

# Malaysia's Wake-Up-Call Dilemmas: In Three Parts

By Matthias Chang – Future Fast-Forward

## Part 3

### Prologue

#### The Tea Ceremony Story

I am going to share an important story with you, from my personal experience, “The Tea Ceremony Story,” which took me over six decades to understand and appreciate. The story was a humbling experience for me and taught me two invaluable characteristics which I must spend a lifetime to nurture and practice.

- I am a Malaysian of Chinese descent, born into the Catholic Faith, schooled from Prep School in the UK, read Law and qualified as a Barrister at the Inns of Court School of Law (founded by the Council of Legal Education in 1852, and based initially at the Lincoln Inns for 100 years) and admitted into the Honourable Society of Inner Temple in 1975. [See (1) End Notes].
- It is therefore unsurprising that the Chinese chauvinists and other racist minions criticised my appointment as the “Chinese Political Secretary” to Tun Mahathir Mohamad when he was the then 4<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Malaysia. I was labelled a “**Banana – Yellow on the outside but White inside**” since I do not speak or able to write in the Mandarin language.
- My late parents were **distinguished scholars in Chinese Classical literature and my father was a wordsmith in the English language** and spent his entire career in the Ministry of Education, and advised the then Minister of Education, Tan Sri Khor Johari as and when required. [see (2) End Notes]. He was also a colleague with Dato Seri (Dr) Haji Hamdan Sheikh Tahir at the Ministry of Education before he became the 6<sup>th</sup> Governor of Penang, after his retirement and conferred with the award and title Tun.

I was brought up steeped in Chinese Culture and this was reinforced when I trained as the first disciple to the late Grandmaster Yap Cheng Hai in the Wushu Discipline of Yan Shou Qong. My late Grandmaster was the also the first disciple of the late Grandmaster Chee Kim Tong.

Yan Shou Qong is the Holy Grail of Qiqong for Longevity.

I was also guided in the study of the Book of Changes, “I Ching” by my late Grandmaster.

Coming back to the Story of the Tea Ceremony

***Serving tea to your parents, elders, loved ones and teachers is the highest form and display of love and respect.***

Love and Respect ..... **Without love and respect there can be no unity at all levels of society. Period!**

- Since Independence, no Chinese politician and or leader “served tea” to the Prime Minister of Malaysia because they did not understand and or practice **this cultural display of love and respect.** And they dare called themselves Chinese or being cultured, even as they could speak or write the Mandarin language. Charlatans and con-artists!

Therefore, my first official public duty as political secretary to the Prime Minister was to demonstrate my love and respect to the Prime Minister and more importantly how to unite with him, even as we are from different cultures and ethnicities, in the centre of political power – Putrajaya!

**Historic!**

The “Banana” political secretary demonstrated to the world at large how UNITY can be forged and sustained through the simple act of serving tea to my teacher of politics and I cannot do anything less when I had served tea to my late Grandmaster in Wushu, Yap Cheng Hai.

**Unprecedented!**

I was heartily and faithfully supported by two grass-root Chinese leaders, Ho Sai Chong and Liew Poon Siak – President, Federation Kwong Siew Association of Malaysia and the former President, Malaysia Chinese Guilds and Association and the Kuala Lumpur Chinese Assembly Hall, respectively.

We knew the risks, the danger and the inevitable condemnations, but we moved on, because we were brought up in the Chinese culture that **places the highest value in honouring our parents, teachers, elders and leaders.**

The **sinister and orchestrated backlash** came with a vengeance!

- Matthias is a traitor to the Chinese race!
- Matthias is a disgrace to Chinese culture!
- Matthias is subservient and slavish to a Malay leader!
- Matthias’ display is an insult..... ad nauseam!

A small minority of stupid and equally ignorant Malay provocateurs, with glee, celebrated that Matthias Chang, the “Chinese” political secretary kow-towed to a Malay leader!

**Now do you understand why Malaysians are not united?**

**And we have a “Ministry for National Unity”! Give me a break!**

If and when we are **truly** Malaysians, loving and respecting each other, we do not need any scumbag bully politician, provoking tensions and diverting us from loving and respecting each other.

### **The Breaking-Fast Story**

This is an incredible act of unity by the 4<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister, Tun Mahathir Mohamad. This public act of unity was displayed when Tun Mahathir Mohamad, without any hesitation, agreed with my suggestion that there should be an official “Breaking-Fast Ceremony” at Sri Perdana (the official residence) so that Muslims and non-Muslim can unite during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Non-Muslim representatives from the grass-root level and representatives from other faiths were officially invited by the Prime Minister to his official residence so that **non-Muslims could observed and learn how Muslim pray and break-fast.**

**It was historic!**

**It was unprecedented!**

**Tun Mahathir Mohamad did not make any attempt to “convert” the invited representatives to Islam. It was his hope that those invited would make an effort to learn more about Islam and the discipline required to practice that Faith.**

Yet, we have arrogant and self-centred politicians, under the umbrella of “defending Islam”, abusing, bullying and provoking incidents rather than sharing the beauty and discipline in the practice of Islam.

Tun Mahathir Mohamad never wore the Islamic Faith on the lapels of his outer garments. All the Prime Minister did was to exemplify why he is a Muslim. His action at the Breaking-Fast ceremony spoke louder than the bully cries of upstart and publicity-seeking politicians.

**What unity are Malaysians displaying, when action speaks louder than words?**

**Why are we not “Walking the Talk” but instead “Talking the BS Talk”!**

### **The Holy Scriptures**

At this juncture, I will direct your attention to the relevant passages from the Holy Scriptures to unite and heal the nation.

