

**ANWAR FAZAL - THE POET**

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# FOREWORD

## **Anwar Fazal -*The Poet***

It is said that souls will find a way to connect beyond physical and geographic boundaries to fulfill destiny's call. Upon meeting Prof Dato' Dr. Anwar Fazal, I felt a soulful resonance that gave me a feeling of 'Home'. Across the globe and delighted to be in this beautiful, exotic and majestic land, Dato' Anwar became my esteemed colleague with an endearing bond of friendship. He contributed to making my work experience in the Division of Industry and Community Network (DICN or BJIM, *Bahagian Jaringan Industri dan Masyarakat*) at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang memorable, enjoyable, and transformative.

A poetic and award-winning Laureate and recipient of *The Right Livelihood Award* popularly known as the 'Alternate Nobel Prize' and the *Gandhi-King-Ikeda Community Builders Prize* from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Dato' Anwar's voice for peace, justice, and right livelihood reverberates in all languages and cultures. Described as *Penang's Multiversity*, his influential leadership as a global civil society activist in diverse issues, transforms the lives of people around the world.

I consider it an opportunity and privilege of a lifetime to work in concert with him along with USM faculty and staff on a book project, "*Volunteerism in Malaysia: Fostering Civic Responsibility*". During this time, I found him to be genuinely concerned about humanity, compassionate, and honorable. Highlighted in the book is The Right Livelihood College (RLC) that he established at USM in 2009 with five aims described by him "*as a hub, catalyst, an incubator, a multiplier and an accelerator of interactive links between academics and activists and the work of Right Livelihood Laureates*".

Dato' Anwar's multiversity speaks to the many facets of his knowledge and innate wisdom encompassing the vast dimensions of life. His poetic voice vibrates soulful whispers of love, peace, and joy that touch your soul. His writing, teaching, and engagement with others reflect his natural flow of profound wisdom. William Wadsworth quotes, "*Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: It takes origin from emotion recollected in tranquility*". This is true for Dato' Anwar, a deep thinker and astute observer, who radiates quiet power and inspiration. His passionate stories and vivid descriptions of places, events, and experiences are moving, captivating and intriguing. Allured by his enjoyable conversations, my curiosity is ignited with a yearning to know more as minutes turn into hours with time standing still in the moment.

Dato' Anwar represents all that is good and true for humanity. I have very fond memories of many meaningful thought-provoking conversations. During one of our talks, he gave me five saga seeds representative of "*The 5 Pancha Sila Precepts Principles: Social Justice, Ecological Sustainability, Political Participation, Cultural Vibrancy and Economic Productivity*". It was Monday October 12, 2012. I eagerly took notes and gently wrapped the seeds in a page torn from my daily calendar that have been preserved overtime. A gesture of loving-kindness, one morning while in my office at USM, Dato' Anwar handed me a tattered vibrant yellow silk sunflower that he found on a walking path, that now sits on my writing desk framed with his autographed photo.

Dato Anwar’s Right Livelihood College in Penang was the center of sustainable humanitarian ventures, community engagement, and “*Love Projects*” that gave me a renewed perspective on life, selfless service, and volunteerism. He eloquently articulates the beauty of life that surrounds us and appreciates the *Oneness* of Humanity. Inspired by my stay in Penang, I am spreading the message of *Love* in my books, radio show, classes and talks. I owe a debt of gratitude to Dato’ Anwar for his inspiration, authentic poetic expression, and gift of Love for humanity. My time spent with him enriched my life, and I honor his legacy that change the world now and for future generations.

*“Terima Kasih”*

*“Peace, Love and Eternal Blessings”*

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# REMEMBER WE ARE ONE

We all drink from one water

We all breathe from one air

We rise from one ocean

And we live under one sky

Remember

We are one

The new born baby cries the same

The laughter of children is universal

Everyone's blood is red

And our hearts beat the same song

Remember

We are one

We are all brothers and sisters

Only one family, only one earth

Together we live

And together we die

Remember

We are one

Remember

We are one

Peace be on you

Brothers and Sisters

Peace be on you.

*(This poem, "Remember We Are One", was written for a book "PRAYERS for a THOUSAND YEARS" which was a collection of blessings and expressions of hope for the new Millennium published in 1999. It was adapted into a song by Ysaye Barnwell, founder of the group "Sweet Honey in the Rock". It has also been made into greeting cards and featured in books such as "Liberating Faith", and "Common Prayers" by the World Council of Churches. It also appears as plaque at the entrance of the water garden of the UNESCO awarded Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, Penang, Malaysia on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019).*



# MY DEAR "FAN"

Sunshine or rain  
You are now the wind under my wings  
As I sit on the garden swing  
Ruminating thoughts.

