

The five Clouds

“When you think that you are standing, take care of yourself that you do not fall! (Bible)

In the first six months I made quickly progresses in my new faith. Like a dried swam I absorbed everything I could get. So I went at least three times a week into the Pentecostal Church of my hometown and studied daily my bible. Besides I was interested in Christian Literature generally, especially in autobiographical stories. More than this, I talked enthusiastically with others about the truth of my new way. I tried to convince them like a “good Christian” should do!

If you would have asked me “Are you really total convinced of your faith? Without any doubts?” I would have answered without any hesitation: “I am absolutely convinced! There is no doubt possible. It is the truth!” And I would have been proud of my new and strong faith. Well, I didn't know the upcoming day, God had made to test my faith and show me my heart!

It happened on a sunny winter morning. I just had had breakfast and had already done my daily bible studies. Busy with some home works I now was listening radio, but not much intensively. But at the end of the ten o'clock news the speaker caught my full attention: “In Africa archaeologists have been grabbed out human bones of 30 000 years-of-age. The age of the bones has been established through the C-14 method, which is known as a very precise one. It is a sensation ... “

The rest of the news passed unheard. My own thoughts had taken over the the rule of my mind. “*30 000 years-of-age ... but this is not possible ... the bible says that Adam lived 6000- 6550 years ago!*” I felt panic rising up. There was difference of at least 23 000 years. And I knew that the reliability of the C14- method was out of question.

A horrifying question manifested in my mind, *Is all wrong what I have believed the last six months. Is my faith, are Jesus and God an illusion ... a fake!??... Am I in sect, as my parents believed? Have I betrayed myself?* From one second to the next I felt myself in

a deep emotional trouble. It seemed that the ground had opened in front of me and I would look into an abyss.

With desperation I said to myself: "Stop it! You must keep cool and think clearly!" So I sat down and tried to collect my thoughts. Actually, I calmed down a little bit! "*So, what should I do now?*", I asked myself. Suddenly "Brother John" came in my mind. This black pastor from Ghana, who had settled down in Duesseldorf half a year ago. I liked and trusted him! *OK, I thought by myself, this is a good idea. I will visit and ask him!*

Two minutes later I left my home. For a moment I thought about taking the bus, but then I decided to walk. "Brother John" was living in the neighbour district and there was a lonesome nature path to it. I had used it sometimes before.

When I walked through the small forest still in the near of my home, a new thought suddenly came in my mind. "*Perhaps I should pray!?*" But immediately it was countered by another thought. "*You will pray to a God whose existence you are doubting?*" For a moment I hesitated. But then I said to myself, "Anyway, it may help. I will pray!" And so I stopped and prayed. "God, you see my inner trouble. Please, help me out of it!

I felt a slight relief. But naturally, that heavy burden was still laying on my soul. Absorbed with confusing thoughts and feelings I continued my walk. There was a point where the nature path went over from open area to a big forest. And just there was placed an old bench. I knew that from earlier walks.

So, I had adapted myself to relax there for a while. But when I reached it I saw an old couple sitting there. "Well, it is not my day," I thought by myself. No one else was visible than that old couple just sitting on *my* bench.

I was already prepared to pass by, when they suddenly arose and walked away into the forest. With a feeling of slight relief and thankfulness I now came to rest on the old bench. I stretched out my feet and stared absent-minded in front of me.

It was really a beautiful winter day. A blue sky combined with clear, fresh air. But I wasn't able to enjoy that. I felt depressed and exhausted. The shock of the last hour had been too deep.

While I was sitting in that strange on the old bench my eyes went unintentionally into the sky. And they got caught,- do not ask me why -, on some white clouds in some distance of me. They were exactly five ones standing side by side. *"Have they been there all the time?"* I asked myself.

Normally it would have been ridiculous for me to watch some clouds in the sky, but here wasn't to watch anything else. A strange thought came into my mind: *"Don't they look a little bit like letters?"*

So, I tried to look at them keeping this aspect in my mind. And really, I realized with great astonishment that every single cloud seemed to be shaped as a letter. And then I got it. At the sky was written, shaped by five clouds the word:

J e s u s

I stared disbelievingly at the clouds. Could that really be? Was I am dreaming? I took off my glasses and tried it again. There was no doubt. The five clouds were shaping the name Jesus! And in the same moment came a bible verse into my mind:

*"It is by the name of **Jesus** Christ of Nazareth ...Salvation is found in no one else, for there is **no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.**"*

(Acts 4,11 + 12)

And then I realized it in one moment. God had answered my prayer. He had let me see a miracle to help my fainting faith. I was stunned. Could it really be that God would do that? But it was obviously. He had really done. At the sky was clearly readable the name above all names: **Jesus**

So, God had given me an extraordinary revelation. This was for me now completely out of question. But what should I do now? How should I react? The bible passage of Moses and the burning bush came in my mind. When he saw that the bush wasn't burning up, he realized that this was a heavenly revelation. And suddenly God spoke from within the burning bush: *"Moses! Moses!"* And Moses said, *"Here I am."*

"Do not come any closer," God said. *"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."* (2.Mose 3,4+5)

Well, for taking off my shoes it was too cold. But I knelt down and

thanked God for his revelation. Then I stood up and turned around. Without any further at the place of revelation I went straight ahead into the forest and took the direct path to Pastor John from Ghana.

Fortunately he was at home. I was welcomed with a hug and a cup of tea. Then we sat down and he listened quietly and attentively to my story. When I had finished it, I was curious about his reaction. Would he say that it is nonsense? That I had become a victim of my “weak nerves”? Or had had a hallucination?

But without batting an eyelid he said: “Well, this was really an extraordinary experience. But we can see in the bible that God manifested himself sometimes in the clouds.” And we started a short bible study according to that theme.

When we departed I felt totally relieved and happy. Now I was sure. God really had given me an extraordinary revelation to stabilize my fainting faith. *But what about the 30 000 years-of-age and the C-14 method?* For a little moment I paused irritated. I had totally forgotten to ask Pastor John about it. I smiled: *So what? Let them find old bones of 100 000 years-of-age. I know that my **SAVIOR** is alive!*

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