

## Carl Scharnberg

They call him the working man's poet. Not without cause. For a couple of generations he has been travelling all over the country, giving talks and reciting from his own literary works at trade union meetings and at the schools of the labour movement. About thirty books were produced on the way: novels, short stories, essays and collections of poems.

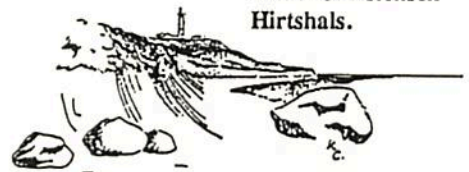
Actually he performed the unique trick of getting the man on the shop floor to enjoy poetry - Carl's poetry anyhow - because his poems are down-to-earth and at the same time both sensitive and committed and engaging.

For the last thirty years he has been supplying a wide circle of union periodicals and grass-root writings with a private and independent "press service". In close co-operation with well-known writers and illustrators a monthly issue of articles, miniposters etc. has been spread all over the country, provided with a general permission to reprint and copy. It is called "unofficial points of view", and the enclosed collection of prints have all appeared here.



Below I have tried to translate, or in some cases rather to re-create, Carl's texts, and it would be to the delight of both of us if his words could be of use to any of the recipients.

Knud Christensen  
Hirtshals.



Give children the right  
to learn and to play,  
to dream and create  
while shaping their day.

For only where children  
are free and alive  
will confidence flourish  
and happiness thrive.

**Carl Scharnberg.**



To choose - it's not to yield and submit  
and gently to lower one's voice,  
or to give in to pretty words  
avoiding a troublesome choice.  
To choose is more than taking a risk,  
much more than a question of trade.  
To choose is in spite of your innermost fear  
to do what you want to evade.

**Carl Scharnberg.**

Please turn over



What is the cause of unemployment?

Is it a punishment inflicted on a sinful people by an unknown god?

Is it due to a lack of political will or a lack of political ability?

Or is the explanation a cynically planned lack of planning in order to increase the profit for the few?

What is the cause of unemployment?

Carl Scharnberg.



Now that we have come to the point when a computer can answer nearly all the questions we might ask, then perhaps the time has come to ask: to which questions do we actually find it most essential to have answers?

Carl Scharnberg.



Have you ever tried to wake up from your sleep with your body all bathed in sweat, bound to the sleep by a horror of dreams and helplessly caught in their net. Dreams about bombs that are falling and dreams about aircrafts on raid, and then: to wake up and despairingly see we slept while the blueprints were made.

Carl Scharnberg.



Whether or not I'm socially placed  
as the last in the queue  
as a socialist I shall forever remain  
to my principles true.  
We'll change our society,  
sharing our lives as we go,  
and one day we shall see solidarity  
flourish and grow.  
For I know we belong to a whole  
and shall grow as a class  
like a red little flower shot up  
amidst everyday grass.

Carl Scharnberg.





*giv børnene ret  
til at lege og lære,  
at drømme og forme,  
leve og være.*

*kun der, hvor børn  
kan føle sig trygge,  
gror det, de gamle  
kaldte for lykke.*

*Carl Scharnberg*



at vælge er ikke bare det  
stiltfærdigt at give efter  
at bøje sig for smukke ord  
at undgå truende kræfter  
at vælge er også endnu mere  
end blot at vove at risikere  
at vælge er fremfor alt at turde  
gøre det man inderst inde  
altid véd man burde.

