

## ***The Source of Life in Uganda***

Where did life on earth begin? I searched for the origin and I found it. In *Uganda*.

Uganda still has that original quality. It is an almost untouched land, with craters from ancient volcanoes, wild animals roaming about the nature as always and some Homo sapiens maintaining an ancient life style without electricity, running water or processed food. They simply live from what they grow. And plants are plenty everywhere. Thus, all seems untouched by modern civilization.

Even the sky and the weather look more natural than in the western world. When it rains, the water pours down and in such an unprotected world, the forces of nature is surely dominating life. It is as if the sky talks to the earth loud and clear, creating a kind of religious drama. As water springs out from the earth in waterfalls and from rivers, life is created and recreated all the time. The clouds touch the earth and our souls, light from above meet the mountains and the forests and the open lands. The heat of the sun becomes a contrast to the complete darkness of the night. But then, at night, you can almost touch the sky.

In such wilderness, human being appear tiny, but not at all powerless because in a strange way, their very survival is life affirming. Even starvation and death becomes life affirming in such a magnificent place because it is all a part of nature in itself - 'sua sponte'. Surely, this comes as close as possible to the original source of life as we know it. Colors are more vivid here, and the birds and the bees seem more fertile, liberated and happy than anywhere else. As a result, our dreams also become dominated by the symbolism of wild life and forces of nature. Was this how the Garden of Eden looked?



*Rwenzori Mountains*

Children in their millions populate these regions; they are born en masse, babies walk naked in their small huts but cannot see any plastic toys. Young students walk barefoot to school and seem to dance along the unpaved roads, happy to have somewhere to study. And then we see a monkey family jumping across the way looking for food, reminding us of our ancestry. We are not so different - not at all, as we see the troops of animal species protecting and taking care of one another. The fertile soil gives new life and coffee beans lying to dry; and tea and bananas grow on the hills. People gather in churches to thank the Lord for what they have received. Yes, there is also disease. All kinds of bacteria thrive in this surrounding, most recently including the lethal Ebola and Warburg virus. But men and women continue shaking hands with one another, not once, but 3 times as if they were smearing one another with all their bacteria when acknowledge the existence of one another. When talking, their words for feelings come from their hearts rather than from their minds. Is this primitive or primal or perhaps just natural? I don't know. But it's surely different from what we are used to.

People in Uganda yearn for stability after all years of social upheaval and fighting. But one can still feel an abundance of energy coming simply from nature and the basic struggle to survive. Uganda represents a unique kind of originality, novelty, uniqueness and freshness. Here, we find the spring and fountain from which the universal river – the Nile – emanates and they say that it's the place where the world came into being and from which it has been developing ever since. The search for the source of the Nile thus becomes the search for the source of humankind and the lifeline of civilization since the Stone Age.