

WORK GROUP ON ORGANISATION

Initial Core Group

Addendum 2: Testing on Organisation

April 2011

The Proposal and Issues documents touched on the question of testing in organisational matters, eg.

- What do we mean by consensus? Which role does testing have in our decision process?
- Finding a better balance between professional aspects and testing in decision making.
- Appointing of officers: Testing of suitable candidates, sharing test results with the delegates at Congress.
- The balance — in organisational matters — between using the heart & mind on the one hand, and receiving & testing on the other hand.

We felt that including testing on the nature of Subud organisation would be helpful, and provide some of that “better balance.... between using the heart & mind on the one hand, and receiving & testing on the other hand.”

As always with tests the following describes personal experiences of those present and is by no means meant as a guide or direction. What follows are the results of testing done about Organisation and Subud at various times where at least one of us was present, which we felt could be of interest in the context of a discussion on Subud Organisation.

Testing done on International Organisation by members of the Initial Core Group

1. What is the value of the present international organisation for the development of Subud?
2. What quality should the international organisation of Subud have as willed by God?
3. If the international organisation would have the quality as we just received, what would be the effect on the development of Subud?
4. If the international organisation would have the quality as we just received, what would be the effect on the individual Subud member?

In short: A remarkable difference! If people test such questions it may become quite obvious that there is space for improvement, i.e. good reason to work towards improvement.

1. The present organisation doesn't seem to achieve much.
2. As it should be: Very wide, creating a wide positive space.
3. Effect: Allowing the power to flow, opening the valves.
4. Individual member: We were surprised, it really seems important for every member. I personally felt strongly touched / penetrated in my whole body.

Testing done on Local Organisation by members of the Initial Core Group

(This testing was done in a small group which has about 15 members)

We did recently in our group with a few men some testing on helpers and committee, basically because we have neither. There is not a functioning helpers group and a minimum of committee work is shared between some members, but without a chair or even a coordinator.

We tested on how it is for a group to have a well functioning helpers group and same for committee.

The helpers widened the channel and the committee provided the basis for the group: it made it stand firmly on the ground.

Then we tested how a group functions with helpers, but without committee and vice versa.

It was very clear that a group with functioning helpers was doing ok spiritually but kind of loose, no strength. On the other hand a group with a committee but without functioning helpers made no sense, it felt robust but without content.

Finally we tested how it would be for a group with both a well functioning helpers group and a committee (to make us feel good) and that was basically the best way a Subud group could operate: strong and light.

So, it is even important for a relatively small group.

Testing done on Organisation by members of the national committee and national helpers in South Africa

(Testing was done as part of two national committee / national helpers meetings, to try and get better insight into organisation in the Subud environment. The following was presented to the Workgroup on Organisation in Christchurch, and included here because of the positive response it received.)

Saturday May 13, 2000

Q: What is the value of organisation for the members of Subud.

R: The receiving for this question came in two different ways. Two of us simply felt that having an organisation was of very great importance. Although the question was posed and understood in a general way, the other two actually received the value of the organisation – as it is now – for the members, or rather the lack of value. We can try and express the feeling like this: Today it is a great struggle to maintain one's life and existence, especially if you are trying to free yourself from the conditions of this world and reach for something higher. In this struggle the Subud organisation as it is now has almost no value; each member has to struggle alone and fight their own battles, and they get no support through the organisation. We felt the hardship and loneliness of this struggle.

Q: What is the value of organisation for the development of Subud.

R: It is very great. While the spiritual is number one, the most important, the organisation is almost as important. One cannot exist without the other. The organisation in a way has to do with organising the spiritual, although of course one cannot organise the spiritual; it is like working from a very high source, almost working hand in hand with angels. Very positive. The 'other' two received the counterpart of their receiving for the first question: The organisation brings the members together, and in this togetherness is a very high and noble purpose, very different than when each member struggles alone. It was difficult for all of us to put what we felt into words, except that the real purpose of organisation in Subud is very high and noble.

