

### Some thoughts between today, yesterday and tomorrow

While I'm sitting here to write this article, only two days went by since the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2001 when we saw the unbelievable pictures of horror and when we got the terrible news that we still don't really understand. We all feel that something has changed for ever, and beside the deep shock to learn what human beings are able to do to each other and the indescribable pain and grief all over the world, we are also facing a so far unknown fear, and we feel helpless and hopeless. How was it possible that this has happened? How shall we ever realize what these terrorists did in New York City and in Washington? Is it really true that they were human beings like you and me? So, what was it that convinced them to bring the death to thousands of people and, at the same time, to themselves according to an exact, cold-blooded plan and without any second of hesitation? Who is the devil behind these scenes? Will we never be able to feel safe again from now on? What will the next days, weeks and months bring?

A countless number of questions like these is going around in our heads again and again, and they make us forget about our normal life, about our important jobs, about our bank account and about all of the little problems and troubles that seemed to be the most important things in our lives until now. But we also know how quickly time uses to go by. Is it possible that we'll make it to forget about this nightmare that came alive and that we'll get back to every day's life without thinking about it anymore. I believe, this would be the biggest mistake that we can make, and that's why I'm writing these lines today.

Beside all of the unanswered questions, the sadness, the feelings of being terribly upset and helpless and the wish to be able to help somehow, I also have some very personal thoughts that are a little hard to explain. There are some feelings, presentiments and certainties you just don't talk about because you are afraid of being misunderstood and you expect that the others will laugh at you or even believe that you were crazy. But shall we hide the thoughts that don't fit into our time and society inside of our heads? – No! My very personal experience of the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2001 taught me that I have to speak out what I'm feeling and thinking – without being ashamed without a reason – and that I have to make my thoughts and feelings available for as many people as ever possible. If I won't act this way, I'll be guilty concerning the things that may happen next.

We all know that our present time and the future are connected with our past, and they are strongly influenced by the history at the same time. I don't want to bore you with any historic details, but I'm sure that all of you know a lot of examples to prove that the cruelest and the most terrible crimes, mass murders, prosecutions, tortures, oppressions and wars in this world have always been started “in the name of God”. And also this time, this silly explanation has been mentioned first. Didn't we already get used to it? – I believe, we just aren't allowed to handle it this way!

Which kind of human beings are these men who make a deadly weapon out of a civil plane with innocent travelers and also with themselves inside? Aren't we all afraid of dying? But why did the killers in New York City, in Washington and close to Pittsburgh feel nothing of this universal fear at all? – There's only one frightening answer to this question: You only can use human beings as living bombs if you make them believe that they would do the right thing for God and they would be heroes with a much happier life in paradise after their death. O.k., it's hard or even impossible for us to understand how people like you and me may believe in crazy lies like these, but reality shows us that the so-called religious leaders of all different times and places have always made it to convince specially weak and hopeless people who didn't find the meaning of life by themselves. But who gave them the right to do that? – Do

you really believe that it might have been God? – I just can't imagine that at all. But we all have to start to fight these coward wire-drawers behind the scene now and at once if we really want to make sure that the horror from New York City and from Washington won't be repeated or even made worse.

All right so far. But how shall we do that? – Let's start with some simple questions. Who is God? – Nobody can tell it exactly, and there are thousands of different answers and imaginations all over the world whenever you may ask this question. So, let's still keep this question for a later time, and let's first ask something else. What are religions and sects? – They may be completely different from each other, but they all have some things in common that can't be denied. All of the religions and sects claim to be the only voice of God – all the same whom or what they imagine when they think about this God -, and due to this, they believe to have the right to dominate our lives, to condemn our mistakes and even to punish us terribly and to tell us that we'll go to hell, if we don't live our lives according to their rules and if we don't follow their orders. At this point, it is almost only a side issue that they even want us to pay for all this, at least in Europe, and that they built up one of the biggest and most powerful economic and financial enterprises of the whole world this way. Anyway, we shouldn't forget also to include this fact into our thoughts.

So, what are the ten commands of the Bible, the rules of Islam or the orders given by the leaders of sects? Don't we know well enough by ourselves that we don't have any right to kill, to steal, to lie or to cheat? Do we really need somebody who tells us how we have to live and who wants us to admire and to respect him and to follow his orders in the best case and who sometimes asks us to kill for him in the name of God in the worst case?

In the following, please, let me provoke you with a new theory that leads us back to the still unanswered question: Who is hiding himself behind the names God, Allah, Manitu or whatever? Nobody has seen God himself so far, and nobody can talk with him directly and face to face. Well, we don't need it anyway. Luckily we are having our mediators, messengers and translators in the Vatican, in the churches, in the mosques, in the temples and in the headquarters of the sects. But are we allowed to keep it like this any longer?

