



Firstly, we must research, identify, revive and maintain the elements of our culture heritage and secondly pass on and flourish these cultural ties to the newer generation through our way of



life, our daily activities, principles and beliefs for our successors to engage with and continue to abide by. With a vast knowledge around the music, songs, dances and traditions of your ancestors your journey to promote the culture of

your people is only just beginning. Inside you the need to establish something more fulfilling towards you and your people intensifies so too does this obligation towards them for creating you, your inner-self, being a part of you, the person you are today, enriched in their culture. Even when they pass, this need to keep them alive depends on you, the way you live day by day, they live on too, through you. Their thoughts are your thoughts, you continue to express them and honour them. Keep them proud.

But that's not enough. In your efforts to want to keep them and your race alive you want the world to know about your people to learn about them. To experience the beauty, uniqueness and innocence of your cultural heritage that is constantly at threat of assimilation to social standards and alienations of your time. Withstanding time you must resist against the status quo, to save your people, the people that are coming, the people that are gone. With great pride and a sincere sense of responsibility you form a cultural body that will continue to express your people through all phases of life.

As you expand your involvement within your local community, the multi-cultural society you live in, with the Australian people at large you are distracted. You are not at ease. Suddenly a vision surpasses you like a dream, an ardent desire to widen your horizons and embrace all cultures regardless of belief, race or colour and share with them your experiences, the experiences of your people. To make them aware that there is an island called Crete it exists, it's where you are from, even though they may not have been there, that the people of Crete have a culture

that continues to live on unique and pure in this multi-cultural country you commonly live in.

In this attempt you are pleasantly surprised at the admiration and resonance of the various ethnic groups that are fascinated and enchanted by the music and dancing of your cultural heritage. How can you not keep going? What more do you need to keep the flame of your ancestors alight? So you keep going. Performance after performance and what you realise 20 years on is that the culture of your people is of another dynamic of another dimension that you had never imagined. It is being recognised and embraced by people that have no affiliations to Crete nor Greece. A sense of accomplishment outweighs every inch of your body. You are rewarded. But you are not content. A part of you is ashamed. Ashamed because a number of your people can not appreciate the essence of their own culture, their own being. They fight against it. Against you. Yet people of other cultures are enriched and mesmerised by it's beauty, it's purity, it's innocence.

With the passing of time you will have laid the foundations that will outlive your course.

Your attempt to preserve and pass on the culture of your people will be your ultimate legacy.

We all feel honoured and proud of our forefathers' successions, and promise to follow in their footsteps as best we can, with all the difficulties and hurdles that lie ahead of us, so they can remain "eternal" in loving memory, our people, with whom we have been blessed, they will always be by our side, continuing to reach out to us, speaking to us in our thoughts, inspiring our every step, our every breath, every day of our life...