

Maryam Ioanna David



Angelina

Exandas

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Portrait of
Michael David

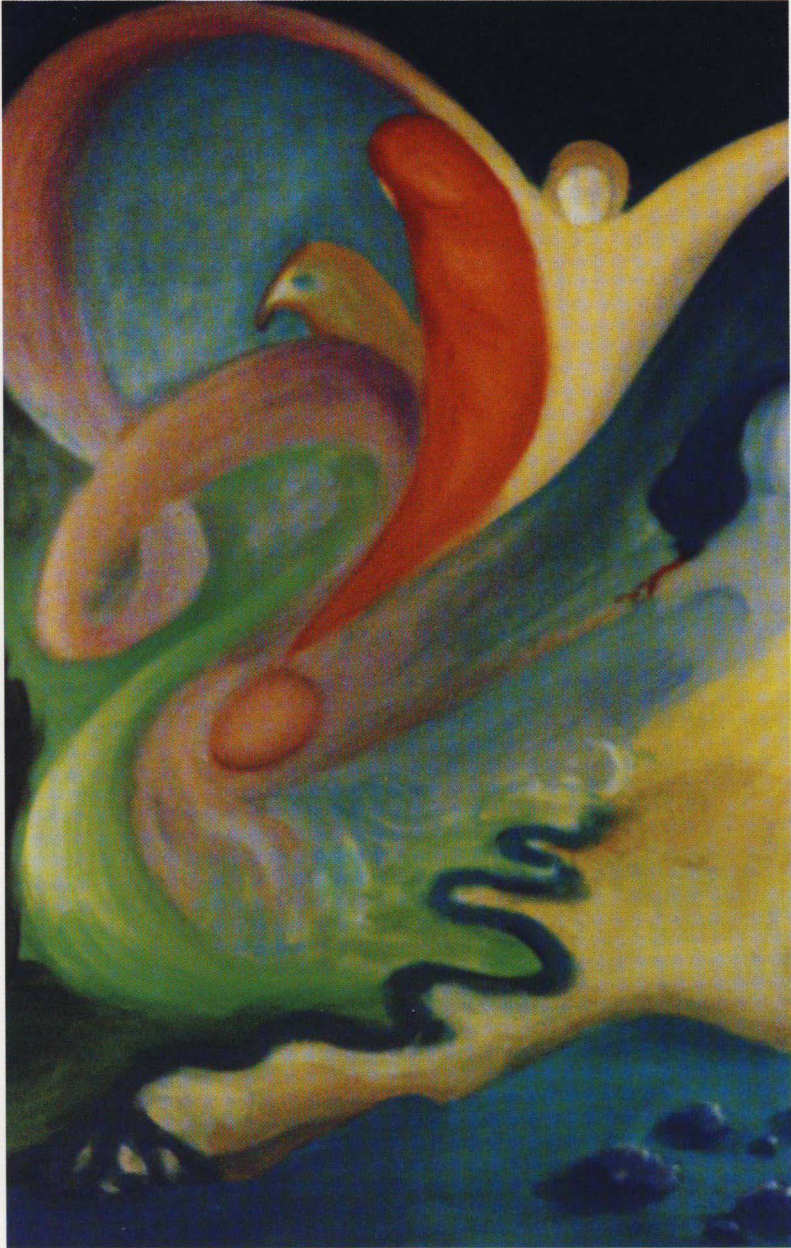
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Maryam Ioanna David

Angelina

*Paintings by
Mikhail David*

EXANDAS



Once upon a time...



*Once upon a time
a little girl was born*

*her parents who were old
had almost lost hope
of having their own child*

*so they welcomed her arrival
with great joy in their hearts
like a little angel descended
from heaven*

and named her

Angelina

*Life was a huge adventure
for this little girl*

she was never bored

animals

birds

trees

flowers

the rivers

the big blue sea

the majestic mountains

the valleys

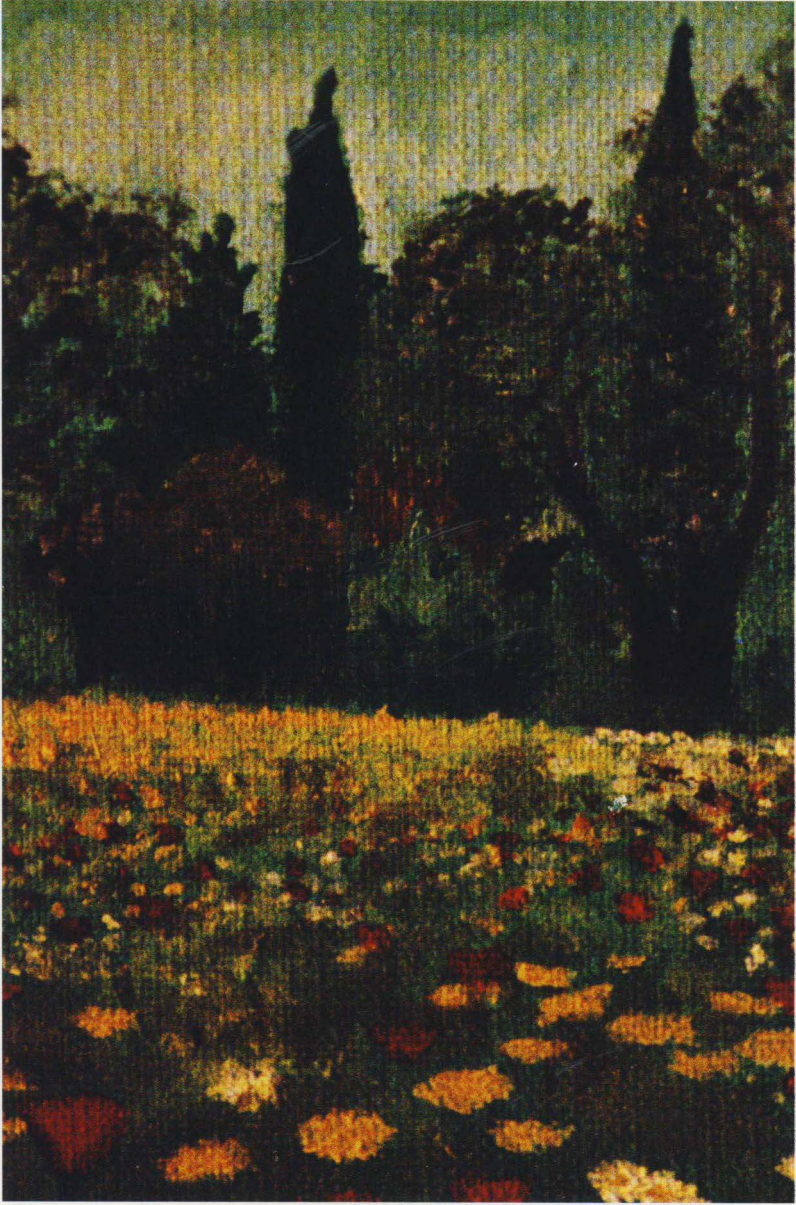
the richness of the cultivated fields

fascinated her

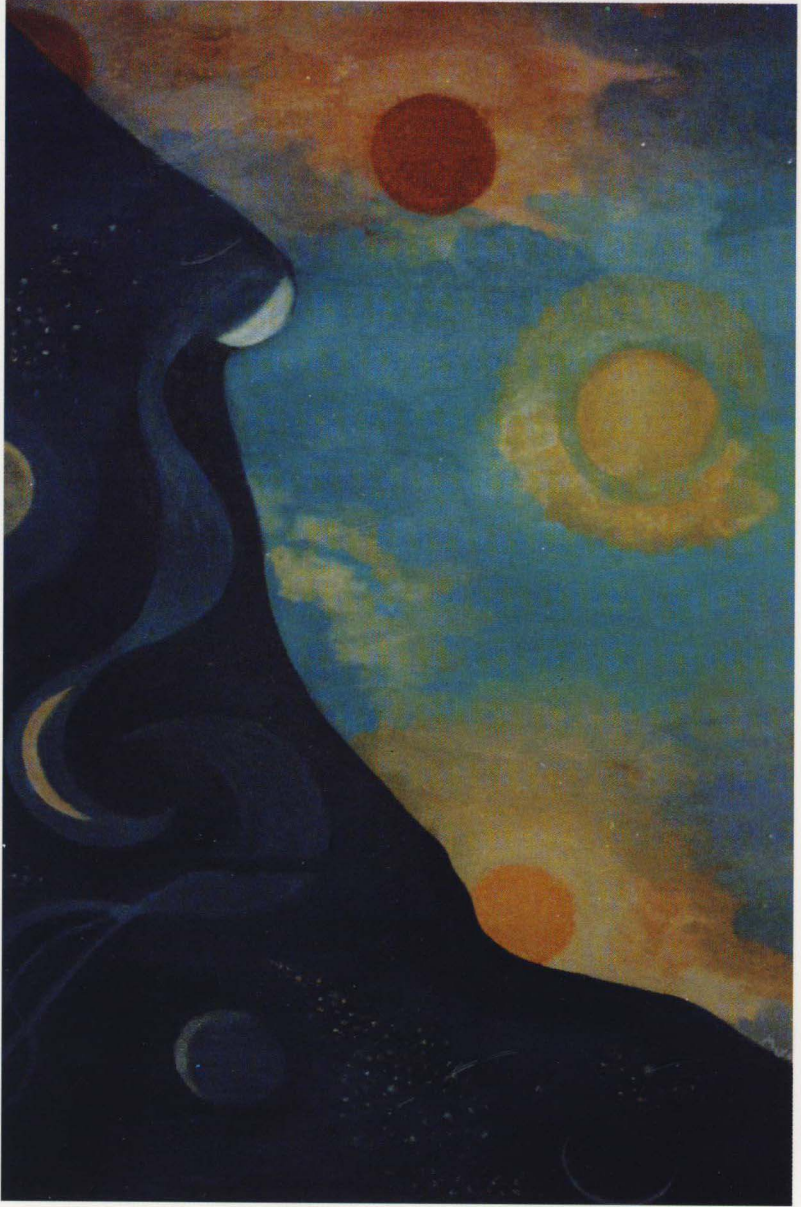
but above everything else

it made her heart joyful

to Praise and Thank God



... birds, trees, flowers,...



often she would gaze up into the wide skies

*Often she would gaze up
into the wide skies
with wonder*

*the sun always
smiled back at her*

*or, she would watch the clouds
play games with the winds
and would long to be a cloud
too, to play with them*

*sometimes
the far distant stars
came really close
and the moon greeted her
on its journey round the sky*

*the Grace and Wonders of Life
never stopped amazing Angelina*

*One particular afternoon
she amused herself for hours
in their garden*

*it was spring
nature was at its best*

*how happy she felt among
the beautiful roses
in full bloom
the delicately scented camellias
the orange and lime trees
laden with fruit
magical fragrances
mingled into her nostrils*

*the sound of birds
singing their cheery songs
enchanted her ears*

*sounds, scents, colours
wonderful*

*her being was brimming with love
how she wished she could really
share her joy with someone*



she amused herself for hours in their garden

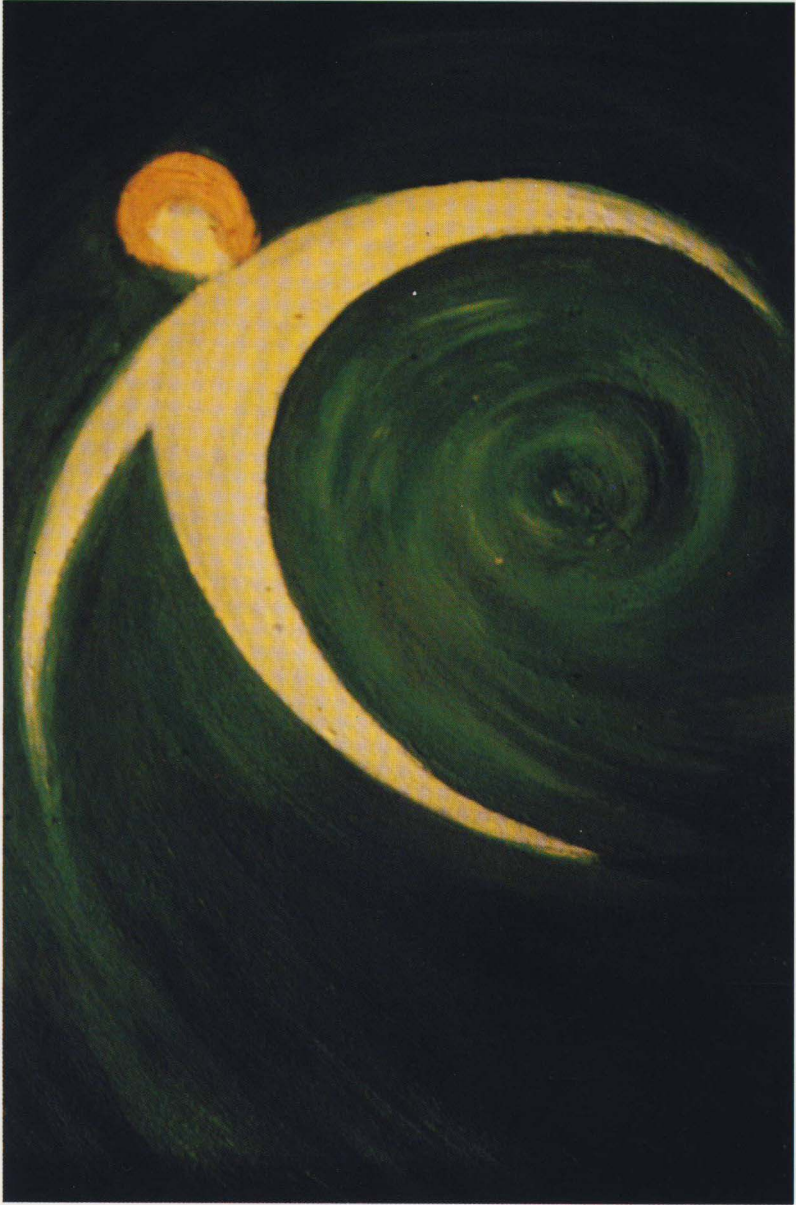
*now GOD
Who Cares
For Us All
Was Well Pleased
with this little girl*

