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Newsletter from the Grail Settlement

2nd Half of the Year 2015

The Goals of Man

The goals that man strives for determine, through the law of reciprocal action, his life's path. Because, as Jesus already said, man shall reap that which, through his volition, he sows! This simple fact is not really always heeded however, as a result of which, men are confronted with effects that do not conform to the goals that they imagined and expected.

Every man follows consciously or also unconsciously certain goals because this is part of the nature of his being. The beginnings for this already lie in the years of childhood and experiences that arise can lead to various corrections. It is therefore of great importance that parents in caring for their children as they grow, give them the space that they need to unfold the predispositions of their spirit, whereby also a longing after the true values of existence can take root within them. Such a longing then leads to striving after spiritual goals and helps the human spirit in its further development.

Parents have the possibility and the responsibility to provide, besides the training for professional life, the help that their children need for their personal development. In loving intimacy they are examples for their children and it is their duty to bring them up to become independent human beings. Through a freely developed volition, the youths can then decide for themselves whether they wish to follow, out of their own conviction, the goals of their parents.

Unfortunately, nowadays it is such that only a few children have an appropriate environment for the free expression of the predispositions they have brought with them and can use for the moulding of their personality. The path of development of many children is instead influenced by manipulation and force. The reason for this is the parent's or other person's wrong ideas with regards to the educational requirements which children need on the path to adulthood. There is often a lack of a loving parental home as a place of refuge that, in homogeneity and exemplary practice of high values, would form the greatest support for the children.

With the best intentions parents believe they are doing the best for the children entrusted to them when they enrol them in certain educational programmes. Children are thus already at a young age brought into institutions which besides supervision or teaching in various fields also for the greater part take over the upbringing. The environment which surrounds the children there is however not that into which they

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were born. It is alien to them. It lacks parental warmth and true care. It also most times does not offer them the possibility to develop themselves in the way in which their predispositions demand. As a result of these deprivations, deficiencies that can lead to an inwardly desolate life show themselves.

When making an objective observation of the way in which many children grow up, the question arises as to what is to be expected of these children when they become adults. Will they be in a position to take clear decisions by themselves, which in relationship to their fellow human beings they can stand up for with sure certainty? Will they have, through experience, a natural understanding for a just balance in all things? Will they find within themselves a longing for spiritual matters, for light and truth, which they place before all earthly strivings?

From time to time one hears or reads that in individual countries children are trained to become soldiers or are exploited in factories as cheap labour. That is horrible and inhumane! Such an action is seen as a crime. Every suppression of children is rigorously condemned but in doing so it is overlooked that in the highly ambitious educated world, children are sent against their will to boarding schools or universities so that at the end of the educational programme which they undergo, they are made available to industry as well educated human beings and this oftentimes in areas which do not conform to their predispositions but to the wishes of others.

In the modern world the procedure is different from that in the supposed developing nations but still with the result that the children have a part of their childhood, which is so important for their spiritual further development, taken away from them. Instead of allowing a free volition to develop within them, they are pushed into certain areas and slotted into systems. For professional life, that is, for the future employer or business partner, this is welcome because each person is predictable and thus easier to replace.

Those so educated find free and independent thinking and the examination of all new things difficult. They are used to learnt, adopted ways of thinking and to placing themselves within a prepared system and therefore look for clearly delineated areas of responsibility. Again resulting from this habit, they conform mostly without contradiction to the orders of others. In their striving they try to lead a life that is in accordance with their social status and fulfils their material needs. The desired recognition and approval for this they find in their circle of friends and acquaintances who aspire to similar goals as they do.

If such human beings do not already belong through family tradition to a religion or a community of believers, then they will only seek a religious connection if they see societal advantages for themselves. Seldom is there a true inner urge. The content of a religion or a teaching is adopted and because of the already mentioned inability, or for other reasons, it is not subjected to an objective analysis, otherwise the gap which

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shows itself in most cases between religious doctrine and the concepts esteemed and defended in professional life, would be recognised. Yet if for once an inner desire for recognitions that lie above the earthly arises, it is quickly pushed aside into the realm of unfathomability. This is because blind faith transports a human being into a feeling of superiority.

