



MARTINUS
INSTITUT

THE MARTINUS INSTITUTE

Christmas Letter 2017



Dear friends,

The Christmas star

Once again, a year is drawing to a close, and again we see how diverse and eventful the path of terrestrial human beings towards the human kingdom of the future is. In last year's Christmas letter we pointed out that global development was characterised by an increase in division and nationalism; in the past year we have seen that the disputes and disagreements, both on the global political scene and in domestic policy debate, seem only to escalate even more quickly and be characterised by an even stronger polarisation between nations, groups and individuals. We human beings have different views on things and,

because of our as-yet limited faculty for tolerance and insight, end up with differences of opinion and disagreements that prevent us from seeing the cosmic unity that underlies our entire existence.

Now that we are approaching Christmas and the winter solstice, we are reminded of our inherent desire to develop a truly humane character and to spread light and joy to all our fellow human beings. Even in the months before Christmas, when the days of the Scandinavian winter half-year become shorter and darker, there is a growing expectation of the coming festival of light; admittedly it is dark and cold, but it will soon be Christmas! The sparkling Christmas lights, the party atmosphere and the joy of spending time with our fellow human beings will for some days lift us up to another sphere, and, according to Martinus, in every single human being's joy a cosmic event is reflected. "Christmas is the festival of love," he writes in his article "The Christmas Star" in 1942, and believes that we should not feel that we are too "grown up" to be able to like Christmas:

"[...] the Christmas celebration that has now been held for centuries has gradually managed to create a lustre around it that no other celebration has. By directly proclaiming the victory of light over darkness it has to an enormous extent prepared the way for the new cosmic world impulse. In the light of the love that people show one another at Christmas it can very easily be seen that benevolence and humaneness are increasing and that war is decreasing. The individual human beings should be careful about being so highly evolved that they feel too "grown up" to celebrate Christmas. Here I am not thinking so much about the outer form of Christmas, which will change like everything else. I am thinking about its inner truth. Being reminded of the existence of one's fellow beings is of tremendous value, so that one can think lovingly of them. Most people have a tendency to think merely of themselves, to be sufficient unto themselves. Christmas neutralises this state, showing us, as it does, that a loving person is someone who does something for others. Christmas is the feast of love, and love is precisely the cosmic force that will illuminate our hearts and minds." (Lecture given by Martinus, Christmas 1941. English edition of *Kosmos* 1996, No. 6)

The Christmas celebration can inspire us to intensify our attempts at developing our ability to love. And it can fill us with a longing for all our fellow sisters and brothers on Earth to have a share in the same love and well-being, since we know that Christmas time and winter can also mean loneliness and vulnerability – not least for the many individuals and families that now, over the entire world, have been forced to flee their homes because of war, persecution and natural catastrophes.

Despite the increase in the nationalism and the division between people that we see today, changing the spiritual course towards unselfishness and internationalism that has been mapped out is not possible. "Internationalism is the tie with which God binds the world", writes Martinus in *Biscettelse* (*Funeral*), which was first published in *Kosmos* as early as 1934-35 in a time that was characterised at least as much as our own time is by nationalistic tendencies and conflicts. Just as his readers perhaps felt at that time, we can

even today feel uneasy about the way the world is developing and the apparent increased risk of a major war. According to Martinus, the evolution of mankind towards a peaceful existence and a united world kingdom has, however, already been decided and is well underway. It has an organic foundation and cannot be stopped by single, random setbacks or contradictions. On the contrary he describes how an in-depth analysis of nationalism, which he compares to “collective infatuation” or “egoism”, shows that it is an equally essential step in the creation of people’s experiences as internationalism will be.

“In creating these different ways of sensing the same thing, it is inevitable that darkness arises, that unruliness, discord and disagreement between the beings becomes the order of the day within that part of the spiral cycle where the beings’ organic structure makes them sense one and the same thing more or less differently. How could Providence create the principle of the dark contrast in the spiral cycle without this organic structure? And must not Providence create the principle of the light contrast in the spiral by means of the same organic structure?” (Livets Bog (The Book of Life), vol. 4, sect. 1577)

So we can allow Martinus’s world picture to give us a perspective on the world’s unruliness and causes for concern. We can try to find a solid foundation in our innermost selves and look forward to the new year with hope and confidence, regardless of what will happen in the near future. “The world is at any time absolutely perfect in relation to the mankind that lives in it”, Martinus writes in the above article “The Christmas Star” and shows that the world can be changed only by us changing ourselves. With the shining light of Christmas around us we can direct our gaze towards the future and see that the coming, true form of government of the world will be universal love – a love that does not seek its own and that can never result in conflict.

News from the Martinus Institute and the Martinus Centre, Klint

At the Martinus Institute we have completed the renovation of the large oval garden wall in front of the Institute. The project was a major one, which we are happy to see finished. With the new outdoor lighting and paving stones, the exterior is now greatly improved.

Martinus gave a series of lectures in 1955/56, which he called “Grand-Kursus (The Grand Course)”. The process of preparing these lectures for publication as a book is almost complete, and we expect to be able to publish them in Danish and Swedish in May 2018. The transcript of this series of lectures can be regarded as a kind of beginner’s book about the eternal world picture. We are looking very much forward to publishing it and hope that people will enjoy reading it and find it helpful, including those who have not read Martinus before.

