

I N S P I R A T I O N A L S



A COLLECTION  
OF PHOTOGRAPHY & WRITINGS  
BY MARIAN KRAUS



We all share the fact that life's journey and accompanying experiences; the people, places, and things we encounter, continue to shape us into who and where we are today. Some of us may seem luckier than others, but in the end, we all share the human condition.

It may not matter where you live or what your foundation is. If you desire to pursue the evolution of a wholesome and authentic way of living, established on solid and benevolent values, it is inevitable that at some point in your life you will begin to inquire within. Questions regarding origin, personal ethics and viewpoints, the Universe, your ego, the importance of this or that, and most notably, where and how you are evolving, will continue to beg for answers. Presumably, this is a never ending, yet exceptionally rewarding and exhilarating course.

For the context of this work, I believe it to be important to share that I was born in former communist ruled Czechoslovakia. My family immigrated to West Germany in 1968. Furthermore, it may be worthwhile for you to understand that for 20 years I pursued a business career with a German-based multinational industrial conglomerate, which in the spring of 1985, brought me to Chicago, IL.

Through a series of bad breaks and misunderstandings, I learned that if nothing changes, nothing changes; and you cannot think your way into better living, but you have to live your way into better thinking. I also found out that I had brought myself across the Atlantic and that in the end, I came here looking for what I came here looking with.

In the wake of gaining these insights, my core finally began to listen to my dormant muse in 1997. This became the catalyst for me to leave my corporate career two years later in order to pursue my dream of being a full time photographer. Finally I had realized that to know and not to do is not yet to know.

Throughout the development of this book, it has been my hope that some of my insights gained during that time may support your progression of “uncovering, discovering and discarding” answers to some of the aforementioned questions. A process sprinkled with its own inherent intensity leading to marvelous rewards.

By sharing my images and observations with you, I wish to provide you with a gateway to the perfect beauty and healing energy residing within us all as well as within nature. I furthermore wish to inspire you to discover and live your own dream. Stimulate and cultivate the tiniest spark of desire for change in your own life, give it the nourishment required for blossoming. Believe in your Self and do not give in to fear and doubt. The Power within you is always greater than the fear ahead of you. Above all, have fun with the development and do not take yourself too seriously.

My eternal gratitude belongs to all the people who, in the past as well as in the present, have taught me what to do and what not to do. The biggest thank you however goes to the Universe and its miracle of synchronicity.

Enjoy and treasure your journey.

Marian Kraus  
Los Lagos Ranch, CO  
September 2006

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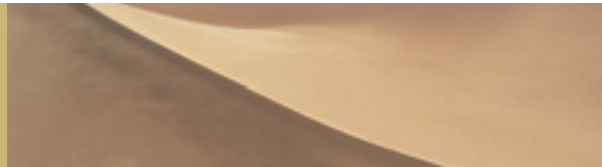
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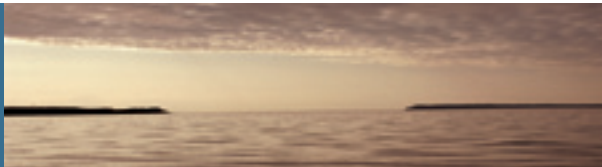
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## P E R C E P T I O N S

There are as many viewpoints on all matters of Life as there are people. Perceptions are largely a result of one's way of living. Challenging as it may be at times: freedom, peace and illumination may come from considering, accepting and respecting others' viewpoints. Rigidness does not lead to liberty. Broadness of mind is brought on by open mindedness, inquiry and inspiration.



## J O U R N E Y S

Discover and embrace the richness of your every day. Whether you trudge through uncharted territories, or feel engulfed by darkness, the bright side is always nearby. The choice to be where you want to be is yours. Are you prepared to cross the line...?





## G R O U N D E D

Look at what it takes for the mature tree to be. Imagine how far its root system digs and spreads below the visible surface. Think of the exchange of nutrients in all their forms to nourish this marvelous organism. Reflect upon the process of transformation that occurs over time from its state of a seedling to the moment when it becomes what these thoughts are brought to you upon. Thank you tree, for your courage, inspiration and grounding.



## M O V E M E N T

Life is a steady movement of a constant coming and going. It is your choice to partake in this movement and to engage in the trying and rewarding evolution of your being. Only by stepping into the oftentimes scary unknown waters ahead of you will you allow the emerging light to illuminate gratifying new shores for you.



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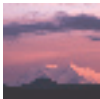
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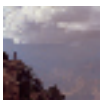
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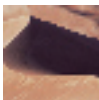


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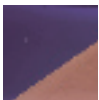
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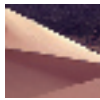
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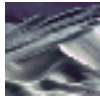
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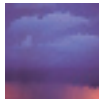


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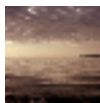
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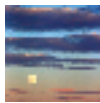
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