An Angel Appeared

*right there
in front of her*

*the angel was huge
with enormous wings*

*he stood like a small mount
looking down at her
smiling broadly*



an angel appeared



Angelina felt comfortable with the angel

*Angelina was naturally startled
she was not afraid of the angel
she just felt comfortable with him*

*for indeed he was
her guardian angel; good and loving*

*but of course
this she did not know because
she had never encountered him before*

when she recovered from the shock:

*welcome kind angel – said she
have you come to teach me to fly?*

*Angelina was always longing
to have adventures*

*no – said the angel
looking rather concerned
I am here to remind you of
your true nature
of your promise...*

*Oh... Oh – went Angelina
well*

*Soon she was so light-hearted
so pleased*

*her angel
had such funny ways of talking
he made her laugh
till tears of joy rolled down her cheeks*

*she felt so light-hearted
she wanted to expand
like a balloon*

*this feeling lasted barely a second
before she remained
totally amazed with surprise*

*the angel flapped his wings
and*

*ah ah ah ah
came a little voice out of her*



she wanted to expand like a balloon

*Quite unexpectedly
a little girl appeared
out of*

herself

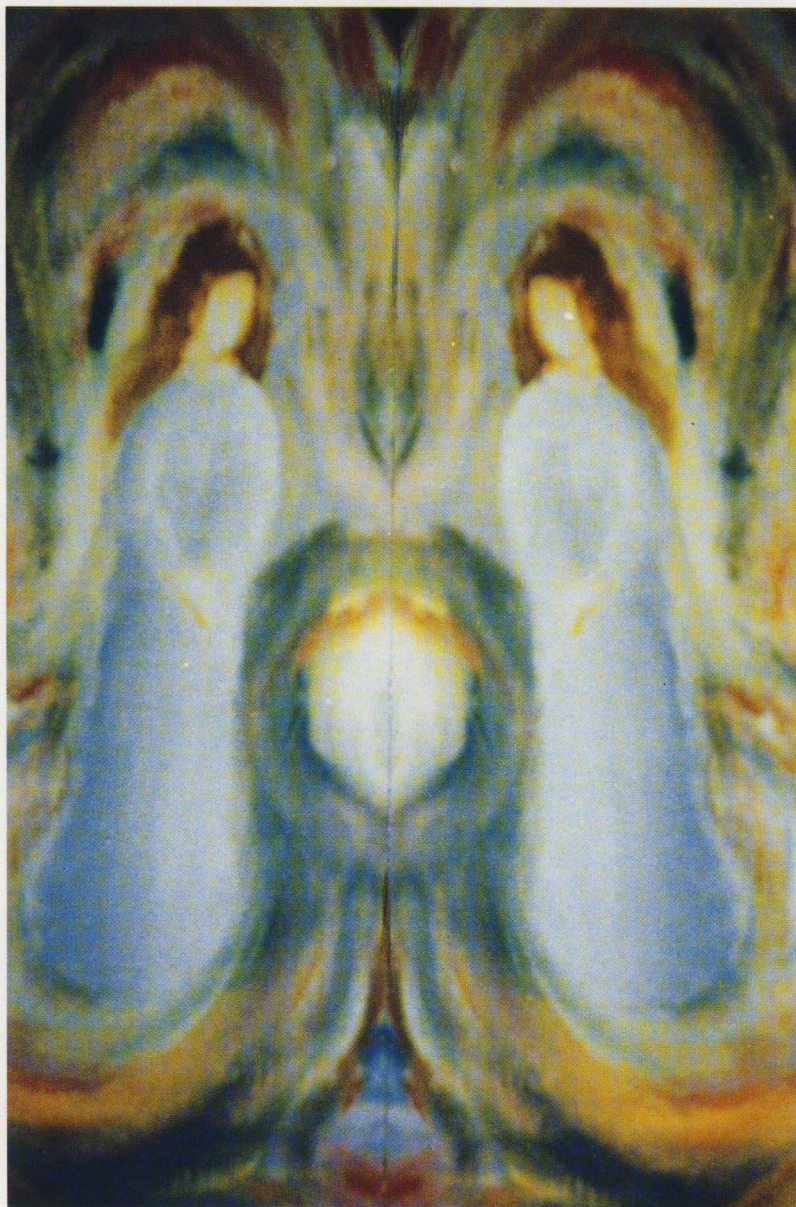
looking exactly like she did

how can it be?

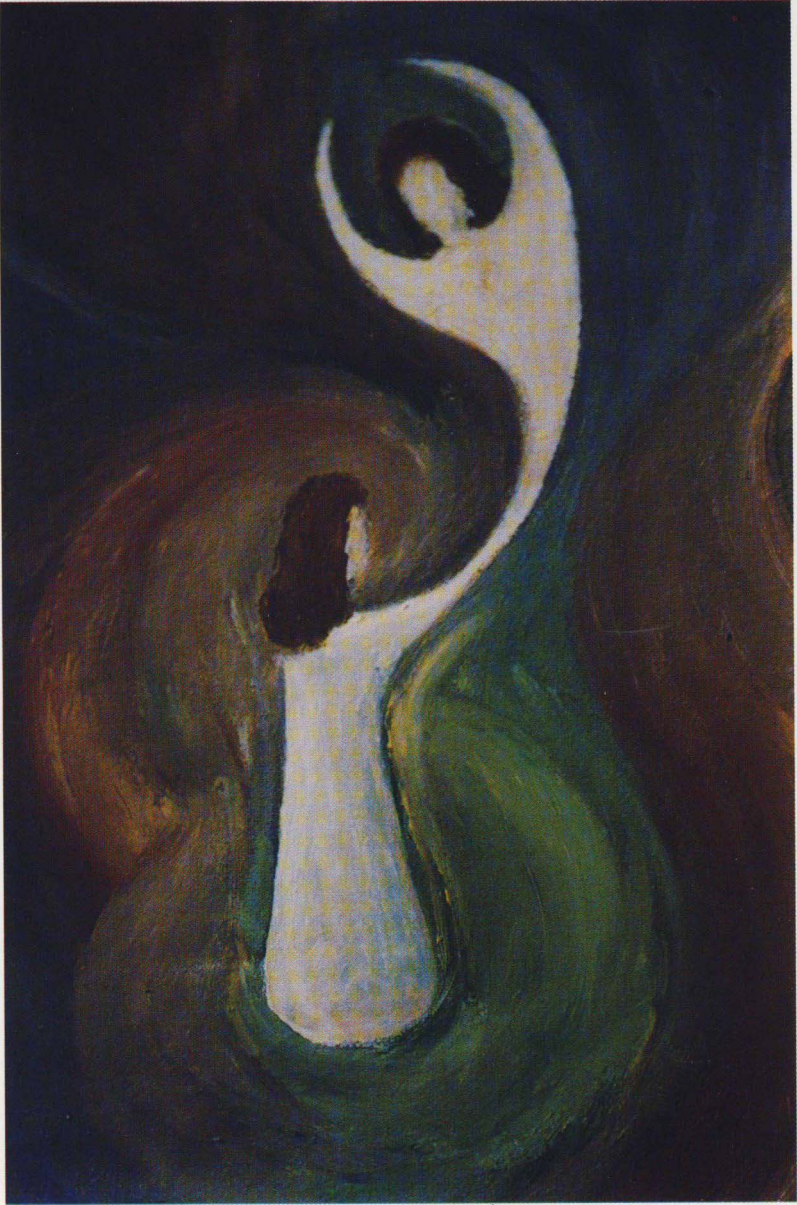
was her stunned reaction

who are you
where have you been hiding
all this time?

I'm Angelina
I'm the little voice inside
the sunny side of your nature
and I have been resting all along
within



a little girl appeared... looking exactly like she did



she watched this second self... move in and out of her

*You can imagine
Angelina's surprise and joy
at meeting with her true nature*

*filled with gratitude to God
she watched
this second self
very real
very lively*

*move in
and
out of her*

*even fly about
just as she had always
wished she could do*

then

*settle down again
inside of her
without any trouble
as though they were
two separate little girls
all in one*

*Angelina was very delighted
she had met with her True Self*

*she now felt guilty
for God's Love is Great*

she must never neglect to be thankful
for everything



now she felt guilty

*Angelina felt awfully excited
she wanted the whole world
to share her joy*

*she walked
 and walked
 and walked
 until she reached the forest*

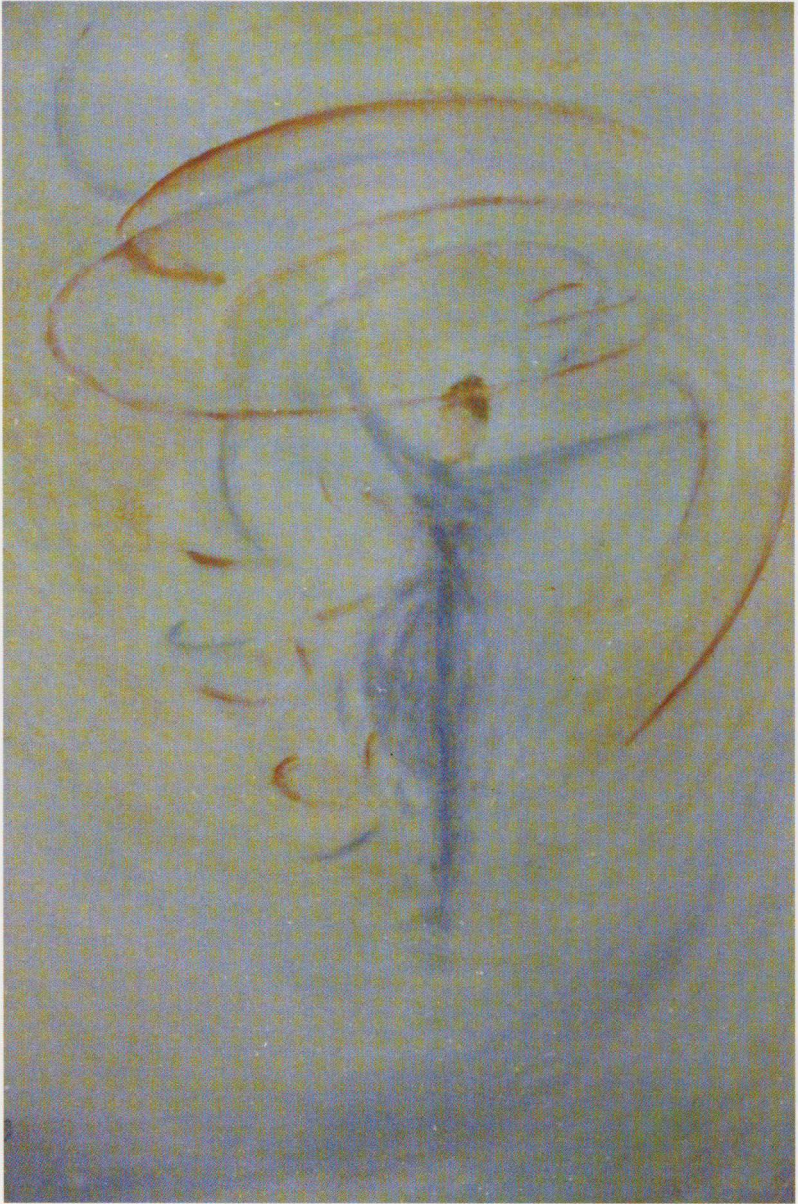
*there she lay down
under some enormous tree
really content
when a murmur
reached her ears*

a kind of preparation

*suddenly the whole forest came alive
responding to Angelina's presence
welcoming her in an astonishing way*



she walked, and walked, and walked



Angelina got up and danced

Slowly

*the trees swayed their tops
to and fro*

*the little wild flowers
shook their heads gracefully
the bushes moved sturdily
even the blades of grass swung about*

All

*in the forest
were celebrating
in her honour*

*Angelina's heart was very moved
she had to get up too
to dance and sing*

soon

*animals
reptiles
insects,
name them,
all danced
accompanied by melodies
struck up by the gentle wind*

