**Bali & Cultural Diversities**

A note from Joseph: www.worldglobetrotters.com

I was recently talking to a lady in Bali about my visit to Bali with my mother in 1961. I explained to her that all people, both men & woman wore no clothing above the waist. Another lady quickly and with a strong voice said "I work in the villages in remote Bali and the old women tell me that the reason they wore no clothing above the waist was because they were poor".

That got me really thinking. When I was in Bali 53 years ago, I saw, not one tourist, and Ubude had only 15 or 20 simple wooden buildings and nearly each house had its own loom for weaving all the cloths they could ever need from the local resources for FREE. There was no Monkey Forest Park as monkeys (and forest) were everywhere and people loved to eat them. Almost no one used money in those days, All roads were dirt and no motorcycles and very rarely a car of any kind, so no need for money. The food market was large with 10 times as many fruits and vegetables as you see today, all for barter and exchange.

So what is this lady talking about? We traveled for 10 years to over 40 countries and in 1970 I met my very first tourist, as all the travelers in those earlier days were business men.

It struck me that shortly after we visited Bali tourist and missionaries arrived and told each other that women wearing no tops was crude, uncivilized, and barbaric, and we would not do that in the USA or Europe. The local Bali people said "is that really true" and were told, YES. So the local people instead of saying "we dressed for comfort and had no sex hang-ups or Christian controls" they said "we were to poor for upper cloths".

Well, I have heard this story many times, after visiting over 150 countries on six continents and being around the World 34 times in a period of 53 years. I have heard the same story in many parts of Africa, South America, Asia, with the Australian Aborigines, North American Native Peoples, etc....

On our home, the Big Island of Hawaii the older local Hawaiians tell of all swimming without any cloths and then the missionaries telling them they must wear a swimming suit, and how they thought that, "That was stupid as you just get your cloths all wet".

Did you know? French ladies of the 1720s found it fashionable not to cover there breast but let them hang exposed.

The true worth of long term travel cannot be easily understood. Did you ever wonder why all peoples Worldwide shake with there right hand only? Well only in the last 100 years have peoples worldwide began to use toilet paper, and invention originally from China, and peoples used to wash themselves after the toilet using there left hand, only. Thus, 30 years ago and some places even today, children that were left-handed were forced to relearn using there right hand and nobody knew why.

As we constantly travel the World over the last 12 years we have seen the indigenous clothes disappear and seen tee-shirts and tennis shoes or flip flops everywhere.

We are becoming a one world culture with less & less diversity.

Enjoy each day................Joseph Gill

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