

The university of life is life itself.

We are thrown into existence. We haven't asked for it. The existence comes with many challenges, that leave their mark on who we are. My toddlerhood knew a lot of violence. It not only transformed me into a solitary child, but it made me embrace the message of love, through my father as a deeply religious Christian widely abundant in my surrounding. The gradually sliding down of my mother into the direction of the night side of existence, not only encouraged me to give informal care, but it gave shape to the why question and a deep rooted ideal to do something for the suffering mankind. This ideal not only gave direction to my life, but formed into an enormous driving force. Originating from the environment of land labourers, only mediocre gifted, the long quest began to reach this ideal.

About this journey numerous anecdotes can be told, as is the case in any life. After a long struggle, a life with a job for six years, university was reached. Committed I was there, by fellow students, philosophy, literature and the third world movement submerged in the second landscape. That was not only very educative, but political active at the own faculty at that time, I was allowed to experience that life is controllable. This event would press its mark on the prolonged quest. Seeing it politically the university is only a sandbox. To tackle the problems in society or in the big event is of a total different order. In that the trampled road of the current politics, how wise it may seem, didn't appeal to me. As an engineer I looked at the big worldwide lines and the question was faced about how mankind could separate itself from the web of violence. Thanks to a brought peace movement at the beginning of the eighties in Woensdrecht, at the edge of the sand plateau of Brabant, a little whirlpool in the form of a peace action camp, came into existence. For me the right place to continue the quest.

Parallel to it, there was of course the struggle with the Eros. Equipped by nature with a high doses of testosterones, growing up in a oppressive environment, thanks to literature saddled with to romantic views, were by the curtailment dark views not strange to me. But the university of life is rich and gradually you find your way in it. With a steady relationship during the study it not only made studying more easy, but it brought to a certain extend relief. By nature people are however different and how well the relation might be, the difference starts to gnaw. The relation didn't survive the well considered step to free love. Without feeling sorry for myself, I understand the meaning of the expression 'Richness comes and richness goes' in its deepest meaning. In Woensdrecht and later, I was able to experiment with the notion of free love and have written different stories about it. For the benefit of a court case in the Hague I wrote a

rounding off and concluding story. This formidable power can as a river only be embedded between two embankments, namely freedom and responsibility.

In a prolonged struggle with the state, a complicated game between cat and mouse, not only a different grid of thinking offered itself, but also a translation towards a wider public began. In this new way of thinking the question is central whether people are ethical beings at all. Despite the Holocaust the French/Jewish thinker E. Levinas comes with a positive philosophy. In six viewpoints, which are quite fundamental, the thinking is being summarized. It needs skill to understand the viewpoints very well and to keep the balls in the air at the same time. The philosophy is very modest, the balls not only circle around the riddle of life, but put a remarkable present in the centre. We can see, but seeing we are blind. The viewpoints are feeding the capability to look in an ethical way and seen through such a spectacle society is still hierarchical and with it immoral. Every human being is a world in itself and deserves to be treated with respect. The Holocaust teaches us, that a possible father has left the world, because despite the many prayers in those dark times, there was no interference. Everything is up to us and our ethical capability. And that capability is ambivalent or ambiguous and brings the magic back in our lives. The magical David star chooses its own projects and showed itself.

Concluding at the end of the journey we can say, that our situation is a bad one. Of course there is much natural goodness, otherwise mankind would have cease to exist a long time ago. But behind appearances rages a quiet war, that makes many victims and takes away a lot of joy in life. After feasts of violence new achievements were developed, but we didn't cut deep enough. We didn't succeed in binding the market, the great beast in the world. That beast didn't only in a subtle way get hold on all aspects of life, what led towards an invisible slavery, but saddled us with a ruinous political/economic house and a dying earth. Yet there is hope in the form of this project, where ethics as the power of another order ask for the primate. To accomplish this not only our clothing is taken away, but new ones are offered, next to a knife to cut trough appearances and it has a plan. A narrow road out of the web of violence.

G van der Ent, 14 November 2024