Forwards and backwards  
Like the swing they go  
Ideas sprout like flowers,  
Flutter around like the birds.

Thank you my dear fan  
For the imagination  
That your constant breeze oozes.  
Thank you, thank you."

*(This poem is a tribute to a fan that gave me coolness during the time I spend at home  
in my patio pondering about the world's worries in the year 2020)*



# LOCKDOWN RUMINATIONS

I have never had  
Such a long unending weekend.

Celebrating clear blue skies,  
A greater fluttering of birds and  
The flowers sprouting like never before.  
A lovely pink moon adorned the Universe  
This morning.

Inhaling all this wondrous views,  
Doing deep breathing exercises,  
Holding the breath to the count of forty  
Was an exhilarating joy.

Then I thought of the poor  
And the migrants...  
I saw darkness and screams...  
We must be blind and deaf  
Not to feel those pains..

But it was not the Virus..  
It was the wheels of injustice,  
The military-industrial-financial complex,  
Their care for wealth not health  
Who poison people and planet?  
That make those pains  
The fires of hell.  
It was not you Virus.

It were sins of Humanity

Sorry Virus, sorry.

(This poem was inspired during the Covid crisis in April 2020 about the larger structural issues relating to politics and economics dimensions)



## SERENITY

Serenity is peace with ourselves

It is peace with other people

It is peace with the environment

It is about peace with everything

Serenity is there

If only we listen

The horizon, the rainbow

The dawn, the sunset

The gentle quiver of a cool wind

And the light wetness

of the waterfall's spray

Serenity is there

If only we listen

A walk in the jungle

Down memory lane with friends

Watching the twinkle of a million stars

And breathing deep the sounds and smells

of kindness and gentleness

Serenity is there

If only we listen

Serenity begins with yourself

Looking inside to find the outside

Looking outside to find the inside



With our ears, eyes and heart

Serenity is there

If only we listen.

(This poem was inspired while resting during a walk at the jungle behind the Botanical Gardens in Penang, Malaysia in the year 2000, the beginning of the new millennium)



## **DOING HAPPINESS, THE BHUTAN WAY**

Down to Earth  
in the heights  
of the Himalayas  
Bhutan, Bhutan  
Happiness  
Bhutan, Bhutan  
The natural way.

We shall return  
the kindness  
spreading and doing  
your message  
Everywhere  
Everyone  
Every time.

Mother Earth  
will smile  
again  
And  
Again.

*(This poem was written in the valley of Lobesa, Punakha, Bhutan on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and read at the Inaugural Right Livelihood Summer School, organised jointly by the Royal University of Bhutan and the Right Livelihood College (www.rightlivelihood.org/college))*



## **SNORTING SONNETS IN OLDE ENGLISH**

Sonneting Shakespeare? -I drown in laryngitis and migraine,  
The eardrums imploding from piercing grunts...  
Its love and melody screaming at the enchanted  
Evaporating dreams of desire and passion instead.  
I prefer just to look into her eyes and hold both her hands.  
I just want to kiss her lips, lightly not slurping saliva.  
I just want to embrace her and feel the landscape of softness.  
I just want to turnover and feel the caressing joys above me.  
To hear the distant drums, gentle breezes of guitar strings,  
To hear the waves of the flutes gently rolling in the sky,  
To hear the gush of the saxophone, the slow drawing of the violin and  
Then her soft voice streaming through them all "I love you, too".  
Sonneting in older English? Please spare me the gross pain.  
Serenading? Perhaps ...perhaps ...perhaps.

*(This poem was inspired in 2019 by a discussion on "Old English" with Gareth Richards a dear friend and book lover)*



## LIMEY, OH BLIMEY (A RAP/CRAP)

We were going nuts  
Cracking our leads  
What to get you  
on this day  
We hit on idea -  
a NUTCRACKER.  
Of course, mundane  
Yet a creative classic  
Even crackling music when used.  
We searched  
and searched  
And  
Found something better-  
a JUICIER  
that crushes fruits into juice  
a 200 year old  
Innovation called  
a LIMEY...  
...oh Blimey!!  
So appropriate.  
May creative juices  
Flow eternal in your life and  
bring joy and happiness.

*(This poem was dedicated to Huzir Sulaiman and Clair on their Wedding, July 3, 2004  
and sent together with a wedding present consisting of a wooden juice maker )*



# MIDNIGHT HUGS

At midnight,  
Yesterday  
And  
Tomorrow  
Embraced  
Today  
And  
Moved on.  
At midnight  
We hugged  
And felt the stillness  
The glow of warmth  
The beating of distant drums  
And surging wave  
I moved on too  
saying  
Goodnight,  
Good morning  
Goodbye

*(This Poem was written by Anwar Fazal in 2007 inspired by while sending off a dear friend at the Airport who was unlikely to return to Malaysia again)*



# ENJOY TODAY ALWAYS

"Today is yesterday embracing tomorrow.  
Spiralling its constant continuity into eternity.  
The complexity of simplicity,  
the universality of the local,  
the conversations between  
a drop of the ocean and a grain of sand,  
Energized by the waves and the winds  
Continue to be amazing wonders."

