

# *Karla Tallas*

## INTERVIEW

LIFE IS A JOURNEY  
AND THE JOURNEY IS THE DESTINATION



# JUAN BRAUN



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### ***AND THE JOURNEY IS THE DESTINATION***

Juan Braun was born as Jan Richard Braun on South Moravia in Brno. When he was four years old, his parents, his sister and he moved to Argentina. He graduated from three universities, including one of the most prestigious American universities in Stanford, California. He holds degrees as a journalist, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and an expert in social communication. He managed to get a post as a professor at Harvard, one of the world's most prestigious universities. Juan comes from a Catholic family, but this religious direction has not become essential to his life. Later he came to Buddhism, which most appealed to him as a philosophical direction. He traveled to 190 countries around the world, working in fifty of them, as well as cooperating with various humanitarian institutions. He started as a writer in Ecuador and is the author of over 30 novels available in Czech, English or Spanish. He is the author of books of fiction and political commentary on happenings in Latin America.

In the list of roles, Juan chose on his life journey, one is essential. In essence, Juan is an adventurer, and it would be hard for anyone in this life to make him permanently settle at one place. He did not anchor in marriage even though he married a beautiful and wealthy woman with whom he had started a family. He has two children with his ex-wife Estela – daughter Patricia and son Juan Ricardo. He constantly meets beautiful, interesting and very influential women, many of whom have become his temporary lovers and partners. But the only fixed star in his life is freedom. He would never change that for

anything else in this world. He learnt it is important to have money and support, but at the same time he understood that money is not the most important thing in life.

He has proven himself capable of success in various spheres, including the highest social strata. He was connected with the most powerful people, with whom he has maintained long-standing ties. Juan gained a lot of interesting experience through his life and happened to get many important positions, which for many would mean guarantees of certainty, an ordinary mortal would probably never give up. His adventurous nature and the desire to learn and try new things are driving him constantly further.

Juan Braun is proof that if life is not taken too seriously and is approached with ease, even the most demanding paths are easier to follow. His lifestyle and attitude also show that it is the choice of each of us who we become in life, and what role or even more we choose in life. He does not belong among the orthodox devotees and takes whatever appeals to him from every area of his life. Thanks to its openness, he also arouses controversial reactions, which he does not care about. Just as it is no problem for him to spread opinions that are essentially contradictory. He was able to connect two worlds that are diametrically different, and whose mutual existence is not realistic for many reasons. He was a part of the highest social strata and, at the same time, in the lowest. Juan Braun's story is varied, unusual and inspiring in many ways.





*Juan in the Dalai Lama's residence, McLeod Ganj, Dharamsala, India. The white scarf Juan is wearing, he got from his Holiness himself.*

# JUAN BRAUN

## INTERVIEW

### ***How had your family lived before you left the country and moved to Argentina?***

My mother invited a fortune teller to the hospital a few days after I was born. She predicted success in my life, and it really worked out. That's why I believe in these things. A fortune teller has been by my side since I was born. My parents were very successful at the time. My father was a graduate at the Brno University of Technology, where a lot of foreigners also studied. It was one of the best schools in Europe. My mother was a very beautiful woman. She was a photo model. Photographers were very interested in working with her, they liked taking pictures of her. My parents were very happy together. They owned an apartment in a beautiful location at Udolní Street in Brno (a very good address). The road to Spilberk Castle leads directly from there. A really beautiful place. I remember that too. They were both Catholics. At that time, my parents owned two or three cars. Dad also took pictures and made movies. I have an incredible collection of old photographs and movies from that time. Having a good quality camera or film camera at the time of the late 1940s and early 1950s meant you had a lot of money. At that time, I went to kindergarten. Already at that an early age, an adventurous spirit and a natural instinct awoke inside me. I just wanted to get lost and travel. My parents used to take me to the radio when they were doing interviews. I got lost from them once. I was about three years old. I didn't get lost because I didn't know where to go. I wanted to get lost. They'd

been looking for me all day. Brno is a small town, so they finally found me. I didn't cry at all. I remember playing on one square with other kids I met there.

