

# **VISIT TO AUSTRIA FOR KEDJIWAAN DAYS**

**By the International Helpers:  
Andrew Holloway, Hamidah Jelman and Farah Czwiertnia**

**30 January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009**

After landing early morning in Vienna Andrew and Hamidah were warmly welcomed by Farah, who introduced us to the beautiful heart of the town where we enjoyed staying a while in one of the famous café.

Farah was our perfect hostess. She received us in her nice old chalet in the middle of the forest covered with snow in the village of Kotingbrunn. Her husband Hassan offered us his precious welcoming presence.

Farah planned our meetings so that things would be well organised and easy. She offered all the help possible with so much tact and kindness! Indeed all went very well thanks to the confidence that the helpers and members have for her.

In the afternoon of Friday we met with six out of the seven Austrian national helpers. Andrew encouraged them to talk openly and honestly He emphasised the necessity of being harmonious in the dewan, whose conditions imply, give and take; inevitably having to let go of personal opinions; recognising our mistakes and forgiving those of others. It is really necessary that Subud people are able to do this in a time when the world is in such a bad state!

Followed latihan and tests about the needs of Subud Austria, How we perform our duty at this time and how should we? The quality of our latihan. What have we to let go? What is the state of our heart when we don't forgive or when we forgive? What are the consequences on our lives, etc...and personal test at the end.

On Saturday, we went to the Subud house in Vienna, a comfortable and spacious place rented by the group for many years. The programme was to have a latihan and a meeting for helpers and committee. All happened in continuity with the same opened attitude as the day before, trying to help to express feelings, hurts, misunderstandings between helpers and committee.

The tests showed what is the state of Subud Austria now and what is the next step. What can we do in our respective roles of helpers and committee in order to improve? and how they can help each other? At the end we asked to receive a latihan to especially ask for God's help.

During the sharing of the tests there were opportunities to talk about what are the needs of the members? How others countries organise their meetings? The importance of reading Bapak's talks, etc...

At six o'clock another latihan for the members of the group was followed by some tests like body testing that members and helpers were not really used to do. They needed to be explained why they are useful.

The Sunday morning we walked from Farah's house to the place of latihan in the large luminous hall of an old castle used for receptions where the group of Kottlingbrunn do latihan regularly. Many members and helpers (around 40) were waiting for us with a good proportion of youth.

After the latihan tests were proposed. Body testing which was very well received by the women and which opened lively discussion and sharing. It led to many important subjects in the Subud life: purification of sex and for the women importance of a good relationship between husband and wife, importance of having children of good quality etc...

At this point the men came to share their tests. It was very interesting to see that we were testing more or less similar things. The men too tested about the thinking, purification of the sexual feeling, the qualities of a patient heart, trust in God, and so on.

The latihan we did after that was very much alive, joyful and happy. Then a helper of the group proposed to do a very interesting series of test; How the spiritual life of a girl/woman is expressed through the different stages of the feminine life, from when being a girl, an adolescent, a woman, a young mother, a mother of grown up children and an old woman? A very surprising and common receiving was the happiness that can be experienced in old age.

Another helper asked to test what should be our right attitude at the moment of facing death? Again a wonderful, deep happy feeling as a preparation to enter the other greater life. A last latihan followed extraordinary lively. It was pure bliss.

The men after sharing with the women did further testing about forgiveness, which has very much been a theme throughout the weekend.

We finish by a good lunch to Farah. It was significant that a group of four young people, among them Marcus - Farah's and Hassan's son came to join us for a coffee. They surrounded the four of us in equal number, in the same spirit and love through chatting. Is this a symbol perhaps of a new positive step for the future of Subud in Austria?

Thank you God for such blessings and thank you to all our brothers and sisters of Austria for all they gave to us in all aspects.

With lots of love to all.

Hamidah, Farah and Andrew