

Sitting at home at my computer and looking out of the window, I see an open window in one of the neighbouring houses. Through it there appears first the hand and then the head of a person, looking at the sky. I wonder who it might be. It takes me back to our artistic event and the question, "God, who are people that you keep them in mind?". It also brings me back to why I have phrased the question differently to the psalmist who inspired me:

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Psalm 8

Why "who" and not "what"? That person, who in the meantime, while I have been reflecting on our question, has returned to their room, was for me someone – someone unknown rather than something. It's true that I don't anything about that person's background, what blood group they have or their DNA. But that really isn't of much interest to me. Why is the question different in the psalm? I took a look at the Hebrew text, and it is different there too. The Hebrew word *mâh* means "what", "how", "why" or "when". This sent all sorts of ideas running through my mind. How is a person? – What does it really mean to be a person, Lord, before your face? Why the person? What does it mean that we are here, O Lord? When is the person? Does that mean that sometimes before God and before each other we lack humanity? That at one and the same time we are people and we must become them? That is the way the path, or actually a number of paths, are leading, taking us deeper. I hope that some of you will walk them too.

But let me go back to the "who". The first thing that comes to mind is the text from the gospels where Jesus asks his disciples: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" He asks about a person, about relationships, stories, which shape who the person is according to the way they reveal themselves. The Son of Man is the Messiah, the Divine Saviour. So says Peter, who at that time still didn't fully understand what that meant. That would take him time, until he had lived to the full all the possible meanings of those words. And who is the person? Is it the same riddle? The same mystery? The same process of revelation? I think it is. And yet sometimes the person is revealed. Again I look to the psalms. People reveal themselves as those who have an upright heart, who live blameless lives, act justly, have a heartfelt desire for truth, who have clean hands, a generous heart, who do not swear false oaths and do not abuse my soul. This is the revelation of the person who seeks and reflects the face of God. Who is this, O Lord? How? Why? When? Perhaps you've met with such a revelation. Perhaps it peeked out gradually, first a hand, then a head looking to the heavens, and like my unknown neighbour you glimpsed it for a while and then it disappeared, but left you with its traces. Perhaps you will manage to capture it with a pencil, a brush, working with clay or plasticine, to the rhythm of needles sowing.

I wish you inspiration, joy, and the special atmosphere which comes with creative silence and wonder at what emerges. I look forward to your works and thank you that, by reading these lines, you have joined us for part of our common journey.

With warm greetings

Ivana Noble