

Message from Nikolaus and Krampus to the BMC people 2020

Intro:

Krampus (K): Can you hear me? Nikolaus?

Nikolaus (N): Can you hear me? Can you hear me?

K: Yes, I can hear you, but I cannot see you, Nikolaus, I only see what's outside your spaceship's window...

N: Oh no... I don't know what to do... Can you hear me?

K: I can hear you very well but I cannot see you.

N: I'm here, I'm here...

K: Shall we do the message of greeting to the BMC people anyways?

N: Yes, let's do it.

K: Ok. Are you ready? Can you talk?

N: I can talk!

K: So let's go!

Message

Greetings to you, today from
your faithful St. Nicolas and Krampus at home!
This year, to our distress,
there's no Christmas Market at the BMC.
No stalls with mulled wine or sausages
that the scientists in all other years
happily warmed and prepared
for the benefit of all.

To be sure, this is really a shame
since what everyone misses these days
is community and togetherness
and not so much pots of research grant money.
Of that we had quite a lot this year –
quite a successful one after all!
So many manuscripts flowed
from the scientists pens.
There were grants from the DFG
From BMBF and ERC.
Not to mention many diligent students
who successfully finished up their work,
and despite all the tough questions
now have their PhDs in hand.

2020 was a special year.
Suddenly everything was virtual!
Exams were digital,
teaching in online-lecture halls.
Everyone is on Skype and Teams and Zoom,
the virtual background business booms.
Often, one has to wait for the host
starting conversations with „can you hear me?“
And occasionally discovering with mortification

overflowing laundry bins in the background.

However, scientists are highly creative,
and though some numbers hang askew,
a new Advent calendar shines brightly
into the courtyard.

It's meant as a sign for you all:

We are looking forward to next year
when we'll meet again in person.

So all that's left for us to do
is to wish you all Merry Christmas and
Happy Holidays!

Be strong, stand together and, just like us,
shelter at home! Yours, Krampus and St. Nicolas.