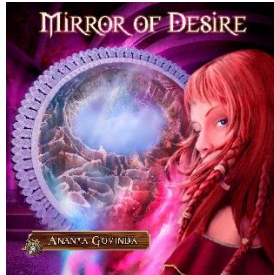


Ananta Govinda

Mirror of Desire



There is a lot of back story to composer **Ananta Govinda's** newest release **Mirror of Desire**. It is part of a fantasy trilogy, it is to be a live performance, and it helps to musically create a new sense of balance, the Yin and Yang of unseen worlds and hopeful spirits. Ananta's album is eight tracks of inter-dimensional World music backed by a talented group of musicians that help him create a solid recording of well-crafted musical experiences. Some of the music crosses genres; progressive, art rock, ethnic, maybe even a little jazz. It all interconnects effortlessly with a lot of creative by Ananta.

Reflections can be blatantly analytical and very revealing. The opening track and title tune, **Mirror of Desire** makes us consider our own faces and our own fates. Chanting, rhythmic guitar, and a driving beat propels this tune forward and goes beyond introspection. Once we have found the reflection, we put it under a microscope. We are our own harshest critic, our staunchest companion. All we need is a little light to start. The pilgrim begins his or her journey here.

With the help of **Indubious**, a band born from a miracle, **Self-Writing Book** is a popular reggae stagey tune. Reggae mixed with World music? What a concept. But it works and very well, thank you. Past, present, and future are all represented in the amalgam of the song. The bouncy flow, the background chants, and the calliope vibe make it a song that is transformational. Caution, pilgrim. This book can open to any page.

Legendary rock violinist **Lili Haydn** appears on the tune **Mazes of the Mind**. This voyage of the inner consciousness is metered, mystical and multi-layered. Think of it as being inside a kaleidoscope and twirling at half speed. The images are solidly made, but it takes time to do so. Great flute work by Ronnie Ray and a dreamy guitar intro by Ananta.

Onto the Timelessness adopts Eastern elements with the talents of **Ayaan Ali Khan** on sarod, a throatier version of its sitar cousin. There is enchanting vocal in the mix by opera star **Paulette Penzvalto**. Sometimes just one word can cause a curiosity that can only be appeased by deeper introspection. Such is the mood and theme of this song. Kudos for the terrific orchestration on this one. The pilgrim is given many choices throughout the journey. Walking through the door is always the first step of many.

Renowned singer **Pierre Edel** is the lead vocalist on **River of Time**. Ananta creates a measured pace, an otherworldly atmosphere, and a sculptured multi-faceted vocal track on this watery dream adventure. The tune embodies a time concept like that of José Phillip Farmer's Riverworld or Dan Simmon's Hyperion novels. Time flows like a river, and it has bays, deltas, sand bars, and many outlets that change, erode, and effect everything it touches. The pilgrim learns that time has a force, a living energy.

The power of faith and the drive it exudes by simply giving voice to words or mantras is proved in the final cut, **Mantras of Paradesha**. We know that words are powerful entities that generate spiritual energies. Paradesha is a faraway place. We know that it is a sacred place that holds many answers, and therefore we seek it throughout the journey. *Hare, Krishna, and Rama* combine into an articulated entreaty to the Divine just as a child calls to its parents. Ananta's textured music here is soft, gentle, and impassioned. The pilgrim now knows what questions to ask. The journey continues.

Additional tracks are **Golden Goddess** and **Room of Darshan**. If Alan Parsons did world music it might end up sounding something like this. Many times I have a favorite on an album, but this time I liked every track. This was a wonderful sense of continuity and the story line was evident. As a listener I was intrigued by the whole concept of the album, so now I have to go find out about the complete Mirror of Desire trilogy. Mr. Kej would be proud. Highly listenable.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews