



SIEBENQUELL

At Home in Old Stories



QUELLENANGABE: ROSEMARIE MONNERJAHN, TABGHA 2014

At the beginning of the month, I took part in a thanksgiving Mass for the golden wedding anniversary for a couple whom I have known since my youth. The youngest daughter of the couple read the reading of the day, taken from Genesis 42, the story of Joseph's brothers. Due to the great famine in the land, they travel to Egypt in order to buy wheat there. They appear before Joseph with their plea, but he does not make himself known to them, indeed, who communicates with them via a translator. He, who was once sold as a slave by these brothers, now sets the conditions under which his family can receive wheat.

While listening to this reading, the entire story of Joseph and his brothers resonated within me, and I saw the story unfolding before me: the childhood and youth of Joseph as the favourite son of his father Jacob, the growing jealousy of his brothers, which nearly lead them to murder, his time in Egypt... and how, at the end, everyone was able to live!

Suddenly I experienced a deep rootedness, and it warmed my heart that I felt so at home, so familiar, with this grand story. Here and now, in this simple Mass, I hear this story from the book of the »Beginning« (»Bereschit«), the book of the first mothers and fathers, and it falls into me as a story of the origins for me as well. These stories of God and his people are familiar to me. They belong to me and I to them.

I felt how I have a home in these stories.

And then it struck me: Jesus grew and lived on the foundations of exactly the same stories. He lived in the stories of God and his people, and his good news carries me to this day.

And how could it be any other way, than that a new story awoke in me:

Ancient wisdom
Stories
Since human memory
told and
heard.
The ONE
entered
into them.

Heaven
And
earth
connected.
And I
in their
midst.

Rosemarie Monnerjahn

Vallendar, July 27, 2017