

1 Why this book?

I have a dream that my four little children
will one day live in a nation
where they will not be judged by the color of their skin,
but by the content of their character.

Dr. Martin Luther King

I'd like to replace the word "nation" as above with the word "world", and thank the Universe for being privileged with the intellectual capacity of understanding the message of a once skinny little child with the name Barack Hussein Obama; and, maybe even having the ability to interpret this message. But, most of all, I am grateful for the courage needed to take on the journey of the writing of this book.

I graduated in Metaphysics a while ago, and it was while working as health care professional and counselor within the strictly holistic practices of my beloved wife that I picked up my pen and started to jot down first notes and remarks for this book and write the first lines.

What followed after studying the speeches of Barack Obama, which I had chosen as basis for this book, was way beyond my wildest dreams and expectations! It was School for Life!

During my studies of Metaphysics, I learned a lot from the Dean of our University, Dr. Paul Leon Masters who allowed me to write my dissertation on the Seven Huna Principles. And, all which I learned turned out to be the solid foundation for the interpreting of Obama's words and the linking of them to the Hawaiian-Polynesian tradition of Huna.

The first two speeches of Barack Obama which I consciously listened to as a regular follower of CNN and C-SPAN, were his acceptance speech at the DNC in Charlotte in 2012 and his second inauguration speech as President Re-elect in January 2013.

It was the traces of Huna Wisdom which immediately came to my mind. It was not only his words, but the way that he put them. And, so it was then, that I decided that I wanted to tell the "Non-Polynesian"-, the "Non-Hawaiian"-world about my findings. That's when I decided to write this book.

Then I dug deeper into that matter, downloaded more Obama-speeches, addresses and remarks and also their transcripts to be sure I got the wording correctly, not being a native American-English speaker. I listened to the speeches and read the transcripts as well as his books "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope" carefully and found more and more evidence of Huna and its seven principles in all of them.

To be sure, I wasn't heading in the wrong direction (maybe all presidential speeches are written more or less in the same fashion), I also downloaded other similar speeches, such as the inauguration addresses of Ronald Reagan and George Bush and DNC- speeches of Bill Clinton and Joe Biden. I wanted to compare them to what Barack Obama was saying, compare them to the intention which Obama clearly shows in his speeches. And –

OMG – the differences were there! Different in varying degrees, but all of them definitely expressing different intentions and different attitudes to those which Barack Obama ingeniously communicated.

All of a sudden, I realized that not only Huna, but also other Hawaiian and Polynesian traditions were appearing in Barack Obama's words. I found text-passages referring to Aloha, the Hawaiian way of love and loving, to the most important Hawaiian, Polynesian and Huna institution "ohana", which means "family", to Ho'oponopono, the Hawaiian forgiveness- and problem-solving ritual, to Dragon Dreaming, based on the wisdom of the Australian Aborigines and reaching as far as to the "Law of Attraction" as we can most impressively find documented in Rhonda Byrne's "The Secret".

To me, it seemed more and more as if Obama was uniting the most important points of modern spiritual thinking in his words. As if he – consciously or unconsciously – was applying all these in his speeches and words like no one else was able. I started regarding him as a "master of his profession". A man called "Kahuna" in Hawaiian. More about that and Kahunas later.

Knowing all of these spiritual traditions myself, and having applied them successfully to my clients for their benefits, I came across a possibility which I had been looking for, for a long, long time: the possibility of applying these traditions, not only to interested readers of related books, to listeners of related lectures such as my own, to insiders, clients, patients, to smaller or larger interested audiences or to watchers of related movies, but to the world as a whole.

Right in front of my eyes was the chance of spreading this message to the world. The message and words as used publicly by probably the best known and most powerful and influential person of our times, President Barack Hussein Obama.

I regard this book as an assistance to Barack Obama and his family in spreading the message. Passing it further to those who cannot listen to his speeches or have never done so yet. To those who – for all kinds of reasons – have certain resentments against America, most of them resulting from former administrations or from misinterpretations. To those who believe that America and the Americans are somewhat superficial (being Austrian and living in Europe, I know only too well what I am talking about) and that Europeans are intellectually supreme, not having realized how wrong the track is that Europe is on at the moment. And to those who do not know much about Huna, Hawaii and Polynesia, but who sense that Obama's speeches are unexplainably different.