### ***What was the main impulse for this courageous life change and why did your parents decide to move to a country as distant as Argentina?***

My parents decided to emigrate, we weren't expelled from our country. My dad strongly felt the communists would be powerful. He was a businessman and had a lot of ideas. He wanted to live freely so that no one could dictate to him what to do and how to behave. He knew that communism would not suit him. That was why my parents sold a lot of stuff, and we all went to Paris. From the Red Cross, we got passports and seats on a ship going from Marseille to Buenos Aires. Why Buenos Aires? Nobody knew, but they just sent us there. Dad had no idea what he was going to do there. The Red Cross had a ship called *Florida*. Thanks to them, many emigrants got there. And so, we were in Argentina in a month. There is one more story connected to this journey. Juan got lost again in Marseille. I was four years old at the time. There they searched for me for 24 hours. At that time, I was crying because I was taken by French policemen. I didn't want to stay at one place. I was looking for the hotel we lived in and I finally found it. I remembered it because it had an eagle in the coat of arms. It was unbelievable. I knew the place. My parents were, of course, mad and worried that someone might have killed me.





*Juan (15 years old) in Argentina*



*Juan (18 years old - on the right) in a primeval forest - Maggo Grissom, Brazil*

But suddenly I appeared. And then we headed to Argentina. I emphasize once again. It wasn't because of the money or because the parents were unhappy. Dad had great intuition, and I have it too. He suspected that the possibilities in the Czech Republic would close. It was a really brave step, because at that time there was no way back. It's different today. You can leave and go back by plane. There were no such opportunities in the 1950s. Once you decided to leave, there was no chance to go back.

***What were the beginnings in Argentina like, in a foreign country without family and friends and without sufficient language skills?***

You know, you have to be lucky enough in life. My Dad was very lucky. Then I was lucky too. My Dad had a diploma from the Technical University which, as I said, was a well-known university, and he spoke excellent German. The school still exists today. When we were in Argentina for about two years, they opened a German Volvo car factory there. They were looking for someone who could speak German and could understand all the information on how to put together machines and do pretty much everything. Dad was very skilled and not afraid. In Volvo, he gained a high position as the main manager and thanks to that, he had a very decent salary. This allowed us to live a decent life, and we did not have to beg. But the beginnings were very difficult. Dad had the money with which he bought the land. Our first house was wooden. Dad built it

himself. My mother was a housewife and took care of everything. About five years after our arrival, we could afford a beautiful house, which still stands there.

***Did you have the chance to connect with the Czech community in Argentina?***

Yes. Sokol worked there. I even danced there. My dancing partner was a beautiful Czech woman. We met once a month. We used to meet there as youth, but mainly our parents met there. We made friends there with other Czechoslovaks who lived there. That was fantastic. We did not lose contact with the Czechs, but my Dad did not want to return. *(The **Sokol** movement is a gymnastics organization for all ages, first founded in Prague in the Czech region. It was based upon the principle of "a strong mind in a strong body". Sokol, through lectures, discussions, and group outings provided physical, moral, and intellectual training for the nation. This training extended to men of all ages and social classes, and eventually to women.)*

***Did your parents ever visit the Czech Republic again after all those years?***

No, they didn't. Mom wanted to, but Dad didn't. When I came here years ago, I bought a house with a garden. I thought my parents would live there, but they didn't want to. Many emigrants took it the same way, anyway. If they decided to leave, it was clear that they would never return home. That was part of the times. Although my parents didn't return home



*Juan's beautiful mother Zdenka*



*Wedding photo of Juan's parents*

again, they never forgot where they came from, and they especially treasured their Moravian roots.

***During your studies in the USA, you met two of the key men of your life. Brazilian philosopher and educator, Paulo Freire and American communication theorist and sociologist, Everett Rogers. In what way did they influence you the most?***

There were many in my life, but those who helped me and opened my eyes the most were the two of them. Paulo Freire was important to me in terms of openness and showed me completely different ways of thinking and perceiving the world. He helped and looked after poor people in Brazil. There are still a lot of poor people living there. I came from a rich family. I had a wife who came from a very wealthy family, and there was actually nothing missing in my life. I lived in Buenos Aires in a prestigious place as for example Prague 1. Paulo helped me understand that the world is not just the way I live in Buenos Aires. He introduced me to the kind of poverty many people live in. At first, I couldn't even believe it. Paulo was imprisoned several times in Brazil because he showed dissatisfaction with the regime there. Everett Rogers opened my eyes in geography. He was a professor who worked in India or Nigeria. He had a very beautiful wife who came from India. He came from the United States, but by the time I met him, he was completely different. He had a lot of experience and often told me how it works in India

or Nigeria. For example, I also attended a seminary by a professor from Nigeria who spoke about poverty in Africa. Nobody talked about it before. In Argentina, nobody told me what poverty people live in, for example, in Africa. I learned all these things when I studied in the United States. I thought a lot about all of this and wondered what to do next. And then the first internal change began. Of course, I have changed many times throughout my life.

