

# illusions of this world

---

liberating divine love



Tejal Tarro



# illusions of this world

liberating divine love

TEJAL TARRO

Illustrated by Jaya Merina Patel

EMERGENCE EDUCATION PRESS

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword \* xi  
Introduction \* 1

### SENSING THE DARKNESS

#### *Aching the Separation*

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Primordial Separation * 8 | Chasm of Sorrow * 11     |
| Ache of Separation * 9    | Tracing Abandonment * 12 |
| Crying Out For Ma * 10    |                          |

#### *Grappling with Haze*

|                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Entrapment of Creation * 14     | Intertwining with Loneliness * 17 |
| Smothering Murk * 15            | Radiance Eclipsed * 18            |
| Entanglement of the Spirit * 16 |                                   |

#### *Staying with Suffering*

|                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Beloved Sentient Creature * 20 | Leaning into Loss * 23 |
| Hidden Struggles * 21          | Redefining Pain * 24   |
| Caring for the Parts * 22      |                        |

## EMBRACING THE SHADOWS

### *Awakening from Delusion*

Comparison Seizes the Heart \* 28

Deposing Productivity \* 29

Drive to Be Extraordinary \* 30

Torture of Performing Good \* 31

Performing as a Contortionist \* 32

### *Reckoning with Conditioning*

Deeply Conditioned \* 34

Disarming Addiction \* 35

Spiraling to Escape \* 36

Dreading the Void \* 38

Giving Up \* 39

### *Releasing Righteousness*

Questioning Intolerance \* 42

Reality Questioned \* 43

Suffocating Slowly \* 44

Codependency of This Heart \* 45

### *Existing in Liminality*

Existing Between \* 48

Accepting the Contradictions \* 49

Destruction and Creation \* 50

False Belief Trapped \* 51

Releasing Expectations \* 52

Rekindling Trust \* 53

Lifting Weight of Expectation \* 54

## SURRENDERING TO LONGING

### *Deepening Presence*

Breathe and Receive \* 58

Simple Creature Pleasures \* 59

Stillness Over Silence \* 60

Transience of Beauty \* 61

Succumb or Surrender \* 62

Wait and Listen \* 63

### *Living in the Rhythms*

Ordinary Rhythms of Vitality \* 66

Composed Moments \* 67

Morning Maelstrom \* 68

Time and Composition \* 69

### *Practicing Devotion*

Edges of Empathy \* 72

Relaxing into Patience \* 73

Devotion to Surrender \* 74

Journey to Honesty \* 75

Loving this Body \* 76

Releasing Beauty \* 77

## TRUSTING THE CALLING

### *Embracing the Unknown*

Paradox of Significance \* 82

Trusting the Calling \* 83

The Mind Cannot Fathom \* 84

Lessons from Karaoke \* 85

### *Vibrating in Trust*

Discerning Faith \* 88

Fueling From Deeper Trust \* 89

Where Faith is Found \* 90

Deeper Love Gestating \* 91

### *Dancing with Desire*

Being In Desire \* 94

Dance with Desire \* 95

Exposing Desire in Dreams \* 96

Discerning Desire \* 98

Radiant Melancholy \* 99

## LIBERATING DIVINE LOVE

### *Reclaiming Power*

Divided in Righteousness \* 104

This Human Existence \* 105

Inequity of Manifestation \* 106

Responding to Otherness \* 107

Reclaiming Heart Power \* 108

Rage of the Belly \* 109

### *Receiving Rapture*

Secret Soul Longing \* 112

Reclaiming Sweetness \* 113

Sacred Pleasure \* 114

Sensing into Allure \* 115

Awakening Rapture \* 116

### *Interweaving Souls*

Imperfectly Loved \* 118

Holding Your Stories \* 119

Kind Presence \* 120

Profound Imprint \* 121

Separate Journeys \* 122

### *Unleashing Love*

Beauty Manifested Together \* 124

Releasing Love to Create \* 125

Undefinable Love \* 126

Love Rising to Existence \* 127

Love Liberated \* 128

Acknowledgements \* 129

## FOREWORD

Some voices do not merely speak—they beckon. They do not simply write—they carve pathways into the unseen. *Illusions of This World* is not simply a collection of poetry, it is an invitation, a whispered call into the depths of what we resist seeing, what we ache to understand, and what we dare to become. Its author is a singular soul. She is my soul sister and a rare teacher whose spirit becomes part of the learning itself—immersed, resonant, attuned to the deep currents of human experience.

