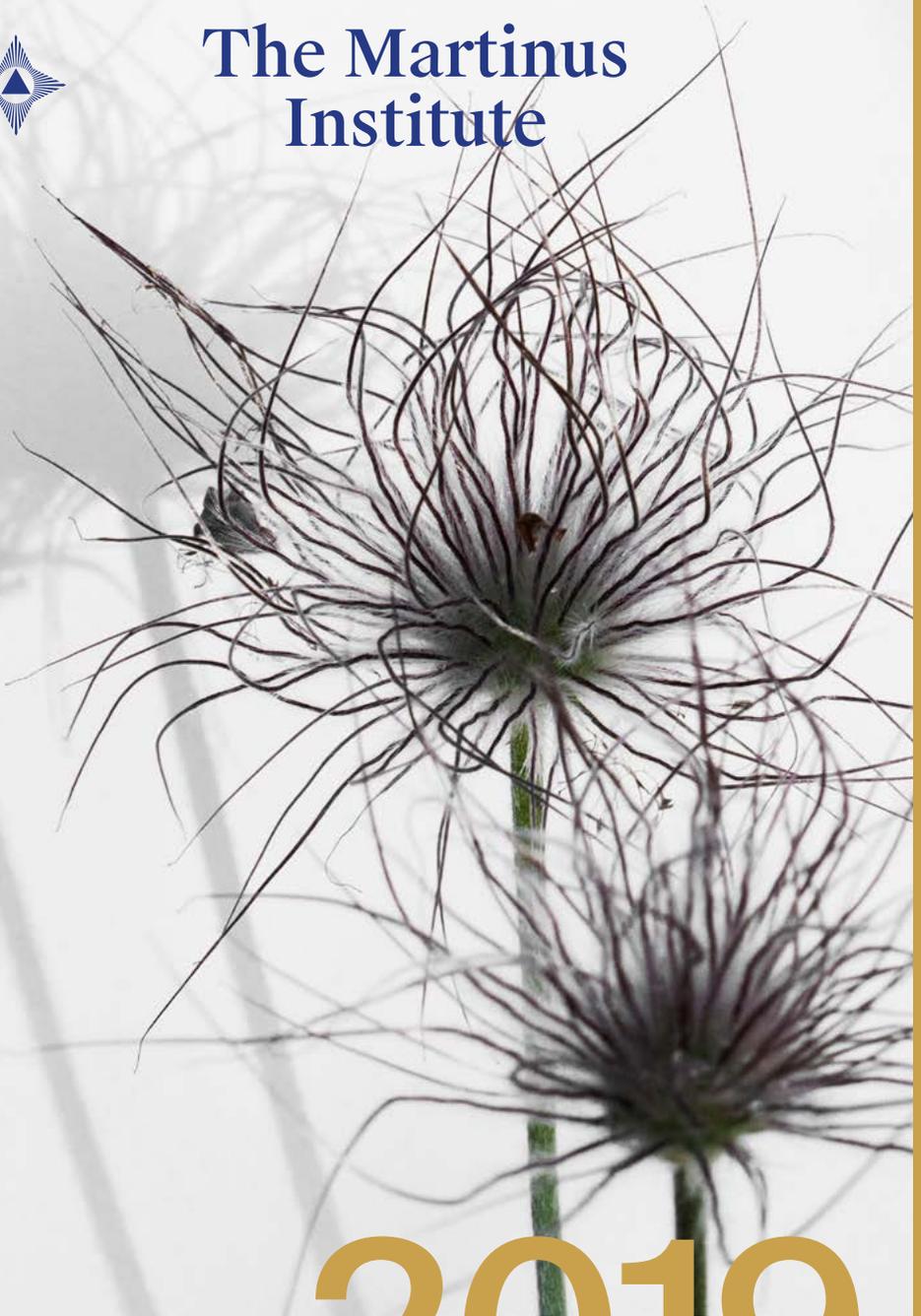




The Martinus Institute



Christmas letter

2019

Dear friends of Martinus's cause,

“Once again a year cycle has reached its completion. Midwinter is upon us. We are in the epoch of darkness and coldness. The autumnal storms have long since raged over the terrains, stripping the trees of the last remaining withered leaves. Dark clouds fill the sky, making the short day become at one with the night. The ice settles on straits and sounds. It is beginning to snow. Nature’s white shroud spreads over the countryside and the cities, covering all contrasts with its cold whiteness. There is peace and stillness upon the kingdom of death. It is Christmas Eve. Over the domain of darkness shines the heavenly light of the Christmas Gospel. It signifies love, world salvation, help in need, presents, celebration and joy.”

