

## THE GROUP CONSCIENCE

There are two ways for a group to arrive at a group conscience. One is the competitive and the other is the co-operative. In the competitive, you push your ideas across, take a vote, and the majority carries the decision. This leaves behind a disgruntled minority that feels that its truths are lost sight of in the decision.

In the co-operative, we gather together with the idea of harmonious and mutual trust to come to a group decision. This leaves no disgruntled minority. In order to gain this group conscience, we have worked out the following technique:

The members are disciplined to the thought of a group decision rather than someone's personal triumph. This brings the group together in a receptive mood and the will to find agreement is present. There is a period of silence for the group to become receptive to the issue at hand before the group.

This is not in an argumentative spirit but in the spirit of wanting a solution, not to arrive at a snap judgment. The chairperson goes around the room and asks each individual their views. The chairperson expresses their own view only after others have expressed theirs.

The meeting is not thrown open for general discussion. That would allow the more vocal ones to set the debate. This method gives the least vocal an equal chance. If there is a practical unanimity there is a period of silence, to see if a vote should be taken now.

If there is not sufficient unanimity the vote is postponed until next meeting that God may speak in the subconscious during sleep. If after this we are still not of a common mind, we take a majority vote if a decision is imperative.

In the co-operative method we get through twice the amount of work we could with the competitive. The co-operative method is the way we try to live – it's written in our Traditions.