

HITLER YOUTH “RELIGIOUS” CEREMONIES

As if they were in church participating in a solemn religious service, members of the Hitler Youth proclaim their faith in Adolph Hitler. It is not the word of God which is heard but that of Adolph Hitler; it is not Christ who has sacrificed his life for mankind, but Adolph Hitler:

The Word of the Führer:

He who has faith in his heart, has the strongest force in the world.

Reading:

Because faith means power, it may appear to be something unbelievable. It is the prerequisite for every activity. No man can accomplish anything without faith.—The noblest and most important quality of man is not reason and knowledge, but his faith. With faith this new Reich began. The first party rally was proclaimed: the victory of faith. With faith it continues to grow. It no longer grows from the faith of one man, but from the faith of all people; it is sustained by the power of all those in whose faith more than a human force has arisen.

The Word of the Führer:

My will must be everyone’s religion; it must be your faith. My faith means everything to me just as it does to you. The greatest gift which God gave me on this earth is my people. In them rests my faith. I serve them with my will and it is to them that I give my life.

Reading:

Lead us,
In your hands lies the destiny of millions; during many a night while we sleep, you stay awake in fearful concern; for many nights will pass when you must contemplate everything, in order to view the day with a clear eye.

My Führer, look, we recognize the human sacrifices which you undertake for us. You must endure the burden of loneliness so that you may direct our people’s destiny in both good and bad times. For this reason our love is also so great. For this reason you are the beginning and the end. We have unconditional faith in you.

From Franz Joseph Heyen,
Nationalsozialismus im Alltag
(Boppard: Boldt, 1967), pp. 229-230

A poem written by Baldur Von Schirach might serve as the theme song for the Hitler Youth Movement and the religious relationship between Hitler and his people:

In many thousands you follow behind me,
And you are I, and I am you.
I have experienced no thoughts which did
not originate in your heart.
And I form words, none of which
are not in one with your will.
Because I am you, and you are I
and we all believe, Germany, in you!¹

from Peter D. Stachura,
Nazi Youth In The Weimar Republic,
(Clio Books: Oxford, 1975)
p. 172

¹ Compare this verse with Hitler's own words on the reciprocal relationship between a leader and his people:

"I know that everything you are, you are
through me, and everything I am, I am
through you alone." From Joachim Fest,
Hitler, translated by Richard and Clare Winston
(New York: Vintage Books, 1975), p. 159