

Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle

Mehrsprachiges Gesprächsbuch von [Benjamin Schultze].

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Nachwort (datiert)

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Gentlemen

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Among all the Christian Virtues, the Virtue of Humility is the highest and best, but now a days very rare. The reason thereof is, because all men naturally are born without this Humility and there is seldom heard of in the management of the common Education in order to teach the Humility both in the Families at home or in the publick Schools. But on the contrary all the World is fond of the naturall course which does abhor nothing more than the Virtue of Humility. There are Schools enough in the Countrys and the Youth does learn therein many Languages and good Morals, fit for the Use of this Life, but as for the Lesson, concerning the Instruction of the Virtue of Humility, there is not such a thing as to be found all over the World. This is a strange matter indeed, especially in the Countrys, where the Christian Religion is openly professed. It is therefore no Wonder at all, that this most Excellent Virtue is become as rare as any thing else upon the Earth, although the Humility is the Foundation of all the Rest of the other Virtues, I say, not unmindful, the Foundation of all other Virtues whatsoever. Because without this Humility

all the other Virtues do loose their own Price and noble Character. Pray, Gentlemen, give me Leave to ask You but one Word: the Devotion in Prayers self and the Worship of GOD, is the chiefeſt Office, we are obliged to perform as our Duty, but in caſe, this Devotion and Worſhip of GOD is accompliſhed without Humility? You will certainly ſay; they are both good for nothing, and I am with You of the ſame Opinion. Now what is to be done? what is the Advice, that we may be acquainted with this Humility? It is high Time to look for her, to draw nearer to her Lodging, to learn in her ſchool, ſo that we may be brought into her divine Light, in order to become happy in this World and in that to come. Here is our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the Son of GOD, the moſt Excellent Doctör, coming down from above heaven to teach this principall Virtue of Humility! He himſelf is the only Pattern, by which we may learn this Humility. He teacheth this Virtue by words, He teacheth alſo by his deeds. Becauſe all what we do obſerve on Him, is but a Doctrine, recommending divine Virtues and eſpecially this noble Virtue of Humility. In all his Converſation, Carriage, Behavior,

Speech and Works we do see, hear and perceive nothing
else but Humility. But we must here not fancy, that
our Lords Humility only has been outwardly, no, by no
means, his Humility was as really within as without.
Because Humility consists not in exterior things
or Words, but in the very root of the heart. Therefore
say He: I am meek and humble of heart. Seeing
now, Gentlemen, on one side, that the Virtue of Humility
is of an exceeding high Estimation and thus absolutely
necessary, that no body without her Pass-port can enter
the Limits of heaven; but on the other side, that our
Lord Jesus Christ teacheth her freely, granting to
every one the Admittance in his School, to the very
end, that we all may become Partakers of his Humility.
Let us therefore from this very moment begin to Study
for the future, nothing so earnestly as this Lesson!
Let us endeavour, how we shall become humble. To
change only the outward manners, this will be not
enough, but we must go on farther and change our very
heart, or to speak plainly, to be changed by the Grace
and help of God Almighty into the Image of Jesus
Christ. And this must be done by true -

Repentance and Contrition of the Soul, as forsaking
and dying the whole World with all Vanities. May
Jesus Christ, the Author of Humility teach us this
worthy Lesson! May it please Him to make us alto-
gether humble in our very heart and daily Conversation!
is, Dear Gentlemen, at present, the good Wish of Your
most humble Servant.

Halle
Anno. 1749.
D. 16. Decemb