***You have been raised as a Catholic since your childhood, what was your journey from Catholic faith to Buddhism?***

Nothing is a coincidence. When I first came to India in 1999, I observed how different religious movements like Hinduism, Islam or Buddhism work there. I realized that Buddhism was not a religion, but a philosophy, and that suited me. I have a doctorate in philosophy and that is why it got me. They do not have one god as the Catholic Church does. Of course, they profess goddesses, but not one god who takes care of everything. That was the most important thing that attracted me to Buddhism. The second very important thing I learned in India was that, according to them, Jesus Christ was a Buddhist. I wrote about it in my book, which was published in Argentina. At first, I believed it, but later I began to doubt. There is one fact that no one knows exactly what Jesus did from his 13-14 years until he was 30 years old. It is a period of 15 years when no one knows what it was like. There is one theory that, as





*Juan's wedding with Estela (parents of the groom on the left, Juan and Zdenka, parents of the bride on the right, Cecilia and Fortunato)*



*Juan's kids: Patricia and Juan Ricardo in the Gandhi museum, Durban, South Africa.*

a very young man, he came to India and studied Buddhism and spent 15 years there. And what was Buddhism 2500 years ago? I read a lot of books about it. At that time, the Buddhist was not called a monk but a shaman. I combined it and I think Jesus Christ was also a shaman. He was a great shaman when you look at the miracles he did. And that is precisely why the Buddhists accepted him as their own. According to Buddhism, he did not die on the cross and escaped alive back to Kashmir in India. There is one small cemetery that is said to be where Jesus Christ is buried. No one can get there, but it is said that his body is there. Much has been written about it. I'm not the only one who is thinking about it. Buddhism is very strong. I have three Buddha statues at home and above them, hang a picture of Jesus Christ. I believe there's a connection. It appeals to me a lot that Buddhist monks are not materialistic. They don't have a palace like the Vatican. In India or Thailand, they get up at six in the morning and beg. If they don't get food or money at this hour, they have nothing to eat all day long. The only exception is the Dalai Lama. I was offended when I read that he was flying a private plane. That's not a nice thing to do. In 2011, I was in India and I saw on television how the police seized a lot of computers and hundreds of thousands of US dollars at the Dalai Lama's headquarters. The organization was taking dirty money from Taiwan. And that is why he had to abandon politics in 2011 and just be a spiritual leader. I was surprised when the Dalai Lama was in Prague talking about leaving

politics and none of the local journalists thought to ask why. So, these are two things that made the Dalai Lama fall in my eyes. I wrote about it in my book called "Illuminati". Then I sat at home wondering when the Dalai Lama had been on the street for the last time at six in the morning, as the original Buddha did. He gave up living in the palace and refused to be a prince. He kept one of his clothes and went to beg every day on the street. The Dalai Lama has not been doing this for years, so he has lost the right value for me. And that's why I like to go to Thailand, where the normal monks and high-ranking "rinpooches" walk on the street at five or six in the morning. It is an interesting contrast you may experience there, because at that time all drunken people from Europe are walking and looking for whores. Well, why they go with them is clear. They take advantage of their drunkenness and steal their money. This is incredible to watch. That would be a great inspiration for a movie.

