



The Magical Four Seasons

DATIN SERI PANGLIMA SHURYANI DATUK SHUAIB



Datin Seri Panglima Shuryani Datuk Shuaib was born in Sungai Petani, Kedah, on the 14th of March 1962. She received her primary and secondary education at Father Barre's Convent before proceeding to London to study at Holborn Law Tutors. She is the wife of Dato' Seri Panglima Mohd. Shafie Apdal, Malaysia's Minister of Rural and Regional Development. They have six lovely children with whom Datin Seri Panglima Shuryani shares her appreciation of art and nature. Recording her thoughts in writing and poems – has been a hobby that she has indulged in from a young age. Datin Seri Panglima has found this both therapeutic and enjoyable.

The purpose of publishing this book, *The Magical Four Seasons*, is to raise funds for Datin Seri Panglima's charity foundation, Yayasan Semporna (the Semporna Foundation).

Datin Seri Panglima Shuryani would like to thank everyone who has purchased copies of this book.

"I would like to say thank you and may Allah bless us all in whatever we do in our lives."

The Magical Four Seasons

DATIN SERI PANGLIMA SHURYANI DATUK SHUAIB

To.

Kak Hasmah

With Love,

Shuryani

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To My Husband with Love

4:15pm
Sunday, 7th September 2012

With Love,

Datin Seri Panglima Shuryani Datuk Shuaib





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Preface

Bismillahirrahmannirrahim.

This book is specially dedicated to all my friends who studied abroad. Also to my twin sister Shuryati, my youngest sister, Shuhana, who resides in Chicago and my darling ONLY daughter, Sabrina.

To all my friends and family: studying abroad is the best opportunity that we have been given which many others do not get. It is an opportunity that involves bitterness, sweetness and happiness and sorrow for young people like us who want to excel in life.

Help us Allah with our mission, with our solidarity, with our undivided and divine love for all humans. I'm grateful to be alive today to be able to share all the experience that we as fellow students in England went through!

The story began in 1980 when I was a young student. To Faridah and Nick, I would like to thank you for your generosity in being with me while I wrote this book and for enabling this book to become what it may.

With Love,

7:05am

Wednesday, 23rd November 2011

My residence: 605, Bukit Petaling

Specially dedicated to:

My husband, Dato' Seri Panglima Mohd Shafie Hj Apdal, whom I love so very much; and my darling children:

Mohd Shazni Mohd Shafie

Sabrina Mohd Shafie

Mohd Shazwi Mohd Shafie

Mohd Sharhan Mohd Shafie

Mohd Shahmi Mohd Shafie

Mohd Shafiq Mohd Shafie



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Year 1980



I was offered a place at ITM for an Art and Design course for three years. I was doing my sixth form in Petaling Jaya when I got the letter for an interview. In the school, Father Barre's Convent, art was a compulsory subject.

I majored in this field very well – art and craft, watercolour painting, brush strokes, collage, batik printing and all kinds of art and craft that we learnt so diligently in school.

I remember taking a bus home in the wee hours to go for an interview at Institute 'Kemahiran Mara' (IKM) at my hometown, Sungai Petani. I passed the interview with flying colours. First, they gave me a drawing pad and gave me a title to draw, which I did. Then they gave me an interview.

