

PREFACE: WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

“What the world needs now is love, sweet love.” In 1965, when Hal David wrote these lyrics to a melody composed by Burt Bacharach, he exactly identified the most basic need in humanity today. Consider the multitude of perversions of mind and soul—greed, hatred, abuse, violence, hostility, vengefulness, enslavement, cruelty, and a thousand other sicknesses that divide and separate and harm people. If people simply lived with love, all of these distortions would cease to exist. I’m not suggesting that any sort of utopian world is going to happen any time soon. But I am suggesting that among us now is an agent that can set people in the direction of real love, and that this agent is *ayahuasca*.

I see no point in reaching low. We can do better than that. Instead, I want to reach high, very high. Right now, today, it is possible to sit in a ceremony, drink one or two ounces of a brew made from plants, enter a visionary state, gain access to multiple dimensions, and become suffused with absolute and complete love. Once this happens, that love becomes a reference point for everything else. It becomes an informant, a constant companion sitting on your shoulder, whispering in your ear, offering direction and clarity. And if you pay attention, if you do not shut down that whisper or decide to send your conscience on holiday, then you remove

yourself as a perpetrator of the nasty, divisive behaviors that ruin lives.

To be clear, *The Ayahuasca Test Pilots Handbook* is not a manifesto for world peace. But it is a guide to ayahuasca, the most potent, all-embracing healing agent on earth, save love itself. Perhaps as a result of reading what is written here, and by drinking the brew as advised, you will be an emissary of love. It's certainly what the world needs now.

—Chris Kilham, Western Massachusetts, 2014