#### ***How did you become a professor at Harvard?***

Argentina's arrogance grew in me. The people in Argentina are very arrogant. I felt like a world champion and I thought I could do everything. When I came from Argentina to the United States, I began to wonder what to do next. I wanted to study and travel. I knew that Harvard was the best university in the world, and that was why I, of course, wanted to go there. It was a challenge for me. I said to myself that if I am good enough for it, I would get there, anyway. Money was not



*Juan as a professor at Harvard  
with the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr Graham*



*Juan and former UNESCO director general, Amadou M. Bow at Harvard*

a problem. Because my wife's parents were very rich. We were supported, and that is very important. Life has taught me why it's important to have money. I understood why the door to Michigan State, Stamford or Harvard got opened for me. It happened mainly because my relatives and parents belonged to a group of VIP people and were very wealthy. This made my journey a lot easier and opened up various possibilities. If I belonged to a lower social class, I could forget it. Maybe it would last a year, but there would be no continuation beyond that. When I studied at Michigan State, I attended a two-month seminar in Ecuador. In Argentina, I had a tailor who custom-made suits of very expensive fabrics and wore expensive shoes. When I showed my Buenos Aires address that was something like Parizska Street in Prague, people immediately ranked me accordingly. Higher social status helped. For example, my wife and I were returning from Ecuador to Argentina via Peru and Bolivia, but I was already completely without money in Bolivia. We went to the Argentine Embassy, where I met the Ambassador. I told him about my situation and asked him to pay for my flight ticket to Argentina, and they did. And that is the point of high fam and marketing. But I didn't take it as marketing or a game, I naturally followed the way and went for it. Until today, I own the apartment in Buenos Aires, which I compare to Parizska Street in Prague, and I will never sell it. I tried to get to Harvard for seven years before I was finally good enough in their eyes

to offer me the post of professor there. I managed to get there, but, after some time, I needed to move on.

### ***What brought the professor from Harvard to shamanism?***

I got to shamanism already in Argentina. The local women were putting out cards or advising people on how to heal themselves if someone had a medical problem. My first contact with real shamans was in Rio de Janeiro. Again, nothing is a coincidence. When I was 18 or 19 years old, I went with a friend to Rio de Janeiro and was looking for a guesthouse. I asked one young boy if he couldn't help us. He looked at us and probably had confidence, because we did not look homeless, so he offered us accommodation at his home. The first fantastic thing was his beautiful house overlooking Rio. And the other fantastic thing was his beautiful sister, who was a model. One day, she invited us to a shamanic session to the Morro do Cielo in Niteroi. This is a rock, a few miles away from Rio, and it was the place where they regularly organized shamanic rituals. When someone needed something, the person asked the shamans, and they tried to help. They used rum and fire for rituals. At first, I saw it as a circus. It was my first contact, and I didn't really understand it. Only later, when I studied in the US and Africa, did I find that shamans are very important there. Later I was thinking about getting somewhere where voodoo and goddesses still exist. When I was in Paraguay, I had a friend who was on business in Haiti. Out of the blue, he





*Juan and his famous mentor Paolo Freire (from the right), his wife, and professor at Harvard, Noel McGuinn*



*Juan and actress Audrey Hepburn*

called me and told me they had one free place there and asked if I wanted to join them. And that's what's called networking. You won't get anywhere without contacts. I've been to Haiti for three months. There I met a great shaman, and he was convinced that I had the gift, too. And he took me under his protective wing. There were 15 foreigners, but he chose me. The Haiti experience was good, but I wanted to get to Africa. While working at Harvard, I once came for a visit to Moscow. I was there about three hours when my friend from UNICEF called me and offered me a job in Nairobi. I learned that some things do not need to be searched for. It is enough just to think that you want them, and they will happen. No need to push anything.

***What other subjects do shamans use for their work and who, for example, of important personalities have you managed to help?***

The shamans use many objects for their work. In Africa, for example, they use a lot of bones. The shaman, with the help of objects and bones, according to how they are spread out, will know what is happening in a person's life or is going to happen. Bones are not used in the Czech Republic, but I learned how to use them. Presidents Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro were very ill. The bones which are used to heal a serious illness are from very famous people. The most famous in Africa is Simon Bolivar. This is someone like the Czech Charles 4th. I called a friend in Africa who lives in Prague.

He's a prince, and I asked him to introduce me to the best African shaman. He introduced me to him. This shaman travels a lot to Paris. I decided to make a ritual of Simon Bolivar's bones and ashes for Chavez and Fidel Castro. I met people from the Venezuelan Embassy, but they thought I was crazy and didn't give me permission. They told me there were too many shamans trying to heal the president. I argued that neither of them was working with Bolivar's bones, and he later died. I found a way for President Fidel Castro to get the bone dust, and it helped because he was healthy. I even have the bones of an Inca prince over a thousand years old at home. If someone suffers from a serious illness such as cancer, I can give him some dust. I never know if it's the dust, Fate or the doctor in a hospital, but the person is suddenly healthy again.

