

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 68 (2002)
Heft: [4]

Rubrik: [Impressum]

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Editorial..

Dreams, fulfillment, disappointment, tenacity.....

Why such a silly dream, I asked myself the other morning? Not worth finding the answer I told myself and now I can only faintly remember what the dream was all about.

I presume that most people react much the same way regarding dreams and like unsolicited mail thrown into the waste paper basket dreams are usually thrown into the 'too hard basket'!

But I remember the time spent with my one and only Grandparent, my Grandmother. She used to consult her dream-book regularly in the morning while her dream was still fresh in her mind. I never managed to get hold of that book that held so much interest for Grandma, as it was kept on top of the wardrobe out of

sight and out of reach of myself or other such inquisitive youngsters as my younger sister.

The only time I could have examined the contents of Grandma's dream-book was after her death as I was helping my Mother to clear away some of Grandma's belongings.

"*This book goes directly into the fire*", was the only thing that my Mother said tossing the dream-book aside, and despite my suppressed inquisitiveness (as a fourteen-year-old), I agreed since I had learned by then that dream-books had no place in the life of anyone with belief in God's providence, and that was that!

So many years have passed since those days of my youth and the time is approaching for me (maybe for you as well) to evaluate those other dreams, the ones that can occur not only at night but in broad daylight,

the ones my dictionary describes as follows; *To have a dream about; give way to visionary thoughts or speculations; to think or conceive of something in a very remote way!* Yes, exactly the kind of dream that Martin Luther King, the American Nobel Peace Prize Winner of 1964 spoke about during his civil right's campaign in Birmingham/Alabama.

His vision of a world (his own country of America) that would do away with boundaries between black and white citizens came true but not before he lost his life to an assassin's bullet in 1968

Because of the fulfillment of his dream the world is a better place to live.

But sadly not all dreams of this kind find such fulfillment and most of us will have to come to terms with broken dreams that end in disappointment.

I can't remember how many years ago I put the following question to myself: *If I had to state the two most wished for dreams (not in my private life, but in regard to my world at large) for the span of my life-time what would I answer?*

It was (and I clearly remember this) that I would live long enough to see more unity among Christians and that political life in my country of adoption, New Zealand, would become more democratic, that is to say more in line with the direct-democratic ways left behind in Switzerland.

As we all know both of my dreams have not yet found fulfillment and may well never come totally true, but with dogged termination I regard it my right and my duty to hope and pray for the fulfillment of my dreams. Having grown up in a time of religious intolerance between the two main Christian denominations in Switzerland and recognising the urgent need of Christian unity has certainly shaped my first dream, and my understanding of the system of direct democracy as is the privilege of the Swiss has done the same for my second dream.

It takes tenacity to go on hoping for the fulfillment of a dream that appears doomed to failure. But even partial fulfillment of dreams for a 'better world' can be a rewarding experience.

Recognizing the possible end result of my dreams has spurred me on during past years to become actively

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EDITOR: RINALDO RUST, 242 TE PAHU RD. R.D.5.

HAMILTON, PH/FAX (07) 871-9946 E-MAIL: RINALDORUST@XTRA.CO.NZ

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

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