However, such behaviour marks human beings out as spiritually weak personalities who do not strive to develop further out of inner conviction and follow their own personal life path without the companionship of those with a similar mind-set. They much prefer to remain in their state of comfort as far as all spiritual striving is concerned and welcome the circumstance in which, beside their professional work, they also have an environment in which in their fantasies they can play a prominent role; since there all objectivity is lacking.

A human being on the other hand, who could completely mould the predispositions brought with him and which correspond to his spiritual personality, would always first subject all new things to an examination and weigh precisely for himself whether he can accept certain teachings or rules. He will also pursue a good educational or professional qualification. In so doing however, he will avoid becoming a bearer of alien opinions or experiences. He adjusts himself to his inner volition and does not differentiate between his professional and private environment.

If he strives after a goal that stands in harmony with a godhead to which he ascribes inviolable perfection, then his volition will be followed by deeds, which will stand out through openness, clarity, straightforwardness and goodness. Within his freely developed volition he finds a longing after spiritual values and the truth about the Creator of all existence; because within him he intuits that the meaning of life is not based on earthly goals. Through such a striving he will finally be attracted by the word of truth which comes out of the love of God and can decide whether he wishes to open himself further to this word. This is always a living process.

In professional or private contact with others such a human being with such an orientation will not always have it easy. There is a mutual feeling of alienation in his relationship with his fellow human beings because these for the most part only strive after material goals. What such fellow humans do to themselves is their own concern. It is condemnable however what damage they cause to the children in their care by seeking to force upon them their own wishes and ideas. How will a strong personality that brings forth an open and free intuition, which also seeks after the truth about the Creator and his laws develop out of a child or youth if the whole environment is weighed down by thought processes that are in complete opposition to this?

It remains the lofty duty of parents to accompany their children in such a manner that their personality can unfold freely and they can thus become human beings who stand

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firmly in life and bring all their striving in harmony with their innermost urges. It is a thing of great joy however if the children as adults, of their own free will and conviction, find the way to the faith and lifestyle of the parents!

Exerting influence, which pushes others into certain fields and thus limits their freedom, is however not only wrong for children but for all human beings. In spite of this, in supposed good volition, influence is exerted upon spouses or partners, on friends or on colleagues who cannot draw a line or protect themselves against it. The true reason for this lies often not in the much praised concern for the other, but in the fact that the larger part of life's goals on earth are associated with expectations of our fellow men. These expectations then slip not infrequently into demands because in addition, a high degree of distrust exists which results from a lack of personal self-confidence.

A human being with trust and confidence in himself does not harbour any expectations towards his fellow human beings. He knows that only that for which he has prepared the soil through his own deeds, which swings in goodness, will turn into satisfaction and joy for him. This however is only possible for a spiritually strong personality who has no need to raise himself above others. A person however who oppresses another human being in order to see his own wishes fulfilled, always suffers under a destructive fear because he realises that he himself is not really a worthy human being in this creation. This is the same with jealousy or other claims of ownership in relation to a fellow human being. Harmony can never blossom from this but only vexation, which paralyses all life.

Expectations, demands, manipulation or even physical violence against another human being whether directed against a child or adult is a punishable act which in the inevitable reciprocal action also hinders the originator and holds him back in his further spiritual development. Only a strong, clear self-confidence in life on earth that has its roots in spiritual recognitions, is in the position to bring order into the goals of a man through which freedom and progress are sought after and no fellow human being suffers.

For a freedom loving human being striving after spiritual goals, it is therefore incomprehensible that nowadays many young people or even older human beings wish to link themselves through the internet to social networks and thus to have a feeling of belonging. They do not perceive how strongly they chain their own personality, how they thus open doors for hindering influences on their lives and how they become more and more parts of a group. Their own individuality increasingly diminishes through this. They become malleable human beings who however believe that they are using everything to their own well-being and advantage. –

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As a reader of the Grail Message in which one has found incalculable values for spiritual existence, one wants out of this recognition also to bring the Message closer to fellow human beings so that these can equally gain an advantage in their human existence. However one must experience in sadness again and again that only a few human beings have an inner desire for the Grail Message and thus for the luminous truth and the question arises why this is so.

