

As a visual artist I was asked to make a work of art for the Hoornbeeck College in Gouda.

As an introduction we will sing a psalm in our thoughts. It then remains silent for about four minutes. How important: a moment of silence!

At the same time, when you sing the psalm in your mind, it might just happen that all registers open. Or just a capella. Perhaps you are singing in a deep valley or on a high mountain.

They are three verses of 8 lines and the last verse has 4 lines. Afterwards we walk to the atrium for the continuation. Now the psalm comes into view ...

psalm comes into view

continuation speech

Dearly beloved.

When I receive an assignment, I always reduce to 'less', to 'almost nothing'.

Once at our house an "almost nothing" hung above our couch (a white painting to be exact). After which a visitor, an inhabitant of my village said: 'Shouldn't you paint something on it?'

Regarding this visitor: he looked, but did not see. You have to learn looking at art. You need to put this in with your children at an early age, otherwise it could be that they will say, by the time they are ten: 'Shouldn't you paint something on it?'

Often when someone asks such a question about art it tells something about him relating how he thinks about art, moreover this question indicates his limitation. However it can also occur that it shows a person's versatility and curiosity.

Mark Rothko once said: 'To be sober in art is not that simple'. He has become well-known by his abstract expressive colorfields, often large painting canvasses in which you are almost evolved as a visitor and when you have learned how to look, it will touch your soul.

I was asked to paint an image of psalm 72. A psalm with an abundant content. Probably the psalm has been composed by David as a prayer of blessing dedicated to his son Salomo. In this psalm it is about a king who procured international honor (think about

the queen of Scheba). It is about a kingdom of peace, about wisdom, about justice, about taking care of the orphans and widows. Things that were particularly given space during the reign of Salomo. At the same time it is a psalm for the Messiah. You do not read about the imperfections of Salomo. It is about the perfect King. As the psalm talks about peace, wisdom, justice, hence it is in a perfect form.

The psalm ends with a special eulogy. In psalm 41, 89 and 106 you can find such an eulogy, but not quite extensive as in psalm 72:

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things; and blessed be His glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with His Glory. Amen, yes amen.

Now after two millenniums this eulogy still echos in the *Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiriti Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper et in Saecula Saeculorum. Amen.*

Moreover: it ascends increasingly all over the world. The poet of the psalm is longing for God's Kingdom in which the dominion of the whole world will become clear. However this power is still hidden at the moment. If things are right you are longing for the glorious moment for Him to come and that every creature will acknowledge His dominion. In the meantime every Christian is called to act as the Lord Jesus did. That means that his life will be defined by justice and that is why he gives consideration to the innocent and vulnerable.

to the atrium, continuation speech

Actually a psalm is a perfume, it ascends to God. Hence the melody that goes from the bottom upwards, in a vertical line.

The vertical lines on the side edges blend into the text and form a cross. After all it is a psalm for the Messiah. Simultaneously it is a symbol of 'to and fro the sea', to all the corners of the earth, His Kingdom will be illuminated worldwide.

The color refers to 'the Sun of Justice', the sunflower that symbolizes the new life, but also the temple of Salomo and specially the saint of the saints, the space that was 10 by 10 metres completely coated with gold leaf.

The piece of art brightens. The psalm carries the light within it. That will probably be the case with all the psalms, but in psalm 72 it is present in abundance. Light is spiritual like God's Holy Spirit. Light also symbolizes God's Beauty.

Comperatively it is a small piece of art in a monumental space and still ... when you look down from the highest level you sense the shape of the cross, that reaches to the end of the earth. Maranatha!

Thank you for your attention

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