

What is True Culture?

There still seems to be confusion about what SICA-USA and true culture is. To begin with, true culture comes from the reawakening of the human soul, which we experience when we are opened in Subud. After a period of purification, we begin to experience human movements and actions in the latihan. We walk, we talk, we sing, we dance, etc.. We have made all these movements before. Why are we being made to make them again? We are being taught the difference between, I move from my own will and I am being made to move by the will of the human soul, which is guided and protected by the power of God. We are learning to live in accordance with the will of God.

The next question is, what am I supposed to do with these movements? Do I just make them in the latihan, every Monday and Thursday, or is there something else that I am supposed to do with them? The answer is that we are supposed to put them into our daily life and activities. We must find the way to integrate them into all of our daily activities. We must make a conscious effort to remember God in all of our actions. Why is this important? Because if we don't remember God, then maybe God won't remember us. It's like God gives us a fountain pen, but we never write anything. What then is the use of the pen?

As time goes on, we might receive specific talents, such as singing, dancing, painting, acting, etc.. What is the use of these talents? No different from the original movements that we have already received. We must put those into our daily activities also. So true culture actually begins from the moment we are made to make any human movements and activities. These are the fruits of the latihan. This is the example that we must show to mankind, in general. This is the way that Subud will grow. By showing those who are not in Subud, the results of the latihan.

So it is not necessary to be a musician or artist, etc., in order to show the results of the latihan to mankind. By taking the fruits of the latihan and putting them into our daily lives, we are already setting an example for those who are not in Subud. If we are a teacher, or work in an office, we can still be an example of Subud. Even if we are doing work that we learned before we were opened, we can still incorporate the movements and the feeling of the latihan into our work. We can still be an example

for others. When Bapak first received the latihan, he found that when he did his prayers, it was very easy for him to feel the latihan. But when he was at work, it was much more difficult to feel the latihan. So Bapak said that he had to make much more of an effort to feel the latihan. So if Bapak had to make an effort, how much more do we have to make an effort?

The result of this effort can be that we will feel that we are worshipping God in all of our actions and activities. It should not make any difference if others are aware of our experience, or not. What is important is that we are aware of it. The rest or the result is then up to God. We should not be concerned about it. We have already been graced by God and we should just be grateful for that. We are witnesses to God's plan for mankind at this time. We need only to pay attention to how God guides us and to put it into practice in our lives. The rest is up to God.

So what does SICA-USA have to do with all this? Well we are an organization, or a Wing of Subud USA. Our mission is to support the members of Subud USA to bring the culture of the latihan to mankind, in general. So if you have a talent or an activity that needs to be developed, or is ready to share with the general public, we are here to support your effort. It could be through a grant of money, or any other kind of help and support. The main thing is that it is guided by the power of God through the latihan of Subud. That is the role of SICA-USA.

If there is anything I've said that is out of place, or offends you in any way, please forgive me. That is not my intention. May Almighty God continue to bless us all.
Amin

Muhammad Isman Kanafsky

SICA-USA Chair