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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 Price 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 determination 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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involved in exercises to bring about these end results not yet achieved. Taking part in ecumenical activities of differing denominations can be a very rewarding undertaking and if my country of adoption, New Zealand, would adopt a system of binding referenda and initiative, my second dream would come close to fruition.

Have you got similar dreams that you hold on to with tenacity?

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Your Corner..

Did you know that the Swiss are crazy for pumpkin?

I read in a recent article of the Tages Anzeiger that the consumption of pumpkin had increased 20 fold in the last 10 years.

Last year alone the Swiss ate 10 000 tonnes of pumpkin.

4400 tonnes were sold through the market place said Juerg Luethi of the Swiss 'Zentralstelle fuer Gemuese- seanbau', the same amount or more may have been sold direct from the grower.

It is not surprising really when you think of the many ways and varieties pumpkin could be used for.

From Salads to soups to gratins, cakes and breads, drinks and marmalade.

It is very healthy, 100 gr of pumpkin contain 0.1 gr fat, lots of calcium and Vitamins A, B1, B2, C and E.

Not all pumpkin sold will be eaten; the humble pumpkin has advanced to something of an object of cult. It is used as décor, or garden decoration or is hailed as a cultural object in the Halloween festivities.

Originated from Middle and South America, but it is thought that it might have been used as early as 5000 to 3000 years before our time measurement from the Indian ancestors in Peru and Mexico together with maize and beans. Today we count over 800 different varieties of pumpkins; they belong to the Cucurbitaceous family.

Botanically correct the pumpkin is not a vegetable but belongs to the berry family, as well as the Oranges, Bananas and Tomatoes.

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Answer to solve the problem if needed on page 15