The observation of the goals human beings strive for provides an answer. The entanglements in which man often places himself seldom allow a thought to arise that seeks after the truth of life and its Creator. If in addition, in the years of childhood the possibility of a free and strong unfolding of his personal predispositions is taken away from him, then it will be even more difficult for him in the years of adulthood to address spiritual goals. His inner spiritual desire is then so deeply buried that it can only express itself weakly and thus it is also difficult for him to recognise.

Nevertheless even a weak recognition of the spiritual personality can give urge to a search that leads to a recognition of the truth in the word of the Grail Message. Through this a helping ray of light can enter into such a man and supportively accompany him for his further spiritual awakening and strengthening. In order for this to happen, man on earth must rigorously observe his strivings and goals and always examine whether he thereby does not enter into hindering ties. If he does not do this with all alertness and all his available strength then day-to-day life with its worries, demands and forbearance will swallow him up. His striving after light and truth will then sink away into the sands of the many earthly trivialities. This happens completely unknown to him because his intellectual reflections give him sufficient grounds for the new path chosen.

In order to work against such dangers, every human being striving after light must open himself to the helping power and form his living environment in such a manner that the children given to him in care or the adults who are connected to him are not hindered in their development and spiritual unfolding. The path to this is shown to us in the Grail Message "In the Light of Truth" by Abd-ru-shin.

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Grail Festivals

In the place of Light in **Yaoundé**, **Cameroon**, a **Grail Festival** took place from the 15th to 17th August.

- 67 crossbearers participated.
- 5 supplicants were sealed to the Light.

The climax of the Grail Festival was the Holy Meal of the New Covenant, which was administered to the participants.

On the day of the After Festival

• 2 babies and 9 children received the blessing from the Light.

The Grail Acts were carried out by Dr. Nwanze.

On the **Grail Settlement** on **Vomperberg** in September, we celebrated the **"Festival of the Pure Lily"**.

- 757 crossbearers participated.
- 11 supplicants were sealed to the Light.
- 1 bridal couple received the blessing from out of the Holy Grail for their union on earth.
- 7 crossbearers received the call to become gold crossbearers.

The climax of the Grail Festival was the Holy Meal of the New Covenant, which was administered to the participants.

On the day of the After Festival

• 6 babies and 1 child received the blessing from the Light.

The Grail Acts were carried out on the High Festival day by Siegfried Bernhardt and on the day of the After Festival by Mrs Diane Bernhardt.

In **Nigeria**, in the Temple on **Grailland**, a **Grail Festival** took place from the 19th to 21st September.

• 1411 crossbearers participated.

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- 38 supplicants were sealed to the Light.
- 2 bridal couples received the blessing from out of the Holy Grail for their union on earth.

The climax of the Grail Festival was the Holy Meal of the New Covenant, which was administered to the participants.

On the day of the After Festival

• 15 babies and 7 children received the blessing from the Light.

The Grail Acts were carried out by Dr. Nwanze.

In the place of Light in **Johannesburg**, **South Africa**, a **Grail Festival** took place from the 6th to 8th November.

- 94 crossbearers participated.
- 2 supplicants were sealed to the Light.

The climax of the Grail Festival was the Holy Meal of the New Covenant, which was administered to the participants.

On the day of the After Festival

• 1 child received the blessing from the Light.

The Grail Acts were carried out on the High Festival day by Siegfried Bernhardt and on the day of the After Festival by Mrs Diane Bernhardt.

On the **Grail Settlement** on **Vomperberg** in December, we celebrated the **"Festival of the Radiant Star"**.

- 498 crossbearers participated.
- 10 supplicants were sealed to the Light.
- 1 bridal couple and 4 married couples received the blessing from out of the Holy Grail for their union on earth.
- 5 crossbearers received the call to become gold crossbearers.

