

# ADAM & EVE

Michael Barrett

For my mother, Margaret 1921-2000

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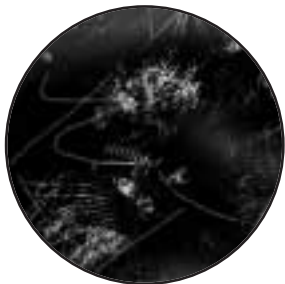


# IN THE BEGINNING

God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was **without form** and void,

and **darkness** was upon the face of the deep.

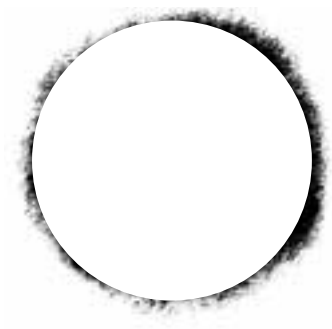


And the spirit of God **moved** upon the face of the waters.

And God said

‘LET THERE BE LIGHT’

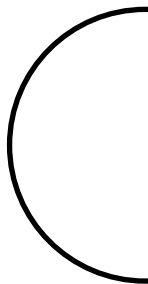
and there was light.

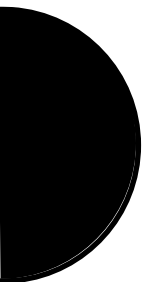


GOOD

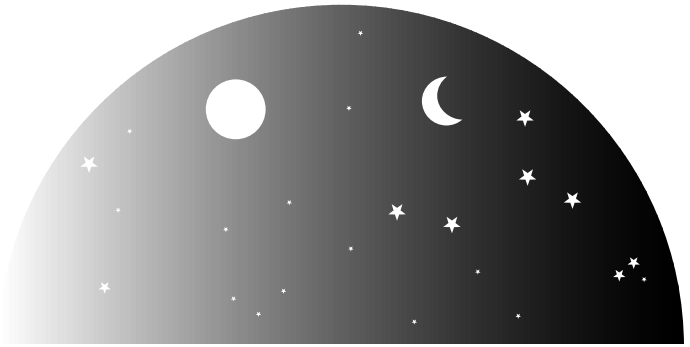
And God saw the light and it was good.

In the following days God made night and day,

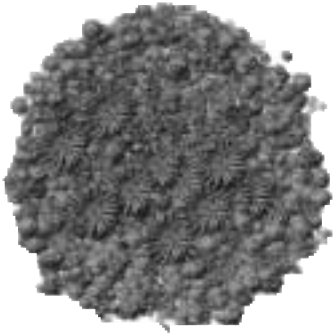




heaven and earth, land and sea.



He hung up the sun, moon and stars in the sky,



he planted grass and trees on the land;

And he saw that it was good.





## Next

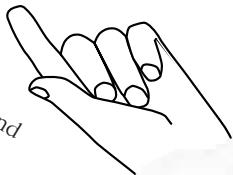
God made all sorts of birds and fishes to live in the sky and in the sea. Then he made all the different kinds of land-dwelling creatures except humans.

And he saw that it was good.

Then God had a kind of discussion with himself:

LET ME SEE NOW, SHALL WE MAKE A  
CREATURE WHICH IS A BIT LIKE MYSELF?

*But what if it gets too cocky and  
makes a mess of everything?*



*No, of course it wouldn't, not if we  
made proper rules and boundaries.*





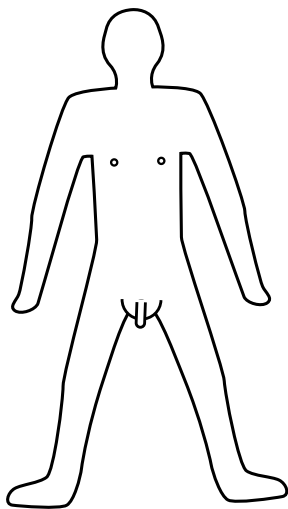
*Anyway, if it was like myself, it  
would never make mistakes.*



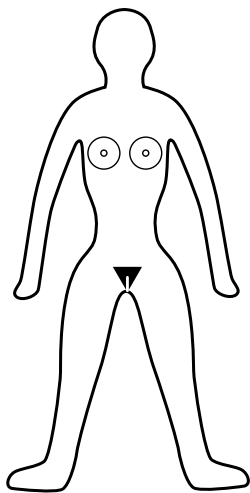
*And if I don't make this new creature,  
who's to know who made all this stuff?*



that clinched it.



