friends, and because I like playing sports I join the football club in my school and I join a lot of sports clubs in my school. In my School there's a lot of students, because my school is one of the popular christian schools in Bekasi. And I

have a lot of friends from my school until now. I'm very happy because my parents moved me to this school, it feels like a new environment.

I do all sports extracurricular activities such as MuayThai, futsal, and Badminton. In the sector of futsal, in the morning dew, I have participated in several competitions such as O2SN and competitions held by Penabur called Exelsior to bring in other schools. In the sector of badminton , I have also participated in several matches, although I never won overall, at least I can get into the competition at that time with pride. In the sector of Muaythai, I also participated in some of the competitions, but at that time I was not very good at Muay Thai so I lost. When the muay thai match started I practically lost my consciousness, because when the enemy attacked me, I fell and the match had to be finished.

After three years of schooling at SMPK Penabur Harapan Indah, my family decided for me to continue my school journey in SMAK Penabur Harapan Indah . For Senior high school my parents think that I will continue my journey in SMAK Penabur Harapan Indah which is why we think Penabur is one of the best schools in the Bekasi. During the time I spent there, I got a lot in terms of knowledge and also experience. At Penabur, I participated in sports competitions and dancing such as futsal and dancing. In the futsal sector I have participated in several inter-school competitions held by Penabur and other schools, in the dancing sector I won second place for the solo dance competition. Even though I often lose, I am still proud to represent myself for school in these competitions. I am grateful to have been allowed to represent my school. Besides that,

Penabur Harapan Indah is the place where I fell in love for the first time, even though you could say it was only temporary love.

A long story about my high school. At that time, I chose Penabur again because I wanted more knowledge so I proposed to my parents if I could join there again. and also all of my friends go to the same school so i want to stay longer, even though my junior high school grades are not that good but i can convince my parents that i can get good grades. During the three years of schooling there I tried to focus also on my lesson so at the first class in senior high school I got nominated as the most changed person.

Private school is very different from the school I heard from my friends. For example, the teacher who teaches in private school focuses more on the progress of the student, and in government school the teacher focuses more on the homework and the teacher is a little indifferent. In grade 11 I started to learn from the experience. I have to change my grades from grade 10 because I'm dreaming of joining SBM ITB. I have begun to understand the way of the teachers who teach there. Even though my grades are not as good as others, my grades have improved a lot. I went to grade 12, where at this level I had to be extra diligent to get maximum results for the latter lectures. I focused more on studying and trying my best to join the best campus and thinking of how to improve my life and be a successful entrepreneur.

After learning for a while, what I like is business so I searched more about business school, because I had tried to open a business and it was very fun for me. However, due to my busy time thinking about my future and less understanding about how to run a business, which made me close the business temporarily. It was hard to learn about accounting and anything about business lessons from the very beginning, there was a sense of despair, but I still had to live with it because I had decided to move and follow what I liked. Until finally we were hit by the Covid-19 Pandemic, which required school activities to be online at that time. I am one of those people who find it very difficult to focus. If there is a slight distraction then my focus will be scattered. I have tried to follow online classes but I couldn't keep up with the maximum.

My next story, when the school exams came, at that time I did what I could, prayed a lot and believed in myself that I could do this and at that time I knew my passion. It's time for the announcement to come, I just pray and wish for the best. Even though my dream to go to SBM ITB was not accepted, I was still enthusiastic and tried to take another way searching for one of the business schools at the university that opened the path. I started trying to find out which universities were still open for admission, then I asked my parents to try to apply to the IPMI International Business School and pray for the best. As a result, I was accepted as a student of IPMI International Business School. At that time I was very happy because I could continue to the next level, namely college.

Religious Belief and Religious Tradition

My belief is Christian. As a Christian, religious belief and religious tradition have a significant role in shaping and expressing faith. And this is my experience living as a christian and what my parents teach me as a good christian. And this is religious belief and tradition in christianity:

Belief in God. I as a christian believe in the existence of one God who is eternal, omnipotent, and omnipresent. I believe in the holy trinity, which consists of God the father, Jesus Christ the son< and the holy spirit.

Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and the Savior of humanity. I believe that through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus Christ provided salvation and eternal life for all who believe in him.

Salvation. in the concept of salvation, which means being reconciled with God and receiving forgiveness for sins through faith in Jesus Ghrist. I believe that salvation is a gift of God's grace and cannot be earned through good works alone.

The Bible, as a Christian considers the Bible, I believe that it contains the teachings, History, and prophecies relevant to their faith.

