



SIEBENQUELL

---

## »Fake Giants«

---



QUELLENANGABE: SAM-BARBER, WWW.UNSPLASH.COM

Years ago I came out of the forest on my bicycle and saw a friend from my schoolyears coming towards me from afar. I recognised him immediately, but he did not recognise me. When I stopped in front of him, he laughed and asked me: »Do you know the story of the fake giant from 'Jim Button'?« And he told me what a different impression he had of me from a distance. And then a short, deep conversation about life and the infinity of the soul ensued.

In Michael Ende's story »Jim Button and Luke the Engine Driver« the two of them end up in the desert. At some point they see a huge figure coming towards them and grow frightened. Finally Luke pulls himself together and calmly says to Jim Button: »Well, just because he's so big doesn't mean he has to be a monster.« And he begins to walk towards this giant. The closer they draw to each other, the smaller he becomes, until finally Mr Tur Tur stands before them. He explains to them what is wrong with him: that he looks so gigantic from a distance is simply a characteristic of him. He is peaceful and sociable and also helpful. He shows them the way out of the desert and supplies them with provisions. Thanks to his help they can continue their journey.

---

We all know this experience: a task lies ahead of us, something unknown challenges us. It instills respect and becomes bigger and bigger the more we try to keep a supposedly safe distance. We work ourselves up and do not really take a close look at ourselves or at the distant unknown that is (still) foreign to us. There is a story for this:

When the Israelites had wandered through the desert for 2 years after their rescue from Egypt, they approached the land of Canaan. »Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, "Go up into the Negev and go up into the hill country, and see what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds, and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.« (Num 13, 17-20) So Moses sent out scouts and they explored the land for 40 days. When they returned, they brought back abundant fruit and told them that they had really found a land flowing with milk and honey. But the people! They were huge. They were strong, their cities well-fortified. This frightened the majority of the scouts. »So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."« (Num 13, 32-33) Only two of the scouts spoke confidently - without success! Forty years later, they were the only living members of this generation still able to enter the Promised Land.

Willi Bruners once said: »Those who turn others into giants should not be surprised if they end up as locusts «.

It is no child's play, says the Bible, how we deal with life's challenges. We can talk them up and make them so big that it is safer to leave them alone - and then wander around for years. But we can also look at them and get closer. And in the end, with their help, we will be able to continue our journey stronger than before. Neither Mr Tur Tur nor I were in reality what we seemed from a distance - from the encounter, joy and life grew.

*Rosemarie Monnerjahn*

*Vallendar, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020*