#### **The Holy Quran & Hadiths:**

Surah Al Baqarah 2: 83, 195;

Surah Al Isra 17: 24, 70;

The Prophet (SAW) said: "Indeed among the believers with the most complete faith, is the one who is the best in conduct and the most kind to his family." Sunan Tirmidhi, Hadith: 2612

The Prophet (SAW) said: "The best of the deeds or deed is the (observance of) prayer at its proper time and kindness to parents." Sahih Muslim

The Prophet (SAW) said: "Every act of kindness is charity." Sahih Al Bukhari: 6021

The Prophet (SAW) said: "You do not do evil to those who do evil to you, but you deal with them with forgiveness and kindness." Sahih Al Bukhari: 2125

The Prophet (SAW) said: "Allah is kind, and he loves kindness in all matters," Sahih Al Bukhari: 6528

### **The Bhagavad Gita**

Chapter 5, Verse 18: The truly learned, with the eyes of divine knowledge, see with equal vision a Brahmin, a cow, an elephant, a dog, and a dog-eater.

Chapter 5, Verse 19: Those whose minds are established in sameness and equanimity have already conquered the conditions of birth and death. They are flawless like Brahman, and thus they are situated in Brahman.

### **The Bible**

John 13:34-35. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

James 2:8. If you fulfil the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you do well.

Matthew 22:36-39.

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment of the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. A second likewise is this, You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

### **Dhammaprada**

The Buddhist concept of love for one's neighbours or fellow beings is based on the four Brahma-viharas—divine attitudes. The first one is Maitri: loving-kindness, intense selfless love for others, which is like the love a Mother has for a child.

In Buddhism, compassion and caring for others are highly valued virtues. The concept of "Maitri" or loving-kindness is central, encouraging genuine concern for the well-being of all beings.

Loving Kindness Meditation or Maitri meditation is a centuries old practice that originally comes from the Buddhist tradition. It involves repeating a set of phrases sending out your wish that you, and all beings, be happy, peaceful, and healthy.

## **Conclusion**

If only Malaysians follow and practice the teachings in their Holy Scriptures, we would not need the Ministry of National Unity.

I may **add additional Parts** to this article.

---

## **End Notes**

1 **The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple**, commonly known as the **Inner Temple**, is one of the four Inns of Court and is a professional association for barristers and judges. To be called to the Bar and practise as a barrister in England and Wales, a person must belong to one of these Inns. It is located in the wider Temple area, near the Royal Courts of Justice, and within the City of London. As a liberty, it functions largely as an independent local government authority.

The Inn is a professional body that provides legal training, selection, and regulation for members. It is ruled by a governing council called "Parliament", made up of the Masters of the Bench (or "Benchers"), and led by the Treasurer, who is elected to serve a one-year term. The Temple takes its name from the Knights Templar, who originally (until their abolition in 1312) leased the land to the Temple's inhabitants (Templars). The Inner Temple was a distinct society from at least 1388, although as with all the Inns of Court its precise date of founding is not known. After a disrupted early period (during which the Temple was almost entirely destroyed in the Peasants' Revolt) it flourished, becoming the second-largest Inn during the Elizabethan period (after Gray's Inn).

The Inner Temple expanded during the reigns of James I and Charles I, with 1,700 students admitted between 1600 and 1640. The First English Civil War's outbreak led to a complete suspension of legal education,<sup>[1]</sup> with the Inns close to being shut down for almost four years. Following the English Restoration the Inner Templars welcomed Charles II back to London personally with a lavish banquet.

After a period of slow decline in the 18th century, the following 100 years saw a restoration of the Temple's fortunes, with buildings constructed or restored, such as the Hall and the Library. Much of this work was destroyed during The Blitz, when the Hall, Temple, Temple Church, and many sets of barristers' chambers were devastated. Rebuilding was completed in 1959, and today the Temple is an active Inn of Court with over 8,000 members.

Source: Wikipedia

2 **Tan Sri Mohamed Khir bin Johari** (Jawi: محمد خير بن جوهرى; 29 January 1923 – 19 November 2006)<sup>[1][2]</sup> was a Malaysian politician and the former Malaysian Minister of Education.

Born on 29 January 1923, in Alor Setar, Khir received formal education in the prestigious Sultan Abdul Hamid College (KSAH) in Kedah. Khir was a Member of Parliament from 1955 to 1982. He was involved in the Malaysian political scene from its inception and served in the Cabinet of Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Abdul Razak. Upon his retirement he held positions in several organisations, most famously as President of the World Wide Fund for Nature of Malaysia (WWF). Khir died of heart failure at 83 on 19 November 2006. He was accorded a state funeral and was buried in Makam Pahlawan near Masjid Negara, Kuala Lumpur.<sup>[3]</sup>

Source; Wikipedia

3 Why is Ramadan called Ramadan?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, and lasts either 29 or 30 days, depending on when the new crescent moon is, or should be, visible. The Arabic term Ramadan literally means intense heat. It seems that in pre-Islamic Arabia, Ramadan was the name of a scorching hot summer month. In the Islamic calendar, however, the timing of Ramadan varies from year to year. An Islamic year is roughly 11 days shorter than a Gregorian year. It is during this month that Muslims believe the first verses of the Quran - Islam's holy book - were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. During this period, Muslims are required to fast and to give to charity, to show kindness and patience, and to strengthen their relationship with God. Fasting (Sawm) is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. It is an act that Allah (S.W.T) has made mandatory for every able-bodied, sane, adult Muslim. It is meant to purify the mind, body and soul.

I stand to be corrected on my understanding of Ramadan. Please advise, if the above need to be corrected.

**I am guided by Surah Al Baqarah 2:185,** Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down the Quran, as a guide to Mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and Judgment (between right and wrong) ....