

Ines Hasenöhrl

God, not luxury goods, is at the top of the need-pyramid



The chorus, “Only true luxury can save us: luxury is like vitamin pills,” was a slogan for me in my youth. I definitely wanted to be a career woman like you see in the magazines and advertisements – rushing from one business appointment to another with a mobile phone, a briefcase and a stressful glance at my watch. With this picture in mind I started out at 26 on my career path. My life-goals were purely

materialistic. I could have sung in the chorus with Madonna, “I’m a material girl in a material world.” The objects of my desire became ever more expensive. After all, we only met only in Munich’s ‘in’ cafes, wearing designer clothes, with a chic exterior and a toothpaste smile. In addition, I wanted to have everything but I was really stingy. But although I made progress in my career and could also afford more, I gradually noticed that I would never obtain satisfaction and happiness in this way and so I started to look for the answer to the question, “What’s it all about, here on the earth? What am I supposed to be doing here?”

After frantic attempts at autosuggestion, positive thinking and assorted other esoteric subjects, I finally came across a pearl through my mother: the teaching of Bruno Gröning. The veil fell from my eyes during a

youth week in Berlin. It was there that the simple Bruno Gröning devalued the apparently most important things in the world: money, power and reputation. Through him I learned that at the top of the need-pyramid that they taught us about in school is God, not luxury goods.

God is the origin of all striving. Through Einstellen and the community hours I have been allowed to recognise this as the true meaning of life. Naturally I have continued to work, I have a responsible, well-paid job that I enjoy and I am happy about the things I can afford. But a balance has entered my life: the balance between spirit and matter, just as Bruno Gröning said, “With feet on the ground and head in the heavens”. Where there was once longing and emptiness, today there is happiness and spiritual wealth – and I have a feeling that it won’t stop growing.

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