Then
hundreds of little people
gathered around her

they clapped loudly
welcoming her
to their dances and songs

a funny little one
whose face was
that of a young boy
with a long manly beard
gave an impromptu dance
and read out a poem for her

his expression pleased Angelina
it was sincere

this is what he said:

oh child of brightness
human creature of Grace Divine
we welcome you with love
we little people;
often have we dreamt and wished
to share
to be united



a funny little one... gave an impromptu dance and read out a poem

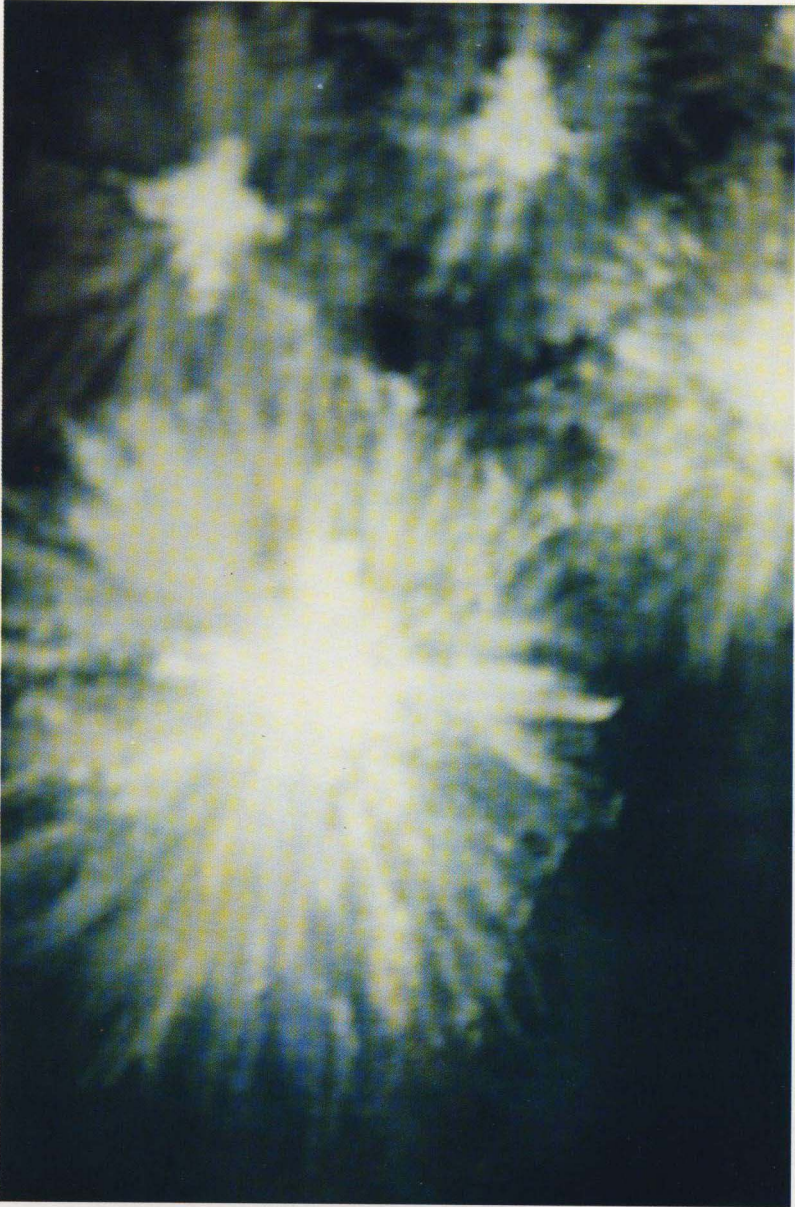
Everyone enthusiastically shouted
Hurrah Hurrah
for Angelina

soon they were all dancing
little nymphs twinkled
on the ground
so daintily
with their translucent wings
hopping and circling so beautifully
a very delicate sound
like a slight murmur
accompanied them

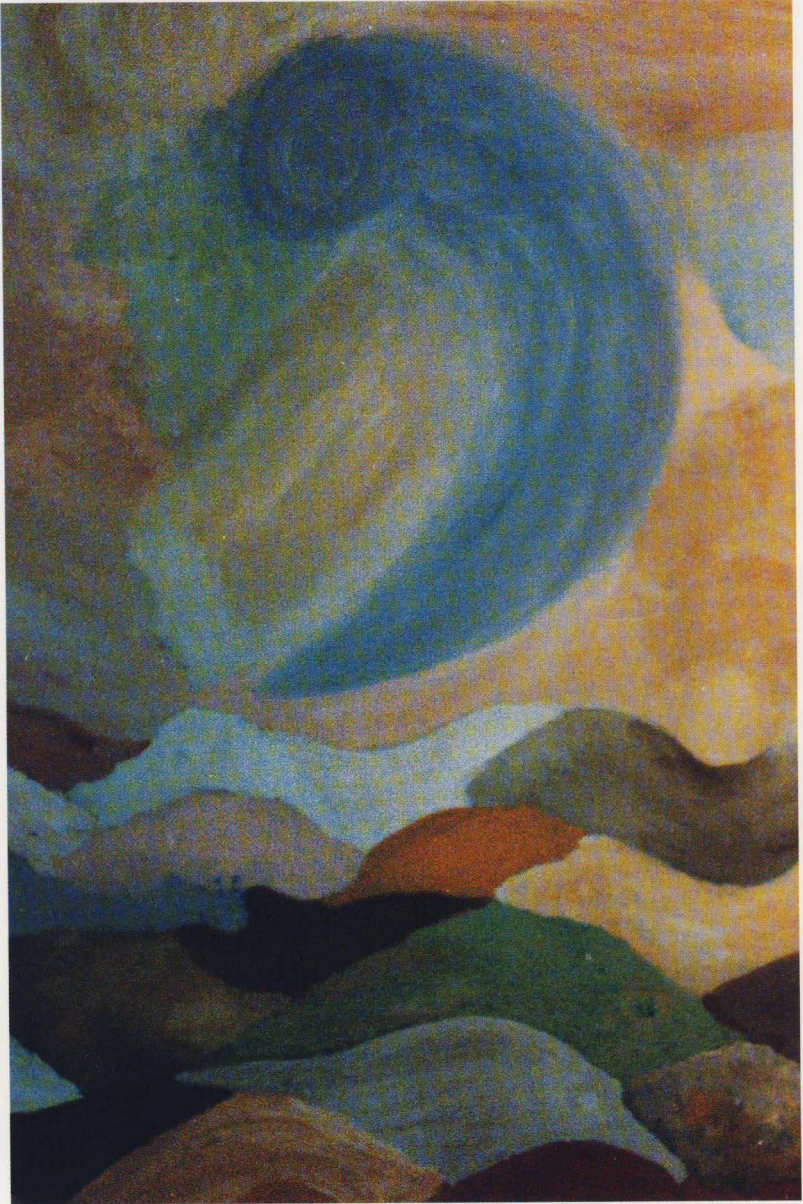
that's what I heard at first –
thought Angelina

the sounds were almost inaudible
so refined were they

the little creatures danced and danced
and captivated Angelina
with their magic



little nymphs twinkled on the ground



there was an endless parade of performers

*There was an endless parade
of performers*

*gnomes and frog-like creatures too
conducted funny circus acts
others sang*

*not too delicately maybe
but everyone joined in
like a big orchestra
with various instruments*

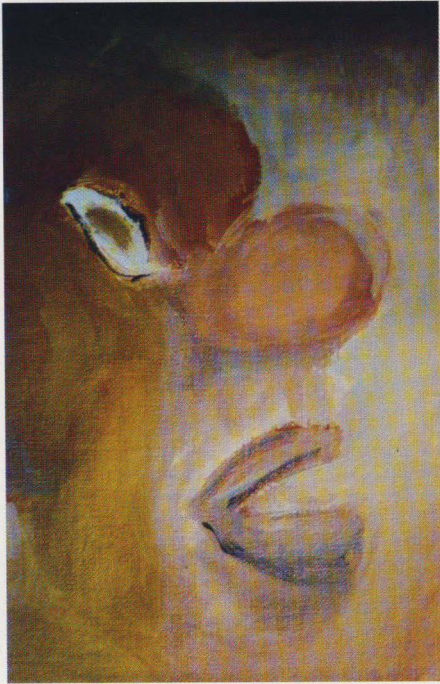
*it was fabulous
this special
and gracious thanksgiving*

Angelina

the whole forest

its inhabitants

quite perfect



Arby

*News of the thanksgiving ceremony
spread far and wide*

*all kinds of creatures
wanted to meet with Angelina from
that day on*

*the first time she was taken aback
a reddish huge creature introduced himself*

*he was **e n o r m o u s***

*she of course enquired what he wanted
oh: just to get to know you*

*Angelina smiled to herself
they had so little in common*

*though still a little scared of his size
Angelina soon understood that she was
somewhat stronger than him because
she was a human being*

*this creature told her his name
he was called: **Arby** – the bottled one*

*He really meant to frighten her
with his size
and was very impressed
with her calm looking nature*

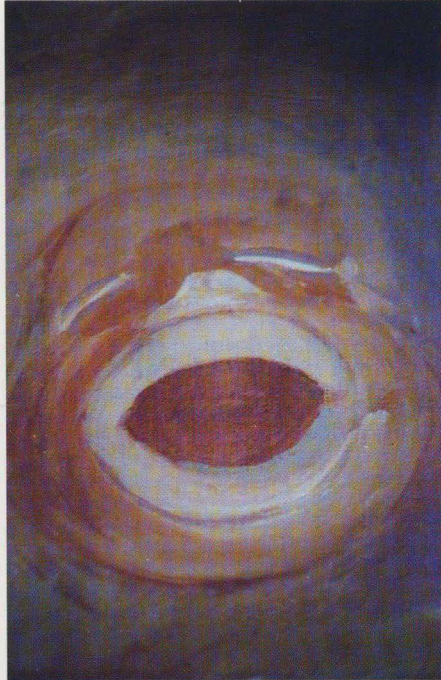
*in a while he had shared his secrets
with the little girl*

*he played tricks on people
and if he succeeded
he would laugh so hard
till froth poured out of his mouth*

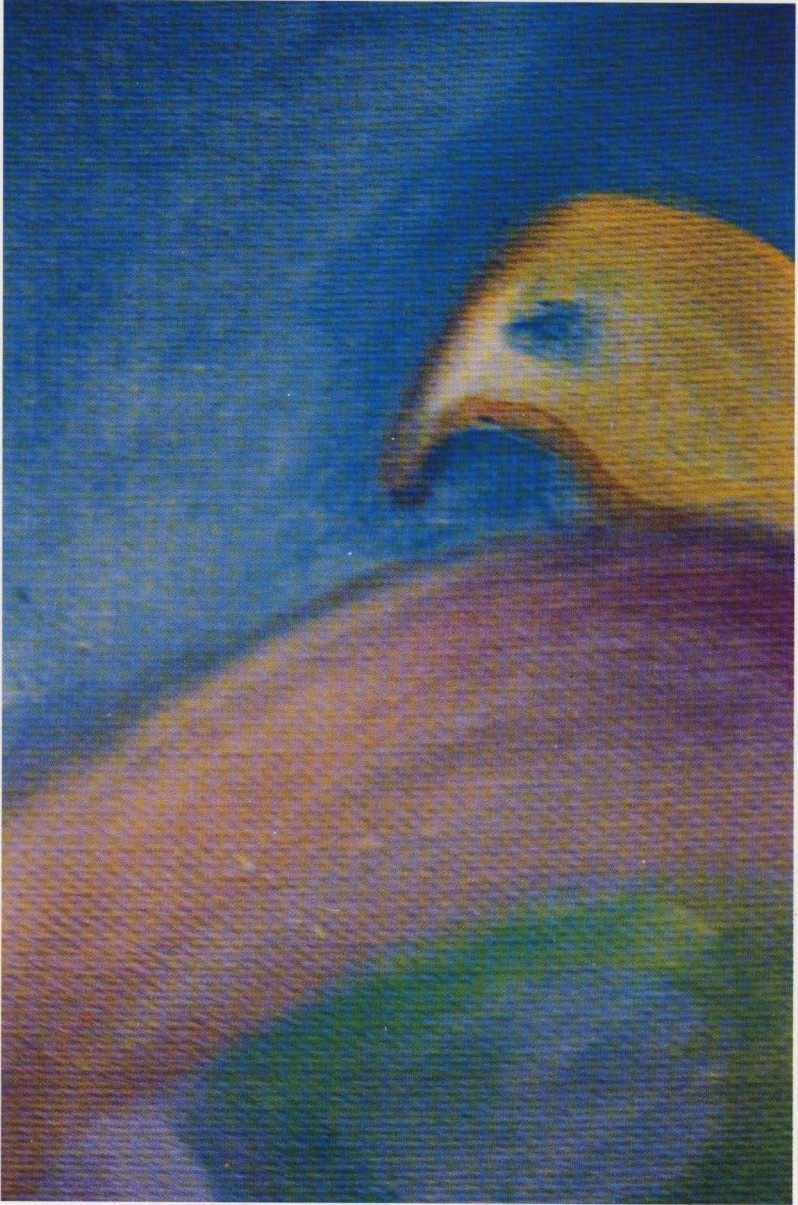
*harmless tricks
to make people look ridiculous
just the thought of fooling them
made him laugh*

*that is not very kind – said Angelina
who was not amused
somehow instead of getting angry
he paid his respects and left
he had failed to win her over
to get her to play those tricks together*

Angelina was not sad to see him go



he would laugh so hard...



all kinds of creatures, great and small... followed

After Arby

*all kinds of creatures
great and small*

*one completely different
from the other*

*followed and
made their introductions*

*Angelina was always polite
she knew how to treat them
she also listened patiently
to their stories*

*those that impressed her most
because of their size
were the giants
goodness – there were many*