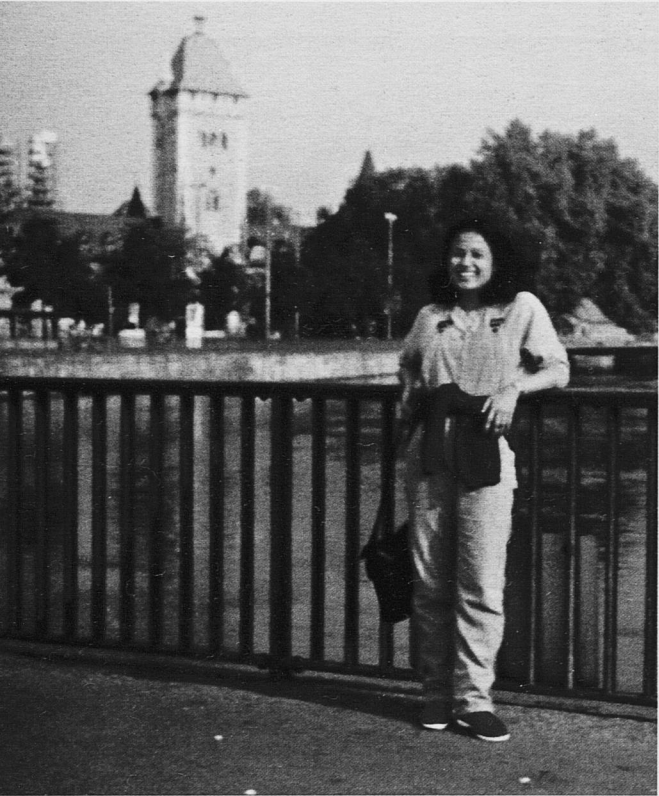
During the interview I was asked whether it was okay for me to let the offer go to someone else since I told them my intention was to further my studies abroad. London was my choice. Why? I wanted to go so much since my good friend Alauyah was offered a place to do Quantity Surveying in England.

Most of my friends who were studying in the Science Stream studied abroad while some studied at ITM. My neighbour Bobo (Norazlena Hj. Kamel) and other friends studied at ITM and they took me to ITM in Shah Alam to see their bunk beds. We giggled about it! Many years passed and Sabrina, my daughter, studied there too and she took me to UiTM, the same place her mum was offered a place at 31 years before!

I told the interviewer that it was all right to give my place to someone else because I was offered to do A level Law at the Holborn Law Tutors College in London. My dream had come true!

I was offered! Happy is not the word!





Thrilled. Excited. I felt like jumping mountains and swimming in one short breath! In school, I loved sports and we as Convent School girls were thought to be able to dance well, especially folk-dancing which was part of our curriculum. Having grand concerts, a grand sports day and grand Art and Science exhibitions were the school's glorious triumphs!

School was so great that it was where I wanted to be most of the time. That's where I had my friends, teachers, my future ambitions and a good life. Parents were proud if their children were from Father Barre's Convent School!

Education has always been important. "If you educate a woman; she will in return educate the whole nation!"

To educate one and to be educated in life are two of the qualities that Allah wants us to have as His CALIPHS in this world.

"Educate yourself until China..." Why China? China has been a world civilisation since the Ming period. Hang Li Po was sent to Malaya for a reason... Hang Tuah; Hang Jebat; Hang Kasturi; Hang Lekiu and Hang Lekir are all Malay epics with real Chinese/Malay Baba influence.

Who is responsible for the rightness of Human Civilisation? No one because Allah holds the Truth. He's the Almighty. He's the beneficent and He's all that JUSTIFIES the human race, the planets. HE knows ALL. HE knows best.

Civilisation begins when the nation wants change, peace, prosperity and hope! We hope for many things! We pray for good things and we let Allah the Almighty give the BEST! The very best it is...

When I was young doing chores, work and play were my major domains. I was blessed for the



experiences that are worth more than any gold or gemstones! To be independent and to be able to help others! My utmost belief is always to do good and give what I can. This makes me a really contented person living at this moment in this world!

I thank Allah that I'm alive everyday of my life. I have been tested with ALL miseries and I'm ready to face all the challenges! Indeed a virtue that we must cling onto...

He holds our LIVES and we must lead as HIS good willing servants and be Allah's Caliphs all the time till death we part dear fellow sisters and brothers of Islam.





Yayasan Semporna (the Semporna Foundation) is a charity established by Datin Seri Panglima Shuryani Datuk Shuaib and her husband Dato' Seri Panglima Mohd. Shafie Apdal, Malaysia's Minister of Rural and Regional Development. The charity aims to provide opportunities for the youth and citizens of Semporna – a township on the east coast of Sabah, Malaysia, where Dato' Seri Panglima was born. A further objective of the charity is to raise the name of the state of Sabah – and, indeed, all of Malaysia – by showcasing the uniquely multicultural society that exists in this East Malaysian state.



The Magical Four Seasons is Datin Seri Panglima Shuryani Datuk Shuaib's personal reflection on life while studying abroad which she wanted to share with everyone – including her closest friends while studying abroad many years ago.