*Carl Scharnberg.*





## **HVAD SKYLDES ARBEJDSLØSHEDEN?**

**Er det en straf  
fra en ukendt Gud  
mod et syndigt folk?**

**Skyldes det  
manglende politisk vilje  
eller  
manglende politisk evne?**

**Eller  
er forklaringen  
en kynisk planlagt planløshed  
for at øge fortjenesten  
for de få?**

**Hvad skyldes arbejdsløsheden?**

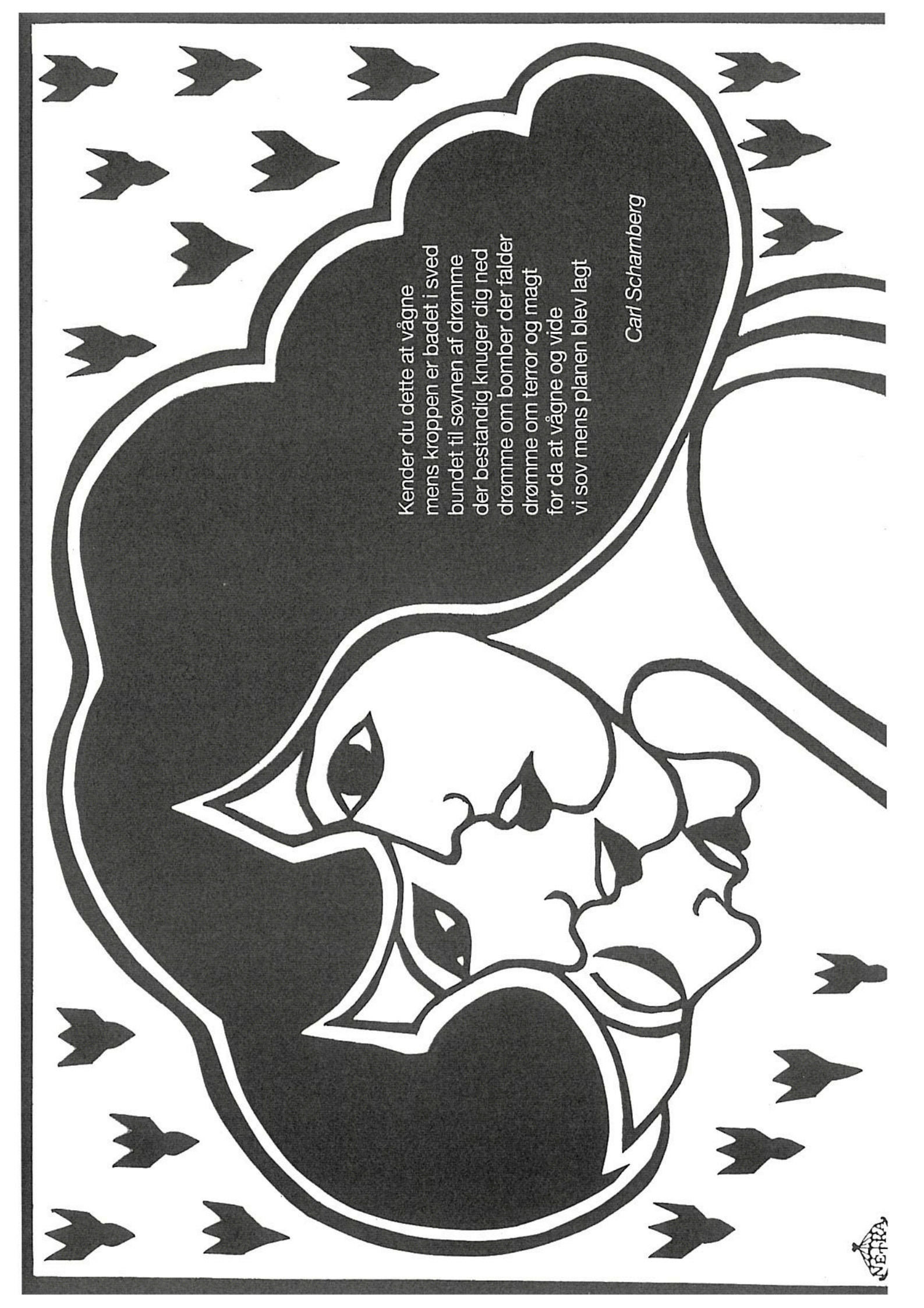




Når vi er nået dertil,  
hvorefter en computer næsten kan besvare  
alle de spørgsmål vi måtte stille,  
er tiden måske inde til at spørge om  
hvilke spørgsmål vi egentlig  
finder det mest væsentligt  
at få besvaret?

**CARL SCHARNBERG**





Kender du dette at vågne  
mens kroppen er badet i sved  
bundet til søvnen af drømme  
der bestandig knuger dig ned  
drømme om bomber der falder  
drømme om terror og magt  
for da at vågne og vide  
vi sov mens planen blev lagt

*Carl Schamberg*



**Uanset om man sættes  
i køen som nummer sidst  
er og forblir jeg stadig  
en overbevist socialist  
der véd at ting hænger sammen  
at alle er del af et hele  
der selv formår at forandre  
og lede og kunne fordele!**



**Carl Scharnberg**