Oleani she liked better than others
he kind of lightened people
if, for instance,
they had got wet
he would make them laugh
to forget that
they were soaked

Oleani
never went anywhere on his own
he was always accompanied
by a shorter green giant
who looked more like a turtle
and was called
Huphus

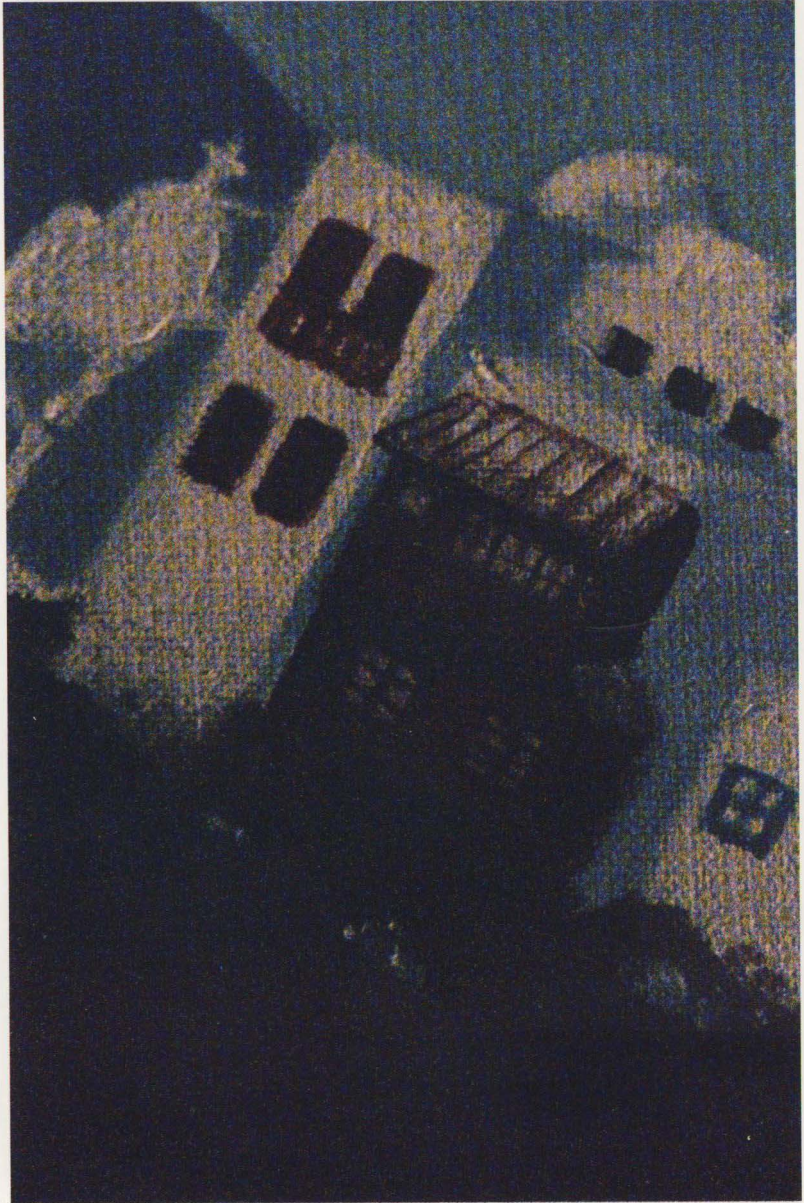
their job was fun!
well... to each his own
they all had their purpose

there was never a dull moment



Oleani would make people laugh

Angelina
runs into danger



Angelina's town was small

Angelina's town was small

*her parents wanted to give her
a good education*

*she had to move to the city
away from*

her dear family

her friends

the animals

the flowers

the open fields

and the beautiful forest

that she so loved

In the city

*the people around her
were not always friendly
or joyful*

*her great aunt
with whom she stayed
was extremely severe*

*despite her happy disposition
Angelina
was now often sad*

and lonely



in the city Angelina was lonely

*During a short holiday
thinking it will cheer her up
she decided to go sight-seeing*

halfway

down

a mountain

outside town

forgotten city

there was an old

it was said to be haunted

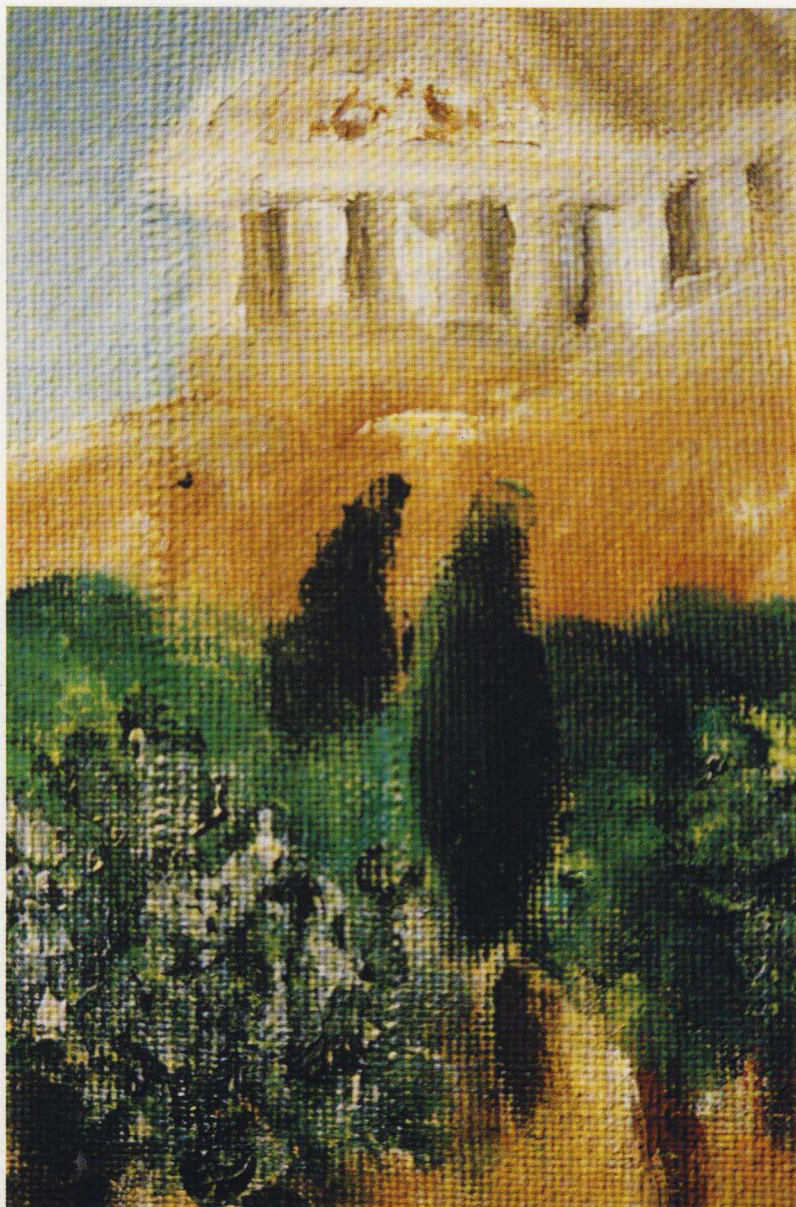
*Angelina was a brave girl
she was not afraid
her spirit of adventure
took over*

*as she approached the old city
surrounded by*

HIGH HEFTY WALLS

it made her s h u d d e r

but she was not going to give up



... there was an old forgotten city



... everywhere a feeling that many shadows were watching

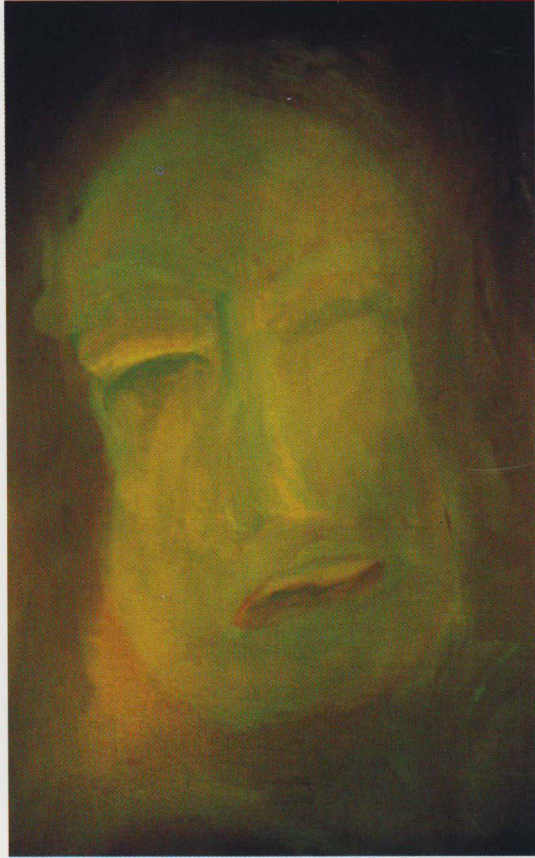
*An impressive old castle
stood intact
in the darkness*

*dull grey gardens
and everywhere a feeling
that many shadows were watching*

*on and on
she went examining
every nook and corner
of this place
until she reached
the darkest of cellars*

*a peculiar sensation compelled her
to keep going ahead*

*she had no idea how to stop herself
though by now
she really wanted to get away
as quickly as possible*



I am the keeper, welcome to my kingdom – said he

*Angelina was certain
that if she stayed too long
in that dreadful place
she would never be able to get away
she would forget who she was
and would never return
to her family
and friends*

*indeed the first danger
came her way almost immediately*

*a funny man with green spears
jutting out of his shoes
was waiting*

*she was not expecting to see anyone
who are you? she asked*

*I am the keeper
welcome to my kingdom – said he*

*He appeared quite harmless
but Angelina knew otherwise*

*her neck **stiffened**
she found she could not even
smile at him*

*let me guide you around little girl –
he said*

*Angelina
stepped back
hoping to play for time*

*soon she stopped being afraid
of this silly person
and told him
she wanted to be left alone*

*her guess was right
the green man
actually meant to trap her
and enslave her into his services*



the green man meant to enslave Angelina

*He became very angry
when she refused to follow him
and turned quite yellow*

*he tried to touch her with his spears
but she stood very still
really quiet inside*

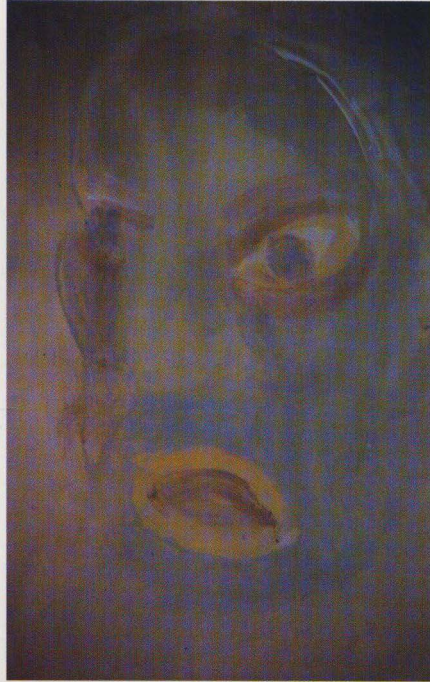
he could not harm her

again he attempted to attack

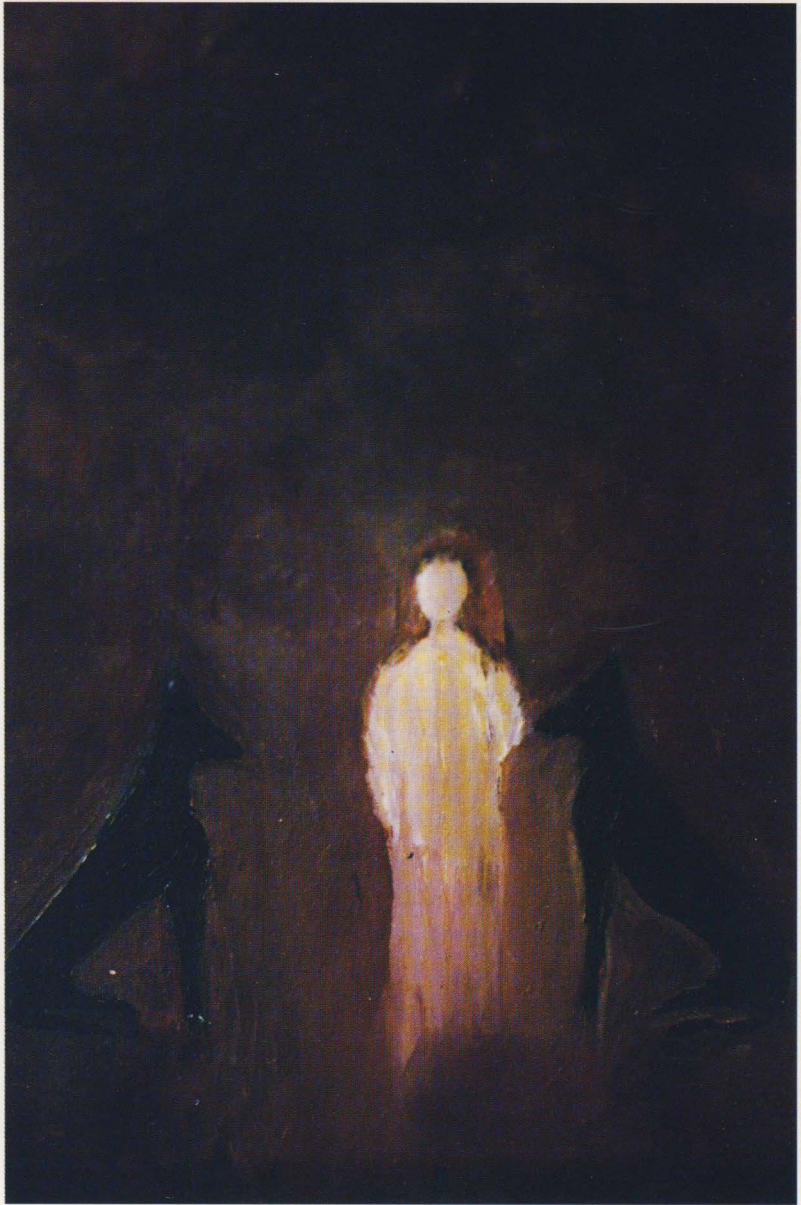
*this time Angelina evoked
for God's help
calling God's name aloud
a big smile lit her face
she beamed her smile at him*

