

Text SD 24: Religious communities and interreligious truths

Religions are signposts to God. Religious communities can help people find their way to God.

"Religion is crossing borders. It opens up new horizons. It leads into the vastness. It points to the sky above me. This heaven is the infinite, immovable background of everything that exists" (Marti 2004:23).

"In all earth denominations lie hidden germs of truth and wisdom. I know it and you also know it, because you have already been taught about it many times. And you do not need to look for the wisdom germs of others, because the faith communities, they have by and large stopped in their development" (Weidner 2007b:68).

"And not a sound will ... come from me, either derogatory or anything against other faith communities. And the members who live in their faith communities, they are all dear and worthy to me" (Weidner 2007b:68/69).

The great Islamic mystic Shaikh al-Akbar Muḥyi'd-Dîn ibn ʿArabî, who lived in Andalusia at the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries, once made the following impressive statement: "My heart is open to every form: It is a pasture for gazelles, a monastery for Christian monks, a temple of idols, the pilgrim's Kaaba, the tablets of the Torah and the book of the Koran. I practice the religion of love; in whatever direction its caravan moves, the religion of love will be my religion and my faith" (quoted from Stoddart 1979:54).

"All ... denominations - or religions - lead ... to reunion with God, our life-giver!" (Weidner 2007b:70).

According to Weidner (1992:226), spiritual guidance is provided by spirit beings of one's faith-specific context: Those who believe in Christ "will also be fed, enlightened and guided by the so-called 'Christian faith-bearers'! For example by Jesus, for example by Mary, by the guardian spirit, by the apostles and other so-called 'saints'. On the other hand, who - to give an example - is a Buddhist, i.e. belongs to one of the Buddhist faith communities, will be taken care of by the Buddha and will be guided by 'Buddhist faith helpers'. Those who have faith in Buddhism will be guided, directed and led by this body of faith. It is the same with those who are of Mosaic faith, have Hinduism as their basis of faith or profess Islam. All will thus be cared for by their own spiritual brothers and sisters, that is, by spiritual beings who have the respective bases of faith" (Weidner 1992:226/227).

Charity and service to people are not bound by denominational boundaries. Love knows no boundaries, neither in faith nor in worldview.

Source references and bibliographic information at:

<http://www.geistige-entwicklung.ch/angefuehrte-literatur---cited-literature.html>

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