



SIEBENQUELL

And God saw that it is good



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In the course of the first creation account in the Book of Genesis, God repeatedly looks upon what he has just spoken into being and then judges the quality of his work. What we take for granted in the story is actually quite astonishing. God judges his work to be good. Not perfect, just good.

We human beings could take a page from the Creator of the cosmos. Not in the sense that we should try to do work that is good. In fact, we do it all the time. But we could take a lesson from the Creator in the sense that we would be satisfied with the quality our work when it is good.

That sounds deceptively simple, but it is assuredly not. We are usually deeply unsatisfied with achieving what is good. We think of it as substandard (it was only good) or we view it with sighing resignation (I guess it was good enough). We do not rejoice if the result of our efforts is »only« good. For us, good is usually not good enough.

Many years ago the American comedian Bill Cosby commented on this penchant of human beings to need more than God when it comes to the quality of our work. His humorous but profoundly perceptive insight I share with you with an excerpt from his story.

»What I find is wonderful is when God said, 'Let there be trees'. And God saw that it was good and said that it was good and it was good. The quality of God's work: good. And God was satisfied. Good. Just good.

Man invents, God creates. Man invented the automobile. He called it fantastic. God made a tree, and said it was good.

Man made a refrigerator and said 'amazing!' God made a rabbit, and said 'good'.

The wheels fell off the car and the refrigerator broke down. The tree is still up and the rabbit is still running.«

When you finish laughing, perhaps you might discover what is hidden in the folds of humour: the sense of absurdity. The recognition of the absurd is always what makes us laugh. And it is certainly absurd that God is satisfied with the good, and we are not. If you laughed at the story, you are well on the road to healing. If you did not laugh, you are definitely taking yourself too seriously.

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