*Instantly
the green man
turned greyish
and started
retreating until*

he faded
in the background
like a bad shadow



he became very angry



two huge dogs join Angelina

This place is awful – *she thought to herself*

within minutes

two **huge** dogs joined her

this time she had

no reservations

*Angelina was delighted
to see them at her side
she had started to feel... lonely
they were a great comfort to her*

together

they walked

down the

l o n g

*dark corridors of the cellar
whenever she was afraid
the dogs barked loudly
or showed their white pointed teeth
at the bottom of the cellar
she was made to sit
she literally
dropped to
the ground*

happy to get a rest



the beautiful princess stood staring in the distance

*But not for long
for the same strange force
pulled at her*

*drawing her out
into the courtyard*

*so many statues were
crowded together
in that yard*

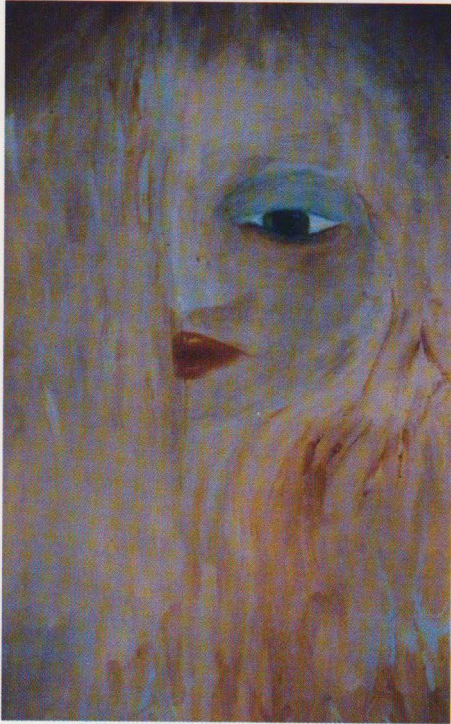
a creepy, creepy place

*among these statues
all dressed in costumes
of days gone by
there was one
of a
beautiful princess*

Angelina was very impressed by her!

*the princess stood
staring in the distance
a majestic look
so unhappy*

it made Angelina want to cry



The princess told Angelina her sad tale

Then the princess spoke

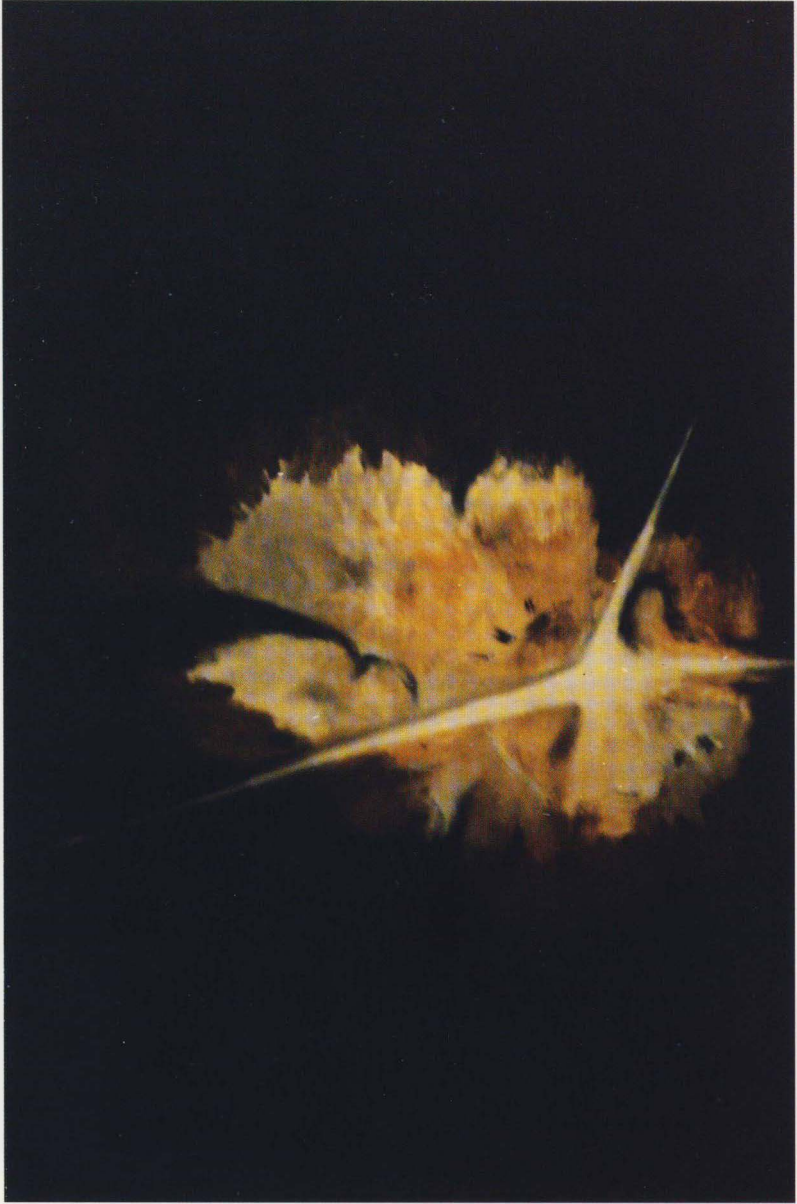
come closer little girl
I'm not really a piece of stone
I'm alive
let me tell you my story

*the princess
told Angelina of her sad tale
she spoke so softly
about her life
how she and her attendants
enjoyed their life in the castle
until an old witch turned her
into an owl*

years passed – said she
now we are back to normal
alive again

*Angelina was very surprised
does she really believe she's alive?*

*the princess then said
stay with us little one
this place is 's'onderful
's'onderful – she repeated
all your dreams
will come true with us*



Angelina ran fast towards the entrance of that awful place

*Angelina shuddered really hard
but she could not free herself
from the princess's power*

*until
the huge dogs who had
followed devotedly at her feet
jumped right up
way beyond her head*

*Angelina was immediately jolted
into reality*

*freed now
she ran as fast as her legs
would carry her
towards the entrance
of that awful place
together with the dogs*

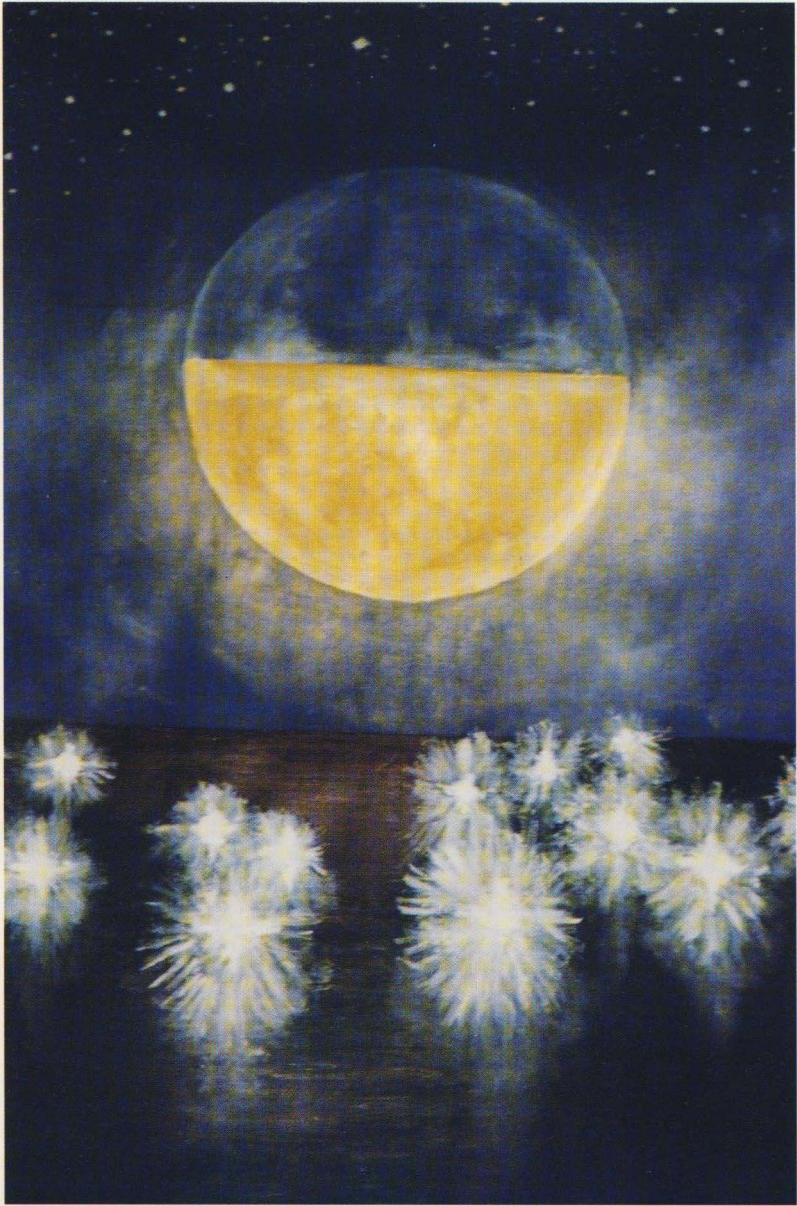
good-bye dear friends – said she to them

*I shall always remember you
thank you for your protection
and she hugged them both tenderly*

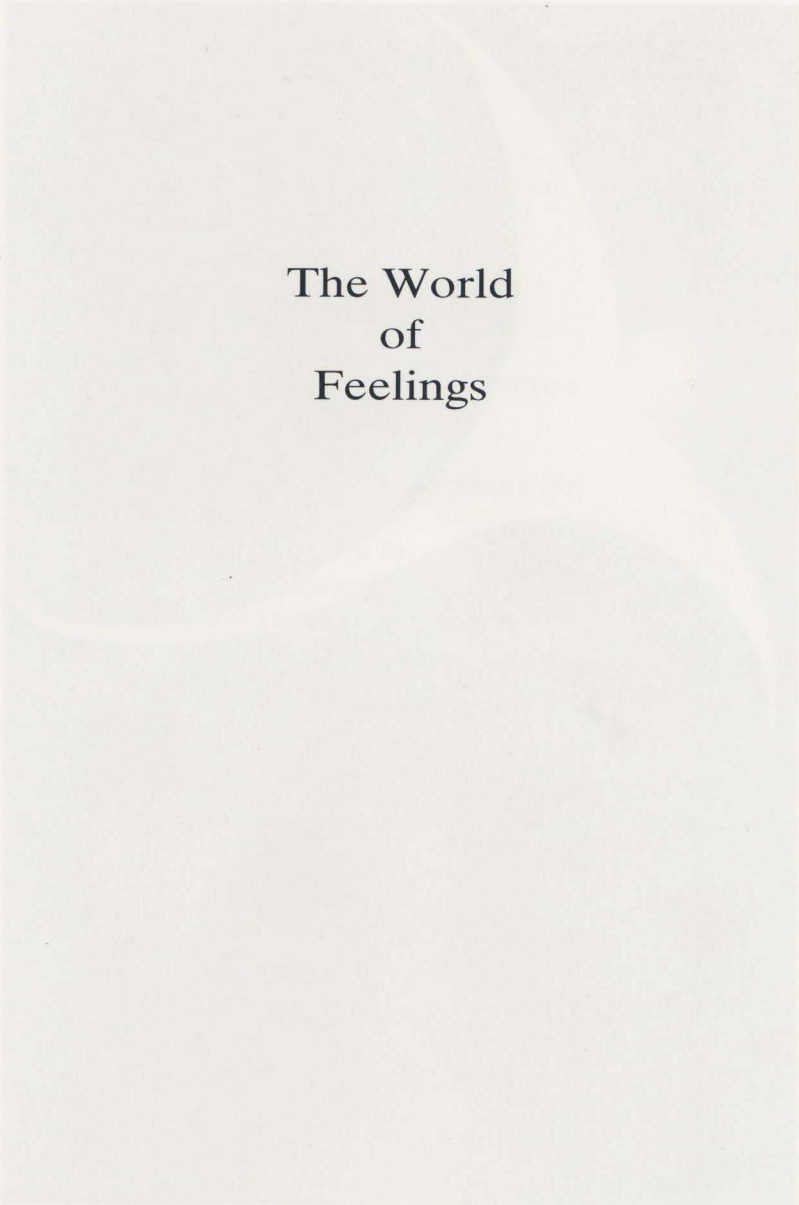
*When she found herself
in the open
it felt
as though
a few years had passed*

