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 was 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 then taking a risk,
much more then a question of trade.
To choose is in spite of your innermost fear
to do what you want to evade.

Carl Scharnberg.
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.
gir 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
stilfærdigt 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 ved man burde.

_Carl Scharberg._
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 arbejdsløshed?
Når vi er næst dertil, hvor en computer næsten kan besvare alle de spørgsmål vi måtte stille i tiden måske inde til at spørge om hvilke spørgsmål vi egentligt finder det mest væsentligt at få besvaret?

CARL SCHARNBERG
Kender du dette at vågne mens kroppen er badet i sved bundet til sovnen 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 ved at ting hænger sammen at alle er del af et hele der selv formår at forandre og lede og kunne fordele!

Carl Scharnberg