by Masaharu Taniguchi

Prayer to Infuse All Things With God's Love

TRUE LOVE IS NOT loving the outer beauty of a person. True love loves God. God dwells within the life of everyone. True love is to love God dwelling in each person. When there is no conflict between loving God and loving the person in whom God dwells, they are perfectly in accord. Loving only someone's outer appearance—the beauty of their skin, muscles, physical strength, or superior intellect—means loving only the phenomenal appearance. This is not true love. Because phenomena are ever changing, phenomenal love cannot be maintained eternally but will diminish and vanish. In this way, loving only the surface appearance of a person will not consummate that love.

Conversely, our love for God comes from Him and returns to Him. God is infinite and His love is also infinite; therefore, when we love and praise the indwelling divinity in others in the same way we love God, that love will never fade or diminish. By worshiping each other's divinity through mutual love, we will receive even more from God's universal love. As in the rainy season when the ground is saturated with moisture, and like the air that permeates every space, this world is filled with God's love and love between humanity and all living things. The mountains, rivers, grass, trees, land, and minerals all manifest their divine nature no matter how minute they may be. They all sustain and help each other, and this entire earth will truly become a heavenly paradise.

My mind is now filled with God's love, I worship the True Image and the perfect and consummate forms of all people. Love is the power that draws out into the visible world the beauty and virtue of our indwelling divinity that was heretofore deeply buried. The Holy Sutra, Nectarean Shower of Holy Doctrines states, "When God appears, / There is goodness, / There is justice, / There is benevolence; / Harmony comes of itself, / All living things find their proper place / And there will be no strife, / No preving upon one another, / No sickness, / No torment / And none will be in need." Now, no one will cry out in grief or sadness, spiritual waves of blessings will shower down from heaven like welcome rain, and all living beings will praise God. All illnesses will be healed, darkness will vanish, and spiritual light will brilliantly shine over all things. I will see the True-Image World and its radiant light permeating the universe. When all things become infused with the love that loves God, the infinite treasure-trove will open, and the heavenly Pure Land will be realized. I thank God for teaching me this Truth. Thank you very much!

> —From Hikari No Izumi, "The Fountain of Light," June 1977, pp. 34-35