*the night air soothed her
the moon slowly rose
in the sky
she could see the valley below
and the ocean flowing peacefully*

*she was relieved
so thankful
to be free*



the moon slowly rose in the sky



The World
of
Feelings



the angel reappeared

*Not long after
her adventure in the castle
the angel reappeared*

*Angelina was truly overjoyed
at his sight*

oh kind angel how I missed you
welcome back

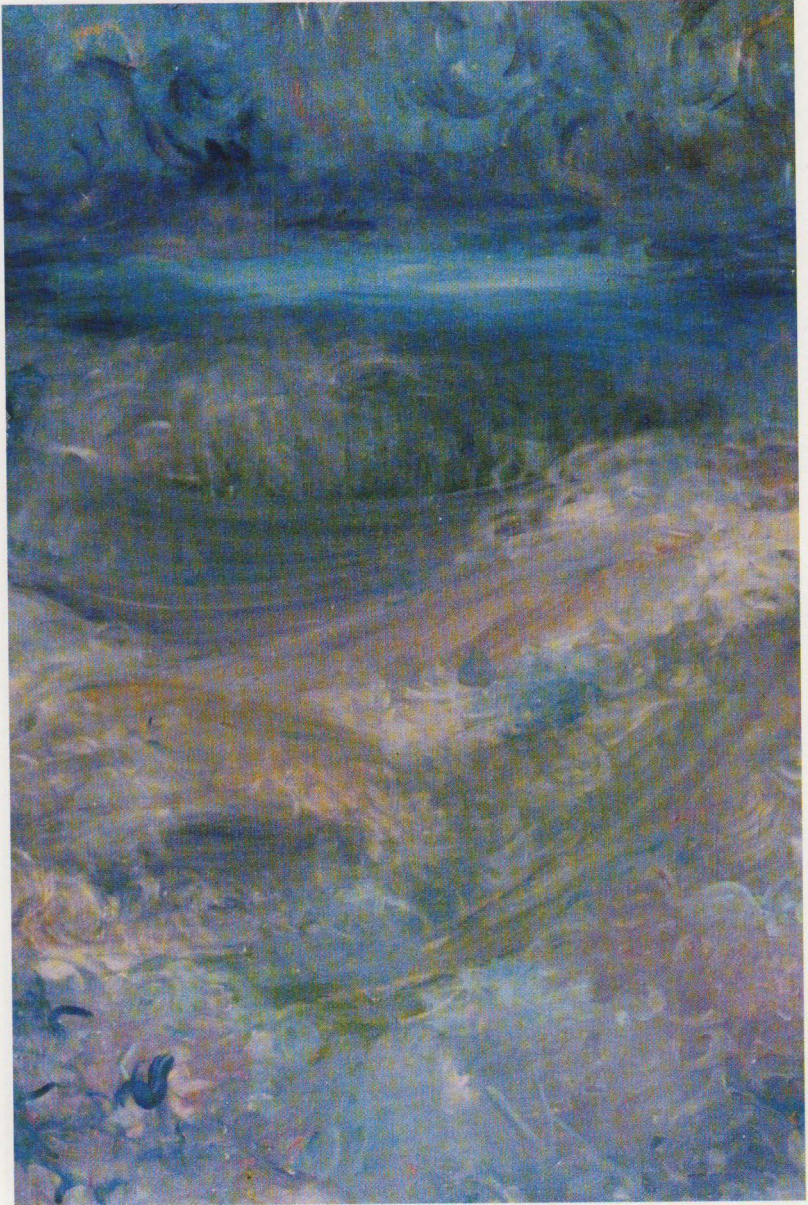
you know I'm around young girl

said the angel in his usual
funny gruff ways
there is really no need to see me often
just to feel
and you do feel my presence

yes –
said Angelina half-heartedly

*but the truth be told
she was in low spirits*

she had changed



... there she rested like a forgotten dream, a fantasy.....

*She was always so busy
no time was
spared
to enjoy life
to relax
to be thankful to God*

*the little girl inside
her true nature
slept soundly*

*there she rested
like a forgotten dream
a fantasy*

*well – said the angel
this time we will experience
another world
something very special*

*oh: but I can't –
said she excitedly in one breath
she was actually still shaken*

*Just as she was trying to fathom
what to do
she took off*

.....sso ffasstt

*the angel
had barely time
to join her*

*keep your eyes firmly shut Angelina –
a voice trailed into her understanding*

*Angelina did not forget
to keep her eyes closed*

*she was curious though
where were they going?*

*all she felt
was
quiet*



Angelina took off so fast...

a long stretch of emptiness

just

a long

long

stretch

of

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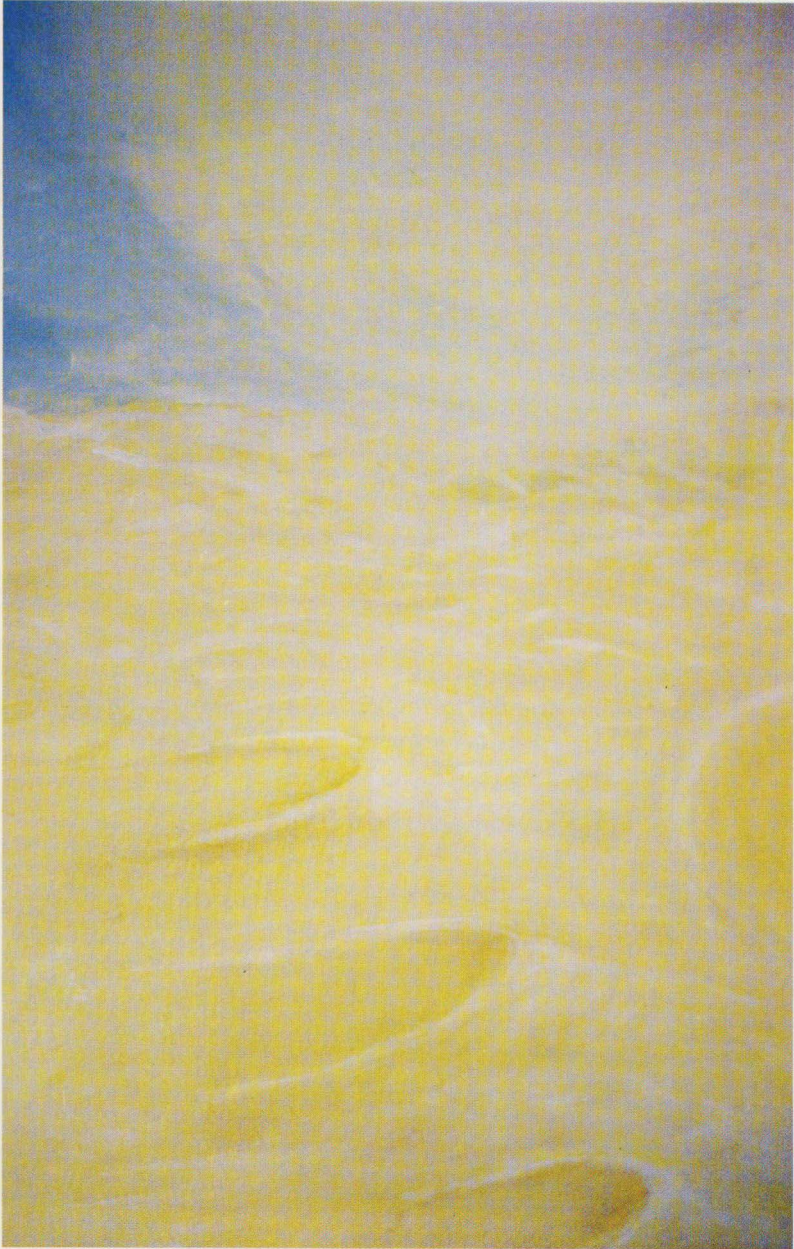
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What a fantastic place!

*she heard herself utter
when she at last
opened her eyes*

where am I

dear angel, are you close by?

no reply was given

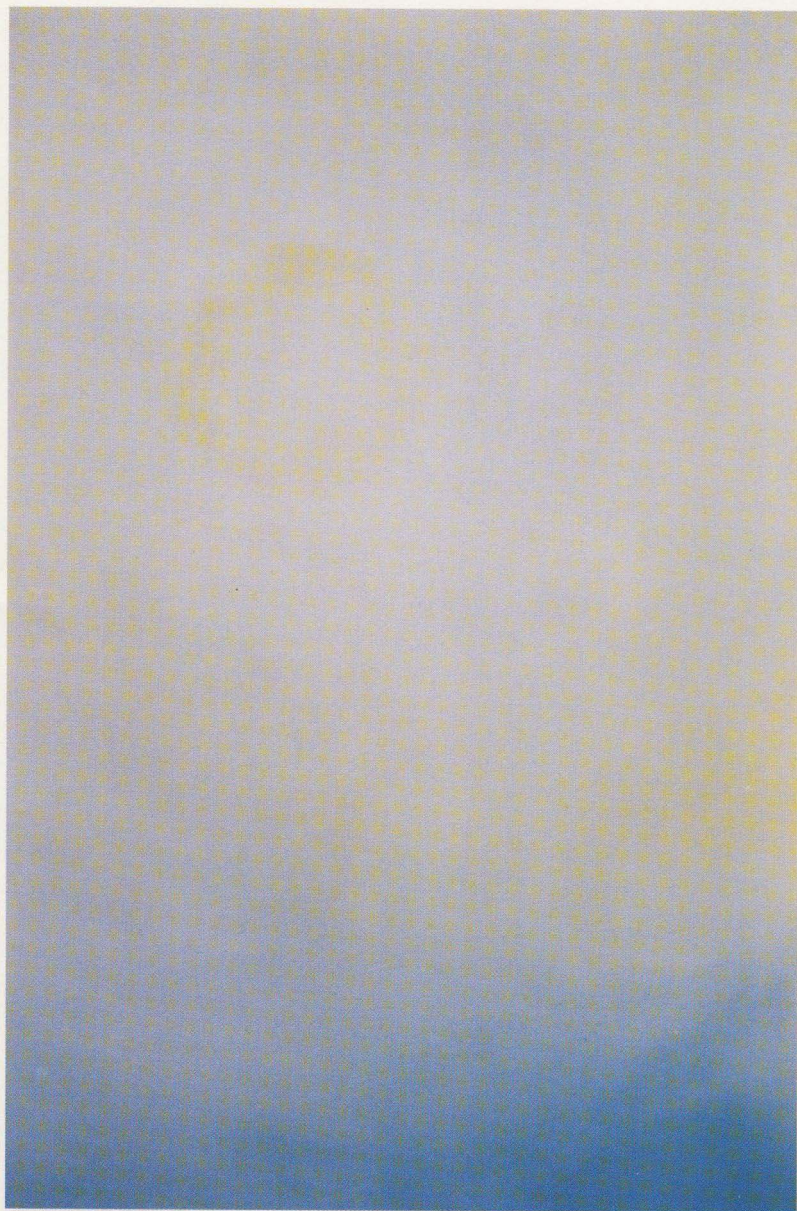
the light everywhere was dazzling

she could not focus

*little by little
she became accustomed
to its brightness*

her eyes now felt bigger

*the range of colours was incredible
she had never come across
such a tremendous colour scheme*



the light everywhere was dazzling

*She was astonished
bewildered
where was the angel*

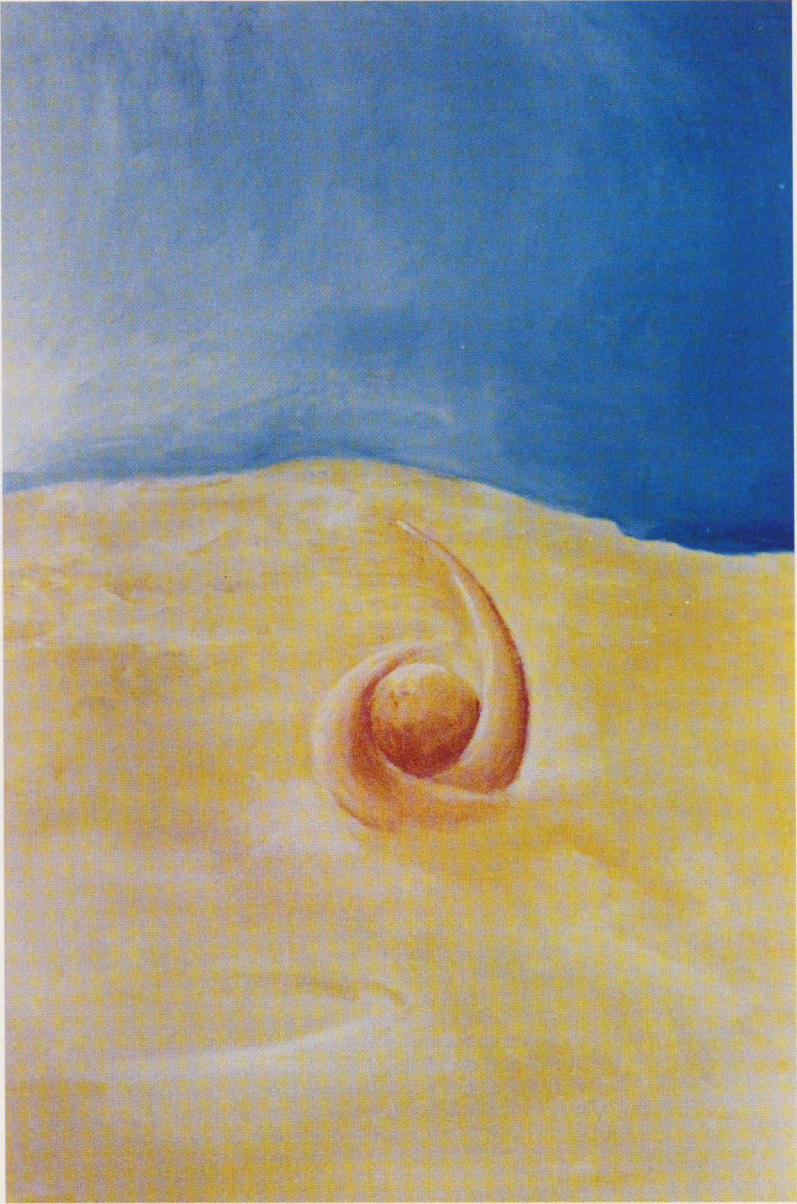
*she tried to see
beyond the light
but she couldn't*

she appeared

*to have landed
in a never
ending
land*

peculiarly e m p t y

*she unwound
rested
and was soon rejoicing*



Angelina had landed in a never ending land



Angelina's dog

At first her thoughts kept her amused

*whatever she thought about
came alive*

*her family
her friends
her dog
there he was standing in front of her
wagging his tail*

