

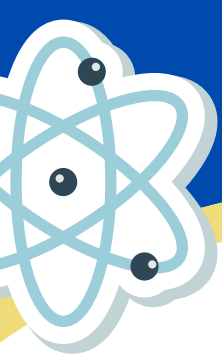

Academy of Language Studies
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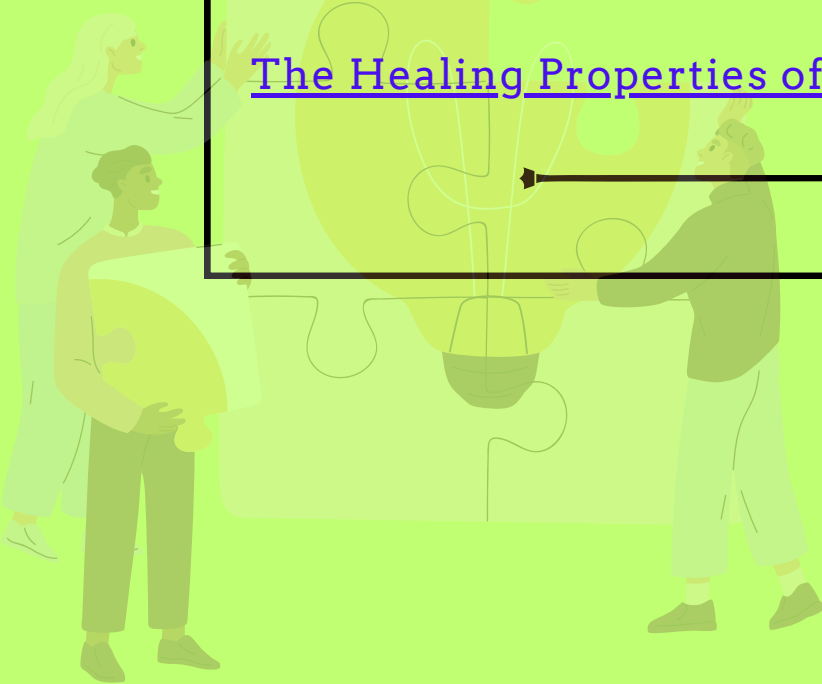
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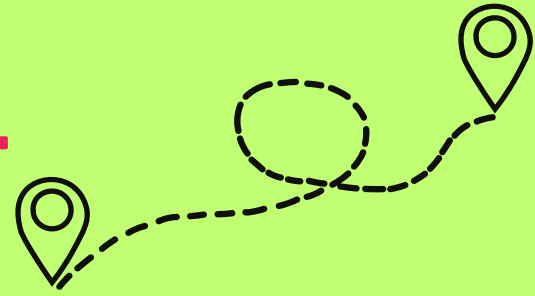


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LAST CHRISTMAS...

By Dr Nur Ilianis Adnan



Embarking on my journey through Garmisch, Munich, and Innsbruck offered me a profound insight into the rich tapestry of European culture. As an Asian girl, living in the tropical country all my life, exploring these magnificent cities, I was struck by the juxtaposition of tradition and modernity, and how each locale contributed uniquely to the mosaic of European identity.



All praise to The One who has permitted all these things to happen. Alhamdulillah, my winter tradition in Germany continues. My sixth time and still counting. This year, I realised that as I age, I don't appreciate shopping around for materials. I treasure the good feelings of sipping hot kinder punch when it's cold outside at the Christmas market, indulging hot choc on the mountain, sitting at the balcony drinking black coffee with some Christmas cookies, eating Apfel kuchen and chocolate pudding for breakfast, layering myself and taking a night stroll alone around the city while listening to my lagu wajib "Mencari cinta sejati" by Chakra Khan and "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran. As I was

writing this, I asked my best friend, "What else do I need to add?". She replied, "I rasa you dah dapat segala-galanya yang you nak because Garmisch dah melengkapkan segalanya". I am touched and couldn't thank HIM enough 🧠 My favourite line is "Ask and you shall receive."❤️

Keeping this entry for my memory. My trip to Germany, my second home (GM2H) this time makes me feel a lot at 'home' for some reasons. As always, there is no explanation. Big thanks to my German language teacher, Annette. I'm not fluent enough to 'membawang', but at least, good enough to survive and make little conversations. Managed to also help one stranger from India to order her food in Deutsch. Got all the things that I wanted, alhamdulillah except for Reibekuchen.



My journey culminated in Innsbruck; a picturesque city nestled in the heart of the Austrian Alps. Here, against the backdrop of snow-capped peaks and Baroque architecture, I encountered a fusion of Austrian charm and Alpine serenity.



Standing at the summit of Zugspitze, Germany's highest peak, I was humbled by the majesty of nature and the boundless beauty of the Alpine landscape. Trips to Alps can never go wrong. Oppss I take that back, unless if there's a blizzard, then yes, so wrong! You might regret going up there..lol..Watching the sunlight cast a golden glow over the snow-capped mountains, I felt a profound sense of connection to the world around me, igniting a spark of creativity within my soul.



Moreover, my journey through Garmisch, Munich, and Innsbruck has deepened my understanding of cultural diversity and the importance of cross-cultural dialogue. By embracing the rich tapestry of European culture, I hope to bridge the gap between East and West, inviting my fellow friends to embark on their own journey of discovery and enlightenment.

In conclusion, my trip to GM2H has been a transformative odyssey, enriching my understanding of European culture and inspiring me to embrace the beauty of the world around me. Subhanallah. As I return home to this microwave..I mean, Asia (just kidding), I carry with me not only memories of breathtaking landscapes and historic landmarks but a renewed sense of creativity and purpose.

