

PEACE-WORK

1. There is a deep knowledge in all of us that peace is always given. Peace comes around us when the struggle and the struggling are over, when we are happy in the place and situation we live, when we feel free and at ease, without thinking and worrying about anything which can threaten us. This peace only can be given.

Of course there is another peace, the peace I get because I won over all my opponents. This in fact is the peace we time and again are seeking. The failing to distinguish between these two sorts of peace is an eternal trap.

2. When people only can be given it is an eternal trap to work for peace. Working for peace per definition can't give peace. To work for something that only can be given is a paradox, destroying the goal of our working.

It can be shown in another manner too, that it is impossible to get peace by doing something for it, by striving for it. As long as we are doing something, as long as we are striving we are trying to overcome (again a deep ideal in our culture...), that we "leave behind us". We achieve a growing distance between us and the realities which endanger our being in peace, but there never is, in that manner peace in the real sense of the word.

3. Peace which is given is always something like a creation. It comes over us. Out of nothing it encompasses us and changes our world. Maybe for a very short time, maybe for longer, but anyway unforgettable, changing our life, which does not lose the memory.
4. As long as we are seeking peace by acting, in a peace-group or on our own, we always try to overcome circumstances. There might be a real longing for peace, seeking it in the wrong manner. Or we use our seeking for peace as a rationalisation to win, over others, which probably are not seeking peace. In both cases in the end we disappear in rivalry, with all the consequences of that.

We live in and out of myths about our opponents, as they do. We rival, meet our model-obstacles (peace itself included), we scapegoat, as all violent people do. In fact there is no single difference between them and us.

5. So the only possibility that peace might be given to us is to stop working for it, even to forget it. Peace is most near when we go peaceful ways, forgetting a bout peace. That means that our task would be, is, to find peaceful ways, for ourselves, together with others. This means working together, deepening the knowledge of ourselves, before all deepening the knowledge of the ways of the Lord, and he will give his peace in his time.

We need each other's stories and experiences. We need to go parts of the way together, to learn together, being together in trust.

I am rather sure that all this is true both for "macro" and for "micro" situations. We have to think about that further too.