***Shamanism, as well as other alternative curative treatments, is nowadays a trend to which many fraudsters stick. There are also different theories as to whether or not to pay for such services. How do people recognize a true shaman?***

A true shaman never takes money for his work, otherwise he loses his gift. I have a friend, she's a diplomat. She and her mother were sick. She has the money, and two women have abused it, depriving her of nearly two million Czech crowns. She went to the police, but there was nothing they could do because there was no evidence, and it was not legally stolen. A lot of people pretend to be





*Juan with children in Africa while working with UNICEF*



*Professor and Juan's mentor Everett Rogers with his Indian wife Rekha*

shamans to get rich. So, the only advice is to know that the shaman does not take money. They take rum, for example, because they need it for spiritual work. I'll tell you one story. I went to visit one of my friends at the Cuban embassy. He had six bottles of very expensive Cuban rum. I wanted him to give me one for my sessions, and he said it wouldn't work because they would go to the raffle the next week. The Cuban restaurant Bodeguita in Prague held a big celebration and the first prize was two bottles of rum. It was really expensive rum. I was there and I bought a raffle ticket. I had number 66. Suddenly, they announced the first prize, and I heard my number 66. So, I finally got what I wanted a week before. I did not want it for myself, but for souls for whom I do shamanic rituals. Even my friend couldn't believe I was the one who won them.

***You claim to be a Buddhist, while practicing voodoo that can be used both positively and negatively. Do they not contradict the practice of ritual to hurt someone with Buddhism and the laws of karma?***

Contradictory, but I have no problem with it (laughs). Especially not when I'm angry. Yes, Buddhism directly says, „don't be angry“. Juan is a man who does a lot of things (laughs).

***You talk a lot about it not being good to manipulate situations, and then I see you on TV talking about the ritual you are doing to get you, or someone else, the woman you or other person long for. Isn't***

***that manipulation when you force a situation to get someone this way?***

(laughs) That's a good question. And what shall I do when I am in love with her and looking into her eyes, caress her and nothing happens, she doesn't want me? (laughs). So, I use a little charm to put a lion's tail whisker into the drink, and it often works. When I talked about it on television, young boys often stopped me on the street and asked me to give them the whisker (laughs). Shamans work a lot with love. There are a lot of men and women who love someone, and the other side doesn't seem interested. That can help a situation a bit (laughs).

***And how about if the two are not meant to be together?***

It won't happen, anyway or they will fall apart. I admit that I haven't practiced this for a long time now, and I'm still lucky with women (laughs).

***What can we imagine behind your meeting with Zombie, what kind of encounter was it?***

It is simple. In Haiti and also in some African countries, there are tribes, who believe that we have two souls and when you die, one soul leaves and the other remains. The shaman can then evoke a body that has the other soul. The soul is very important. In Europe, they do not believe much about the existence of the soul, but it is not true. We have a soul. I was in Iran a few years ago. In the National Museum, there is a huge beautiful





*Juan with former president of Ecuador, Rosalia Arteaga*



*Juan with former president of Ecuador, Rosalia Arteaga, Czech Republic*

statue of the famous King Darius. But the statue is headless. I asked the curator if the head wasn't there because it was needed in a museum in another country. She told me no. If someone cuts off your head in an Arab or Persian country, it means your soul is leaving. The head is connected to the soul. It is interesting, and supposedly terrorists, when they kill people and cut off their heads, it is related to this belief.

***Along with another 80 million people, you participated in a purification ritual in the Ganges, India. An experience that very few white people really have, and that most people would not go to, especially for hygienic reasons. What motivated you to go into it and what was the experience for you like?***

My friend bought me a train ticket, so I decided to go for it. Then I had to walk ten kilometers by foot. There are no toilets. People do a biggie and urination there everywhere. People consider the Ganges River and the Jamuna River sacred. If they enter one of them for a cleansing ritual, they believe they will no longer incarnate in the form of animals or plants. They believe that they will only incarnate as human beings until they cleanse all their sins and that then they will go to Nirvana. It is also said that thousands of gurus and saints enter both rivers several times a year to cleanse themselves from as much dirt as possible, and not to stink so much. I was terribly cold, but it was a very important thing to me that I will never forget.