*next
she was her dog: unimaginable
she even barked just as well as he did*

*Angelina was simply delighted
her dreams and wishes
were being fulfilled*

*everyday life
was dull
without
this wide
range of feelings*

Another surprise followed:

*her thoughts were totally stilled
her feelings alive
slowly Angelina stood up
and moved about
first like a flower
then like a tree
in her feelings
she was that tree*

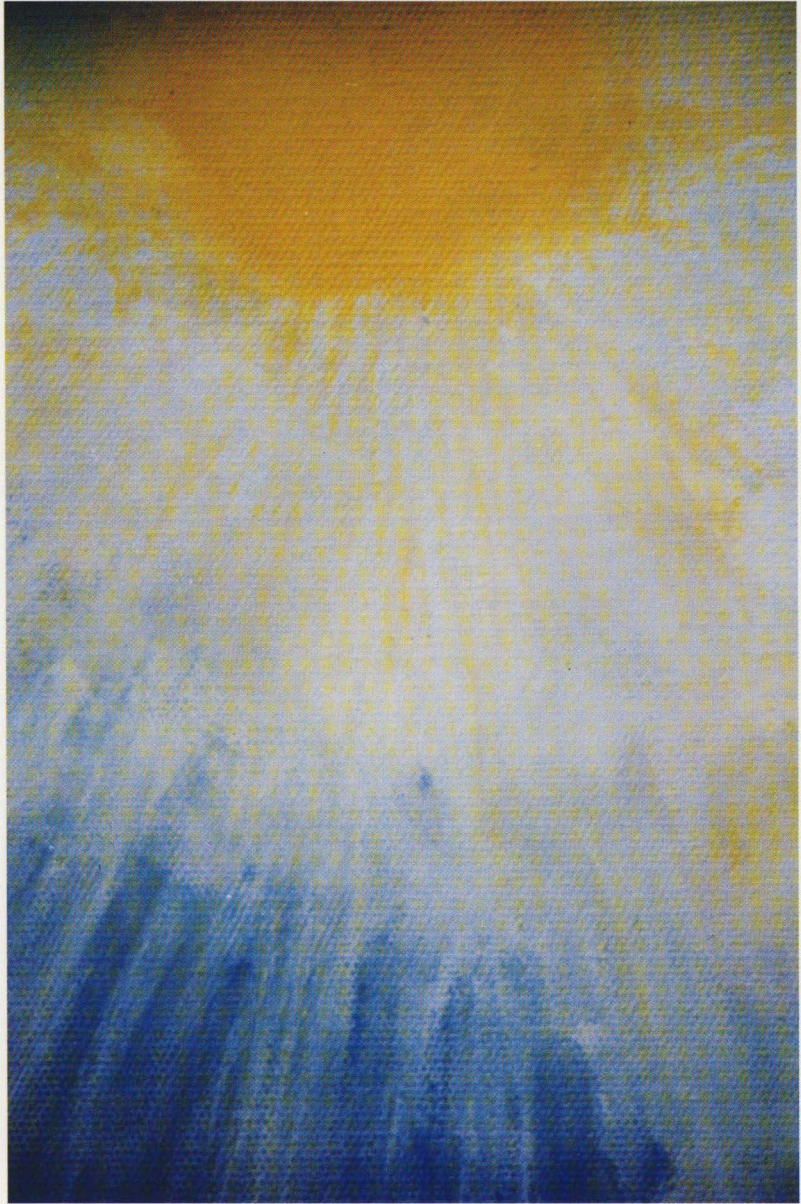
*next a whole private farm
all of her own
emerged
from Angelina
quite amazing
vegetables and animals*

*cows, chickens, fish
carrots, potatoes
turnips, onions
and many others*

*she met with them
they met with her*



Angelina's feelings alit... she was like a tree



the beautiful worlds of God's perfect Creation can be shared

*Angelina was overwhelmed
the beautiful worlds
of God's perfect Creation
can be shared
she experienced them
in her feelings*

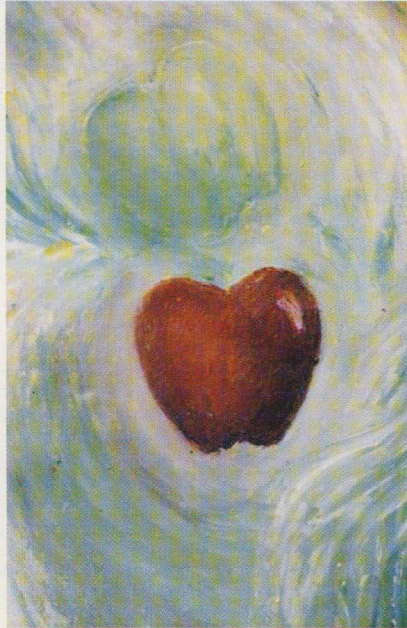
*She was impressed
seeing herself eat an apple:*

*the apple rejoiced
and praised God
for its glorious service*

*Angelina felt at the same time
sad and happy*

*for
we are ignorant of so many things*

it was God's decree
to use Life
and living
for all
to gain understanding



the apple rejoiced and praised God

Then...

surprise of surprises!

*opposite her
stood her true nature
the girl inside
now awakened
from her deep sleep*

*Angelina jumped with joy
she felt somewhat guilty
for her true nature
had not grown along with her
she had remained small and forgotten*

*with tears in her eyes
she clasped her to her bosom anxiously
promising
that they would be inseparable*



Angelina's true nature had not grown along with her



a kind creature appeared

*Angelina remained in a state of bliss
for a long time*

*eventually
she became restless
wanting to expand on*

and on

*no sooner
had this feeling crept into her
than everything was stilled again*

*a kind creature appeared
he stood in front of her and said:*

Angelina
you are welcome here

The World of Feelings
is broader
than you imagine

one has to always
remain peaceful
and accepting

in this place
many surprises
are constantly in store

then he politely asked her to follow



The World of Feelings is broader than you imagine...

*She was led into some kind of a building
enormous, one might describe it –
without earthly dimensions
as though it were limitless
in size and height*

*she walked this endless space
happy as happy as anyone could be
hoping in her heart
that she would never forget it*

*soon she found herself bathing
in fresh waters*

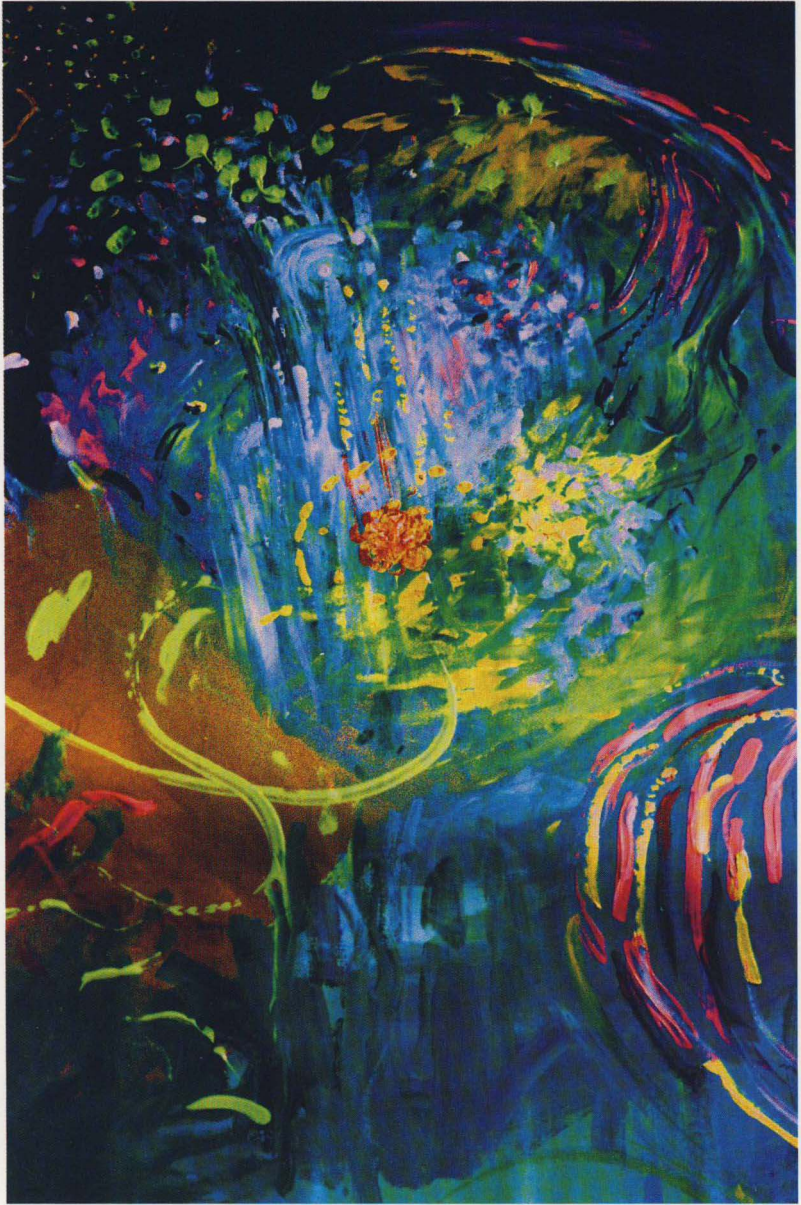
*but what strange waters
more like light falling
than actual liquid water*

*then she found herself dressed
in a very dashing
extraordinary shaped costume
totally suited to her taste
and was led again*

through many many doors



she found herself bathing in strange waters, more like light falling.....



the strangest plants adorned the garden

*She reached a garden
the strangest of plants adorned it
she had never imagined
or seen any of these before*

*her sense of smell heightened
her heart filled with love
she had to laugh too*

*her heart was beating fast
but not where it usually did on earth
it beat on the opposite side;
unusual wouldn't you say?*

*as she walked
she became aware of her stature
she stepped like a princess
elegant
graceful
more complete*

*At the bottom of this huge garden
she distinguished a form*

a girl

a boy

she couldn't clearly see

*as she was walking slowly
towards the form
at the far end of the garden
she remembered a dream
that kept repeating itself*

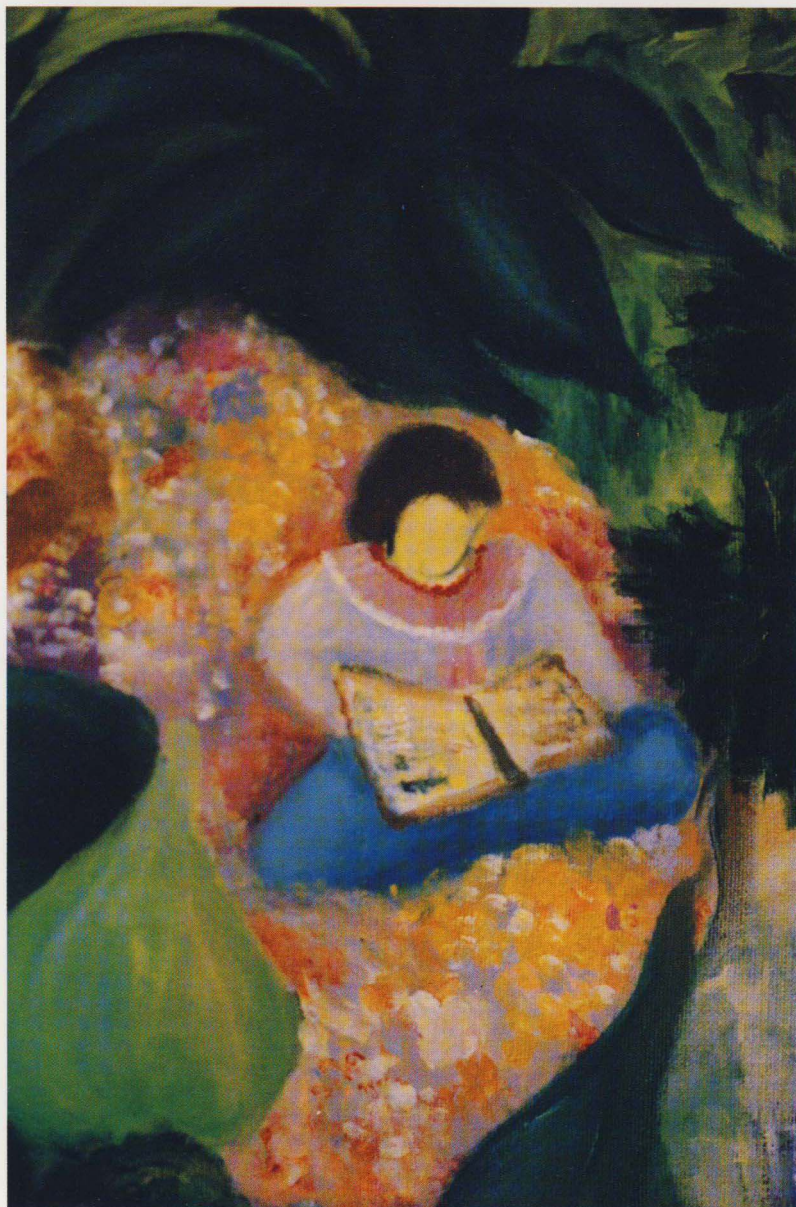
*she would one day travel
to a very unusual place
there she would find
a wonderful world
and a true friend
a real companion*

*Angelina had had these dreams
a long, long time ago
and as dreams go
she had paid little attention to them*

now her memory brought them back



Angelina remembered a dream..



she could distinguish a boy

*As she came closer
she could distinguish a boy
his features were familiar*

can it possibly be true?

the friend in her dreams – how exciting!