So God created man in his own **image**, in the image of God  
created he him; **male** and **female** created he them.



He made them from **mud** and he breathed into their nostrils the  
**breath of life.**



And God planted a garden eastward in Eden.

In the garden it was always summer.

It had every kind of gorgeous fruit tree and flower and vegetable.

And right in the middle of the garden, God planted a particularly beautiful apple tree which he called

‘  
The Tree

of the Knowledge of Good and Evil’.

Then God put the man and the woman in the garden.

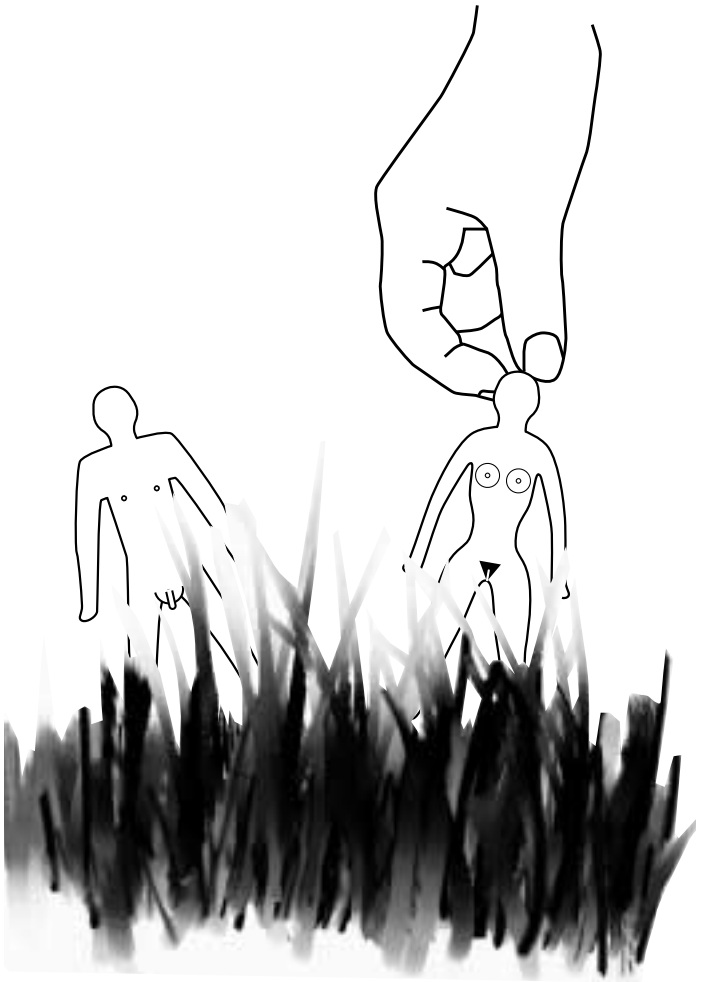
He gave them their names,

# Adam and Eve.

And he told them.

"LOOK AFTER THIS GARDEN  
AND YOU CAN EAT ANY OF THE DELICIOUS  
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AND ENJOY THE  
FLOWERS..."





# ...BUT

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN I HAVE PLANTED A PARTICULARLY BEAUTIFUL TREE WITH ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS APPLES CALLED 'THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL'.



YOU MUST NOT EAT THE FRUIT OF THIS TREE OR YOU WILL SURELY DIE."

Then God **filled** the garden with creatures,

**fish** in the rivers and **birds** in the air.



And as he brought in each creature he showed it to Adam and Eve  
and they gave it a **name**.



Now the garden of Eden was a fabulous place.