*( This Poem was written by Anwar Fazal in 2019 while staying up at midnight on one of those days  
when he had so much joy doing little for a change at a busy time )*



# “LITTER”-ATURE

I found a book in a garbage heap,  
Brutalized, no cover,  
Mutilated, no endings.

Finished? No, never.

Words and stories and lives,  
Lurk there still.

That dirty book without the cover.

Pages and pages,  
Of Pulitzer prizes, Nobel or Booker,  
Immortalized, never to be forgotten,  
Serialized, never to end.

That dirty book without the cover.

After all,  
Many often buy a book for its cover,  
Many often never finish it,  
Many sometimes never even read it!  
And yet it's enough to inspire.

That book without the cover.

Launching sometimes spirals of  
Greater interests.  
Tattered, battered, strained,  
And yet like the seeds of  
Yesteryear,  
Awaiting the rain and the sun  
To live again,  
Surging of souls and stimulating spirits.

That dirty book without the cover.

Alive, yes still alive,  
Again and again, pages after pages,  
Again and again, pages after pages,  
Still read, yes still read...  
One day,  
Someone.

That dirty book without the cover,  
Don't throw it away.  
Anwar Fazal (2011)

*(This Poem was written by Anwar Fazal in 2011 inspired by finding a Tattered book fallen out of a rubbish dump while taking a walk around his neighborhood)*



## **SIMPLY LIVING SIMPLY**

ING, ING, ING,  
ING, ING, ING,  
AND ING

Simply Living Simply

BreathING

MunchING

WalkING

Smiling & LaughING

SingING

ListenING

Lifelong LearnING

7 Simple Things  
ING, ING, ING,  
ING, ING, ING,  
AND ING

Simply Living Simply

*(This Poem by Anwar Fazal was first read at the Penang Poetry “Kopitiam” (Coffee shop) Event as part of the Penang George Town Festival on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017)*



## CONSUMER POWER

50 years ago  
in the United States of America  
began a new consumer revolution  
A consumers union was born  
that was to change the face of  
the consumer movement

This is the story of that revolution today.

50 years ago a consumers union was born  
giving life to an  
idea whose time had come,  
giving spirit to a  
movement which was to span the world.

It was no mean feat –  
science of the consumers  
by the consumers  
for the consumers.

It was no mean feat too –  
caring for people,  
caring for working conditions,  
caring for the environment,  
but as consumers.

It was no mean feat.  
That union showed us all consumers  
There is a new way  
A better way,



a stronger way  
for us as consumers.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.

And remember –  
We consume not just with the mouth;  
We consume with our eyes,  
with our ears,  
with all our senses.  
We consume things,  
use things;  
we consume services,  
use services  
produced and provided  
sometimes by government.  
Sometimes by corporations,  
sometimes not at all  
and sometimes with the  
tender loving care of a craftsman or artist.

**S**ome things we consume we know;  
sometimes not much,  
if at all.

Sometimes we consume freely;  
sometimes no one gives us  
a choice.

Who hears the cry of pain of  
the baby in the womb?  
Who sees the poison in  
the air or those killing  
lights of far away events?  
Some things are free;  
some things we pay  
sometimes fully,

sometimes indirectly.  
And sometimes we  
pay with our lives  
unnecessarily, unforgivably.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.  
Young and old;  
black, white, yellow or brown  
and everything in-between.  
Some of us have;  
some do not;  
others just do.  
Some of us seek pleasure;  
others joy.  
Some of us take,  
consume, devour.  
And some of us give,  
Share, sacrifice.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.  
Each in our special way.  
But together  
We can show the better way.  
We face a violent world.  
A manipulative world;  
A wasteful world.  
Some of us dare to change it  
To seek a world where there is  
Less violence, more humanity  
Less manipulation, more liberation  
Less waste, more conservation.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.  
Human beings.  
We are not anti-business.

We are not anti-progress.  
We are not anti-government.  
We are for good business.  
We are for real progress.  
We are for responsible, responsive government.

*Y*es, we are all consumers.  
We are only against the bad –  
the violence, the manipulation  
and the waste;  
those sicknesses that weaken  
us and this spaceship  
our home.  
We are only against the powers that generate  
these sicknesses and make us victims.  
We seek only justice  
a fair marketplace  
a caring body politic  
to survive  
to live with dignity  
and in harmony  
with ourselves and  
with Mother Earth.

