

AFTERWORD by Dr. Johannes Wirz

The account of the journey unraveled in this book is touching. Clear indications of methods and procedures, to support and help the healing process in animals by eurythmy, are presented. However, the core lies in the companionship of a group of peers. They are aware that the advancement of such an aspiration is based on communication and exchange, very much according to the way honeybees share and exchange experience and insights for the good of the whole. This dedicated and committed group is an archetype for attempts of spiritual advancement in general.

A few years ago, Mailin Wölki asked an unexpected question. She was about to write a master thesis and had chosen the subject of eurythmy for the honeybees with an ambitious aim: helping the bees to cope with the fatal parasite varroa mite. I agreed with the thought that if her work would not benefit my beloved bees, it would do no harm.

Amazingly, Mailin did not show any fear or reluctance of getting close to open hives and pulling combs. I was even more amazed to experience that her eurythmy gestures had a clear effect on the humming sound of the hives. This result paves the way for developments of new therapies enhancing the health of bees and healing pertinent bee diseases.

But, there was more. Together with Sabrina Menestrina and Mailin a group of bee lovers and eurythmists visited my apiary at the Goetheanum during a workshop given at an agricultural conference. Some forty people created “a sacred space” around and about the apiary. I witnessed how the power of a striving companionship can open heaven and bring the sun down to earth!

In this book, a small international group aspires to introduce eurythmy into animal husbandry, including mammals, animal pets, and honeybees. Invited by Christine van Draanen, eurythmists and veterinarians weave a fabric of experiences, ideas, and practice. It seems to me that this group of people have joined and communicated like the bees in their colony. Theory and practice, spiritual accounts of the nature and being of animals; the evolution of cosmos, earth, animals, in particular bees; and man; the various attempts of finding eurythmy gestures; and personal intimate experiences and insights; are creatively, and sometimes unexpectedly, intermingled.

It is so much more than a textbook or a manual for therapeutic eurythmy for Animals. The reader is invited to follow and to dwell on a dynamic holistic approach to redeem our beloved animal beings from suffering and pain, and, in the long run, to radiate love and commitment into the animal world. Christine's words are an invitation and at the same time admonition: “No one can prescribe the instructions to you. Again, as my anthroposophical doctor says; this work is not without obligation. It's also about fragility and vulnerability, for which everyone, and every animal, wants comfort from a trusted individual or friend. Everyone needs it. Every animal needs it as well.”