And finally, to all those who simply love this planet and mankind of all colors and walks of life and who love the Universe. To those who also think that the fundamental rights as written down and signed on September 17th, 1787 in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence are the rights of every human being on this earth. To those who more or less believe that we have a future, that not only the American dream still lives, but the dream of all of us. In short, to all those who think or know and cry out loud:

YES, WE CAN!

There is another reason for writing this book: I strongly believe that this book might help a lot of people in understanding a new way of politics and leadership in all walks of life, family, community, in teaching Little League and politics, you name it. And a lot of those people may not live in the United States. I can only hope that those people will, one day, understand not only English sufficiently but also the language in which Barack Obama, and with him a whole new generation of wise men and potential leaders of our future will speak, and hopefully carry on until the last voluntary or involuntary deaf ear can hear.

Let me give you some examples which are symptomatic of the view and the approach to America in general as well as to its leaders, no matter if they are responsible for the news that are spread about them or their country or not. Mostly those people just accept what they read in the so-called boulevard-press we all know oh so very well. The larger the format of the newspaper the more "we" trust that which it tells us. In Austria it is the opposite, namely the smaller the format (maybe a reference to the size and meaning of Austria...). How sad and how unjust.

But somehow it reflects our times and also what Barack Obama is mentioning in "The Audacity of Hope" when he describes ways of dealing with the media in both positive and negative ways.

Obama's general statement, he makes on page 121 is already a bit frightening, in particular for those believing in the freedom of opinion and expression:

"...For the broad public at least, I am who the media says I am, I say what they say I say. I become who they say I've become."

2 The Seven Huna Principles

Let us now take a closer look into the 7 principles of Polynesian HUNA by first naming all seven and then referring to each in a little more detail.

IKE – THE WORLD IS WHAT YOU THINK IT IS

KALA – THERE ARE NO LIMITS

MAKIA – ENERGY FLOWS WHERE THE ATTENTION GOES

MANAWA – NOW IS THE MOMENT OF POWER

ALOHA – LOVE IS TO BE HAPPY WITH (something *or* someone)

MANA – ALL POWER COMES FROM WITHIN

PONO – EFFECTIVENESS IS THE MEASURE OF TRUTH

There are as many interpretations of those seven principles of Huna, as books have been written on Huna, but basically they all make sense and have one common motivation: show mankind how to live a life of bliss. Sometimes it even happens that people don't know that they are following and living by those seven principles. Maybe this is also the case with Barack Obama. People for more than 4.500 years didn't know they were following those principles as the word "Huna" didn't exist. They just knew that they were on the right track when things in their life worked out to their expectations and that they had to change something as soon as things didn't work out.

The differences between all these interpretations are based on the fact that everyone dealing with or investigating in the seven principles tries to use them in the direction he or she desires. But, as they are the basis

of life in Polynesia and possibly of all life there is, they can be used and also bent in every area of belief or direction of thinking. The diversity of these interpretations and their spiritual richness leads exactly to the

First Huna Principle: "The world is what you think it is!"

One of the most drastic interpretations of this principle was the statement of Dr. Henk Koning in the movie "Living Matrix – The New Science of Healing"- "If you think you have an incurable disease, if you think it yourself, you are right. If you think your problem is curable, then you are also right." (Dr. Koning, "The Living Matrix" (movie and trailer), 2009)

Isn't it exactly that way? We all have our own very individual picture of the world, which is "our" world, not the world as the person next to us sees it. This fact can be both a blessing or a curse for us. Blessing in so far that it is the basis for individualism. Individualism in arts, science, in expressing oneself, inspiring each other due to different views of the world and much more. It turns into a curse as soon as someone disagrees with the individual view we all have of "our" world. Or when someone starts to manipulate others into seeing the world as he or she sees it.

Accepting that the view of the world is something entirely individual and that no objective view of things exists, is the basis of peaceful coexistence. Sharing one's view of the world or of particular things, thus contributing to a large variety of different views, might lead to different aspects of solving all existing problems.

Barack Obama dedicates many pages, to be precise page 90 to 94, of his book "The Audacity of Hope", Chapter "Our Constitution" entirely to this first Huna principle although he doesn't mention it and maybe he wasn't even aware that he uses it. I will refer to that later in this book when I analyze Obama's speeches and books. Obama belongs to the small group of outstanding people over the centuries who do right by intuition and – as already mentioned – his Hawaiian heritage, of course, makes him right by following the Huna principles.