As a co-facilitator with Tejal over many years, working with fraught groups grappling with weighty issues, I have witnessed her artistry in motion. She enters the space of teacher not as an authority dictating knowledge, but as a fellow traveler, walking gently with those she guides—journeying with them through the labyrinth of self-inquiry. She understands that growth often requires passing through discomfort: the vulnerability of looking inward, the weight of reckoning with truth, the fear of stepping into transformation. Yet she moves through these spaces with a rare grace, helping others touch the cornerstone of their deepest barriers—the illusions that hold them back from truth, risk-taking, and action. In her presence, individuals do not merely receive knowledge; they uncover their own power, reorganizing their energy and setting healing intentions for themselves and for their communities.

I know. I have seen this. I have been moved, and I have been changed.

On her business card, Tejal is a catalyst for personal empowerment, inclusive leadership, and systemic change. To many, she is a leader, a facilitator, a consultant—someone whose intellect and guiding spirit help others navigate complexity and find solutions that illuminate their paths forward. But beyond professional titles, I know Tejal as a fearless seeker of the raw, the real, the divine. Her calling card says leader, but her calling is to listen. She does not impose light—she coaxes it from those who have forgotten it resides within them.

*Illusions of This World*, is Tejal as clearly as she can, unencrypting her essence in poetic form. It is an offering, an unguarded testament to her ability to see beyond the physical, beyond the human world, into

something both vaster and more intimate. Through her words, we are invited into the space between knowing and unknowing, between surrender and awakening.

Tejal's poetry pulses with a quiet certainty: that the world is both within us and beyond us, that humanity is a delicate echo of something immeasurably vast, something neither fully graspable nor entirely foreign. In this space, between self and cosmos, between identity and surrender, Tejal's voice becomes not a doctrine, but a gentle rhythm—a reminder that each of us is capable of navigating our own unraveling, of shedding the illusions we carry and stepping into something deeper. Here she is not seeking to explain, but to stir.

I recognize this as my friend's familiar frequency, a cadence that mirrors the very process of inner transformation she has guided so many through. She asks questions that shake the foundations of what we believe about ourselves, about service, about existence. Who are we beyond the stories we tell ourselves? How do we walk in this world without becoming lost in it? How do we trust what is unknowable and, in doing so, find our place within it?

To enter these pages is to step into deep presence, to sit with the unraveling of illusions we may not even realize we hold. And in that unraveling, something new is revealed—something truer, something freer.

I have had a front-row seat to Tejal's artistry, to the way she meets people exactly where they are and walks beside them as they find their way. I know intimately the impact of her intellect, her grace, her guiding spirit.

The poems ahead do not demand understanding. They do not offer answers. Instead, they ask the most essential question:

Are you willing to listen?

If you are, these words will not just meet you—they will change you.

Always with gratitude

*Lisa J. Raiola, MPH*

*Award-Winning Trailblazer of Equity-Centered Leadership*

*Founder & President*

*Hope & Main*

## RADIANCE ECLIPSED

Today the darkness has eclipsed the radiance  
Consumed by the toxins the world carelessly besmeared  
Disgust at failure to transcend the spiraling descent

Nihilistic urges lurk passively in the atmosphere  
Yearning desperately for that mystical rock bottom  
Where the vow to forever change permeates every cell

Rock bottom feels sadly elusive for the chronic performer  
Ever able to pull it together and function for the world  
Until when wearily the body and spirit declare no more

Mind assesses that chemistry and circumstances are wracked  
But the heart is exhausted from this cyclical tumult of emotion  
Spirit unable to access faith that loving radiance prevails

Yet the expression of darkness itself sparks a glimmer  
Faint whispers calling to embrace the beauty in the shadow  
Sensing that this eclipse too is an element of the alchemy

## TORTURE OF PERFORMING GOOD

Trying so hard to perform good for the world  
Whilst inmost not believing in being good  
This existence is mind wrenching torture

Praise rejected as undeserving fallacy  
Fault received as proof of the imposter  
This existence is heart piercing torture

How can there be goodness  
When all are complicit or complacent  
In the ongoing suffering of humanity

How can this torture be transcended  
When the mind's belief in perfect goodness  
Stands upon imperfect moral constructs

The soul's transcendence from this incessant torture  
Cries out for the release of the belief in goodness  
For this belief is contrived from oppressive forces