There was no pain, no suffering, no death, no birth,  
no shame, no anger, no decay, no seasons, no cold,  
no hunger, no thirst.

No crying, swearing, sadness, boredom, dreaming, or bad smells.

There was no need for

sex,

religion,

curiosity,

creativity,

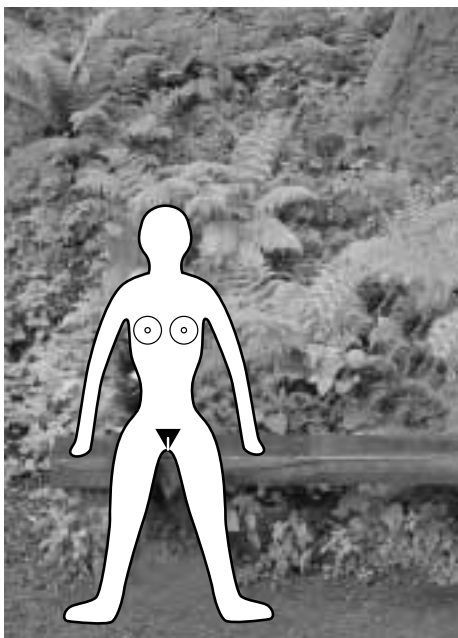
writing,

mathematics,

music,

science or

art.

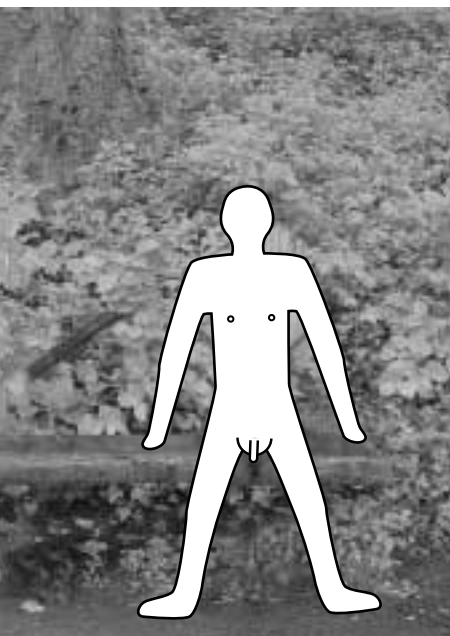


And so the days passed.

## Day after perfect day in paradise.

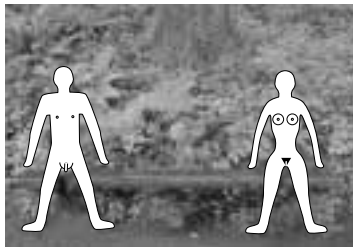
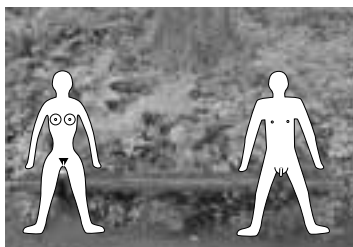
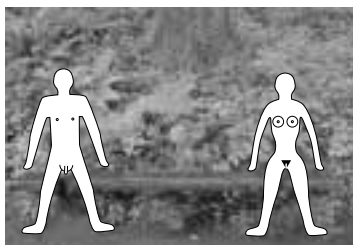
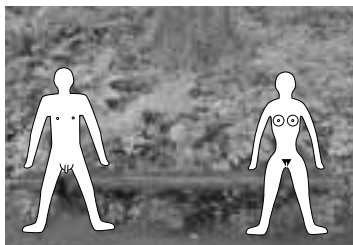
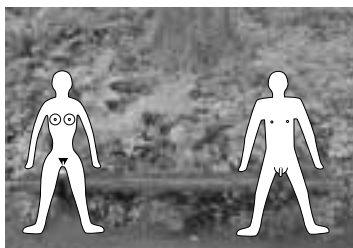
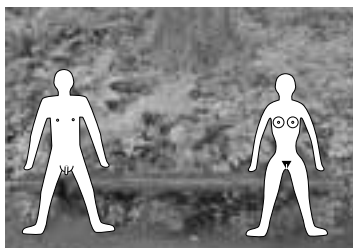
The sun shone, the trees provided cool shade and delicious fruits.