*Y*es, some of us dare to change.  
Ours is a revolution  
but not the right  
nor of the left.  
It is a revolution  
of the spirit,  
of the perspective  
that all of us are consumers.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.  
And we have rights –  
The right to access to basic  
Things, to services;  
The right to have real choices,  
the right to have assurance  
of safety and quality,  
the right to the knowledge to  
decide our consumption or  
non-consumption, yes,  
non-consumption  
We have the right to speak  
our voice, to be heard,  
the right to have the help  
to learn the skills, the  
knowledge, to consume  
wisely.  
We have the right, yes, to  
redress and justice, and  
we have the right  
to a clean environment.  
Think these eight consumer rights,  
Your rights,  
Our rights.

**Y**es, all of us are consumers.  
We have responsibilities, too, and  
at least five –  
to be critical; to ask why,  
and why not;  
to act, and to act without fear;  
and to care for fellow human beings.  
We have the responsibility  
to live in peace with the  
environment.  
And we have the responsibility  
to join hands and create  
the solidarity, the spirit,  
the strength of  
many voices acting together –  
Critical, assertive,  
Socially responsible,  
Ecologically sensitive and many voices, together,  
together  
Think these five responsibilities,  
your responsibilities,  
our responsibilities.

**Y**es, we are all consumers  
working together  
caring  
sharing, acting  
joined together by a  
community of interest  
a common vision  
a joint mission  
a shared journey  
caring, sharing and acting

for the consumer interest  
everywhere.

**Y**es, we are all consumers  
And we have grown.  
There has been a magnificent proliferation.  
An explosion of our energy,  
in all five continents,  
in countries at every stage  
of development,  
organisation upon organisation,  
network upon network.  
Yes, there has been an explosion.  
There has been a new depth  
and intensity in our work  
and a new sensitivity.  
This implosion reaches the heart,  
the soul, Mother Earth,  
the lives of poor people,  
  
saving lives,  
saving money,  
generating a force of happiness.  
Yes, there has been an implosion.

**A**nd there has been a dislosion.

A new diversity of methods,  
of partners,  
new links  
forged with brothers and  
sisters on many other movements  
moving forward together  
as never before  
Baby food  
Pesticides  
Drugs, smoking

Hazardous technologies  
and many more.  
Explosion, implosion, displosion,  
Yes, we have grown.

**Y**es, we are all consumers  
and we are growing and  
growing and  
growing.  
And we work in many ways  
We work through the scientific tests we do –  
accurate,  
correct,  
credible,  
using the purity and power  
of truth.  
We deal with the messiness  
of the marketplace,  
and help the little people  
of the world,  
help them have that little  
more power that makes  
the difference.  
We seek to  
change laws, make  
them work for people.  
And we work to change  
the systems that inflict  
on us structures that are  
unjust  
unfair  
unacceptable

*Y*es, we are all consumers.  
Our governments say they are with us.  
Our governments say they  
work in many ways  
for us.  
But many times, many places  
they don't work at all,  
ignorant,  
inefficient,  
indifferent.  
Ignorance we can treat  
with the kindness of information  
of knowledge.  
Inefficiency we can meet  
by demanding better skills  
and more resources.  
But indifference:  
indifference we will  
meet by raising hell!

*Y*es, we are all consumers.  
Facing too many useless,  
wasteful,  
inefficient,  
unnecessary products,  
and sometimes none at all  
of what we really need.  
Markets in chaos,  
cash register ethics,  
and profits run wild;  
faceless forces that make us buy  
what we don't need,  
what we cannot afford,  
make us addicts,  
slaves of envy.  
Sellers become pushers,  
pushing useless things,



making useless people,  
while others die because there is  
nothing.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.  
And today, we span the world,  
encouraged and mandated by the highest  
global conscience – the  
United Nations of the  
World.  
No more a fringe movement,  
no more a luxury  
but the dignity of a world issue,  
a world challenge,  
a perspective to be asserted  
as an integral part of real development everywhere.  
No more just some token ad hoc  
half-hearted response  
to a creaky market,  
  
but an essential part of  
the progress paradigm.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.  
We span the world too,  
with a sunburst of networks,  
lighting up and giving hope;  
joining the little groups,  
seeking a little justice,  
little groups for whom sheer survival is often victory.  
IBFAN  
HAI  
PAN  
CONSUMER INTERPOL  
NO MORE BHOPALS  
AGHAST  
and more  
and more to come

building on the strength of weak links.  
Capturing the imagination,  
Creating an avalanche  
of consumer power.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.  
We span the world too  
with a new kind of science:  
Evaluating,  
Assessing,  
Comparing,  
Information,  
using the world  
of truth  
science with responsibility,  
with a conscience –  
a power not just to help  
us choose, but to create a new attitude and concept  
of value  
not just value for money, but beyond that –  
value for people.  
And not just creating attitudes  
but creating better, safer  
more appropriate products –  
water pumps,  
cold chains,  
weighing scales,  
Making, designing really useful  
appropriate things,  
Creating a whole new application of  
science that thinks  
**BEFORE** rather than **LATER**

