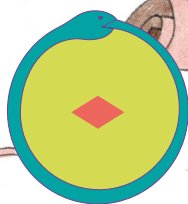
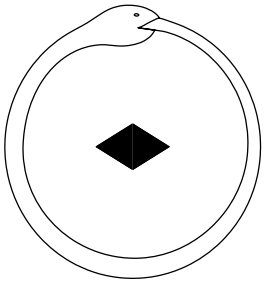




A LOVE MANIFESTO  
Satish Kumar



notebooks  
SELVAGEM



## A LOVE MANIFESTO

Satish Kumar

Text published as part of the book *Radical Love: From separation to connection with Earth, each other, and ourselves* (2023) by Satish Kumar, courtesy of Parallax Press, [parallax.org](http://parallax.org).

My bounty is as boundless as the sea,  
My love is as deep. The more I give thee  
The more I have, for both are infinite.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Ours is a Love Revolution. Love is logical and magical, simultaneously. The Earth is an embodiment of love. The Earth is our teacher and we learn the art of love from her. The Earth loves us perfectly and, in return, we must learn to love the Earth better.

We say *no* to the policies and practices that harm the Earth and cause global warming, the melting of the arctic ice, and the rise of sea levels. We boycott the businesses and products that harm the planet. We go to prison for the sake of the Earth and we will do so peacefully and happily. We have no fear whatsoever.

We say *yes* to living simply and sustainably. We say *yes* to planting trillions of trees, and *yes* to regenerative agriculture. We eat healthy, local, organic, and nutritious foods. We support small farmers and growers around the globe. We live as artisans and artists. We support craftspeople of the world. We resist evil to help dissolve it, and we assist good so that it may flourish.

We never allow despair to diminish our optimism. Activists must be optimists. Pessimism can lead to journalism, but never to activism. With enduring hope and a lifelong commitment, we undertake the journey of transformation. Yes, activism is a journey and not a destination; it is a long-term process and not a short-term product. We urge each other: “Commit yourself to the Earth and live as an artist and an activist.” We

are all in it together. We have no enemies. The economy of waste and pollution, extraction and exploitation, greed and ego have to be brought to an end through universal participation. Politicians and poets, industrialists and artists, creators and consumers, all of us must join hands and stand together to overcome the perils of pollution and avert the crisis of climate catastrophe.

As we act to bring about outer transformation, we also act for inner transformation. If our minds are polluted by greed, fear, and craving, then we give birth to discontentment, consumerism, and materialism that result in the pollution of the Earth and ourselves. The outer landscape and the inner landscape are two aspects of one reality. Nature out there is not separate from our inner nature.

The old story of division and separation must give way to the new story of unity and connectivity, between the inner and the outer, and between Nature and humans. Meditation and action, intuition and reason, mind and matter, silence and speech, inner and outer, left and right complement each other. Cultivating compassion within and conservation without is the way to embrace the new holistic paradigm.

We heal the wounds caused by the old story of separation and dualism, the prejudice of us and them, the divisions of class, caste, race, religion, identity, and nationality. We apply the balm of unconditional and unlimited love to heal the conflicts among people and between people and the planet.

We transcend divisions and celebrate diversity while embracing the unity of life. We remember that unity is not uniformity. Unity manifests in biodiversity, cultural diversity, truth diversity, diversity of thought and opinion. Evolution favors diversity. From the time of the Big Bang, evolution has worked ceaselessly over billions of years to create diversity in every way. We cherish the diversity of languages, religions, and identities, while remaining united in a total commitment to do no harm to our precious planet; we do no harm to its people, its animals, its forests, and its waters.

We uphold human rights and equally we uphold the rights of Nature; the rights of all living beings. The Earth is not a dead rock, she is Gaia, a living organism. As William Blake said, "Nature is imagination

itself.” And in the words of Shakespeare, there are “tongues in trees”—yes, trees speak, and we listen. Shakespeare went on to note “books in running brooks ... sermons in stones”—yes, we learn to read the books of rivers and of stones. We need not go to temples or churches if we do not wish to; we can hear the teachings of peace, patience, and resilience from the natural world if only we listen.

We do not measure the value of Nature in terms of her usefulness to humans, rather we recognize the intrinsic value of Nature and of the entire Earth. Nature is not simply a resource for the economy, Nature is the source of life itself. We live in harmony with Nature, with the Earth, and with all living beings; with the human and with the other-than-human world. Even when we do not achieve absolute harmony, we maintain that it is an ideal worth striving toward.

We may be called “idealists,” but what have the realists achieved in the world? The climate crisis is not the work of idealists. It is the activities of the realists that are causing climate change, the demise of biodiversity, and the pollution of air, water, and soil. Under the watch of the so-called realists’ constant hunger for more, wars and other human tragedies have grown exponentially on a global scale. Realists have ruled the world for far too long, and they have made a mess of it. It is high time to give idealists a chance. We are the gentle heroes of our time. Our actions on behalf of the planet and her people are acts of love.

**AILTON:** There is a short story about a hummingbird, who, watching the chaos and knowing how big a wildfire was, fetches a small drop of water from the ocean and tries to put the fire out. I am moved, propelled, imagining that we are, somehow, repeating the gesture of the hummingbird.

**SATISH:** We all need to become hummingbirds, and act like hummingbirds.

Hammock Talk, [Shiva and the Hummingbird](#),  
Ailton Krenak and Satish Kumar.



Photo: Miguel Casanova

**SATISH KUMAR** is a peace and environment activist. Born in India in 1936, he was a Jain monk and followed Gandhi in land reform campaigns in his country. At the age of twenty, he began a long pilgrimage around the world for peace. He was one of the founders of Schumacher College in England, an international center for ecological studies, where he continues to serve as a visiting professor. He also conducts workshops and lectures on ecology and education around the world.

**COVER ILLUSTRATION**

**AZA** conducts graphic research exploring imaginary living systems and intersections between arts and sciences.

We thank Parallax Press for authorizing the publication. To purchase the book, visit <https://www.parallax.org/product/radical-love/>. We also thank the Brazilian publishing house **Bambual Editora** for authorizing the publication of the Portuguese version of the text.

The editorial production work of the Selvagem Notebooks is carried out collectively with the Selvagem community. The editorial direction is by Anna Dantes, and the coordination is by Alice Alberti Faria. Layout by Tania Grillo. Coordination of English translations by Marina Matheus.

More information at [selvagemciclo.com.br](http://selvagemciclo.com.br)

All Selvagem activities and materials are shared free of charge. For those who wish to give something back, we invite you to financially support the Living Schools, a network of five educational centres for the transmission of Indigenous culture and knowledge.

Find out more at [selvagemciclo.com.br/colabore](http://selvagemciclo.com.br/colabore)

SELVAGEM Notebooks  
digital publication by  
Dantes Editora  
Biosphere, 2024  
English translation 2024