The climax of the Grail Festival was the Holy Meal of the New Covenant, which was administered to the participants.

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The Grail Acts were carried out by Siegfried Bernhardt.

Also in Nigeria, in the Temple on Grailland, the "Festival of the Radiant Star" was celebrated.

- 1771 crossbearers participated.
- 52 supplicants were sealed to the Light.
- 1 bridal couple and 2 married couples received the blessing from out of the Holy Grail for their union on earth.

The climax of the Grail Festival was the Holy Meal of the New Covenant, which was administered to the participants.

On the day of the After Festival

• 16 babies and 15 children received the blessing from the Light.

The Grail Acts were carried out by Dr. Nwanze.

Also in **Congo**, in the city of **Kinshasha**, the **"Festival of the Radiant Star"** was celebrated.

- 145 crossbearers participated.
- 7 supplicants were sealed to the Light.
- 5 crossbearers received the call to become gold crossbearers.

The climax of the Grail Festival was the Holy Meal of the New Covenant, which was administered to the participants. On the day of the After Festival

• 4 babies and 1 child received the blessing from the Light.

The Grail Acts were carried out by Mr Nda-Ngye.

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Disturbances which spoil the experiencing of the festival

Time and time again disturbances arise during the High Festival because participants at the festival leave their seats to go to the toilets. This makes it necessary for us to point out that it should be a matter of course for each crossbearer not to disturb the festival happening. Leaving one's seat during a festival is only permitted in the case of a necessity resulting from illness. Should a crossbearer experience serious health problems during a festival then naturally this person should stand up, and go to the fore hall of the place of worship where one of our designated doctors is at hand to take care of him.

If it is known beforehand that for health reasons the use of the toilet during the period of the Grail Festival would be unavoidable then this should be made known to us through the festival application form. We will take this information into consideration when allocating seats and allocate the person in question a seat at the end of the row in the festival hall so that the person can leave the seat and return to it again without much disturbance of other festival participants.

If because of the aforementioned reasons one has to leave the main hall, then this should be done as unobtrusively as possible. The exit and entry into the festival hall should not happen during a lecture or indeed during the carrying out of a Grail Act but only when music is played. The doors of the fore hall are to be quietly opened and closed again.

Each festival participant without health restrictions should make it a concern to regulate his fluid intake before a Grail Festival so that a visit to the toilet within this period is not necessary.

Higher costs for late festival registration

A further matter of note is that increasingly we receive late registrations to the Grail Festivals as a result of which the already very extensive organisational efforts in preparing a Grail Festival are increased.

The general deadline for registration for a Grail Festival ends two months before the respective festival. If special circumstances do not allow otherwise, then as an exception, a late registration is possible. About two weeks before a Grail Festival however the extra effort needed is of such a magnitude that we have to request in such cases for a sum of \notin 40 in addition to the registration fee.

As far as facilitating accommodation is concerned, we would like to point out that from the aforementioned time frame of approximately two weeks before a Grail

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Festival, we can only do this if there is still a free bed available in the Grail Settlement, Vomperberg and therefore booking it does not cost too much effort. We will not in such circumstances facilitate accommodation outside of the Grail Settlement.

Grail Funeral at the cemetery of the Grail Settlement, Vomperberg

Mrs Erika Dowe who lived and worked for many decades in the Grail Settlement died at the age of 78. The funeral in the sense of the Grail Message took place on the 8th October 2015 at the Waldfriedhof cemetery.

Seminars

On Saturday the 10th October a **seminar** by Siegfried Bernhardt again took place on the **Grail Settlement**, **Vomperberg**. The topic was:

"The Primordial Laws of Creation and the Laws of Creation" - Where does the difference lie? -

Announcement

As in past years, on Easter Monday, the 28th March, on the **Grail Settlement** on **Vomperberg**, a **seminar** by Siegfried Bernhardt will again take place. This will be a repetition of the seminar on "The Primordial Laws of Creation and the Laws of Creation".

