

CONTACT

with THE MARTINUS INSTITUTE
OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

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President: Martinus

Dear Reader, Vice-president: E. Gerner Larsson

One of the things which makes us feel older is the speed with which certain events seem to repeat themselves. As a small boy, Christmas or any other festival seemed to be very far off. Now, on the other hand, all festivals seem to come in quick succession! Yet Christmas still has its own note or atmosphere. In the outer world this atmosphere is perhaps brought about because we celebrate this great festival in the darkest and coldest time of the year, when everyone certainly needs some encouragement in order to cope with the time until the sun shows its warm and life-giving face again. But also in our inner world we need Christmas and in no circumstances wish to give it up, because, for a while, we need to make ourselves free of the earth, and to direct our eyes towards the stars. In the midst of all the noise and speed we need to stop for a second and listen to the "note from heaven". Because in the middle of all our material success, in the middle of our plastic and chromiumplated existence we are still fugitive visitors, who - thank God - "belong elsewhere", and of this Christmas reminds us.

None of us grows older without experiencing, with still shorter intervals, that this one or that one suddenly has passed away. It may be young people, and the pain is great, and it may be people to whom death was not only expected, but came as a release and makes us glad for them in our heart. But every time one experiences the same thing: they take something of themselves with them. The bells do not ring for the dead only, they also ring for us! When one is very young one does not hear them, one is still facing life ahead, and that is as it should be. But this world also has a message for the soul which we have to meet and experience, and when this time comes, happy is the one who, with all lost illusions and dreams behind, realizes one's duty - the duty to live, not for oneself alone but for others - to be useful and to serve. Such speech the young person does not understand. Merely the enormous future ahead makes him feel immortal. But life is time, infinite time, and some day every young person will face the day of reckoning with himself, and will decide the true value of his present life, whether he will "bury his talents" or whether he will let them grow.

To me the greatest love existing has always been this, that we can do with our life just what we want to, because the feeling of freedom is the greatest feeling in life. As a drunkard whom I once knew said to me: "It is true that I drink, Gerner, and it is also true that I am going to rack and ruin, but you know I have never married, never had children and never

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even done any harm to a cat. It is only to myself I have done harm, and that I have the right to do". He was a kind soul, children clung to him, and he always showed me consideration by disappearing when the desire for alcohol became too strong. I have often thought of him, because in the middle of all his misery he had such fine human qualities that I would have hated to dispense with his friendship and the wisdom his own vice had given him. He knew human beings from a side which you and I rarely get the opportunity to know.

Today all call for freedom. But freedom is two things: something outer and in itself fairly unessential, and something inner, but, on the other hand, very essential. One must grow forward to this inner something, because it is with the freedom of the soul we choose the road of duty! This in most cases means to accept, to renounce and to be willing for self-effacement, which alone leads to the last and final goal of our life: everything to be of happiness, joy and blessing in our surroundings!

Of course I know just as well as you that not one of us is so great yet that we can fulfil this demand. But that is not expected from us either. What life expects - and rightly - is that we never give up the desire to try! That we never give up and become sufficient to ourselves, and this is where the Christmas message comes in. The inner message of Christmas is against our inner primitive nature. We are sons from a jungle in which power and self-assumed right to take what we want used to be life's greatest goal, and we still have, all of us, a little too much of the jungle blood running in our veins. Yet we have the other too, we have - and this is very important - a continuously growing desire to give. It was not in vain that we, during many lives, dragged ourselves through the hell of the jungle. Each one of us has deep in the soul a continuously growing feeling of where the road of the future goes. Each one of us knows that war, small as well as global, has its root not in our humane, but in our animal qualities. People speak fine words about common interest, but as a famous barrister once expressed: "Give to the human being a bucket of soil and a deed to it and all the wild power of the jungle immediately awakens in his soul". Personal interest certainly has not died yet.