Hold tenderly the heart space for this messiness  
Forgive gently the mental scourge of judgment  
Allow lovingly the compassion to salve the scars

## DEVOTION TO SURRENDER

Everyday must be a devotion to surrender  
For the mind persistently believes in control  
Believing that today it will conquer all faults  
Believing that it has answers to all unsolved  
When in fact the mind has minimal perception

Everyday must be a devotion to surrender  
For while plans serve for safety or inspiration  
Each day is truly only unknown potential  
With possibilities to experience love and joy  
But also to experience loss and suffering

Everyday must be a devotion to surrender  
Receiving refuge in the loving arms of divine grace  
For only this space can hold all the possibilities  
Cradling the uncertainty and fears with compassion  
Creating room for the awakened heart to guide

## IMPERFECTLY LOVED

This hardened heart cracks open in your presence  
Love bursting forth with the radiance of the sun  
And cradled tenderly in the stillness of the moon

Desiring for you to ever only know this pure love  
Wishing to have fully evolved before your arrival  
So as to always be a vessel and reflection of divinity

But you came before all the wounds could be healed  
Regretful precious moments of love withheld or warped  
Piercing shame of harm unknowingly inflicted upon you

Yet you stand here today in your unique magnificence  
And despite the human tangle of being imperfectly loved  
The imprint of divine love resonates within your being

Now humbly realizing evolving for you was never the point  
Rather evolving happens because of the tangle with you  
And feeling deep gratitude for this ongoing journey together

## LOVE LIBERATED

Love liberated does not abide by any human construct  
Goodness and purpose only exist to appease the mind

Love liberated does not assure safety for the human mind  
Solace only felt in releasing the desire to hold onto anything

Love liberated allures austere transcendence with desire  
Consuming both pleasure and pain in raw ecstatic rapture

Love liberated invites deeper trust in her divine vibration  
Completely devoting to the fullness of this one moment

Love liberated dances freely adoring the untamed disorder  
Whirling a vortex of radiance drawing all into true belonging

**Enjoyed this sample?**

[Get your copy here.](#)

~

**Tejal Tarro** (she/her) has devoted over 25 years to serving as a catalyst for personal empowerment, inclusive leadership, and systemic change.

To the outside world, Tejal is known as a leader, consultant, and facilitator, recognized for her magnetic authenticity, collaborative spirit, deep compassion, and profound understanding of human challenges within social systems. In her inner world, she sees herself as a poetic mystic, wild dancer, and sorceress queen, stirring soul awakenings. Where these two worlds meet is in her artistic expression, one that pierces existential darkness with beauty and evokes the desire to liberate the power that lives within each of us.

Her writing is a contemplative and vulnerable exploration at the intersection of the self, the social, and the spiritual. She delves into the subtle nuances of life, drawing out deep insights that invite us into self-inquiry: What does it mean to truly know ourselves while letting go of who we think we are? What does it mean to serve the world without being consumed by it? And how do we trust the mystery of what is ultimately unknowable?

Most importantly to Tejal, her work is intended to spark the courage to lead more consciously and sustainably, from a place of divine love.

You can find more of her work at [tejaltarro.com](http://tejaltarro.com)



“Tejal’s poetry pulses with a quiet certainty: that the world is both within us and beyond us, that humanity is a delicate echo of something immeasurably vast, something neither fully graspable nor entirely foreign. In this space, between self and cosmos, between identity and surrender, Tejal’s voice becomes not a doctrine, but a gentle rhythm—a reminder that each of us is capable of navigating our own unraveling, of shedding the illusions we carry and stepping into something deeper. Here she is not seeking to explain, but to stir.”

LISA RAIOLA

*Award-Winning Trailblazer of Equity-Centered Leadership*



Tejal Tarro (she, her) is a poet and essayist exploring leadership at the intersection of the self, the social, and the spiritual. Her writing delves into the subtle nuances of life, offering insights that invite deep self-inquiry: What does it mean to truly know ourselves while letting go of who we think we are? What does it mean to serve the world without being consumed by it? And how do we trust the mystery of what is ultimately unknowable?

At the heart of Tejal’s work is a desire to spark contemplation, vulnerability, and the courage to lead more consciously and sustainably—from a place of divine love.

Learn more at [tejaltarro.com](http://tejaltarro.com).



ISBN 978-1-954642-70-6  
\$17.95  
51795>