Questions will be answered at the end of the seminar.

Time frame: 2.00pm – 6.00pm. Please register in writing with the Grail Administration Vomperberg.

Furthermore on Saturday the 16th April on the **Grail Settlement** on **Vomperberg** the same **seminar** by Siegfried Bernhardt for **French speaking crossbearers** will take place.

Here also questions will be answered at the end of the seminar.

Time frame: 10.00am – 12.00am and 2.00pm – 6.00pm Please register in writing with the Grail Administration Vomperberg.

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International Christmas Market

There has always been a Christmas market in December for many years on the Grail Settlement, Vomperberg. This has been organised with love and great effort by a group of crossbearers. The articles offered for sale came from different countries and were presents from the crossbearers living there. The proceeds from the sales were received by the Grail Administration Vomperberg as a support for the Grail Settlement. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all those involved because through this each year we received a significant inflow of funds as donations.

As a result of numerous circumstances the last of these markets took place in 2015. On the one hand this is very regrettable. On the other hand, however, it gives the people who worked together on this, space to turn to new endeavours. Perhaps in future a new way will be found which also has the aim of supporting the Grail Settlement.

Verlag Alexander Bernhardt

No new books have been published within the period of this report. However it was possible to continue the work on the German texts and the various translations.

New distribution arms in addition to the existing ones of the Verlag Alexander Bernhardt have come into being:

Germany	Verlag Alexander Bernhardt Deutschland www.alexander-bernhardt-de.com
India	Alexander Bernhardt Publishing House India www.alexander-bernhardt-co.in
Malawi	Alexander Bernhardt Publishing Company – Malawi www.alexander-bernhardt-mw.com

Work within and on the buildings of the Grail Settlement, Vomperberg

The major part of our efforts was concentrated on the completion of the **new building**, **Vomperberg Nr. 15**. Various work phases had to take place here which individually brought much work, the need for large quantities of materials and thus high costs. In spite of this it was possible that the building could be almost completely finished. All 13 apartments, the staircases, the corridors, as well as the balconies and the outer

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facade with the exception of an unplastered plinth on the north side are finished. Only a small part of the work in the basement, in which apart from the cellar area and domestic quarters there are also spaces for accommodating festival guests, could not yet be completed.

Taken in totality, with the new building a beautiful solid edifice has arisen that evokes a great sense of satisfaction from the residents as well. The appointments of the furnished apartments are of a high quality and one hopes that the furniture will remain in good condition for many decades to come.

The former building Vomperberg Nr. 15 was in the past called "Reihenhaus II". This no longer seemed to us to be a suitable designation for the new building. In order not to choose a name for this house in an arbitrary manner we took the house number into consideration in our reflections and searched for a name with the 15th letter of the alphabet in mind. In doing so we were persuaded by the name "Ostara" which is also the name of a Germanic goddess of Spring, because our building with its happy colours fits well with spring and because we received during the time of the construction of the building great help as a result of the mild and beautiful weather.

In **Waldhaus, Vomperberg Nr. 35**, it was possible for us to continue with work in the interior of the house. It will however only be completed during the course of 2016.

The planned heating plant in the large Gästehaus, Vomperberg Nr. 5, was satisfactorily commissioned. Besides the Gästehaus, the neighbouring house Vomperberg Nr. 6, the Alpengasthaus Weberhof, Vomperberg Nr. 4, together with Villa Dora are connected to this plant. The heating plant is fuelled by wood pellets for which purpose we dug out at the west side of the Gästehaus space for two storage tanks each with 30 m³ capacity.

The boiler was replaced in the **neighbouring building** to the **Weberhof**, the **"Dépendence"**, **Vomperberg Nr. 20**. Here also we will be heating with wood pellets.

The work in the ground floor of the **Konferenzhaus**, **Vomperberg Nr. 17**, had to be postponed because the completion of the new building had priority.