So in the religious tradition many things that I as the Christian have to do, so this is the thing that me as the Christian do:

The first one is worship, as a Christian we have to gather in the church to do some worship to God. This usually involves singing hymns, praying, reading the Bible, and listening to sermons.

Sacraments, sacrament are considered important in many Christian traditions. Baptism is the initiation rite symbolizing entry into the Christian faith.

Prayers, Christians engage in personal and communal prayer as a means of communicating with God, seeking Guidance, expressing gratitude, and offering intercessions for themselves and others.

Lastly, is about moral and ethical teachings, Christians are guided by moral and ethical teaching derived from the Bible and Christian tradition. These teachings often emphasize principles such as love, compassion, forgiveness, faith, and Justice.

So far I have practiced what is taught in Christian, I realize that I still have a lot to improve and all.

Purpose of Life

As an Christian person and future businessman, I also want to achieve my dreams in a later time in a lawful way. Besides wanting to achieve previous success, I want to be the happiest person because I think you live because God gave me a grace and chance to live your life so I don't want to waste my life, so that life should be grateful and enjoyed. How can I be happy? By doing what

you love or and seeing other people happy. Because I think being happy is the first key to achieving success. In this life, I also want to be of use to the people around me or beyond my reach because I want to make other people happy too. I don't want to think only for what makes me happy but what makes others happy, because in this life we also have to help each other and make the world a better place. If someone is experiencing difficulties and we have excess sustenance, what's wrong with us helping. Because everything that we own it's not from us but it's from God.

As a good christian and citizen, I also have to obey the rules that have been made, both in terms of religion and regulations in Indonesia.

I also want to build my own company or open an entertainment company to make people have and have a business consultant company to help solve some business cases in real life. After I achieve all of that, I want to live as a philanthropist in Indonesia.

Long-term Commitment

In the long term commitment, I will see that I have achieved all of my goals as a businessman and a good Christian person. Have a big income and make my parents happy and proud. I achieved all of this by opening my own company. Opening up jobs for many people is also the main purpose of me opening a company because I want to give opportunity to people. The many stories of the

Indonesian people without employment made me want to give job opportunities to them. Maybe not much but I am trying my best to support Indonesia. How do I open my own company?

The first is that for several years I will work to learn what business is, especially some kind like a consultant business and learn how to manage it and get the business capital that I want to create, apart from that I also work in offices to get a lot of experience. Buying a lot of assets/ stocks and developing all the assets and the stock to make a new business, and learn how to do Investing .

Short-term Commitment

In my short term commitment, I want to graduate with perfect results and be better everyday. Like tomorrow I will do good things everytime, don't forget what my goals are, trust in God, and study every lesson in life. And so on in everyday life that still has to be implemented optimally. I want to achieve my commitment by being more concerned about time. I have to be more productive with my life. I will try my best with my time because we cannot turn back time. I do the best for my future, and I know I can.

Life as a good Christian

Life as a good Christian is how we follow the teaching and life example of Jesus Christ. And I have some of what I have to do, to be a good Christian.

1. Maintain my relationship with God. This is so important in our life to maintain a good relationship with God, because

we can't live without God. The thing that I do is doing regular prayer, reading the bible, and seeking guidance from the holy spirit.

2. Have faith in God, I believe that if we have faith in God, God never leaves us alone. He will always be by my side.
3. Learn how to forgive, just like Jesus Christ, He forgives our sins.
4. Love each other and have compassion. learn how to love god and loving each other, showing compassion, kindness, forgiveness.

In my life as a Christian I have to do all of this to be a good Christian. It's not easy for me to become a good person, but everyday I try to be a good person and never give up.

IKIGAI

IKIGAI is to find the perfect job for better productivity and based on things that we like. I think this is really important in our life because we have to find our IKIGAI in our life. for example if you work but it doesn't suit you and you don't like it you never reach IKIGAI.

I love to do: I love reading books, I like to do sports, art like dancing and playing music and photography, and do stock market analysis. What do you believe the world needs: technology, entertainment, and business. What can you get paid for to earn money: as a businessman, as an investor, as an photographer, as an

dancer, and as a sportsman. What I'm good at: investing, photography, dancing, and sports.

So basically, based on my perspective, all of the people that have a lot of experience see me suitable as a photographer, make a business in investment, and entertainment business.

Conclusion

Life is a gift from God. We must be grateful and live like Jesus wants. If we make a mistake or we have a bad day, let it be a lesson because we can't learn if we don't fail, we learn from mistakes. If you get a problem, face it, don't be a burden to others, be yourself, trust yourself, because the only one you can trust is only yourself. For every problem tell God what you have been through. Every problem can be solved if you walk with God.

