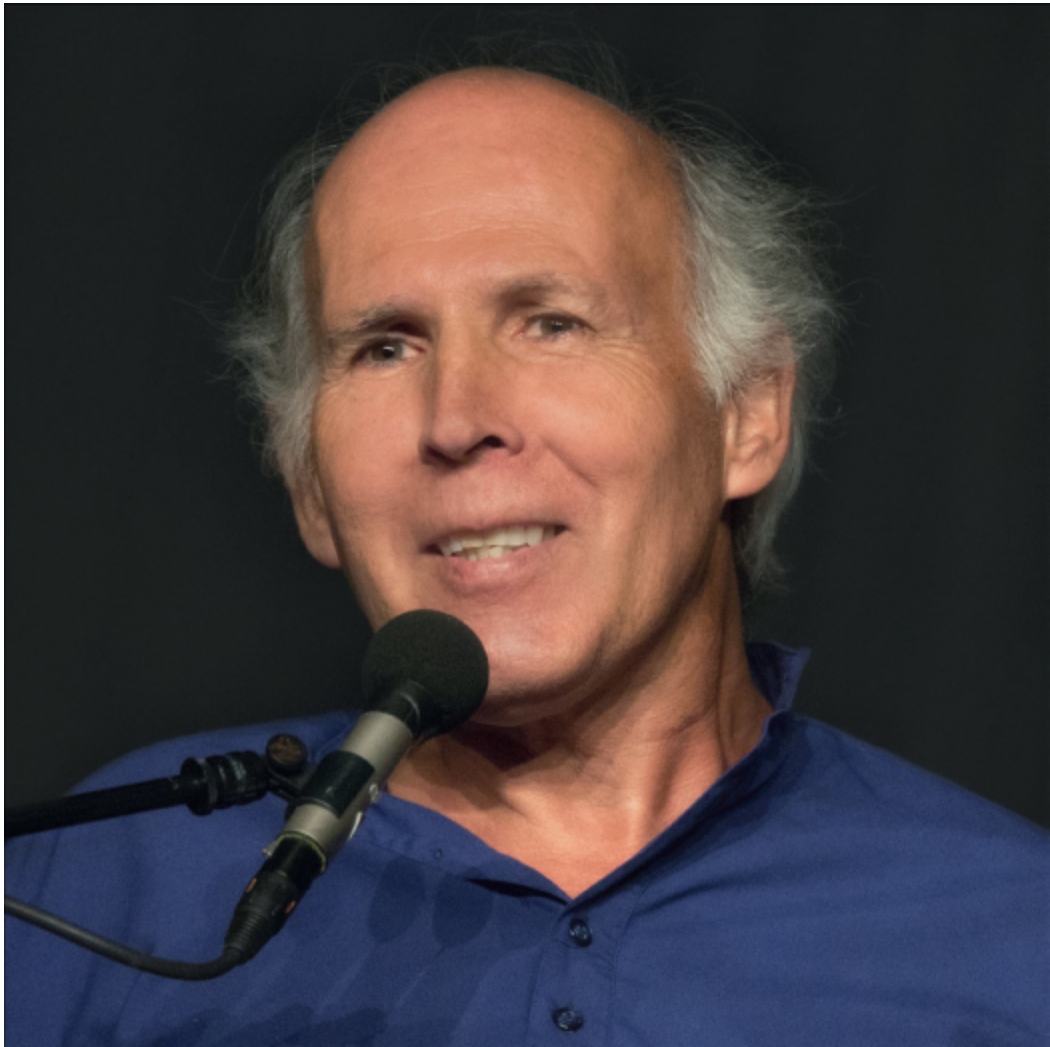


Mario Mantese

You Are the World

Pearls of Love

A vertical white rectangular box containing the Japanese calligraphic character for 'love' (愛). The character is written in a bold, expressive style with thick black ink.



The Birth of Light

Don't you know that it is me who looks through your eyes, and me who smiles upon you as colorful, fragrant flowers along your path? Don't you know that it is me who warms you as the warmth in fire, and that I am the coolness in the wind that whispers and caresses?

I, the All-encompassing, All-penetrating, love you boundlessly. You are a precious limb of my formless light-body.

My thoughts of love allowed you to become flesh, and I have provided you with unlimited wisdom and power, and with creative will, so you can express this glory and perfection in infinite diversity.

Never for a moment did I stray from you, Beloved, for you are a part of me – yes, you are me myself. Why have you turned away from me and misused my powers? Why did you ever give life to those thoughts of death and crystallize them, when in truth you are immortal and unborn in me, eternally pure and immaculate? Why did you use my creative powers of imagination to produce a world separate from me, a frightening, dark, heartless world? Even when you have lost sight of me, never for a moment have I strayed from you. My love for you is unwavering and eternally steadfast.

With my power you have set a law in motion that is outside of me, where you have made yourself prisoner; a law of self-seeking, of destiny. Although I am also the power within this

law, I am not this law, for it was set in motion by the heartlessness of your selfish pursuits - condensing and restricting material instead of releasing it.