***You served as an envoy to Haiti and Paraguay and also worked for UNICEF. What exactly was your work about?***

I have worked with many humanitarian institutions. I tried to help mainly poor people even in Africa. Vaccination was organized through UNICEF three or four times a year for women with children. We have built toilets in many villages in Africa. There is a big deal with it because they aren't there. In Paraguay, we have taught people to understand that they cannot eat and give bad food to children and that they have to cook before it is served. Or that they should not drink unboiled water that is not drinkable there. My main job was to communicate with the mass media and disseminate all this information.

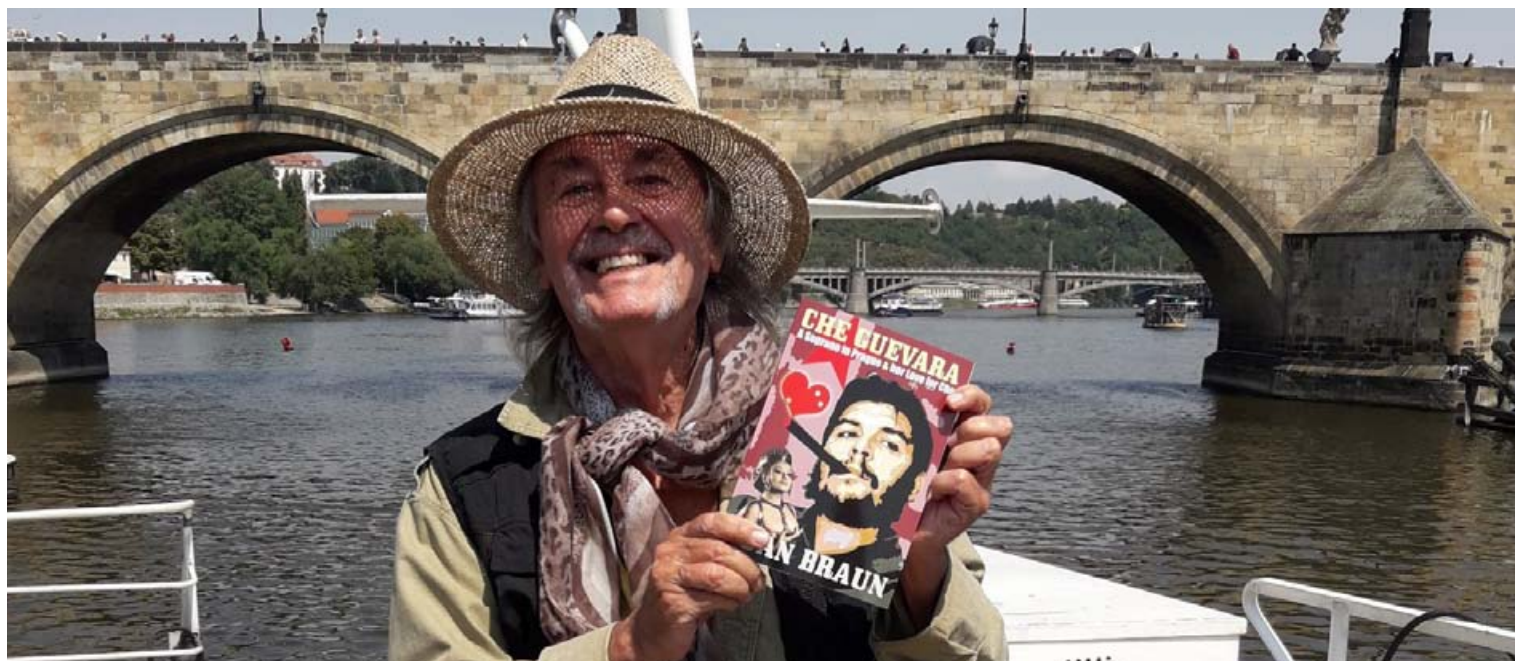
***Humanitarian aid is also often misused, is there something that made you disappointed this way?***

UNICEF disappointed me because they don't do what they say. It's all mainly about money. That's the only thing that disappointed me.

