



EUROPEAN
TREK

74

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GRASPING THE UNIQUENESS	YOU BE IT	OBJECTIFYING THE BOMBARDMENT	PARTICIPATING IN WILDNESS
Letting the different cultures happen	Embodying their style	Guarding the Symbolic	Standing open to time
Seeing behind the closed doors	Being ever reflective	Worldly care	Celebrations of different countries
Discovering the Awe in the Mundane	Letting the Awe flow through	Sustaining the self	Camping
Standing knee-deep in history	Keeping the distance	Commonality	Discontinuity

INTRODUCTION

The holding image for the European Trek 1974 is that of exploding the uniqueness of Europe. How is it that you take the gifts of each culture within Europe and mold them into a common thrust towards building a new world? Our self story that proceeds from this is a screen out of which we made every decision an intentional one.

I. Grasping the Uniqueness

To let a culture happen; you must try to do things in the same way as people do, but at the same time you must not try to be one of them. In doing so you do not get blocked by the problem of trying to be something different from what you are and therefore you can then see the gifts and the problems of that culture.

In terms of grasping the uniqueness, we will need to seek out the most particular and everyday situations that are themselves very insignificant, but at the same time play a great role in creating the country to which they belong. This can only be done by knowing about the country itself in terms of history, culture and style of the urban and rural setting; or, to say it poetically, procuring the key that will show you the glory and gems behind the closed doors.

Our mindset must be one of "Yes". Discovering awe in the mundane is knowing when you look back, it'll have been a fine time. It's diving into wherever you are and being the Discoverers. You know there's more than what's on the surface and you dig for it; you are transforming the mundane not only for yourselves but for other people too. You look at things through more than one screen; and find awe in your own mundane self as well.

Standing knee-deep in history is knowing that the very ground you're walking on can tell 1000 stories. It's being frustrated because you don't know why something is there. Being told 3 stories about the same statue you feel terribly young. Noticing how mundane the Roman Buildings are to the local population. Knowing you can never be the first to walk there. Seeing famous places and not understanding why things happened. Imagining you were there, feeling glad you are alive.

II. You Be It

-- When you talk about "You be it" as an image, you talk about letting the whole country flow through you, where you participate by embodying their style, not becoming their style but always keeping open to the gifts and wisdom that is behind everything they do. A helpful way to talk about this is to use the image of pulling or taking out of the country its special gifts to forever keep it as part of your global screen.

Being ever reflective will be about the hardest task on the trip. After we have seen a few places our mind will become bogged down and we'll soon find ourselves falling into the ugly American style. To keep from doing that we have different tools such as the journals and conversations to enable us to reflect on our journey and in doing so will keep us from being tourists and will enable us to explode the uniqueness of Europe.

To let the awe flow through, you have to get close to yourself. Going to everyday places, learning that country's language is necessary. It's sitting somewhere and going over your life. You feel as solitary as a Swiss Alp and as close to people as a Saturday morning market.

Keeping the distance will be the most disappointing task in our Trek. For each country you will want or try to become a member of that country and you might even think you've succeeded until all of a sudden you want to do something like a tourist and you suddenly realize that you've been sucked into the trap of trying to be that country. When this happens you must keep in mind that you're a guest there and you will never be anything but a guest. Therefore it would save much time and effort to keep a little distance from the country knowing we are Americans.

III. Objectifying the Bombardment

As we journey through Europe on behalf of the order we feel it is necessary to keep always in our presence the symbolic life of the order. We would participate in this through the Geneva office, breakfast conversations, study life and House Church.

During this summer we see ourselves accountable to the Order and our relations in terms of collecting wisdom from the European continent; we would see ourselves participating in this accountability by submitting each week a report to the global order and immediate family.

As we are thrown up against always being with a corporate body we find it necessary to hold each individual's brooding through reflection on the day throughout the journey. This will be done by writing the signal events or key happenings in a journal during a structured time.

Being assigned by the movement this summer to the European Trek 74, we feel that it is necessary to hold before ourselves the wisdom and commonality of the order. Therefore we have decided to wear a corporate garb which will for us take the form of a cross.

Participating in Wildness

Man has always been clear that his models were designed to enable him. Knowing this it is going to be crucial that while travelling through we stand open to our Timeline so that when we discover those unknown gems, we may stop and add to our cultural montage of Europe that particular uniqueness.

In order to participate in the wildness of Europe it is necessary that we not only see each city but participate in the celebrations of each country so we might demonstrate to ourselves what it means to honour our fellow man's heritage and culture.

One of the many ways of participating in Europe is to be submerged in its terrain. To do this it would be helpful to keep open the possibility of living off the land while camping. This would help us to experience the hardship that living in Europe was, is, and will be in the future.

In participating in Europe's wildness it is necessary to step back from the intensity of each culture and bring discontinuity into our Timeline. This may involve scuba diving, having a snowball fight, going to a bullfight or even swimming with all our clothes on(or off).

CLOSING PARAGRAFH

Every man finally experiences globality in one way or another but putting that internal explosion of events into a missional context in which you operate on behalf of all men is what we as a body of people need to forge European Trek, 1974 is not out to rationalize that happening but to begin to forge anew how you would move on behalf of the beggars in Calcutta by operating as a group of people who are self-conscious about their decision to be the Church.