**Y**es, we are all consumers  
and we shall grown even stronger.  
From America to Europe  
to Asia and the Pacific  
and now to Latin America  
and Africa  
and the Middle East  
and already China, where  
the dragon awakes and says,  
“It is the sacred right  
of consumers to be protected.  
It is the sacred right

of consumers to be protected.  
It is the sacred right  
of consumers to be protected.”

**Y**es, we are all consumers.  
We can help to overcome  
man’s inhumanity to man.  
Pesticides that kill;  
baby foods that kill;  
medicines carelessly marketed that kill;  
silent killers,  
more stark killers.  
Ixhuatepec, Mexico, 500 killed  
Bhopal, India, 2500 killed  
Chernobyl, Russia, who will ever know?  
And many before and many after,

Uncaring,  
superior people,  
superior technology,  
running wild,  
unleashing madness,  
the killing clouds,  
the killing heats,  
the killing lights.  
Giant corporations  
shirking, careless,  
monolithic governments,  
closed minds, closed eyes,  
unable to face the truth of the failure  
of violent technology  
of gross incapability.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.  
 And we shall create more power,  
     more strength,  
 we have done it before and  
     we will do it again  
 Many, many more times.  
 Many other things will emerge;  
     must emerge,  
     - an International Group of  
       Consumer Protection  
       Regulatory Authorities  
       a government network;  
     - A consumer policy research network;  
     a consumer intellectual blood bank;  
       - A consumer Interpol  
       for consumer fraud,  
       for commercial  
       crimes against  
       the consumer;  
     - a consumer leadership training institute,  
       building a crop of new leaders;  
     - A new information and documentation network  
       based on the new information technologies;  
       - More networks, more actions.

**W**e can say  
 “who knows, perhaps, maybe”  
     or we can say  
     “**W**e want and then we do”,  
     We have done so much  
     with so little.  
 Now, we can do so much more.  
     Romantics  
     Realists  
     Radicals  
 But most of all, consumers,  
 and together as consumers.

*Y*es, we are all consumers.  
And together we can provide a cutting edge  
sharper than ever before  
making paths where none existed  
through complex crossroads,  
making journeys to new destinations,  
where human rights and ecological harmony  
are an intrinsic part  
of the marketplace,  
where value is measured  
not just in dollars, yen,  
but in well-being  
in happiness.

*Y*es, we are all consumers.  
Working for a balance  
We seek balance between  
order and freedom,  
testing and protesting,  
states and corporations  
nations and globe,  
person and community.  
And fighting always the notion that  
successful economies come  
only at the expense of health,  
at the expense of justice.  
And remembering always that  
the poor pay more,  
that the poorer the nation  
the more important the need  
for consumer protection;  
That mere material consumption  
does not equal happiness  
of well-being;  
That cooperation and reinforcement  
between consumer groups  
strong and beginning  
old and young  
between countries  
is not based on charity  
or creating dependency

but an imperative,  
a liberating necessity,  
part of the rounded consumer personality.

*Y*es, we are all consumers.

The testing and publishing houses  
provide a precious life force for us,  
giving us independence  
strength  
resources  
and an uncorrupted assertiveness that  
provides a firm foundation for that liberation.

The advocacy groups  
and the galaxy of networks  
provide us with  
a second life force  
giving us vision  
voice  
vitality  
a cutting edge for our liberation.

The state and para-statal groups  
provide us a  
third life force  
bringing power,  
organisation,  
continuity,  
a manifestation that consumer protection  
is an essential state  
responsibility, too.

Each of these life forces  
mutually reinforcing,  
assert their mission,  
their conscience,  
three life forces, enlarging  
our work.

*Y*es, we are all consumers.

And together, we can create the future,  
Not just react  
but pro-act  
shaping and setting the agendas.

Creating most of all,  
more leaders,  
not just readers,  
not just followers.  
Creating new leaders  
who can think local,  
who can think global,  
who can think information,  
who can think action,  
who can think politics,  
who can think strategy,  
who can organise,  
who can manage  
when, what and why.

Who can think fresh,  
who can think strong,  
who can think big and  
the small  
the public and the private  
and most of all  
who can INTERLINK  
think, feel, create

the TOGETHERNESS,  
the EMPOWERMENT  
that is liberating and  
the HAPPINESS that is

our goal.

