

Continue further with love

Beloved person,

*There is a love which will last for all eternity,
free from all personal gain.
It flows from the creative force of life,
is manifested therein.
Love shines from the eyes of the people so aware
that love will release them from limits that bind,
and thus is the secret of loving revealed:
eternal love constantly bears love.¹*

Where does this song correspond with my life? Can I do this: loving free from personal gain? And does that love shine from me? What hinders me in this?

My life can only be lived by me, but sometimes focussing on myself really gets in the way. Sometimes I am so stuck in my thoughts that there is very little radiating from me. Even though I am right, even though I see it clearly, even though I have a deep conviction that I have the good in mind. And yet... To experience God's glow – which can lighten up our days – I work for an open spirit and pray for “commas and inverted quotation marks” in me. I search for an opening within me to allow something of that eternal love to express itself. I try to formulate it for myself as clearly as possible: what do I want *and* what would love do? That is what I mull over and slows me down. If I sense that I become resistant I ask myself why that is happening. I also nurture those experiences in which I was not bounded by my limitations and that love was there.

Meanwhile I search for those people, those texts, that music and that space that give me a push in the right direction and feed my desire to be a loving person. I ponder and then ponder again and then again about my faith ‘that *in me* the dawn lies’.² My desire to do good helps me to find my way and yet, sometimes, I strongly feel I am lacking and cannot do enough. In the life I was given I am going to decide what choices I will make. That is a challenging but sometimes also a truly difficult task.

It is good then to catch your breath for a moment and that you know a place where you can talk about what is occupying your thoughts. If you wish to. Where you can join in at a round table. Where we don't simply accept ‘that's the way it is’. The community can be such a place where the search for God, yourself and the other takes shape, and where your ability to love is refreshed once more.³

'The community is not only a house of learning for life outside it. It is also a training ground where our philosophy of life can be updated, tried out, and tested. In our dealings with each other, with brothers and sisters that we have not selected, but who were given to us as a gift. We also want to approach them as a gift. Without prejudice, but purely from the recognition that the highest is in each person, for those who see it and search for it. You have to deal with me, just as I must deal with you. We do not only form a house of learning but also a house that learns. *We have to walk our talk*, a religious challenge of the highest order.'⁴

With a warm-hearted greeting, gladly your sister,
Nanda Ziere



We renew our baptism promise to ensure a safe climate

¹ Choir song 33: *Eternal love*.

² Men's Choir song no 6: *Dawn (Dageraad)*.

³ Freely from J. Hendriks, *Community as a hostel (Gemeente als herberg)*, Kampen, 1999.

⁴ *Een vonk die het hart raakt (A spark that touches the heart)*, published by Apostolisch Genootschap, 2001.