The wise ones of the world raised themselves above this nature. From the smallest to the greatest they realized that life in itself is divine, that all, seen from a high cosmic point, actually is "very good". But they also saw that just because the human being was not yet a real human being, but, on the other hand, a spiritual centaur, an animal body with a human head, its worst enemy was living in its own soul. And they all gave their own lives in order to show us the way out of our own self-created labyrinth. To me the greatest message of Christmas is not the birth of Jesus - he may probably have been born at quite another time of the year - it is the birth of a human being, who was not only betrayed by a friend, but who also in his life's heaviest moment had enough courage, enough knowledge, to be able to kneel down and pray the most difficult of all prayers "Lord, not my will but thine be done". And notice: not only to ask this prayer, but also to follow its almost cruelly hard demand.

Martinus has never disguised from us the truth that we all one day will find ourselves in our own "Gethsemane" - that we shall all one day find ourselves in a situation where the fight only is a fight between our own will and the will of the Godhead, and that the one who loses this fight has to return again one day to that "Gethsemane" of his. Because the road goes through "Gethsemane", and eventually, right through to that certain situation when one is finally simply unable to use even the finest-edged "sword of righteousness", even if the heart is burning to take it and strike. If you want to study this problem you will soon come to realize why all the wise ones have taught the human beings this most difficult teaching. "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you"! Then you will see for yourself that

every self-righteous person lives in a very fragile glass house! It was not for nothing that the Nazarene said the famous words: "He who is without sin, let him throw the first stone".

The snow falls gently and still outside, and it seems as if the dream of a white Christmas will be fulfilled this year to the joy of innumerable children as well as adults. But Christmas can also be "white" in another way. It can be an hour when the human being takes the courage to see himself as he really is. And it may then happen that from this experience comes a desire to do exactly what one knows ought to be done, but which one earlier had neither the desire nor the courage to do! Though we live in a Welfare State there is both physical and especially spiritual distress everywhere around us. We all have at least one "forgotten" friend somewhere. Look up this friend or send him or her a small greeting! Let this human being for a while feel that he is not forgotten, that his human worth is big enough for one to remember him!

Material presents never warm the soul half as much as a warming caress, and that is just what a short letter can be!!! We all need these warming caresses, so why be miserly about it?

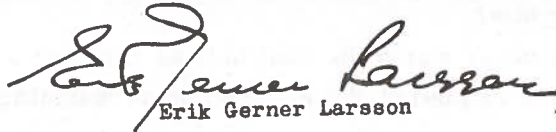
My Christmas letter to you has become quite different from what I had in mind, because I had actually thought to tell you about the growth of the cause in the past year and about all that which is going to happen. Though it was a complicated year, still it was a wonderful year!!! So very much has happened, indicating traces of light into the future. The greatest of all events was the publication of Martinus Book of Symbols: "THE ETERNAL WORLD PICTURE", first volume. You must hurry if you want a numbered copy with his own autograph. Just think that the publication of this very expensive work is now certain, even became certain in a very few days - what an extraordinary experience that was! Also the great growth of the Contact Letters (Grace to the Work you do) has been an immense inspiration. I must also mention the rebuilding work which is almost finished now. First the rebuilding of the old lecture hall in the Kosmos Holiday Resort, the success of which has been far above expectations. Then the new lecture hall, and finally the rebuilding of the Institute. Just try to imagine what a very humble group of men and women have performed here, and you will understand that today Martinus' work is in a strong position. These people gave up hundreds and hundreds of hours in order to give the cause just that instrument which it needed so much. We have just now received the information that the majority of the residents of the Kosmos Holiday Resort wish to transfer the restaurant building - belonging to the "association of house owners" - to the cause, a wish we are happy to fulfil.

