



SIEBENQUELL

The Gift of Life



SCULPTURE: STELLA HAMBERG IN ARP-MUSEUM, GERMANY

Since the last Shea course in October, the first stories of the people in the Book of Genesis, the Book of Beginnings, have been on my mind, as all of our hearts and minds have been widened, even awakened, by John Shea's interpretations. The first stories in Genesis try to give an answer to the question of how everything we humans know began and to encourage us to see the origins and to shape our lives from them, so that more and more of the good beginning reappears.

If we look at the story of Adam and Eve in chapter 3, we see that nothing is said here about the fall and sin. But we hear of mistrust that is sown and grows and that awakens desires that were not there before. Insecurities and questions arise that are not addressed to God, but people try to sort everything out by themselves. This leads to an attitude and action of seizing, of self-serving.

This story is full of deep insight and wisdom. It knows how mistrust poisons relationships and that violent seizure instead of loving reception is ultimately fatal. The first consequences are immediately apparent: Adam and Eve

can no longer freely and openly encounter God, who seeks them and calls for them. They are ashamed, hide and no longer show themselves as they are.

From now on, man must toil and work, cultivate his land, endure pain ... we know life with all its heaviness. The old story tells us that mistrust in the infinite love of God is its origin. But it also tells us that God does not expose humanity to the world unprotected, that there is the tree of life and that God's love remains.

Since I have learned to look at this story in this way, I feel the challenge to always counter emerging mistrust with basic trust in the love of the Creator and to practise receptivity. Everything is a gift, nothing is earned, I owe nothing to myself.

Wouldn't it be nice to grow again into a trusting, honest relationship with God, the Creator and Lover of all life, as expressed in this prayer?

What could I give you
that does not already belonged to you
what would I have to despise
because it only honours people, and not you
how should I distinguish
meticulously point by point
between this and that
perhaps simply
sanctify life
mine, yours
caring
as for eternity
bring your image
to bear in me
like sparks of longing
and everything moves
as if by itself
into a different light

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