**A**nd these new crops of leaders  
will come from the young,  
from the thinking,  
from the sensitive,  
from new parts of the globe,  
providing us with the energy,  
the inspiration  
the human face of our mission,  
our movement;  
combining those who are  
careful  
correct and  
credible  
with those who are  
fast,  
flexible and  
furious.

What a combination!

To each his own  
and yet, together  
for all and more.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.

We seek peace  
so that humankind can meet the basic needs  
for food, clothing, shelter,  
health care, education.

Saying  
NO  
NO



NO  
to the madness that wastes  
trillions on armaments  
and gives only a fraction for basic needs,  
for eliminating poverty.  
Saying  
NO  
NO  
NO  
to those distorted, sick, misplaced priorities  
the hypocrisy,  
the posturing,  
that prevents happiness.

**Y**es, we are all consumers,  
And we must demand.

Let us demand  
“No” to violence  
“No” to manipulation  
“No” to waste.

Let us demand  
That we move from  
war economies to peace economies.

Let us demand  
We move from the creation of the  
forces of destruction  
to the creation of the  
instruments of life.

Let us demand  
an end to the commercial terrorism that  
let's safe products and processes run wild,  
an end to all  
tobacco promotion and  
other killing madneses.

Let us demand.  
Let us demand.  
Let us also care.  
Let us also act.  
We are the centre of the economy.

IOCU is the centre of this movement.  
Let us use this power  
to transform,  
to humanise,  
to bring real happiness to (real) people everywhere.

**Y**es, we are all consumers.

Brothers and sisters,  
5 billion consumers,  
together,  
and getting stronger  
transforming the marketplace  
multiplying  
our strength and power  
to make bureaucracy  
and corporate power more transparent and  
accountable.

Laying bricks  
but also building a new consumer energy;  
- unleashing global report cards  
on errant corporations,  
on errant governments,  
through the heat of action,  
through the pressure of organisation,  
through the logic and rationale of the  
science of consumers,  
by consumers,  
for consumers,

And most of all  
creating the future,  
not just on the power of buying  
but, on the power of not buying.

**A**lso yes, we are all consumers  
expressing our conscience  
and preference,  
saying  
NO  
NO  
NO  
when we meet.

Exercise the power of NO!  
Exercise the power of your pocket!

Boycott the bad,  
the unnecessary.

*Y*es, we are all consumers  
getting back to basics.

Needs are always first, and  
desires, sure, later  
and why not together?  
Sure, why not,  
But we need real freedom to  
choose,  
not one that masquerades,  
proxy for exploitation  
and manipulation,  
justifying  
terrorism in the marketplaces,  
the colonisation of our minds,  
and of our stomachs.

*W*e serve,  
we advocate,  
but most of all, we empower.

We empower ordinary people  
through information,  
skills, solidarity,  
to seek,  
to have access to a  
dignified and fuller life.  
We are a force for human rights,  
a force for social justice,  
a force for a better, new,  
kinder, and happier world.

*B*rothers and sisters,  
We rise from one ocean  
We drink from one water  
We breathe one air  
We share this earth.

*S*o brothers and sisters,  
50 years ago,  
a consumers union was born.  
It gave life to an idea.  
It gave spirit to a movement.

Today, that spirit is strong,  
that spirit is loud,  
that spirit is brave and angry.

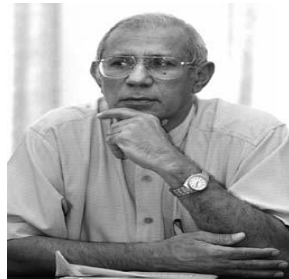
And that spirit is growing,  
and growing,  
and growing.

Keep up the spirit.

*(The above “Consumer Power” is the text of the keynote address by Anwar Fazal, former President of International Organisation of Consumers Unions (IOCU), delivered on 27th May 1986 at the “Consumer Policy 2000” seminar held in New York in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of Consumers Union of the United States. Unknown to the audience at that time was that the address was in form of a poem. It is reproduced here to capture the essence and power of what was a special period in the global growth of the consumer movement both not only in the fostering of some remarkable global citizens networks - IBFAN, HAI and PAN – but also some pioneering and very significant instruments in the United Nations relating to consumer protection, breastfeeding, pharmaceuticals, pesticides and other toxic chemicals).*



# ABOUT ANWAR FAZAL – THE MULTIVERSITY



Anwar Fazal was a key player in the founding of over dozen local and global civil society networks .He was President of several worldwide organisations including the International Organisation of Consumers Union (IOCU), The Hague, Netherlands and Environment Liaison Centre International, Nairobi, Kenya. He was instrumental in initiating the idea of several popular mobilisation days such as World Consumer Rights Day (March 15) and World Migrants Day (18 December).