Q: What is the value of the organisation of Subud SA as it is now for the members of Subud SA.

R: It is not valuable. It is a real burden for the members, a yoke or a weight on their shoulders, one that they accept only with the greatest reluctance, and would rather shake off and throw away if they could. It is a flag hanging at half-mast, and members are going around in circles – their own circles.

Q: What could the value of the organisation be for Subud SA if it is functioning as it should.

R: We had some difficulties with this question, because it had not been written down clearly, and we had three 'tries' before we got it right. The final receiving felt very different from the previous question, not Wow! but positive, everything in its right place and going on; a sense of goodness, satisfaction, rightness, fitness.

Everyone felt really satisfied with this testing. As time was running out, we decided to call a halt and continue the testing at our next meeting. The meeting closed at 17:55.

Saturday June 17, 2000

The questions elicited discussion — as some people were not at the first session, and felt that the questions did not make sense, or did not require testing. By agreement we decided to try it and managed to test the first three questions. The men were a bit lost, as the receiving was generally so vast that it was difficult to encompass, understand and put it into words. It was as if the men felt themselves in a vast and daunting space, and the ladies felt the content for filling and dealing with that space.

Men

Q: Why is organisation necessary in Subud.

- 1: To create a progress, a going forward. To create an all-encompassing openness and wideness for Subud to progress, to make it easier. It is what makes it possible for Subud to go forward.
- 2: Laughing at first, very relaxing, not to make it too complicated, just surrender. We can think about a lot of things, but just to give it up a little, to have faith. It is important, but not so super important, don't think too much about it, we have the latihan, that is important.
- 3: It was too big, I could not get around it; as if we need to break the question down into a hundred. The universe is very, very big, even the physical universe, and created by God, it is God's work. Organisation (real organisation) in this world and in Subud is part of that process, part of the natural order of the universe, in keeping with and in harmony with God's Great Work. I wanted to start weeping and crying.
- 4: It was so big that it is difficult to put into words.
- 5: Huge, almost a picture, so immense, huge, huge, holding up the whole world, holding up Subud in the world, holding up the world of Subud, and itself being held up by something.

Q: What is the nature of organisation needed by Subud in SA

- 1: It felt heavy and narrow to start with, but it didn't go very wide as I expected. Instead it became very structured, very focussed, and grew in that way, becoming more structured and more active and going on and on in a very structured, very, very organised way.
- 2: Also big, difficult to put into words. I was praying & by praying I received a very strong feeling, just to give it over, or to be sincere, or to be really fulfilled of the latihan. There was this connection with something higher, it is not so much our work, we need to be connected upward with this power, to find the direction from that source.
- 3: A continuation of the first receiving, vast and difficult to understand and put into words. Organisation is God's work, part of this very great process. We have not really been a part of this process in this world, we have been more like an obstacle, squandering our situation.
- 4: A heavy feeling, not very positive, as if something is dragging me down.
- 5: It is the thing which supports Subud, like hands holding and supporting it and carrying it forward, like a vehicle through which it can move forward.

Ladies**Q: Why is organisation necessary in Subud.**

For the growth of Subud. I felt my chest going out, powerful, my feet stamping; felt order, and a song: “Bless this house...” To provide that place where you can put into effect the results of the latihan, the means whereby you can put into effect also those things. It is for protecting the latihan and making possible the worship of God. To protect the latihan so that people don’t go astray, so that people worship only God and receive guidance from Him alone. People follow the latihan and go off or drift off in a different direction. For the protection of the latihan from misuse, from going haywire; people will be misusing it or using it in a negative way or other ways, if the organisation is not looking after them. It felt like a child would feel in the home of their parents, a safe haven, somewhere to turn.

Q: What is the nature of organisation needed by Subud in SA

The nature of the organisation of Subud should be to bring understanding to mankind. To provide the necessary means, be it material, to the members, or in the form of culture. To follow on in the direction or guidance or work of God, Who is always going forward, so that we don’t get left behind.