



SIEBENQUELL

There Heaven and Earth Touch



»Grandma, heaven not reach I can!«

What a sentence!

At any rate, this sentence of my two year old granddaughter touched me deeply and I would gladly like to share it with you.

While playing in our garden, my granddaughter gazed up at the heavens, then she looked at me, stretched her hand toward the heavens and said:

»Grandma, heaven not reach I can!«

What touched me deeply in this moment was the simultaneousness of reality and yearning that I perceived in her words as well and in all of her gestures and mimic.

On the one hand, yes, that's the way it is, heaven far away, you cannot get to it, you cannot grasp it, and on the other hand, the great longing to want to touch heaven, that is, to want to understand it.

It was amazing to me how pure and essential the knowledge of my little granddaughter struck my heart. It reminded me directly of my own longing to get close to heaven and how far away, inaccessible and incomprehensible heaven often seems to me.

Heaven, kingdom of God, God, faith, hope, justice, solidarity, love,
all this was on my mind.

I weighed all of these thoughts with my granddaughter's sentence:

»Grandma, heaven not reach I can!«

But these thoughts came later.

First I answered my granddaughter.

I looked at her lovingly and said to her :

"My gold star, if you could only surmise how close you are to heaven
and how you place the stories of the kingdom of heaven into my heart. "

She beamed at me and kept playing.

Since then, I have been walking with my granddaughter's sentence.

This sentence has a very lasting effect on me and I am becoming more and more aware

how Jesus struggled with his stories

to tell anew his reality of the kingdom of heaven and to recommend it to those who were his own.

Somehow, then as now, people struggled with how far and how close heaven, the kingdom of heaven and God was. We all know that, do we not?

The stories and parables of the kingdom of heaven came to my mind.

How close and how far away I sometimes feel with God's stories.

I look at our world with all the worries, needs, problems, in the broadest as well as in the closest circles,
of the human family. Then I am often overcome by fear of how far away we are from heaven.

Who does have such feelings in view of the world events around us?

But I also weigh these thoughts with the little episode
with my granddaughter in our garden.

»Grandma, heaven not reach I can!«

And my own response :

»My gold star, if you could only surmise how close you are to heaven«,
places the hope within my heart that I may gradually come to believe :

The Kingdom of God is in us!

What a sentence!

Such as Luke, for example, tells us :

*»The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,
nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,'
because the kingdom of God is in you.«*

or Leo Tolstoy writes a book about it :

»The Kingdom of God is within you«

or Angelus Silesius, tells it this way:

*»Stop, where to are you running? Heaven is within you.
If you seek God elsewhere, you will miss him, bit by bit.«*
or like..

I ask myself, what would happen if

we turn to God and say to him :

»Father, heaven is so far away, I cannot reach it«

and then he would answers us :

»My child, if only you knew how close you are to heaven«.
How close could we allow this reality to draw near to us?
Would not all of us want to hear such an answer once?
But what would we have to wager for that?

May we dare to believe that heaven is within us
may we draw hope and faith from it, in order to live from it as the children of God.
May we meet one another as children of God and allow ourselves to be known as such, even when the world is so
different around us and heaven often seems so far away.

May we not forget that the Spirit of the Beginning lives and works in us,
even as we get older.

Let us not be talked out of our motherly God the Father, not by others and not from ourselves, and may we not
forget him too often.

Because there are always moments that touch us significantly
and tell us about the kingdom of heaven.

May we be ready to perceive, absorb and take with us these moments in order to be there with one another, for one
~~and they~~ it be that heaven touches the earth
and we hear and tell the old stories again
and play again in his garden.

*Sylvia Ditt,
Koblenz, August 13th, 2020*