Two periods – from January until the high season and from September until the beginning of November – were the most visited and busiest periods the Martinus Centre, Klint has ever experienced. This applies to courses, lectures, conversations on a theme, accommodation rental and voluntary work weeks.

Sound-absorbing panels have now been put up in our restaurant *Terrassen* and in the kitchen in response to a need expressed by many for a lowering of

the sound level. The kitchen has also been painted, new vinyl flooring has been put down, new drawer units have been purchased and a new, large coffee/tea machine has been installed.

The ventilation system in the lecture hall has also been sound-proofed.



Two of our buildings, *Bondehuset* and *Svenskehusene*, have been white-washed, and the windows in other buildings, *Gyvelbo*, *Fyrrely*, *Blokhus B* and *D* and *Svalereden*, have been repaired and painted.

Martinus's Childhood Home becomes part of the Foundation The Martinus Institute of Spiritual Science

The Martinus Institute has just received the approval of the foundation authorities to merge the Foundation The Martinus Institute of Spiritual Science with The Sam Zinglersen Foundation. This means that the foundation behind the Martinus Institute is from now on the owner of *Moskildvad*, Martinus's childhood home in Sindal, thus ensuring its preservation for posterity.



Moskildvad in the 1950s

Moskildvad has up to now been owned by The Sam Zinglersen Foundation, which, with a capital of only 3 million Danish kroner, has too low an income to continue operating and maintaining *Moskildvad* on its own. The Martinus Institute has therefore had to provide The Sam Zinglersen Foundation with financial support amounting to a total of 300,000 kroner over the last 10 years.

As there was no prospect of improvement in the foundation's finances in the coming years, and since major maintenance work is urgently required, the boards of The Sam Zinglersen Foundation and the Foundation The Martinus Institute of Spiritual Science found that the best way of preserving Martinus's childhood home was to merge the two foundations, and an application to do so was sent to the foundation authorities in the spring of 2017.



Drawing of Moskilvad by Martinus entitled "My Childhood Home"

The merger itself takes place in such a way that the assets, consisting mainly of Martinus's childhood home, a caretaker's house and a bond portfolio, will be transferred to the Foundation The Martinus Institute of Spiritual Science, which at the same time takes over a mortgage debt and all the foundation's other obligations. We expect the merger to be completed by the end of 2017.

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We would like to close this year's Christmas letter with an excerpt from Martinus's 1947 Christmas Greeting:

A year cycle has passed once again. And we have entered the dark period where summer and sunlit days are beyond our coasts. But even if the domain of winter and night is upon us, moonlit nights and shining cities of stars pass over our beaches. The Godhead never allows us to be without rays from heaven. In the dark night the universe is visible. And we are here face to face with the principle of the Christmas gospel in a revelation that is beyond all human narratives or stories. People can believe in the little child in the crib or not, but the universe, God's great world around our own world, stills shines upon us through the darkness.

And what is the difference between the child in the crib and the stars of the night? Did not the little child become a shining and sparkling star for millions of people's mental night sky? And is it not the rays from here that shine through millions upon millions of packages, letters and telegrams around the darkest

days of midwinter, turning them into the greatest festival of the year, into the culmination of joy for children, adults and the elderly? What other force in the world has ever been able to return year after year over the centuries and turn the darkest days of winter into light festive days with unweakened strength? What force other than the so-called "Christmas rush" has been able to generate so much overtime, employment of so many extra workers, so many extra means of transport, train carriages, lorries and steamships in the service of neighbourly love or the principle of giving? What presents, greetings and experiences stand in a more beautiful and higher supernatural light in one's memory than one's memories of Christmas?

Getting people to shape their lives so that every single day of the year becomes a joyful "Christmas memory" for the people with whom they have been in contact is the task of spiritual science, the manifesting of which has become my mission. And therefore I would hereby, as my most loving Christmas and New Year greeting, express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who in the course of the year in one way or another has shown a warm interest in my work and has shown my co-workers and me love. You have thereby taken part in paving and preparing the stony way forwards in the service of the world redemption.

And behold, through this way of love the Christmas gospel's promise of "peace on Earth", and thereby life's true joy or delight, will become reality for all peoples on Earth. And all voices will join in the eternal hymn of praise of the hosts: "Blessed be God on high".

We would like to thank all our volunteers and employees for the great work you do. We would also like to thank all our readers and those who take part in our courses and other activities. Your participation in our activities and your interest in Martinus's work contribute to supporting our common cause.

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All of us at the Institute and on the Board (Council) would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Willy Kuijper Trine Möller Jacob Kølle Christensen Peter Bendtsen
Mary McGovern Pernilla Rosell Steuer Lennart Pasborg

Would you like to make a donation to the Martinus Institute?

Donations are the principal foundation of the Institute's work. They help us carry out a great number of ongoing tasks, such as publishing books in many languages, translating Martinus's works, providing information and education, digitalising Martinus's works, and much more.

To send a donation to the Martinus Institute please see our homepage:
www.martinus.dk/en/martinus-institute/gifts-and-legacies/

Alternately you can pay directly into our account in Danske Bank branch no. 3565, account no. 0016913170.

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Translated by Mary McGovern