Let me finish my Christmas letter by telling you that when the bells ring in the new year Martinus' work enters into its seventh great cycle. Now there lies behind us 42 years of struggle to build up and stabilize the cause so that we can leave it to our successors in such a state that they will be able to continue the work with confidence. That there has been and still are things to overcome is nothing compared to the fact that every one of us is present at the birth of a great cause! A cause which alone shall serve that light about which Christmas brings the tidings. A cause which at all times will be an expression of the fact that during a time where darkness closed over the world and fear knocked at everybody's door, a human being was born whose inner light was so strong that human beings saw it, and closed up around him and helped him to fulfil the mission which not he alone, but a constantly growing host of spiritually mature men and women realized had to be fulfilled. Martinus' thought-world has long ago ceased to be only his. From Iceland in the North to India in the South, human beings are busy translating his thoughts. Today there are men and women around

him giving all their spare time in order to bring his thoughts out into the world. One book after another is being translated, and in silence, a work is being prepared which in years to come will give rich and blessed fruit. We know this because already in these days we are receiving letters from all over the world, letters giving expression of deep gratitude for what Martinus' thought world brought them. In all fields our work is in prosperous growth, could any Christmas story really be greater?

With the heartiest wishes for a bright Christmas and a happy New Year for you and your family from Martinus and all our co-workers.

Yours sincerely.



Erik Gerner Larsson

OUT OF THE DARKNESS II

WORSHIP OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND POWER INSTEAD OF RIGHT

As already mentioned, it is animal instinct that manifest itself between the states, the nations and the people. But there do not yet exist an effective police force or administration of justice common for the nations and the states of all the world. The single peoples and states maintain and aim at sovereignty. They want to decide themselves whether they should share the goods and advantages with other states, at times they even want the right to take possession of other states' possessions and goods. Therefore, a single state may do as it likes, put forward conditions and suppress other states, all according to its superiority in military power. Power thus becomes the decisive factor. If the people of the society or the individuals did not have a common police force or administration of justice (which is the case regarding each single state), then a bloody anarchy would rule, where the strongest robbed and plundered, killed or murdered all the people who stood in their way. Here the people already realized long ago that a strait waistcoat in the form of a common police force and administration of justice was absolutely necessary. But as far as states or people are concerned, the great superstition still rules that sovereignty is absolutely the only thing. The worship of sovereignty is in reality the same as the worship of a strait waistcoat, in which one - although unconsciously - is forced to release the animal powers, instincts, thirst for power and desire for conquest. This sovereignty is praised in literature and poetry, in art and education. Expressions as "the field of honour" just indicates a mental realm, within which these beings - possessing the highest record of murder and killing of the "enemy", his culture, house and home etc. - are praised and worshipped as heroes, are decorated with gold and silver crosses and hearts or other symbols of that Christianity, the real foundation of which was pointed out by the World Redeemer in the few words: "Put up again thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword"! Indeed, a total undermining of war. Where is that Christianity to be found today?

CHRISTIANITY AND WAR

It is quite natural that the Christian states, the people of which are formally baptized by the clerical authorities, authorized by the states, in the name of the "Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost", have become humanity's greatest warriors, the greatest conquerors, the greatest oppressors, the greatest representatives of power, the highest record-holders in murder technique, manufacturers of war machines and exploiters of millions of horse power from the elements - all to the annihilation of "the enemy". Is it really believed that this is Christianity? How can this be in accordance with the proclaimed Christian way of living, which is expressed quite simply in the following: "... but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek turn to him the other also"! How is it possible in the name of Jesus to bless the murder weapons which are a thousand times worse than the sword which Christ asked his disciple Peter to put again into its place? How is it possible to ask God to help to destroy one's "enemies", at the same time as wanting for oneself all His protection? Does not the same Christianity say: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples - if ye have love one to another". Is it not thought that true Christianity was revealed on the cross through the words of the World Redeemer: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do". Is there here

any indication of inspiration to the praise or assertion of the principle of war?

