

A Migrant's Story

My baptismal certificate describes me as Anglo-Indian which is my official designation (see poem 'Innocence and Naivety') The country of my birth and part ancestry is India(n), whilst my adopted country, culture and further former heritage is British; there is also a distinct Portuguese lineage within our family tree. I suppose all these variants should cause me to be more aptly described as being of 'Eurasian' descent rather than purely Anglo-Indian, which appears to suggest strict racial parameters.

Either my identity crisis led to mental illness or my mental illness led to an identity crisis, which came first I don't know, but extreme trauma was the result. This was accompanied by extensive psychiatric hospitalisation and appropriate treatment, (see poem 'Pills and Potions')

Most of my major preoccupations have been with race, in one form or the other, in particular its resultant mental health consequences. Therefore with hindsight, it is not surprising that I was to find my long sought after niche in life mainly through tackling issues of race / nationality and allied psychological problems.

It was in this field that I uncovered my true potential; first with a voluntary organisation named 'Rejuvenation' and then much more importantly, with 'Telling our Stories, Finding our Roots'; wherein I discovered my true self (see poem 'Pilgrim to the Dawn') These factors were to be crucial in my recovery.

The poems I have chosen to appear on this website illustrate my dilemmas, my conflicts, my fears, and conversely also positive elements as expressed in the redeeming love shown to me, that was to be my eventual hope and saving grace (see poem 'My NW6 Woman')

Together with my belief in God, the faith and devotion of dedicated health-care professionals, and the genuine support of sincere family and friends, over a lengthy period of time, it was to lead to an ultimately happy outcome.

In spite of the ups and downs and rigours of life, I have very much to be thankful for.

David Woolger

p.s. The four poems mentioned here I read at a 'Royal Albert Memorial Museum' (RAMM), Exeter, concert on the 16th of March 2013.

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