

## A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND ILLNESS

1. Belonging to a Christianity Community means that we know with our very being, that we trust, that we are in the hands of God, that we are with Jesus. We are safe with him in him, forever and whatever happens. So we know with our being that we need not care about our life.
2. This is true both when we are healthy and when we are ill. In times of illness, and especially so when the illness is or looks dangerous, it is even more true: He cares, we need not care. Living out of that, out of this knowing with the whole of our being, our body included, we live our lives, we do what seems the right thing to do, in our daily lives, with each other, and for our illness. And don't care.
3. Of course that is extremely difficult when we really are seriously ill. We care for ourselves, for all the difficulties arising out of the illness, for our future. We care, being ill, for those to whom we belong, for whom we are responsible and for their grief. It is the more difficult, because they care too. So we come in mimesis with each other and the worrying, the caring very easily becomes deeper again.
4. This is even more so because, being members of a community, we are too living in this old world, in which everybody is caring, everybody is afraid. We belong to them, are again, in the mimesis with them, caring and being afraid. This world, we know for sure that it passes away and in the same time it is extremely real, in a sense much more real than the reality which we find in Jesus; And so the worries, the grief, the hopelessness and the anger, the frustration and the depression, belonging to this world are as real, as long as this world and its mechanisms are for us the last, and eventually only, reality.

Of course Jesus does not deny this. Just because this in fact, He came, to make us free of these mechanisms. See John 16,33: In the world ye shall have tribulation. (KJV)

5. Being a community we know of each other. This is a knowing, again, which belongs to our very existence. Knowing of each other means that the others are in us, in our life, in our heart. We always are with the other members together, even when we don't consciously think about it. This knowing in any case becomes conscious knowing, if one of us, with his or her family, suffers. We carry the other, with her, with his suffering. She, he lives in us, with her/his care, suffering. Not thinking about that suffering trying to explain it, to do something: just, first of all, letting it be, accepting it in our hearts, our lives. And we do this, knowing that we need not care, because he cares. We can know that in a bigger freedom, because the illness is not threatening us ourselves personally. So the illness and the care, in us being together with our trust that we need not care, are changing in us. They go further away. They become less threatening. Being with our ill member and his/her family, because of this, the illness and the cares are too changing for him, for her, for the family, because we all are always in the mimesis with each other. Our message is: You need not care. God cares. Jesus cares. And this is not said lightheartedly, because we are, with you, carrying your illness and your cares in us.