



From My Hilltop

A Living History of South Africa

(As narrated by Professor A. Marula - an old tree)

By

Stan Daneman

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Dedication

Dedicated to my wife and daughters

Anita, Taryn and Lauren

With all my love

What the reviews said

"Simply outstanding. A great read!"

John H , Sydney, Australia

"I learned more about South Africa by reading your book than ever before. An excellent historical reading experience."

George C , Toronto, Canada

"Looking forward to reading your book when it comes out (having had a "sneak preview" already, I know that it will be good)"

Tannis S, Manitoba , Canada.

"A compassionate read. The Professor is indeed an Elder Statesman in the country"

Margaret H, Gauteng, South Africa.

"As someone whose connections with South Africa - up to now at least – have been vicarious, via sport (mostly cricket and rugby), Stan Daneman's e-book on the history of Southern Africa is eye-opening.

Told via the appealing metaphor of a personified marula tree ('someone with long established roots in South Africa'), the work concentrates on the history of southern Africa from the coming of the Europeans – or, in the language of the first European (Dutch) settlers, 'Uitlanders'. It was they who, after many millennia, set in motion the events that brought radical and rapid change to the land.

This history is told – as befits a personified tree - from a romantic rather than a clinical, academic point of view. Using the skills of a poet, Stan Daneman informs and illumines via the engaging the reader’s imagination.

Serious students of history may find this narrative style insufficiently academically rigorous but those like me, whose knowledge of South African history is, at best, sketchy, should find this an excellent introduction not just to facts but to feelings. In this e-book, Stan Daneman gets behind the undisputed incidents to explore the culture that made, and was made by, them.”

Bob Little, writer, author and broadcaster.

Professor Marula's story

From my hilltop I have looked down on the living history of South Africa. From my early days understanding the Rules of the Southern African plains I realized just how much I loved the country and its peoples. We lived in a magnificent world – each species knowing their role in the circle of life in Africa. As I aged and became a professor I enjoyed meeting the leaders of the species and discussing the changes that were taking place in South Africa.

I prepared lessons on the changing landscape in South Africa and I am privileged to share these with you in the book. I do so love the country and even if I say so myself I am a student of nature, of politics and of human development.

Over the years I have stored vast amounts of documents in my trucks – interviews with political figures and tribal leaders. In my latter years I enjoyed meeting with both black and white leaders in South Africa. Sharing our thoughts on the developments in the country made me feel as if I was given the status of an Elder Statesman. My story covers what I have seen from my hilltop over a span of approximately 500 years – a very long time. The development and sustainability of the country rests with the youth and the leaders of tomorrow. My story gives hope that the “tomorrow” will include a place for everyone in a dynamic, honest, healthy and vibrant country.

I do hope that you enjoy my story. Please feel free to contact me at my email address.

Kind Regards,
Professor A. Marula, (Sclerocarya Birrea)
profmarula@hotmail.com

My story is published as an ebook as we did not want to use trees in the production process – that would be like using members of my family as paper!

About the author



Stan Daneman was born in South Africa in 1952. He was educated at Springs Boys' High School, in Gauteng. He is a graduate of the University of South Africa, obtaining B.Com (Accounting) and post graduate Hon.B.Com (Business Economics) degrees. He also holds a Diploma in Organization and Methods.

His career as a Management Consultant was in industry and with professional firms. His main area of interest was Business and Information Systems planning. He held Director of Education and Certification Programs positions with global software organizations. He developed a keen interest in measuring the impact of learning on business performance,

He is a Past President of the Institute of Management Consultants of South Africa and was awarded Fellowship of that body.

In 2009 he published a book “Positioning and measuring learning in an organization”.

Mr. Daneman has also published three books of poetry. He takes great delight in reading his poems at various functions.

He was Manager of the South African National Volleyball team on two occasions. (1979 and 1982).

Mr. Daneman has a great compassion for South Africa, its culture and its peoples.

In his own words, “I had a long-time yearning to write something about South Africa. Why I finally decided to take on the persona of a marula tree for my story of South African history is maybe even a mystery to me. Once I commenced my research I found that I had embarked on a wonderful journey. The objective of the book is not to be a detailed year-by-year account of the historical events in the country but rather to present a view of the changes in the country over time – a view from Professor Marula’s hilltop and the hope for the realization of a sustainable future”.

Stan Daneman lives in Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada, with his wife. He has two adult daughters.

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Prologue

Millennia ago the Earth's crust had pushed, cracked, and broken out and formed new shapes. Gigantic and majestic mountain ranges were formed, deep crevasses cut and filled with steamy muddy waters.

The earth hissed and boiled and cracked and cried out for a more docile life. The birth pain of the earth continued for tens of millions of years. The hostile environment forever changing, forever moving and shifting, almost unsure of what it wanted to become. Surely no tranquility could ever come from this spinning globe of volatile rock and moving earth and seas.

Over time however the earth began to control its temper, moderate its behaviour and begin to mature into the model lady of the skies. A global star among the stars, a beautiful sphere with boundless life, vigour and opportunity. A giver of life and a giver of changing life forms, animals, trees, plants and vegetation. It was during this period that my forefathers were born, most likely by cross-breeding and the need for adoption to their own needs and within their own environment.

Descendants from the original family looked quite different from what my parents looked like, and I indeed might look, feel and behave differently from my parents – but not by too much I hope! Many family traits and characteristics are very much the same today as centuries ago.

I am now getting old and have seen much change during my time. History is always being written – every day, every season, every year,