*when she approached
he greeted her joyfully
with warmth
as though he had been waiting
to meet with her
for a long time*

*Angelina was most pleased
and flattered*

she became bashful too

how foolish – *she thought
it was not usual for her
to feel perplexed*

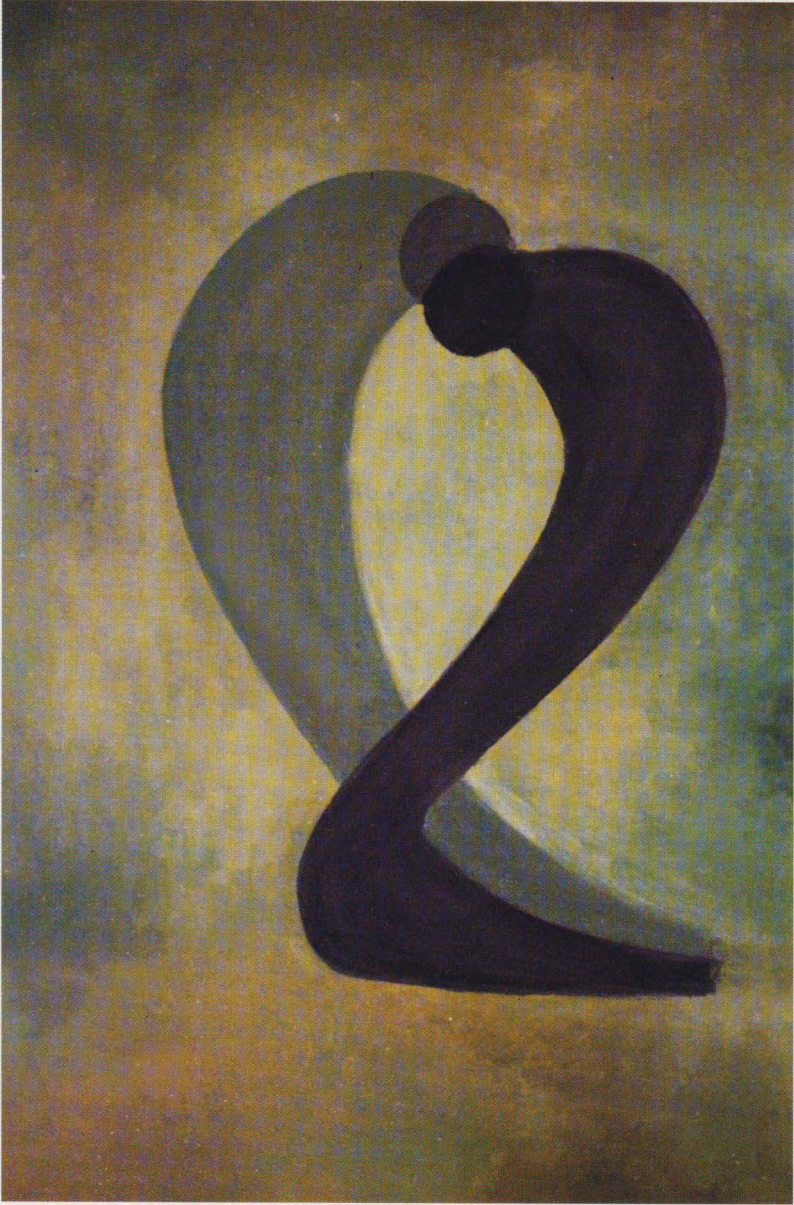
They sat in silence

*how awfully strange
he seemed to know exactly
how she felt*

*it was very difficult
she tried to do the same
but could not follow him*

*he was rather special
not like any of the youngsters
she knew*

*after a while
and without much concentration
Angelina felt completely at ease
with the boy
as though
they were brother and sister*



she felt at ease with the boy, as though they were brother and sister



the boy... took her hand and led her

*Angelina was happy
and sad
at the same time*

immediately the boy reacted

*this place is most embarrassing
she thought
you cannot keep a secret*

*can you explain what's going on?
she asked the boy
you seem so grown up
and know the hearts of others*

*the boy
who had grown enormous
by now
exceptionally light
and bright*

*took her hand
and led her*

how relaxed she felt

*Angelina – her name
again she was amazed
look Angelina
he said
an empty space
appeared in front of her
look carefully
she saw a series of pictures:
she saw herself
meeting with her angel
then her true nature*

*then she saw herself
sitting in her garden
among the flowers
going to the forest
enjoying the thanksgiving
sharing
sharing
all the goodness life has to offer*



*Angelina saw
a series of pictures*

*The next time Angelina looked
it was like peeping into a mirror
inside herself*

*the children of the earth
were rejoicing in peace
trying to come into
their true natures
according to their cultures
and their talents
respecting each other
and their environment*

*Grateful for Life
to Almighty God
Creator of us all*

*Angelina
never wanted to leave this world
she felt great!*



the children of the earth were rejoicing in peace

When she glanced at her side

she was alone

*the boy
was bidding her farewell*

from the distance

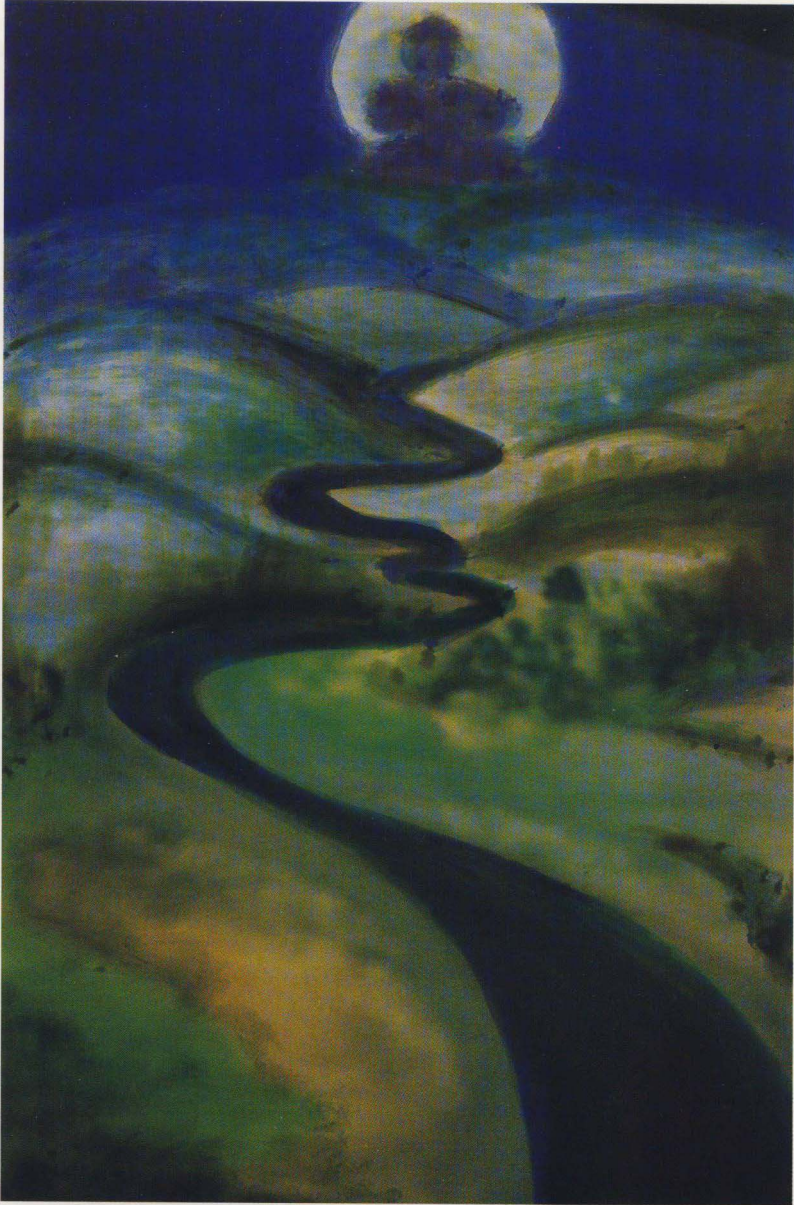
as he grew smaller

and smaller

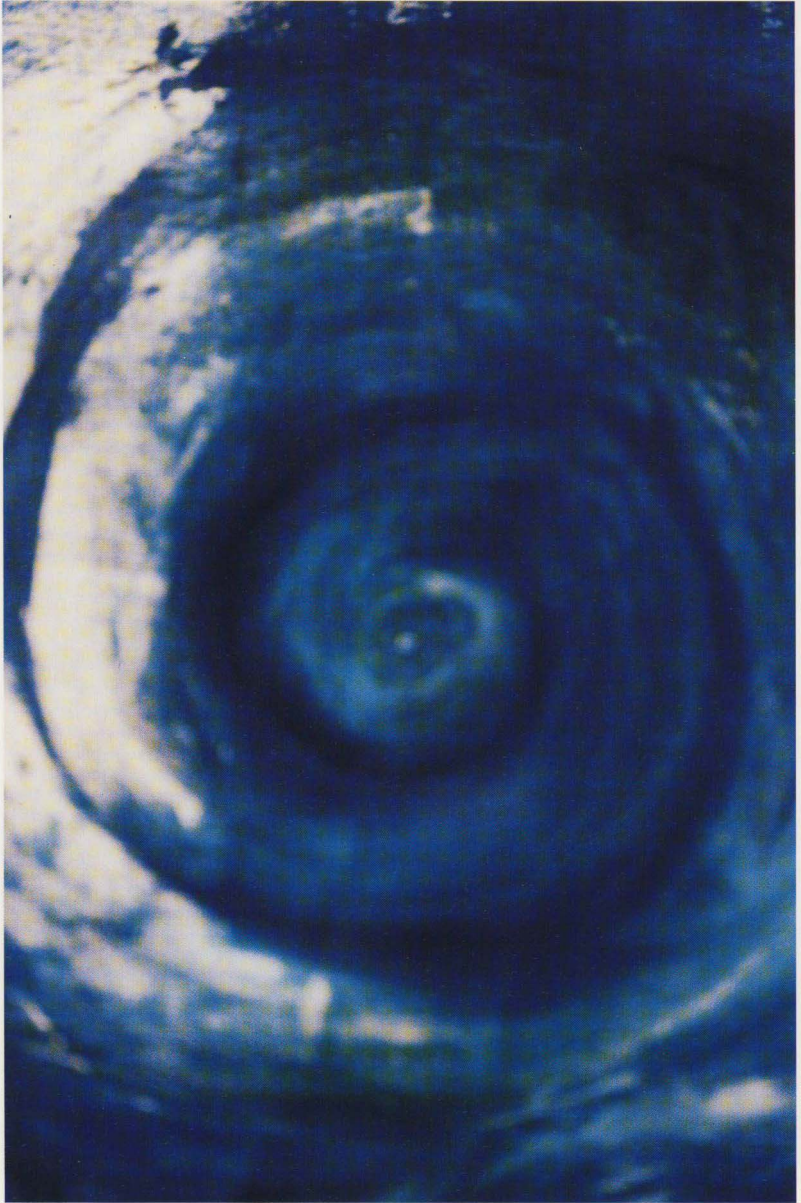
he said

we will meet again
sooner than you think

now you must join your family
have patience
be obedient
we will really get together again
but beware
if you spend your time
doing only what your heart desires
we might never meet again
nor return together
to the wonderful
world of feelings



the boy was bidding her farewell



together they zoomed faster than the winds back home

Even before her tears had dried
(for Angelina was crying)
the angel reappeared

together
they zoomed
faster than the winds
back home

complete
Angelina was happy
truly joyful

a new Angelina



ISBN 960-256-380-X



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