



SIEBENQUELL

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# The Greater Grows Out Of the Small

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In a circle of friends to which I was recently invited we enjoyed a joyous atmosphere and a lively exchange during a wonderful meal. A young woman was there who overflowed with extraordinary stories from her time of voluntary service in Israel, which has just come to an end. There she had not only worked in a children's day nursery, but had also dedicated the greater part of her time to elderly people who resided in an old age home for Holocaust survivors.

Thus, she took us along into the world of these people, their idiosyncrasies, as well as their traumas, which they now, in their old age, feel more keenly and more painfully. She told her stories, which, as she herself insisted, must never be lost. Then she told of her excursions into West Jordan and into the Arab world of Israel. One friend came from Nazareth and she was a guest of his family there.

At our departure, she gave us a few enchanting biscuits from the mother of this friend, who has just sent them in a large package by mail.

To look at them was already a delight. What an art to be able to work with dough like this!

To smell them, with their aroma of rosewater, was a delight.

To taste them, filled with figs, was a pure delight.

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While eating them the next day, I thought of the kitchen in which these delicacies were likely made – small, simple, mostly likely makeshift in our eyes, in which much is done by hand.

And I thought of the kitchens we have – large, perfectly outfitted, and high technological.

Yet, are these the prerequisites in order that some so fine can emerge from them?

Then my thoughts wandered to the ancient experiences of the biblical stories: of small children who are close to the Kingdom of Heaven; of pennies in the offertory box, which speak of the greatness of the widow; of a mustard seed that grows into a grand tree; of a pearl for which a merchant sells everything; of grass, that is dressed in such splendour.

The life-giving directives of God grow out of the smallest things. The small, what we consider nondescript, brings forth the great and the grand. The small lives out of and unfolds what it is contained within it, and human beings can live from it.

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