Not all problems can be solved in the same way. They concern different individuals, and, they have not only different views on the problem itself, but on its solution as well. An ancient Hawaiian proverb exists which is related to this first Huna principle: "A'īhr pau ka 'īke I ka ha Y lau hookah", meaning "All knowledge is not taught in one school" (Puku'I, Mary Kawena, "Ōlelo no'eau", 1983). This shows the advantage which America has in big parts of its dynamic educational system over the pretty static system we have in Europe. In America a child goes through many schools in his or her life until he or she finally finishes college or university. This is partly due to the different types and levels of schools and partly because Americans are used to relocating. Hardly any kid finishes school in the same place of starting.

I see it as the first and ultimate task of politicians and political leaders to guide mankind, not only their own constituents, into understanding this first principle of Huna by accepting other views, opinions and thought patterns. We all know, that there is not ONE God, not ONE religion, not ONE color men have, not ONE culture and of course not ONE political system that can be called ideal or the best. We know many names for God, many different religions, many colors we proudly show to the world, many cultures and cultural aspects and many different political systems. And, we know that there are millions of people, having chosen individual or common recognition of those different names, cultures and systems. And they are happy with it – or they can change it.

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3 Obama and the First Huna Principle „IKE“

THE WORLD IS WHAT YOU THINK IT IS

“Imagine standing in that person’s shoes. How would that make you feel?”

Stanley Ann Dunham, mother of Barack Obama

A quote from Barack Obama’s mother which she used in certain situations, as Obama tells us in “A Mother’s Promise”, a short autobiographical video: “...the only time I ever saw my mother really angry was when she saw cruelty, when she saw somebody being bullied or somebody being treated differently because of who they were. And if she saw me doing that she would be furious and she would say to me: “Imagine standing in that person’s shoes. How would that make you feel?”

Obama recalls this feeling much later when speaking to graduates of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia on May 19, 2013. “If you tap into that experience, it should endow you with empathy — the understanding of what it’s like to walk in somebody else’s shoes, to see through their eyes, to know what it’s like when you’re not born on 3rd base, thinking you hit a triple. It should give you the ability to connect. It should give you a sense of compassion and what it means to overcome barriers.” Isn’t this a perfect tribute to the words his mother used when Obama was a child? And shouldn’t this be an inspiration for all who hear or read these words?

In all the books I have read, I have been unable to find any mention of if, or why the Seven Huna Principles follow the sequence they do. But, I guess at least this first one – The world is what you think it is - stands at the top for a very good reason. It is the basis for all others and also basis for every sort of cooperation and co-living.

Taken the second principle, there ARE limits as soon as you do not grant others the right of free expression of opinion. In the third principle, energy would only flow where your own attention goes, if you deny others the same right. Now, as in the fourth principle, may be the moment of power, but only for yourself and not for others whose views of the world or whose opinions are not accepted. Is there any possibility of being happy with somebody, as the fifth principle, the principle of Aloha, teaches us, when we do not see the opinion or view of the other, a loved one, equal to our own? All power might come from within as in the sixth principle, but only from within ourselves and not from anyone else thus prohibiting this ever so exciting mixture of opinions and views that have fuelled evolution at every stage. And finally, effectiveness is the measure of truth but only if we let truth, relative truth, as absolute doesn’t exist, happen, if we try to understand other opinions and views, if we give them a try even though they might be different from our own.

In his book “The Audacity of Hope”, Barack Obama gives a perfect example when he elaborates on the American Constitution and how it came into being (pages 90 to 94). How many different views and opinions clashed in those days before the Constitution was finally written down and agreed on. If we had listened more carefully at school in our history lessons, we would know, that very often, Jefferson, Adams, Hamilton, Lincoln and Washington were of different opinions. They rarely shared the same one. But despite controversy, despite differences, they were able to comply intuitively with the First Huna Principle. And that is what marks great leaders, what marks great decisions, decisions of historical relevance and that’s also what marks Barack Obama. This common sense of decision-making, of accepting, of trying to understand others and mold an almost perfect solution containing a variety of views and opinions.