Thus began Martinus's Christmas letter of 1950. December that year was rather cold, and the Christmas weather was, according to *Dansk Vejr i 100 år* (100 years of Danish Weather) “predominantly frosty with sporadic snow cover”. In the 1940s there had been four severe winters, so people naturally expected frost and a white Christmas.

The peace of Christmas

The years in which we can look forward to a white Christmas have become few and far between. But, nevertheless, we hope every year that it will happen, just as we hope for the brighter future that Martinus describes for us: “Just as people during the grey, sad

days of every winter are enlivened by the memories of the bright return of summer, so too are people enlivened by the Christmas gospel and other divine promises of a coming sunlit epoch of life, a higher form of existence. Does not this enlivening become established as fact through the wave of joy that we encounter every midwinter in the form the thousand-year-old tradition we call ‘Christmas’? The true spirit and atmosphere of Christmas – with its presents, packages and letters, its expanded stimulation of neighbourly love – is an emanation from a kingdom that is not yet of this world. They constitute cosmic energies of light from a summer region in a far greater ‘year cycle’ than that which is created by the rotation of

our planet around its own axis. In the timescale of this ‘year cycle’ our terrestrial life in the form of incarnation and discarnation can actually be symbolised as ‘days’ and ‘nights’ respectively.”

One year (1954) Martinus wrote his Christmas letter in India. It was hot, and Martinus describes how colours emanated from his surroundings and from Nature in contrast to our cold and dark wintertime. How then did he get into the “Christmas mood”?

“The peace of Christmas is not a question of summer or winter. It is solely a question of the human being’s love for its fellow human beings. Where this is lacking, people will starve and freeze to death, even if there is enough food and even if there is an eternal summer.”

Later, in 1964, Martinus also wrote about the Christmas atmosphere: “With regard to meeting God, it shall not occur only in the glorious wonders of Nature or summer; we shall also meet him in people’s way of being. And we see that this way of being to a particular degree lights up the darkest days of midwinter. Then a divine atmosphere passes over the world. It is this luminous atmosphere that we call the ‘Christmas atmosphere’. It has its root in the light from Bethlehem. It is God’s spirit through the song of the angels: ‘On earth peace and good will toward men’. It is the light from the mountains of Galilee: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’, that scintillates and emanates through millions and millions of lights the world over, on market squares, streets and alleys. They scintillate in the poor hut as well as in the halls of palaces. In the glow of this

divine sunshine millions of gift parcels, loving letters and greetings are sent from family and friends to family and friends all over the world. Large sums of money are collected as gifts to help the lonely and abandoned who live in the darkness of life. Everyone wants to contribute to helping everyone else. No one must starve and freeze on the holy night when God’s spirit passes over the earth.”

Thank you to all those who support Martinus's cause

Martinus always concluded his Christmas letters by thanking all those who supported his cause in one way or another. We council members often feel that the thanks we give people sound insufficient and hollow compared to Martinus’s warm-hearted greetings. Even though it is now the council and not Martinus who thanks people for all their helpfulness and the work they have done for the cause, we would like you to know that without your efforts there would be no cause, because most of the work within Martinus’s cause is carried out by volunteers. The cause is borne by a voluntary workforce in all areas: planning, renovating, refitting, cleaning, lecturing and teaching, gardening, cooking, the writing of texts, translation and much more. The giving of gifts that takes place in a concentrated form on Christmas Day has, in Martinus’s cause, spread throughout the whole year. These gifts are in the form of both financial help for the cause and in the form of voluntary labour.