***You have met many influential politicians and well-known icons from the world of show business. Which of these meetings are the most exceptional for you?***

The greatest pleasure for me was when I met actress Audrey Hepburn. She was also an ambassador for UNICEF. I met her in Ecuador at a party. Suddenly she came there. She was dressed in a short mini dress and had a lot of curly hair.





*Juan holding one of his books he wrote in English at Charles Bridge, Prague*

It was absolutely fantastic. She was there with her partner. We started talking, and I felt a huge connection with her. Another famous woman I met was the former president of Ecuador, Rosalia Arteaga. She invited me to the Presidential Palace once for breakfast. She was even in Prague a few times when she was no longer president. I met a lot of famous actresses. Actresses have one problem. They are very emotional and are looking for someone to protect them. They are often very weak personalities. I have met a lot of people who, like me, were born in the former Czechoslovakia and made a career abroad. I am extremely grateful for the meeting with director Milos Forman, who lived in the USA but often traveled to the Czech Republic. He was a fantastic person and never forgot his origins. He was shuttling between the Czech Republic and America, and he liked it. I offered him the opportunity to film one of my novels, but he told me he didn't want to do anything anymore. By that time, he was sick and didn't feel well. I consider Milos Forman the greatest personality coming from Czechoslovakia and it was a great honor for me to meet him. Another outstanding personality for me is the world-famous fashion designer, Blanka Matragi. She recognizes the same values as Milos Forman, and although she lives in Beirut, she does not forget her roots either. She travels to Bohemia almost every two months and has a lot of activities there. We are friends, and I really appreciate her.

I also met our former president Vaclav Havel. When I returned to the Czech Republic from Harvard, I wanted to get into higher society. President Havel was a strong intellectual and we understood each other. We discussed a lot of things together, and I disagreed with him in a lot of things. But he accepted healthy criticism without any problems. And that's the way it should be.

***You have written a lot of books and two books on Evita Peron, which are quite controversial. You say cancer was not the cause of her death, but she was murdered. How did you come up with this information?***

They say I'm a good detective. I learned a lot about her thanks to one of her important assistants. It wasn't that she gave me the whole story. I always observe and listen carefully and then put together all the information I get. It is enough to hear two to three sentences, and I ask or search for more information. The first book is about the Italian mafia Cosa-Nostra, who gave the order to kill Evita Peron in Rome. In the end, they did not kill her but shot her. No one knew where she was for another 28 days. Then I learned she was in hospital. In Argentina, this information was kept secret. There are 2.5 million Italians living there, and if it were said Evita Peron was killed in Italy, the Argentines would have killed a million Italians in revenge. Her cancer was artificially caused. I even tried to find out with a few doctors I know well whether this was possible in the





*Juan with former president of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel*



*Juan with famous director Milos Forman*



*Juan giving his book "Illuminati" to the most famous Czech star Karel Gott who was very interested in the topic*



*Juan with the most famous Czech fashion designer, Blanka Matragi*

late 1940s and early 1950s, and they confirmed it was, and even told me how.

***You have traveled in 190 countries. What is the most valuable piece of knowledge for you from your travels?***

That I managed to realize everything I wanted and most importantly, that I survived it all. Sometimes it wasn't easy. There were times when it was bad enough with my health. I also got into many dangerous situations while traveling. Several of my friends were killed while being on their business trips

in Africa. In Argentina, my assistant was murdered together with her husband during the military attack. You wonder why my friend and not me, or why my assistant and not me. For some reason, I was allowed to survive and return. I believe I have a higher protection.

***Is there anything else you wish to achieve in your life, do you have any other goals?***

I'm still following something. I travel constantly and still want to write. I'm looking for what I haven't done yet and what else I could try.