PAGANISM WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN PRIESTHOOD

How can a really true Christian priesthood, professing to be the servants of Christ and the preachers of His teaching, be stamped by nationality? True Christianity can neither be German, French, English nor Russian. Christianity is a true maxim of the developed human being, no matter where on the globe or in what country it may be born, and to which race it belongs. But when the priesthood of a country dedicates or blesses soldiers in the murder and destruction of soldiers of another country, then this same priesthood is tremendously far behind understanding who is their "neighbour", quite apart from the fact that they have no legal authority, whatever, in the name of Jesus to consecrate and bless people to violate the Sixth Commandment: "Thou shalt not kill". The performers of Christianity, priests or authorities all over the world ought long ago to have become a mental or spiritual state in which other states existed. Christianity and its priesthood ought to be a refuge for all unhappy and troubled beings, quite independent of nationality, politics and outlook. Christianity itself is raised above primitive sympathies and antipathies. It is in its basic nature as manifested by the World Redeemer "charity in pure culture".

THE COSMIC DEATH, WHICH SHOULD BE THE RESULT OF THE EATING OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE, HAS COME TO PASS

All that is against this, to love one's neighbour as one self, is paganism. Truly, much paganism is found in the terrestrial human being's Christian society of today. True and pure wisdom of love has been split up in many different derailments in the form of many specially onesided interpretations. Around such a special interpretation a group of beings has gathered itself, which in the form of religions and political sects and unions call themselves "those chosen by God" and believe that they belong to the elite of humanity and have the monopoly of salvation. In their illusion of self-appointed greatness they feel themselves entitled to judge all fellow human beings who think differently to excommunicate and condemn them to the stake, perdition or to hell. Imagine what deluded Christianity, what culminating superstition it is that, in the name of Jesus, can defend war, murder and killing, and further believe that one has the right to condemn others to darkness and suffering, in spite of the Christian world religion saying: "Judge not that ye be not judged! For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged, and with what measure ye measure ye shall be measured again"! Everywhere we see that paganism, and thus death, has conquered true Christianity. Gradually Christianity has been confused to a great extent with so much paganism and made it a defence for many of the killing animal customs, against which it should really warn and protect human beings. Pure Christianity is like a useful plant sown amongst the weeds. The weeds have grown up around it and have more or less stifled or dwarfed this cosmic plant, this divine grain of mustard seed which should become a big tree in which the birds of heaven could come and build their nests, yes, should become a great kingdom in which all build their daily life, culture and way of living in culminating love to all. But this beginning kingdom of heaven, Christianity's cosmic planting in the terrestrial human mentality, is thus being suffocated in the killing weed of paganism or the animal customs. Many of the dark mental weeds are, in the name of Christianity, being cultivated instead of being weeded out. This cultivation of the darkness or the paganism's selfish traditions under the motto "everyone for himself alone" characterizes the Christian or cosmic unconsciousness. The ruling part

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of humanity neither believes in the existence of a Godhead nor in a logical world government, just as its own immortality and eternal identity is not within the scope of its understanding or senses; it is almost an insult to plead the existence of these realities. By this mentioned part of humanity, the solution of life's mystery or first cause can only be perceived as coincidence. Death thus rules over the terrestrial human sphere. All is hidden in a cosmic night. The effect of the enjoyment of the tree of knowledge has come to pass!

THE WORLD CANNOT BE SAVED NEITHER BY PROPHETS NOR BY A NEW BELIEF

But terrestrial man, the dead Adam, is again beginning to arise. Just as the water shall not eternally continue to be a sewer, but unshakably, alternately, must constitute not only the clear well water, by which the living being can quench its thirst, but which also helps to form the blue sky, morning and evening glow or other atmospheric gilding of existence in order to become again a sewer or the water in the gutter, and then again to be transformed to beauty and enjoyment for both body, soul and spirit, so shall the cosmically dead Adam and Eve, the terrestrial man, not continue to live in the cosmic night, the death sphere of the cycle. As neither dogmas, hypotheses or the like - however beautifully they may be formed - can bring human beings to a faith, then there is no road forward in any new religious belief. Therefore, neither dogmas nor prophets will be able to help the world now. This situation Jesus indicates when talking about the last days and "the advocate the Holy Ghost".

