



SIEBENQUELL

Reflection

To live yearning



SOURCE: ROSEMARIE MONNERJAHN 2014

Walks in the springtime have their own special enchantment: the light grows and presses into previously dark corners, cheery birds' voices accompany and gladden us, smells fill the world that we had thought lost throughout the winter - everything lures joy and yearning out of us and fills us with the deep trust: life is announcing its return.

In his book »A Springtime in Jerusalem« the author Wolfgang Büscher lets us take part in his springtime walks though the old city of Jerusalem and unfolds for us a kaleidoscope of encounters, pictures, moods and discoveries.

One day, he once again climbs up from the Wailing Wall into the Jewish Quarter and meets in front of a small Jeschiwa a young man who is enjoying a break in his study of the Tora while smoking. His rather informal dress and his open look lets Büscher assume that he is from overseas and is spending a few months here for his studies.»No, no«, he said, »I am from here, I was born here.« And immediately we were at the great questions. Zionism, Jeruslaem, the Temple. He listened to me,

and then he laughed as I unpacked the wisdom I had acquired through reading and contrasted the Judaism of the Temple Era with the Era of the Synagoge.

»Not like that!« he interrupted me. »The Temple was destroyed, but never out of mind. We have always prayed in the direction of the Temple throughout our long, long exile. Jerusalem was our yearning, and for what? What drew us for two thousand years so powerfully to Jerusalem so that some could no longer stand it and actually set out? What was it that so powerfully tugged at us? A house, perhaps, or a piece of land? No, it was the Temple - it was our yearning.«
We stood next to each other and spoke to the domes and the rooftops and into the glowing night sky I looked at him and saw, that he glowed as well, his eyes, his young face.«

In how many of the prophetic texts after the destruction of the first Temple in the 6th Century B.C. do we already encounter this yearning: for the City of God, for the new Zion? The dispersed people of the Babylonian Captivity raised themselves up by this hope, the prophets kept this hope alive - and they kept it wide!

Jesus himself knew and experienced the second Temple which Herod had rebuilt and expanded in grandeur and magnificence at the turn of the millenium. Does he experience the fulfilment of this ancient yearning?

In the Gospel of John it is written:

»When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me.« (John 2, 13-17)

What happened? The images of hope of long ago have turned to stone, the dreams of generations have taken shape, everything has received a clear form, is administered, regulated and those who are able try to make the best of it while the others simply have to submit to the system.

The grand vision, that the House of God shall be a »house of prayer for all peoples«, has gone under and until this day we can remain thankful to Jesus for his insistence and his zeal. For we now all of this today as well: exclusivity, narrowness, busyness in the Church and the parishes, in groups and communities - all under the belief that we possess the fulfilment of all yearning and salvation.

The Father of Jesus and our Father has much more in store for his people. For that reason, the path of yearning, including our personal one, always goes on and nothing is more life threatening than to settle down and to merely administer what one has attained or what has been fulfilled, and to preserve the status quo.

Let us allow ourselves to be lured out during these weeks of spring!

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