*Juan with Chinese dancers*

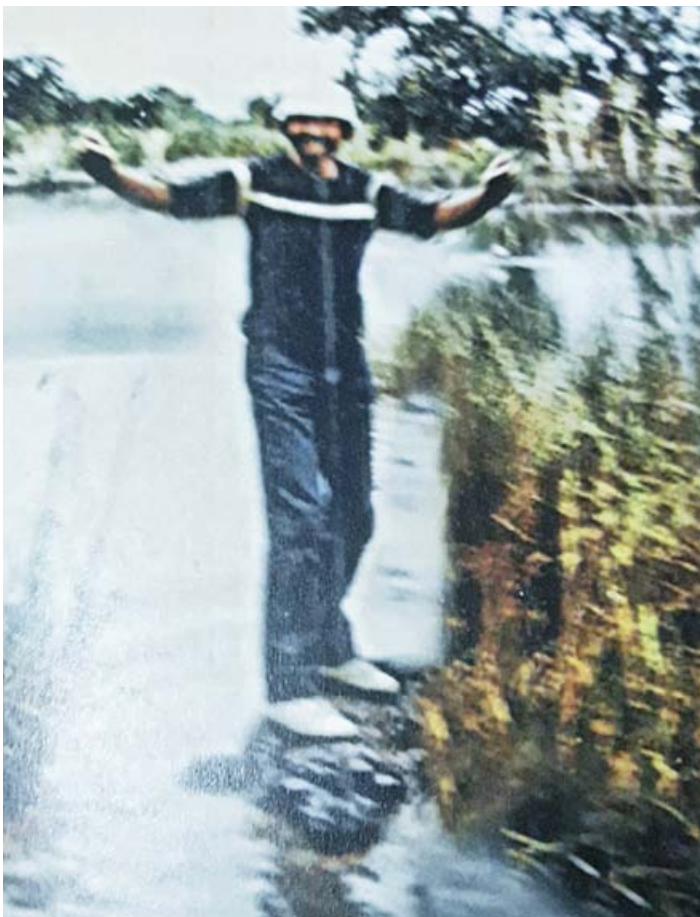


*Juan in the choir that sang to Sai Baba at the Puttaparthi Ashram in India*

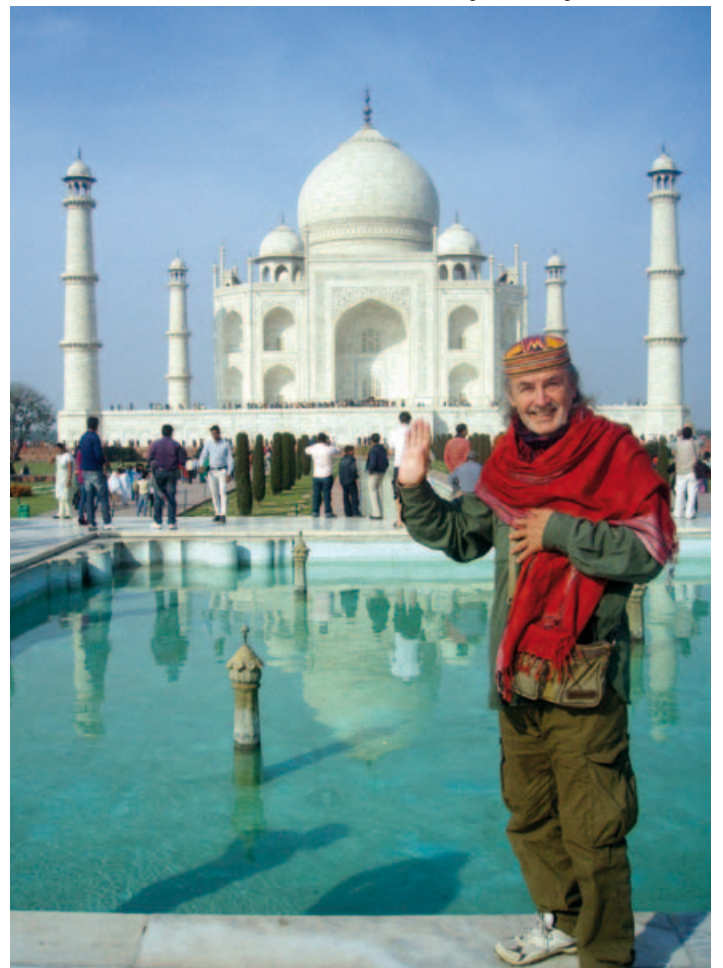




*Juan by the Ganges River, India*



*Juan in the Saint Crocodile Pond near Ouagadougou  
(There is a legend telling that if the one jumps on a crocodile, the person  
will be protected for the rest of its life. Juan stood for 5 seconds).*



*Juan by the Taj Mahal, India*



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