Anwar Fazal led the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Good Urban Governance in Asia and the Pacific for 12 years. Presently, he is Chairperson of Think City, a Penang, Malaysia, based platform for innovative urban rejuvenation .and President of The Dr. Wu Lien-Teh Society, which honours one of the most outstanding public health personalities in Malaysian, Chinese and global health history. Anwar was also the founder and currently chairperson of the International Advisory Council of The Right Livelihood College (RLC), an innovative platform for University-Change maker’s collaboration working to build knowledge, wisdom and action to promote ecological balance, justice and peace. The Global Secretariat of the College is at the University of Bonn, Germany with branch campuses based in Sweden, Ethiopia, Nigeria, USA, Chile, India, Argentina and Thailand).

For his work, Anwar has received the Right Livelihood Award (popularly known as the “Alternative Nobel Prize”), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global 500 honour, the Malaysian Government Langkawi Environmental Award and the UNDP Malaysia Sustainable Development Goals Award for his work on health and maternal issues. He is also the recipient of Hon. Doctorate’s in law and philosophy from the National University of Malaysia (UKM) and the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) respectively. He is currently a Fellow of the World Academy of Arts and Science (WAAS).

## 21 MORE THINGS ABOUT ANWAR FAZAL

1. **Athlete:** He held the Penang State Record for the 1500 metres for many years and represented the University of Malaya (UM) in 4 games – athletics, cricket, hockey and rugby and got “colours” for all of them a rare achievement!
2. **Student Activist:** He was the President of the University of Malaya Students Union (UMSU) and the National Union of Malaysian Students (NUMS) and received the University’s distinguished “Best All Round Student Gold Medal” in 1964.
3. **Teacher:** He taught Economics at leading school in Kuala Lumpur the Victoria Institution, (1964) and the distinguished Royal Military College (1965).
4. **Librarian:** He headed the Penang Library for seven years from 1966 to 1972.
5. **Consumer Activist:** He founded the Consumers Association of Penang (CAP) and later became the first third-world President of Consumers International, devoting 17 years in a formal leadership position advocating the cause in the world consumer movement.
6. **Health Activist:** He was a key player in founding Health Action International (HAI), International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) and the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA).
7. **Environment Activist:** He was a key player in founding Pesticide Action Network (PAN) and was Chairperson of the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI) based in Nairobi (1985 – 1987)
8. **UN Official:** He led the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Urban Governance for Asia and the Pacific for 12 years, from 1992, working out of Kuala Lumpur.
9. **Private Secretary:** He served as Private Secretary to the then Chief Minister of Penang, Tun Dr. Lim Chong Eu (1969 – 1971).
10. **Peace Activist:** He was a key player in setting up the Malaysia Interfaith Network (MIN), Taiping Peace Initiative (TPI) and the Penang Gandhi Peace Centre (PGPC). Anwar is the one who suggested Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling (formerly Pitt Street) be referred to as the “STREET OF HARMONY” and promoted it. **There is a video showing a narration of Street of Harmony**  
<https://vimeo.com/219493364>
11. **Anti-Corruption Crusader:** He was a key player in setting up Transparency International Malaysia and served for six years on the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Advisory Council.

12. **Poet:** He has written several poems, one of which, “Remember We Are One”, has gone global into a song, written by Ysase Barnwell, member of the group, “Sweet Honey in the Rock”. It has been made into greeting cards and featured in books such as “Liberating Faith”, “Prayers for a Thousand Years” and a book on common prayers” by World Council of Churches.

13. **Global Days of Action Creator:** He has been a key figure in creating these Days of Action which are now celebrated globally: World Consumer Rights Day (March 15), World Breastfeeding Week (1-7 August), World Migrants Day (18 December). He was also proposer of the idea of World Wetlands Day (February 1).

14. **Meteorologist:** He ran, for several years, the schools’ meteorological stations in Taiping, the rainiest town in the country, and is a cloud watcher.

15. **Professor:** He served as a Professor at the Centre of Public Research and International Studies (CenPRIS) from 2009 from where he incubated and multiplied the Right Livelihood College (RLC) which now has campuses in over a dozen universities and covering every continent (see <https://www.rightlivelihoodaward.org/educate/right-livelihood-college/>)

16. **Foreword Writer:** He has written some 70 forewords for books of diverse topics – this includes a book that compiled them called “Moving Forewords”, the only one of its kind.

17. **Swimmer:** He has swam the length of Gurney Drive in 1959 but currently swims in club or hotel pools, mostly underwater – quiet and calming.

18. **Book Rescuer:** He has set up what he calls the “International Book Rescue Mission” that tries to find homes for thrown-away books (He has a poem called “Litter-ature” as the anthem of that mission).

