

**Review by Antoine Guggenheim of Monique Tonglet-Vélu's little book. The Gospel, quite simply
Speech and Silence, 2020**

Father Joseph is always at work. He is within his books, he is within his work, he is within his disciples. In them, he proclaims the Gospel, he lives it, "quite simply". As long as ATD Fourth World's struggle to destroy misery lasts, he will animate it. It is he who has taught us to bring to the word all that is lived in the night of exclusions to find the message of fear and wisdom. To write to remember what exists and to bring to the person that which is on the brink of nothingness. To arouse and collect the word in the trust of a friendship only slowly deserved, to resurrect and transmit the fragile life that speaks of doubt and faith, anguish and prayer, ignorance and culture.

These pages of Monique Tonglet-Vélu report nine conversations she had as a visitor to the sick or the elderly, often isolated, sometimes for many years. Between these "chapters", a few lines, brief observations noted in passing as flashes or sparks, express the author's admiration and love for those who have given her a new access to the Gospel, sometimes with great difficulty. Human dignity, divine grace, respect, burying, silence. These are pearls acquired at the great cost of life, death, solitude and courage.

To read this book is to educate oneself to capture the little things of the encounter: looks, hands, objects, images... It is to learn to taste all the parables of our lives and of the Christian Scriptures, and of all the religions that each one receives and gives to himself. It means working on one's heart, because this book, a collection of words and gestures felt at the limits of the unspeakable, engages its reader, provided he is slow and attentive, not only to read, but to live. A book that leads to the limits of action as only witnesses know how to write when they look back on the wonder of the source and its journey. "We should write about everyone, or rather about each one, carefully, slowly" (Christian Bobin).

Monique is the wife of Jean Tonglet, one of the leaders of ATD Fourth World.