

You matter

Beloved person,

It can sometimes be quite tempting to be indifferent. There is so much that happens around us over which we appear to have little influence. You might then shrug your shoulders and think: What difference can I make? However, I cannot really reconcile this with the deep realisation that I am part of an infinitely large whole, in which I can, and dare to, stand in life with confidence. Stand for what I say, do and, sometimes, not do.

I also have confidence that I don't have to do it alone, and that solutions for both large and small problems can often be found together. We often forget that we as people are totally dependent on one another, on the animals and on everything that creation brings forth. We are independent, but at the same time, connected to others. This appeals to me because thereby, dependence on the other has become self-evident to me. It gives me space to, within that connectedness, take control of my life. What you and I do today to contribute to that which is good, to live lovingly on the earth, is connected with what went before and with what comes afterwards.

Toon Hermans captures that connection aptly for me:

I
Thought

Every time
That
I
Conceive
Something

I
Am
The
Water

Not
The
Source¹

I am the water, not the source. Within this feeling there is, for me, both wonderment and faith. I don't need to understand everything nor control everything. I may receive, being water, passing on to others, and being part of something that is greater than me.

I believe that all people have originated from the same creative force. It is *helpful* that there are people who have continued to love me and have continued to believe in me. Examples of people who have fallen but have stood up again are *empowering*. What is *decisive* is my faith that love will overcome. Thankfully I have had sufficient examples in my life, because a good example sets a good precedent. That is why I neither can nor want to remain indifferent to everything that happens around me.

Love God above everything and your neighbour as yourself. These two great commandments, as they are written in Matthew², are connected to the story of my faith. All of us have originated from the same creative force, we are from and of the same origin. My belief in the all-encompassing coherence of all things ensures I deal with the miraculous and mysterious creation, of which we are all a part, carefully. Because everything is connected to everything else. Perhaps this means I have more influence than I realise.

It is my belief that all people have received the ability to love, no matter where in the world they were born. I see that around me every day, it touches me and gives me confidence. It helps me to keep an open view of others even when, in my eyes, they are not behaving lovingly.

Connectivity with everything that lives makes me aware of my contribution. I belong and I want to matter. Therefore, it is important which words I use, how I look at others and which choices I make. I continue to pay attention to my tendency to be indifferent and look for people who inspire and encourage me. Not because I think I can make the world better, but because I am confident that the love that I pass on to others can make a difference. That's why I will continue to choose for love that sets me in motion to continue to do more than the ordinary.

With a loving greeting,
your brother Peter Kerkhof



¹ Source Toon Hermans, *Het water is heerlijk* (The water is lovely)

² Matthew 22:37-39