19. **Walker:** There is not a street in George Town, Penang that he has not walked on. He is usually seen with a walking stick that doubles as an umbrella.

20. **Logoist:** He loves designing symbols and enjoys graphics. His personal logo is based on the “tangram”, a two thousand year old unique Chinese jigsaw puzzle – it represents creativity, energy and movement.

21. **Visionary:** Over the years, he has written and launched several global visionary statements including “Charter of Consumer Rights”, “11 Sins Against Humanity”, “Panchasila of Good Governance”, “The Power of Five” and “Seven Chakras of Simple Living” .

(For further information see <https://wordpress.com/view/multiversityinternational.wordpress.com>)

# TRIBUTES TO ANWAR FAZAL TROUGH POETRY

## TRIBUTE TO A MALAYSIAN HERO

Onward and upward, Dato 'Seri,  
Activists remain in need of your solidarity,  
Students crave your inspiration,  
A public-interest giant, our moral compass.  
You are a beacon, a light in this murky sea!

Today is a day for celebration,  
When you can look back at the initiatives you've seeded,  
Which have blossomed into fields of flowers, oases of hope,  
Your legacy of nurturing activists  
Will shine on like thousand splendid suns  
And though our own journeys may take us far,  
You will remain our North Star!



*(This poem was written by Sharan Srinivas, formerly of the Right Livelihood Foundation, on the occasion of Anwar Fazal's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021).*



## **WALKING IN HARMONY**

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL IS A WORLD NOT  
OFTEN HEARD ON THE STREET OF  
HARMONY WHEN LISTING ATTRIBUTES OF  
ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE MADE OUR NATION -  
MALAYSIA -THIS VIBRANT, EXCITING  
EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF ONE  
DEDICATED PEACE- PROMOTING INDIVIDUAL....

ATHLETE, TEACHER, ANTIQUARIAN BOOK COLLECTOR  
NATURE-LOVER PLUS ANTI-CORRUPTION CRUSADER,  
WORKING TIRELESSLY TO MOULD AND SHAPE  
A WORLD WITHOUT WALLS, WANT OR VIOLENCE;  
RESPECTFUL OF LIFE & THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

FOR OUR CHILDREN & OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN  
ANWAR WILL EVER BE THAT BEACON OF  
ZERO TOLERANCE FOR DESTROYERS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT;  
AN INDEFATIGABLE DEFENDER OF CONSUMERS RIGHTS TO  
LIVE THEIR DAYS FREE OF GREED & EXPLOITATION.

WATCHING HIS WORDS WITH ACTION  
OUR CHAMPION NEVER FAILED TO PAY  
HOMAGE TO THOSE WHO HAD WALKED  
AHEAD OF HIM, PRINCES OF PEACE-  
MAHATMA GANDHI  
MARTIN LUTHER KING -

EXEMPLARY LIVES HE CHOSE TO FOLLOW  
DOING THE DOABLE TO ENSURE OUR FUTURE.

*(This Poem was written by Cecil Rajendra one of the Malaysia leading poets  
and distinguished lawyer for public interest on occasion of Anwar Fazal 80<sup>th</sup>  
birthday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 )*



## THANK YOU SIR

I was a fourth former  
When I met my brain opener  
Anwar Fazal is his name  
Who later in anti-smoking campaign made a name  
He discussed history for less than a hundred day  
His impact on me remain to this day  
On history and current events to have an overview  
Issues to be weight after considering opposing views  
His comments on the Fast of Ramadan and president Bourguiba of Tunisia  
Was an eye opener for this school boy in South East Asia  
For naive me it came as a shock  
To be told that a dead clock is an accurate clock  
Since it tells the correct time twice a day  
Mind blowing for me who had not yet reached my sixteenth birthday  
He once told me it's good to be disturbed  
Of society's ills one should not remain unperturbed.

Thank you sir.

*(This Poem was written by Dr. Yahya Sofi bin Hussain, Medical Practitioner, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and student of Anwar Fazal at Royal Military College in 1965)*



## ABOUT THE LOGO



On the left is the personal logo of Anwar Fazal.

It was created by him based on an ancient Chinese puzzle called “tangram”. The puzzle is based on a square cut into seven pieces which can be combined into various shapes. It has been assembled by Anwar into a soaring kite – depicting creativity, organization and energy required for the success of social movements.



*(This book was developed by **Erick Omondi Okomo** as a research assignment while at the **Multiversity Warehouse** of Anwar Fazal in Penang, Malaysia. It was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 which is World Poetry Day. For further information write to [multiversity.international@gmail.com](mailto:multiversity.international@gmail.com))*

AF/ER/21/3/2022