Wasting time is a big loss for you because every second that you waste cannot be repeated. Therefore we must respect the time that God gives to us. To achieve success you have to fight for it, tell yourself you're gonna make it, nothing is easy, dreams are not what you see in your sleep, dreams are things which do not let you sleep.



Awakening the Hero in You!

*Young hearts, we all are aware that you will color
a beautiful picture of Indonesia once you have
awakened the Hero in You!*

EPILOG

**WHAT WE LEARNED FROM
THE FUTURE CHANGEMAKERS****Dr. Ir Amelia Naim, MBA**

These stories came from a series of semi-structured questions developed to guide the students to explore their inner-self and discover their spiritual commitment. Instead of conducting in-depth interviews, the facilitator had challenged the students to have an intra-personal discovery learning process to reveal the deepest question in life, who am I? At the first glimpse, it sounds so simple. And some people would answer I am John Doe or Jane Doe. But this question is not about what you have. Because if you answer with a simple notion of your name, which means that you have a name, it is only answering what you have. And it is still not answering the deep question of who you are. If you answer it with your job, your position, your status etc., that, of course, is still the job, position, status etc. that you have, and still, it is not answering the deep question of who you are. That is why this question needs a spiritual discovery learning process through an intra-personal self-contemplation approach. And once the students become aware of who they are, then they will become closer to their Creator, and discover their deepest spiritual commitment.

In this process, students discover that they are the steward of the Earth, and their mission is to be the trustee and servant of God.

At an early age, they have discovered that they are spiritual persons. No wonder, we are being called Human Being, with being as the spiritual part, and not Human Doing.

Students come up with a deep quote of life, for example saying that yesterday was history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift, and that is why it is called present: The famous quote taken from the Kung Fu Panda movie. As a youngster, they are easily inspired by movies, for example, a student quotes a famous quote from the Spiderman movie “From a great role, comes the responsibility,” and they have witnessed the real experience by assuming the leadership role in their life. These are just a few examples that show these students are learning from all different sources just like a sponge, they are ready to absorb and learn from any sources of the life experience itself.

Furthermore, there is the question of “What is my purpose of life? This is another deep question. In order to answer this question, it would require a deep self-exploratory process. Of course, it is not easy to answer this question, especially when they have just graduated from high school. But surprisingly they have shown a strong commitment to be meaningful and to make their parents proud.

The students also share their cultural backgrounds and religious inclination and an overview of their journey of life. This has become an interesting part. Surprisingly, they have gone through

a lot of life experiences. They have learned a lot and become wiser after going through all these real-life ups and downs of both hard and fun aspects of life experiences.

Interesting to ponder that the new ministry of education had stressed the importance of the liberty of learning, where discovery learning can come from any sources which is popularly known as the concept of *Kampus Merdeka*. And these students already experience the liberty of learning by absorbing so much from their observations through social media, online information, friends from diverse backgrounds, and all other colourful facets of life. The Indonesian local wisdom would say “*Alam terkembang jadi guru*” (The universe is the fundamental Guru, once you are able to pause and observe and absorb the learning process from the wonder of the universe) which is the real root of the *Kampus Merdeka* concept, and which is a great part of our experiential learning here in IPMI International Business School.

These students had gone through very different cultural backgrounds ranging from a complete modern typical nuclear family setting to a full natural experience where the childhood was free from the technological addiction where there is no electricity nor private bathroom available. It is very interesting to see how they will enrich the lives of each other through these colourful cultural background differences.

The full scientific analysis will be developed further on these in-depth self-commitment explorations. The writer is hoping that this scientific research, later on, would reveal the pattern of which the students had come up with their commitment to becoming a

change maker. Of course, it is aimed to enrich the scientific qualitative work which is not appropriate to address in this spiritual journey observation book.

It is safe to conclude, that the Liberty way of the Learning style of Kampus Merdeka is an on-going process here in IPMI International Business School. With the right form of experiential learning, the students are learning not just from their facilitators, but also amongst themselves and the most important part of all from their intra-personal self-discovery learning. They are observing the universe and seeing that everyone is part of this gigantic puzzle of life where everything is interconnected, where human plays a very important role as the trustees of God to make sure all nature and living things are sustainable and flourishing.



Thank You Young Change Makers!

*With your spiritual commitment we are sure of our
brighter future of Indonesia. Ameen.... May He
grants our great wishes for a better future!!*