



SIEBENQUELL

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**Moving into Autumn:**

# **Roses for the Winter**

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SOURCE: ROSEMARIE MONNERJAHN 2012

On occasion, a good friend says, when she has had an experience that did her good: »I am gathering roses for the winter.«

In fact, it is a great art and a gift to see the things that occur as a gift and to preserve them.

This requires great wakefulness and attentiveness. What is the use, when on an autumn evening the sun stands above the horizon as a red-golden ball and the entire evening sky, with its dispersing feathery clouds, reflects the colours, and I inattentively head off to the TV for the evening news? What is the use, when berries of the fire thorn glow in the garden, but I only see the work that is still to be done in the garden? What is the use of a rare phone call or a dear letter, if I then quickly check them off, and neither value nor relish their worth, but simple return to the daily grind?

To gather roses for the winter means to take note of the rose, when it blossoms and when it is given to me. It is then that it wishes to be taken up into my heart with all its beauty.

How many kind words have already been addressed to us in our lives? How many enchanting evening skies have we already seen? And how often did we no longer think of them mere hours later? Important matters got in the way, more significant matters demanded our attention.

Earlier generations still knew the experience of living through the winter on that which they harvested in the summer and the autumn. Harvesting does not mean taking a quick look at a fruit or a blossom and to perhaps fleetingly pick them, only to shortly thereafter get rid of them.

Harvesting means we take something home, so that we can live from it. We need to incorporate it.

Those who have known wintry seasons in their lives are aware as to how nurturing the treasure of a beautiful summer day, a deep encounter or a rosebud in the heart is.

Let us gather roses for the winter, and give roses to one another so that we can survive our winters.

Rosemarie Monnerjahn  
*October 14, 2015, Vallendar*