When we take the Bible as an example, it's easy to see how many people at different places and in different times already translated and repeated the ancient writings until now. I don't even want to guess that only one of them did this special job with a bad intention. I am a translator myself and so, I'm interested in protecting my work-mates - even those who lived centuries ago. But on the other side, I know well that each and every translation may include misunderstandings and mistakes. If a text is translated only once, luckily, nothing too bad will happen due to this fact. But I don't want to imagine how much an ancient original may be changed when it's translated again and again and when every new translator includes the misunderstandings and mistakes of the one who did the job before him, and if he adds new, personal misunderstandings and mistakes, all the same, if he did it deliberately or not. This imagination reminds me of the funny little game called "Silent Post Service" that all of us have played when we were kids.

Now let's go one step further. Who were the purchasers of these translations? And who got a high education including foreign languages in the past? Now we have a full circle, and it's time for the next thought. – What happened if God wasn't any visible or invisible being who's sitting on the clouds in the sky or who is watching us from somewhere else, and if the leaders of the religions all over the world had only invented this special being to use it as their trade mark to make good sales of their products named belief and hope and to dominate their customers. – Isn't this an interesting aspect?

And what happened, if in reality, God was nothing, but a symbol for all the good things in this world, if he would be inside all of us and if we were representing God by all the things we do and think? In this case, we wouldn't need any mediators, messengers and translators, and on the other side, they had no more influence on us. And if everybody would see through the ancient lies, there would be no more chance to convince some weak people to commit cruel murders with committing suicide at the same time, because without the ancient lies, there would be no more paradise or hell to abuse them for this wrong promise.

Are you shocked now? Did I provoke you with these lines? If all this was true, what would be left for us to hope for? If the paradise and the heavens wouldn't exist anymore, what do we have to expect after our death? And for what should we go on trying to live our lives according to the moral rules of humanity in this world?

But I think, in this case, we even have a better reason. If we are fully responsible for everything we do, if we rule our own life, if we are God, we also decide ourselves what will happen after our death.

At this point, I have to come to the thoughts and beliefs that we hardly dare to speak out. Due to my own personal and impressing experiences, I'm one hundred per cent sure of the fact that here and today, there is so much more than most of us will ever guess, and each and every death is no end, but a new beginning. And I truly believe that all of you and everybody can have these experiences, if only you listen well everywhere and always, if only you open your eyes and above all, if you don't allow the things to disturb you that have been told to you for generations.

In these days that are formed by fear and shock, everybody seems to be talking about the "civilized world". But what does this mean? And who makes the decision what may be "civilized" and what not? – Please, be sure that there are some peoples in this world who are absolutely convinced by the things I just told you, and they believe in these things as long as they remember and even as long as their ancestors remember. But you can also be sure that most of us wouldn't call these peoples "civilized", but on the other side, nobody can deny that no cruelty or murders in the name of God or religion have ever happened among these people. We better should think this over, shouldn't we?

During the last weeks and months, my own personal experiences and feelings were getting stronger and clearer in an almost frightening way. In my home-town, I foresaw the tragic accident of a little boy, and I told my family about it before this accident happened exactly at this place unfortunately. And already several days before the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2001, I felt a terrible threat that I hadn't known so far, a shadow that turned everything that used to be extremely important to me, into a case of minor importance. I haven't been able to sleep well anymore, and during the hours before the attack, I felt sick without really being sick physically. And I know for sure that all of these feelings are clear signs and hints. Nothing can be worse than the feeling that somebody wanted to give you a warning, and you didn't understand it well enough, and that's why, you haven't been able to do what you should have done. This certainty is so awfully frightening, but also wonderful. In the future, I'll make sure to listen much more carefully than before, and I think, that's something that all of us should try. And please, don't misunderstand me concerning this. These signs don't ever come from some kind of a higher being. If you really want it, you'll experience it yourself.

Only if we'll change our way of thinking step by step and only if we understand that we are all alone in determining how our following life after our death will be – more similar to the

paradise or more similar to hell -, it won't be possible any longer to lead astray human beings to kill themselves and others in the name of God. And please, be sure that the kamikaze-pilots will be shocked when they'll discover some bad surprises instead of the promised paradise.

All the things that happened during the last hours and days are a clear signal. I truly believe that. We aren't allowed any longer to tolerate the lies of the self-made preachers and prophets, we have to help each other not to fall for the dangerous promises anymore, and we have to learn to listen and to be open-minded. Everybody should have the right to decide in what he wants to believe, and when we'll make our own personal experiences, the new insight and knowledge will be fantastic and breathtaking. That's what I promise you. You don't need to do anything else than to open your heart, your mind and your soul that already experienced so much more than here and today and that will experience lots more in the future, be sure.

In New York City, almost two years ago, I witnessed the impressive kindness, warmth and ready to help of the so-called superficial Americans. That's why, now it's no surprise at all to me how these people are getting closer to each other to help each other as good as they can in this terrible situation. And exactly this is the first step into the right direction, a step that the terrorists and their wire-drawers didn't want or foresee at all.

If we think it all over and if we change ourselves now – step by step -, the persons behind these coward terrorist attacks will reach the contrary of what they had wanted to happen. Isn't that a fascinating thought?

If only we really want it, we will be able to change this world and ourselves, and by doing this, we'll even become happier, more free and independent, safer and above all, more alive than ever before – just because we are human beings.

Oberhausen, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001

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