News from our publishing house

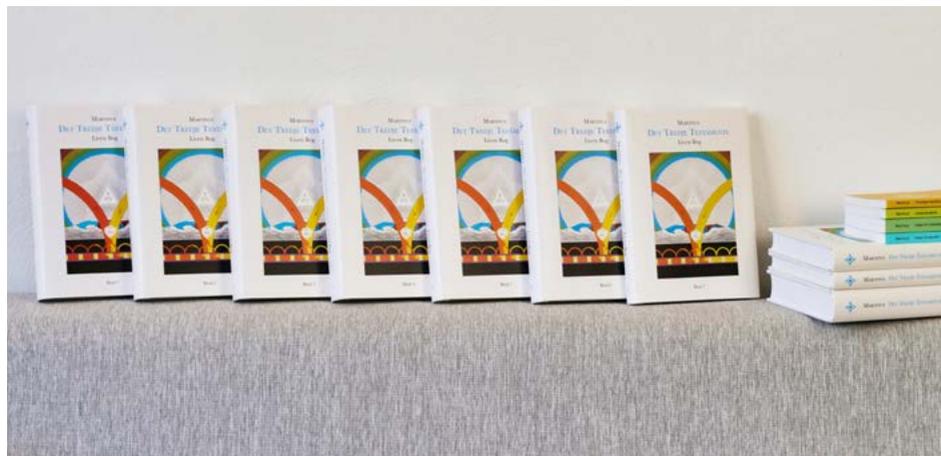
After a couple of years of preparation, the Institute began in 2011 to republish *Livets Bog* (The Book of Life), vols. 1-7 (in the original Danish) – a hardback edition with a dust jacket. It was a major project, involving all editions of the books, including the manuscript, being scanned and digitally compared to find spelling mistakes, printer's errors etc. This has given us the opportunity to document and record every minor or major error or change that has been made over the years. The project has meant that *Logik* (Logic), *Bisættelse* (On Funerals) og *Det Evige Verdensbillede* (The Eternal World Picture), books 1-4 have been through the same process. We have now got to Martinus's shorter books. Of these books, nos. 11, 12, 13, 21 and 25 have been republished, and we plan to republish the remaining short books over the next 2-3 years.

In the autumn book no. 11 *Bønnens Mysterium* (The Mystery of Prayer) came out as an audiobook (in Danish).

The plan is to publish all the shorter books as audiobooks.

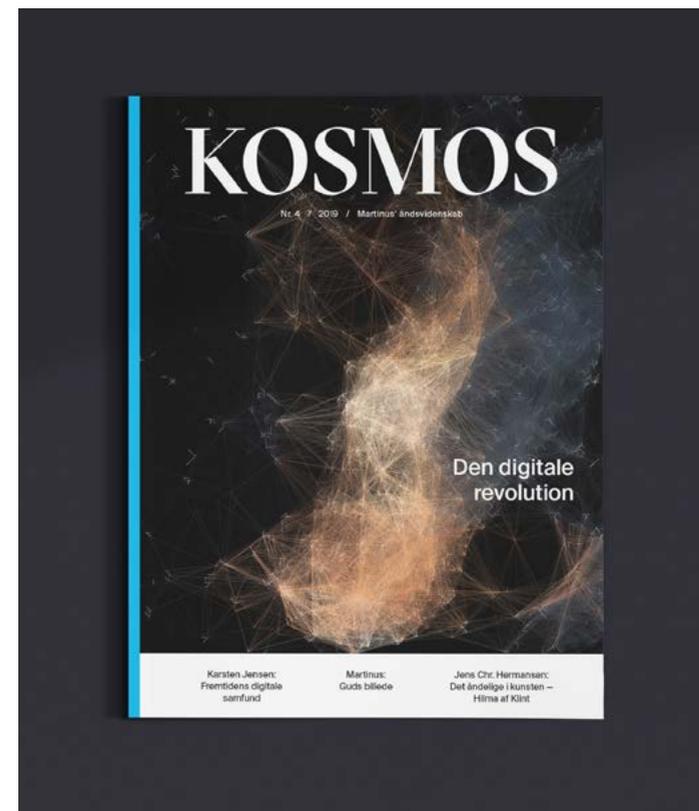
2019 has been an important publishing year in that a new edition of *Det Evige Verdensbillede* (The Eternal World Picture), books 1-4 was published (in Danish) in the early summer. In December of this year books nos. 4, 5 and 14 will be published in Danish. In the spring *Bisættelse* (On Funerals) was published in Spanish (*Exequias*), and in December book no. 13 *The Christmas Gospel* will be published in English.

Besides the many republications from 2011 until now, the Institute has issued several important new publications. Namely, *Det Evige Verdensbillede* (The Eternal World Picture), books 5-6 (in Danish) containing Martinus's remaining symbols, and *Grand Kursus – Det evige verdensbillede* (The Grand Course – The Eternal World Picture) (also in Danish), which consists of transcribed lectures from a lecture series Martinus gave in the winter season of 1955/1956. The book contains 76 of Martinus's 100 symbols.



4 The new Danish edition of *Livets Bog* (The Book of Life) 1-7 in hardback with a dust cover

The Danish edition of *Kosmos* no. 4, 2019



End of the copyright case in the City Court of Copenhagen

This year the Martinus Institute has concluded a lengthy court case in the City Court of Copenhagen. The court case has been very expensive, and the Institute has met much opposition and criticism during the process. The support and encouragement we have received during the court case have therefore warmed our hearts very much. We would like to say thank you for all the support we have received during this difficult case. If you are interested in reading more about it, you can do so (mostly in Danish) on the Institute's website: www.martinus.dk.

Disseminating Martinus's spiritual science through the magazine Kosmos

In 2019 the Institute's magazine *Kosmos* has had a major revamp. The Danish and Swedish versions have become significantly larger and have been given a new layout. We also publish a digital version and have made a new website for *Kosmos* with articles, podcasts and videos. The English edition of *Kosmos* has become digital and has a website. We are delighted with the many positive reactions we have received and are looking forward to a new year with new themes, articles by Martinus and much more.



Films of Martinus's symbols

Much is happening regarding disseminating Martinus's world picture. During the coming years, we will use the media of film to show and explain Martinus's 100 symbols. The coordinators for the project are a new working group consisting of Lennart Pasborg, Roald Bundgaard, Mogens Barslund and Per Jan Neergaard. You can already find films in Danish about symbols nos. 12, 16 and 65-66 on YouTube (search the "Info Martinus Institut").

Teaching and courses

In relation to the teaching of Martinus's spiritual science, we look forward to an exciting and comprehensive programme for 2020 with our usual choice of courses, conferences and lectures all year round at the Martinus Centre in Klint and at the Martinus Institute in Copenhagen.

We are particularly pleased to be able to offer a new, 3-year course in Danish and Swedish for those who would like to immerse themselves in Martinus's main work, *Livets Bog* (The Book of Life), vols. I-VII. The course starts in the first week of the summer season and consists of a mixture of physical meetings, tutorials and e-based learning (digital studies and online meetings). Read more about this in our new 2020 programme for the Martinus Centre, Klint!

During 2020, we also plan to present a web-based introductory course on Martinus's life and work in the form of a so-called "Massive Open Online Course" (abbreviated: MOOC). The course can

be taken by anyone who is interested and will consist of several modules, including video films and text excerpts that provide an insight into some key ideas in Martinus's analyses.

More plans for 2020

During 2020 we expect to have a new, comprehensive website, which can also be read on mobile phones, for the Martinus Institute, the Martinus Centre in Klint and Martinus's childhood home, Moskildvad.

Other wishes for the new year are an upgrading of guest accommodation at the Martinus Centre and the possibility for live streaming of the summer lectures. We will return with more information about these projects in future newsletters.

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

The Council:
Willy Kuijper, Trine Möller,
Jacob Kølle Christensen,
Mary McGovern,
Pernilla Rosell Steuer,
Kenneth Ibsen and
Jens Christian Hermansen

We will let Martinus finish this Christmas greeting with his own Christmas letter from 1979:

“With this I send all the dear, faithful friends and co-workers of my mission and our cause my heartfelt loving wishes for a very Merry and Happy Christmas.

It is lovely to see the many public and private Christmas lights that sparkle and greet one in the open spaces of the cities and villages. They show that Christianity has not sunk entirely into the darkness of oblivion. The help and support that, from the many collections at the lit Christmas trees, emanate to poor and lonely people and homes show that Christmas still has a little of the “sound of angels”, even though the hellish flames of Armageddon are at work in many places around the world. And people moan and groan in this Armageddon’s deadly sabotage of mankind’s life on earth, and they sacrifice billions upon billions in order to simply actively multiply its horrors of horrors even more. It is good that people will soon discover that it would have been good for mankind to have “put up again its sword into its place, for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword”. (Matt. 26:52)

Happy is he or she who has the heart and the courage to take part in carrying the torch with the ‘eternal light’ over the death fields of Armageddon.”