A further project should be mentioned here: A group of crossbearers presented a **lion made out of bronze** to Siegfried Bernhardt for his 60th birthday. In order to provide the lion with a befitting environment a raised platform was created next to the Verwaltung. Protected by an iron enclosure a bronze lion now stands guard over the entrance to the upper Grail Settlement, Vomperberg.

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Work planned for the first half of 2016

Work in the basement of Haus Ostara, Vomperberg Nr. 15, and on the ground floor of the Konferenzhaus, Vomperberg Nr. 17, should be completed.

Since both tenants have moved from the top floor of the Verwaltung, Vomperberg Nr. 14, over to Haus Ostara the rearrangement of the top floor can begin. Our main concerns are the insertion of thermal insulation into the empty space between the walls and the ceilings as well as the replacement of windows and doors. The windows in the first floor of the building should also be replaced so that the whole house meets today's requirements in matters concerning thermal insulation.

The replacement of the windows makes it necessary to work on the outer facade starting from the balcony upwards. Modifications and renovation are also unavoidable for the rooms on the first floor. For all these works the first half of 2016 will certainly not suffice. By the end of the year however everything should have been completed.

Further work needs to be done in **Reihenhaus I, Vomperberg Nr. 13**, and in the cellar area of the **Gästehaus, Vomperberg Nr. 5**. We will also begin to pave the area around Haus Ostara with **block paving**.

For decades during festivals the **wooden flagpoles with the flags of the countries** of participants, have stood next to the building "Bergstation" (Cable House), Vomperberg Nr. 7. These flagpoles are now in a condition, owing to their age, in which their further use no longer makes sense. We have therefore decided to replace the masts and the country flags.

We plan to have 21 new flagpoles, which in the future will line the street that leads from the car park to the Bergstation (Cable House). For this purpose commensurate ground sockets must be set in concrete. An appropriate apparatus must be erected which will act as storage place for the flagpoles in between festivals. We estimate the costs to run to \notin 42,000 which is equivalent to \notin 2,000 per flagpole.

Since this is a matter of raising the country flags of our festival participants, the country leaders as well as individual crossbearers are invited to take up the cost of one or more flagpoles as a special donation. We plan that at the "Festival of the Holy Dove" 2016 the new masts with the appropriate flags will stand at the new location.

There is yet one additional special work planned for the first half of 2016: In the **hall** of worship in certain areas around the row of seats in the main hall, the floor covering is bulging out. The reason for this is rising damp. The concrete slab onto which the floor covering was glued is more than 60 years old and was not at the time damp

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proofed. To avoid further damage to the floor, which also presents a danger of tripping for the participants at hours of worship and festivals, the present floor covering has to be removed, the ground below rehabilitated and a new floor covering glued back on. We have decided on carpeted flooring that is so constituted that it allows damp to pass through it.

Cleaning carpeted flooring between the rows of chairs is more time consuming than wiping the present floor covering. At the moment we are examining which vacuum cleaners will be best suited for the work in future.

It is not certain at the present time how high the total costs will be. Preliminary calculations come to around \notin 30,000 and we plan to carry out the work in the month of April.

Looking back at all the work that was done in 2015, the Grail Settlement on Vomperberg has now for the most part received a timely renewal of its fabric. This however has also led us to a point where further borrowing of money should no longer continue. In 2016 we are therefore working towards reducing our level of debt in order again to achieve greater latitude that would make it possible for us to carry out a renovation of the workshop building, which is also old, and Reihenhaus I. –

In the last 16 years the Grail Settlement has undergone a transformation which is also visible externally and shows itself to be worthy of its undertaking. Living activity with the desire to give form to things of beauty has marked out these years. Very many crossbearers whether living on Vomperberg or in other countries have, with their support, contributed so that good volition could be followed by deeds.

Much certainly still lies before us and these will also culminate in good goals if we strive for a human existence which the laws of creation have prescribed for us.

Let us sally forth! Let us face up to the living pulse of all life and strive to be a part of this vitality! Also in 2016 the blessing of the LORD will be bestowed on us if we open ourselves longingly for it.

Grail Settlement Vomperberg, February 2016

Siegfried Bernhardt