



# Mantra

by Michael Harty

*for Leonard Cohen, 1934–2016*

A crack in everything, he told us—that's how light gets in. And yes, he always knew that this included him. The sharps and flats of life—he savored them and suffered through them, shaped them to an art that calls the name of every listener. The light that found his inner world was like a healing flame: revealing, not destroying, always bound to show his truth. Lost loves, mistakes, regrets, despair and fear, but hope as well, and praise, and generosity, and tenderness—all deeply shared, with ordinary grace. A cracked bowl gathers light, a cracked bell rings, and even facing night, a cracked voice sings.

Image: "Blue Bowl" by Liz Magee. "Mantra" was written by Michael Harty for *Rattle's* Ekphrastic Challenge, August 2020, and selected as the Artist's Choice.