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LIFE'S MOST SUPREME SCIENCE OR COSMIC ANALYSIS

As spirit is consciousness, and consciousness again constitutes thoughts, then the holy spirit thus becomes the same as holy thoughts. But holy thoughts can only be thoughts which express absolutely the highest truth. The highest truth is again the absolute solution of life which again means: the absolute world picture. The holy spirit is thus a science about life, about the living being, wherefrom it comes and whereto it goes. As the analysis of this science is just as real a documentation of life's psychic or cosmic aspect as the materialistic weight and measure science or science of figures is a documentation of life's material or physical aspect, then it will just as little be partially coloured or be sect forming, as the modern materialistic science. The materialistic science tells us amongst other things that two plus two is four. This conclusion can be neither French nor Danish; it can be neither Democratic, Communist nor evangelical. It is in itself culminating internationalism. It is universal. It is the same throughout the universe. The analysis of life in the form of the Holy Ghost or spiritual science is thus universal, international and interplanetary. Therefore, the conclusion of spiritual science manifested as facts, will be the only thing which can form the mentality of the human being into an interdependent cosmic unit. All nations of the earth will, through spiritual science, be gathered in the only world perception which solely constitutes the absolute truth or reality.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPIRITUAL SCIENCE AND DOGMA

Spiritual science thus deviates from all former accounts about the psychic or cosmic side of life in that these have been only revealed as dogmas, hypotheses or handed down perceptions, which are created as objects of belief only - not as objects of knowledge, while the spiritual science, on the other hand, is purely concrete and acceptable cosmic information for the intelligence and by its logical elucidation, has been made fact for the intellectual research

worker. Through spiritual science the investigator comes to live on facts and thus on reality or truth, while through dogmas, hypothesis or postulates he only came to live on belief or suppositions. Objects of belief, suppositions and postulates cannot preclude doubt. They always contain possibilities for error. Facts, on the contrary, cannot create doubt. Here man does not live on supposition or contingencies but on pure inevitable reality. And only this pure reality can become a common conception of life for people of the world. All must acknowledge facts but not objects of belief or hypotheses. As long as one bases one's life on hypotheses and suppositions, highly different perceptions and different grades of lack of confidence will prevail. All cannot be equally sure about the reality of the hypotheses; this has become the basis of all the many religious sects which occur within the same religion. Where the facts have become a basis for life this would never happen. Spiritual science will transform the human beings into one herd and one herdsman, which means: a humanity united in a common understanding of the absolute truth and moral, the Godhead and the world picture.

THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD

The salvation of the world does not consist in gathering around one person any more, but, on the contrary, to come to understand the real truth through spiritual science with all its cosmic analyses, which are available on earth now. The cosmic analyses give to the dead Adam and Eve the resurrection from the dead, which brings them back that light making the eternal conclusions of Christianity into living verifiable facts and thus into nourishment - not only for the feeling - but also in a high degree for the intellect. When the many conclusions of Christianity (which all merge in the one conclusion: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself", and "everything is very good"), become living scientific facts, visible to the intellect, then peace begins to lighten the world.

WHEN LOVE BECOMES SCIENCE WE ARE AGAIN UNITED WITH GOD

When love becomes science, daily life is not a question of the best murderous technique, of frontiers, of camouflaged or undisguised slavery, it is not a question of money, interests or pay per hour, it is not a question of taxes, restraint or bankruptcy, it is not a question of State secrets or espionage, it is not a question of resources, substances or materials, it is not a question of unemployment, public assistance, philanthropy, it is not a question of religion, politics or traditions and other kinds of common belief. When love has become science, the problem of money exists no more. Then the human faculty is the most beautiful thing which human beings have to protect and cultivate, the human faculty by which they make the earth submissive to the advantage of the "neighbour" whom one loves just as much as one loves oneself. Then the cosmic course of the earth goes into the gates of heaven and we see the dark clouds fade away and become one with the vanishing cosmic death or night behind. Before us glitters and shines the radiance of God's countenance, and we enter that glory, beauty and joy in the kingdom of light, which were prepared for us already long before the world was, and God breathed the breath of life into the continents and seas of the earth. And so we are again united with God in the garden of Paradise.

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