I have supplied you with everything, with my complete and unconditional love. Why do you seek something else; why do you create separation? I am not yesterday nor tomorrow; I am always *now*. Why do you constantly move away from me, Beloved?

I see your dark thoughts; how you contemplate ideas of death and rebirth, and how you believe and attach yourself to these thoughts and ideas. Why have you moved away from this endless purity and clarity, and believe in things like life, death, and re-birth, when you are, in truth, immortal and boundless? Life, death, and rebirth are nothing but concepts in your divided, darkened consciousness.

You have fashioned cultures, religions and political systems outside of me, and your thoughts and beliefs adhere tightly to them. You are convinced that these invented, relative thought-structures are reality.

See how they fluctuate, see their impermanence, and know that they have no existence within me. All these things have existence only during the moments you think about them. Otherwise they are non-existent, nothing more than fleeting shadows.

I continuously see into your darkened heart, which can no longer distinguish between me and its own self-seeking, with all its stifling hardships. Why do you turn away from me: universal, all-embracing love?

Don't you see that my love never increases or decreases, that it is always complete in all things and through all

things? Have you forgotten that I have embellished and glorified you with the ultimate gift of love? Truly, you are a cherished limb of my formless cosmic body.

Why do you cause so much commotion, and create so much confusion? Nevertheless, I live within you as eternal peace and everlasting stillness. Yet, you have used my power to create a peculiar shadow-world, where you believe you must absolutely prove yourself.

You use my word, my boundless power of love; you bend it to lead wars in my name, to murder, to torture, and to betray. Have you forgotten that there is absolutely no shadow within me, and no such thoughts have ever arisen? I am pure light and perfect peace; perfect justice. I am the law itself.

I am no judge, and you will never be judged by me, for my all-encompassing love has pardoned you of all your mistakes before you made them. The suffering that befalls you is nothing but the constant corrective of my love, which purifies and restores you when you have distanced yourself far away from me.

Have you forgotten that your true being is boundless purity and health; that within you there was, in truth, never the slightest seed of sickness, and never will be? For you are me, and I am you, eternally perfect.

Suffering and worry are like clouds floating by in the sky. No matter how thick the cloud cover is, the sun continues to shine, and the wind chases the clouds away again. Why do you only watch your body, your thoughts, and your feelings? They are like clouds passing by.

Why don't you look at me, who resides within you, who infuses you and gives you life, who burns hotter than a

thousand suns?

Because you cannot perceive me with your instruments of sense, you believe I exist externally, outside the transient body. But this thought is nothing but a dream of yours. Awaken now in me, Beloved, and live your life completely unfettered in light, love, and total freedom.

Still, you believe that I am also your dream. Awaken, and you will recognize that your dream never existed, for I am real. You look for me in your yesterday and do not find me, because a yesterday never existed within me.

You hope for a tomorrow, and with this hope you constantly distance yourself from me. But you can never become me or reach me, because I am eternally *now*. Never was there something before and after me, for I am endless and beginningless.

I listen to your prayers, your invocations and pleadings, but only in the everlasting silence of your heart can you find me, there where your prayers are fulfilled before you ever thought of them or uttered them. Indeed, your prayers are mostly aimed at harmonizing your darkness, to brighten your world a little more.

As long as you are not completely ready to look at me face to face, so I can completely dispel and expel your darkness, you will continue to live in your world of shadows. Here, you have taken the powers of love from me, and used and misused them for your own self-avowing life.

I am not cross with you, for my all-embracing love is universal compassion and mercy. When can I hold you in my arms entirely once again, Beloved? I do not force you, nor do I pressure you, for I am universal understanding itself. My love is absolute and unconditional. When you turn to me

with all your love, all your worries, illnesses, and anxieties melt away like ice under the sun.

Also when you have murdered; in thoughts, in feelings, or in action, it is always the power of love which you have misused. With this deed, as with countless others, you have set an inferior law in motion, a law outside of me. This is the law of karma, of action, reaction, and counter reaction.

In this way you have produced the forces of destiny and bound yourself to them, for they are you yourself. Oh Beloved, you have set so much in motion through this distortion of my powers of love that you can no longer see me, and no longer even believe that I am!

Don't you know that without me not one single thought can arise within you, that you cannot raise nor close your eyelids, that no word comes over your lips, and that no sound can be heard?

I am the eternal thinker itself, and also the listener who hears through your ears. What do *you* believe perceives beauty and basks in delight? In your darkness, your subjective evaluating, criticizing manner, you have carved the beauty and tenderness of my revelations into pieces, cheapened them, dulled them, and thus mutilated my cosmic countenance.

Don't you see the immeasurable beauty in the minuscule as well as in the enormous? Don't you see that it is I who live in the small as well as in the big, that I permeate all with my love? Don't you see how I breathe through and listen to all beings at the same time, how I move all things and everything? There is only one breath, only one creation, and I am that myself. I am the creator and the maintainer, as well as the power which dispels my flesh-forming thoughts.