

Through the Years – Waiting for Friends

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Psalm 122, 8.9: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say: “Peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

When we were born, our first instinctive gesture was to seek our mother’s breast, being thirsty for milk. Our mother’s milk was the first nourishment we received. It spread in our whole mouth and our whole body giving life. It penetrated to the last cell of our body, like a stream of life giving energy, to start the harmonious development of our small being. We did not know then that mother’s milk not only attracts, but it also pushes us towards life.

We took our first steps unsteady and full of fear. Our whole world was there, in a few square meters: our mother, our father in the evening, our brothers and sisters during the day, then friends and acquaintances.

It was good, but we grew out of it and slowly dared to go farther. Small streets, winding paths, hilltops nearby succeeded. Then miles, distances, higher mountain tops. And suddenly we felt as adults that the whole world is open and we want to conquer it; we want to have it for our own and re-shape it. We really want to find again the heaven of unconsciousness as grown-ups with reasonable means. It is an eternal rotation of mankind: to go along, to advance step by step, ever higher.

When the airplane takes off, our eyes see it as a large object. As it flies higher and higher in the sky, one can see the world from its window, but to our eyes here on the earth it seems smaller and smaller. It’s like a toy plane, you can hold it in your hands and play with it. But the picture of the world is hidden in it, with the earth, with a patch of reality and the reality of infinite discoveries.

This is a rule for everything in life. This is the only way we can discover ourselves and the infinite.

We are at our first steps with this congregation. We are here to fulfill the rule. We want to become acquainted with families, with brothers and sisters. We are longing for a family, for intimacy, for friends. We want to know what is ours. We want to climb the first peak together, helping one another

metaphorically and in reality as well. We need brothers and sisters, friends that notice the held out hand of the smaller brother or sister and takes and lifts it.

Our meetings are meant to serve this finding one another. We may call them relaxation, trips or spiritual meetings. They were not only that: they meant that part of the way that leads from unconsciousness to consciousness.

On human faces and in formulated words are: the question of our faith identity, the eternal ideal of the fairy castle seen at a distance and becoming disenchanted at the same time, the confirmation of the uttered and written word, the quiet purity of winter snow, the amazing view of the landscape from the top, to think of our great possibilities, to raise our family homes into a spiritual church. All these have become part of our lives, power for living. The soul receives power through them and that is how acquaintances have become friends.

We were consciously looking for these meetings, because the open soul is looking for an open world. We are working together for many years. Let this work, these feelings become a blessing through God's love. God gave us light and life as well. I would like our faith, convictions and dignity to get stronger in the following ways:

- Our lives are part of the life of our Church and through this of the universal mankind;
- This life is always hidden between the real and the dreamed one, and if one did not have support, then a family, friends, a purpose, life becomes senseless;
- Nowadays, our lives are many times on the doorstep of disappointment, indifference, unfairness and of renouncing; but do not forget that all these are because of human weakness. Seeking the good always remains an ideal for us;
- The values of our history are in our hands. It is our common concern to preserve it.

Allegorically, this is nothing else but eternal Jerusalem that overgrows the limits of time and space. It is the cradle of Christianity that was rocked and we became part of it as well.

Jerusalem is the first place where a temple was built to worship the only God, the place of divine love formulated in human words, the place of eternal pain but of eternal persistence, as well the symbol of calling and fulfillment. Jerusalem that kills its prophets, that is trodden under foot by the pagans, whose daughters cry for it, still that is also divine, being the ideal of peace.

The words of the psalm writer have a message for us as well. A Hungarian poet wrote a psalm with the following words: Let the psalm resound, let it rage over happy night's dreams, let it sweep over the cold and black-foamed waves at the light of torches dropping blood-tears by the rivers of Babylon. Let the water I drink turn to bile if I forget you! Let glowing nails be hammered through my tongue when I do not speak about you! Let the lights of my eyes get dark when it does not look upon you!

In the message of the psalm the life we trust to God's guarding love and providence will be our share. God wishes the life of each nation be like that, among them our nations' as well. We have to serve the eternal God. Our most powerful and worthy weapon is trust in God and in human being. We cannot renounce this, lest we should put off the light that guides our lives. And everybody needs light.

Dear friends! We lifted the words of God to our lives, to one another's life. The Gospel was opened for us and to us in order to lift our feelings and friendships to Him, so that the almighty Father should bless them.

Let us be happy that this wish was born in our souls and we are able to grow up to it. Let us give thanks to our God that he gave us the wonderful feeling of friendship. According to the great French philosopher, Henri Frederic Amiel: "Every flower has only one single moment when it shows its perfect beauty; in the same way, in the garden of the soul each feeling has its own moment of flourishing, that is one moment when its beauty is completed... Every star passes the meridian only once each night and it shines there only for one moment; in the same way in the sky of reason each thought has only one moment of zenith, while it lives its whole life and greatness... there, in that disappearing point, catch your thoughts and feelings to make them immortal, because this is their top."

God let us feel from the words of the psalm writer that he planted in our hearts with his love everything that is sanctified, beautiful, good and true in our lives. Let us tell then in a low voice in the house of God to those who

are sitting by us: "I say to my friends: Peace to you! To our God, for the house of God as well, I wish you well!"

I would like to thank you your hospitality, kindness and warm welcome. Thank you for the sightseeing tours in the city and in the neighborhood. We shall never forget the time spent together with you. I think that it was a great occasion for us to know each other better than before. We hope that we will be able to return your kindness soon. May God's blessing and love be upon our lives and relationship for ever. Amen