



SIEBENQUELL

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**» A good story is always a journey.«**

**10 Years of Siebenquell**

**»Take the Stories  
seriously«**

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It was not a one-time breakthrough event, like in the comic strip when Asterix swallows the magic potion - WHAM! - but more like the careful seasoning of a soup, which I have been able to experience with Siebenquell for years.

This was preceded by the faith courses, Sunday services in the Pallotti Church, the various interpretations of the biblical texts, offers such as Wellspring Days or Bibliodrama evenings. It was already a mix of the most diverse types and people that flowed through my mental imagery.

It was similar in my studies when I realised that the painter or sculptor like a garden house does not plan a picture or a sculpture. That its realisation does not run according to fixed technical production rules - but that the moment, the unpredictable, the playful, the intuitive, the fantastic and last but not least the personal - is included in the created work.

This is what happened to me with the concept of »Spark sprayers«... when a person strikes the Scriptures, the Talmud says, more than 70 sparks are produced. The Bible is not a recipe book, still less a law book, which gives us clear, rigid rules through the stories. Nor can the Bible be seen as an isolated anthology, but is the staple of a rich, diverse garden that must be incorporated into life.

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With these thoughts, I continued to dig through the field of my image worlds and worked through the Bible in terms of content an, as a book-object, in terms of design.

This is how my first object came into being directly and concretely in relation to the inflammable, like the stories that enter me, how their fire continues to warm me and give light in an opaque doctrine of faith from past childhood days. This is how the form of the box came into being, which shows the space, which has similarities to a pull-out box, which represents a bed of development where something can flourish, through the contagious effect, through the spraying of sparks, alive, free of denominations, schemes, unpredictable.



The second object is not gentle, it asks questions that etch themselves into us and leave traces.

Consequences become visible and the decisive intersections of their stories are sharp and clearly perceptible. This clarity challenges us and the paths to be taken are not always easy. Thus there are also painful cuts in our feel-good live for which we oh-so-fondly strive. However, the Bible would not be the book of books if it did not also have gentle, healing effects. 96 gauze bandages not only form a soft and gentle frame against the sharp blades. With their white-pure colour, they also provide a deliberate contrast that makes one feel calm, connected and warm.

The third box shows, despite all the diversity and possibilities of interpretation, a space, a bed, of individual yet mindful togetherness. There is no isolation. Blank and naked are the guiding currents of words and deeds. They are surrounded, enveloped by a nourishing wax, whose warmth, storage power and nourish-ability stand for everything and anything in creation. The surrounding substance acts gently, gives support and includes us in the stories that give us, accompany us, challenge us and heal us.



Yes, this is how it has happened for me over the last 10 years - a long time, a long way, but with contagious effect - WHAM!

**Karl Ditt**

*Vallendar, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023*