The animals were entertaining and never threatened to eat each other.  
Adam and Eve passed the time in a reverie of happiness.



GOOD

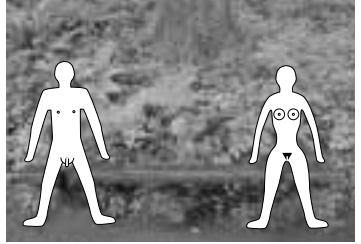
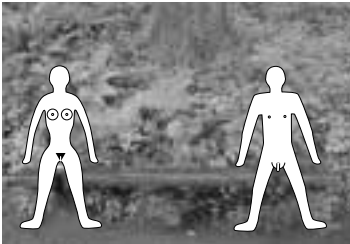
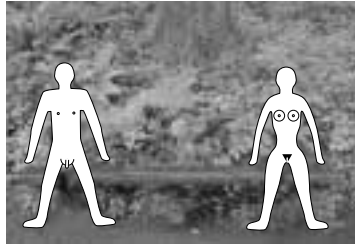
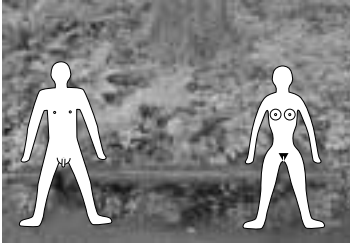
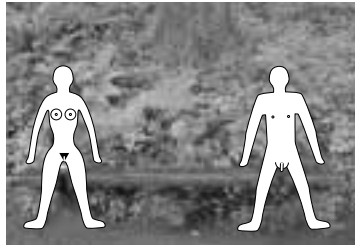
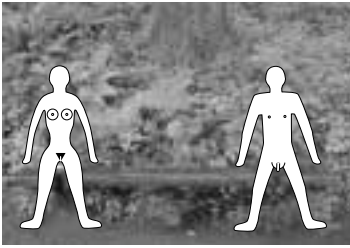
And God saw that it was good.



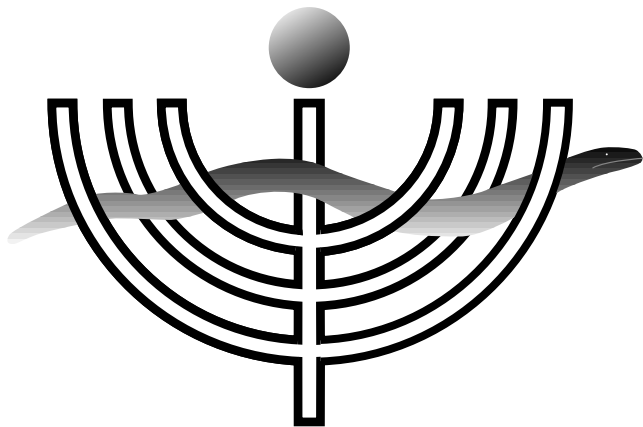
A very long time passed.

Aeons and aeons of time. Nobody counted the days, there was no reason to, and there were no numbers greater than two. So although all this time passed, every day was just like the last and it may be that no time passed at all.





God got just a little bit bored.

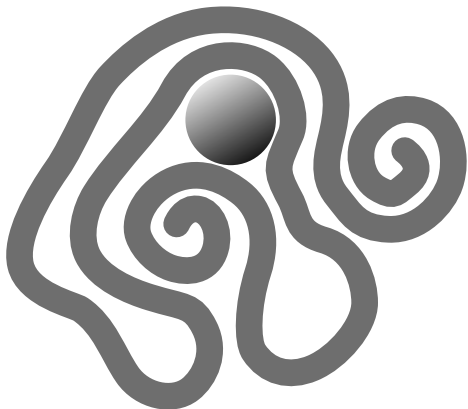


One day, God was admiring the snake as it basked in the branches of the Tree of Knowledge. It stretched its long muscular body into space.

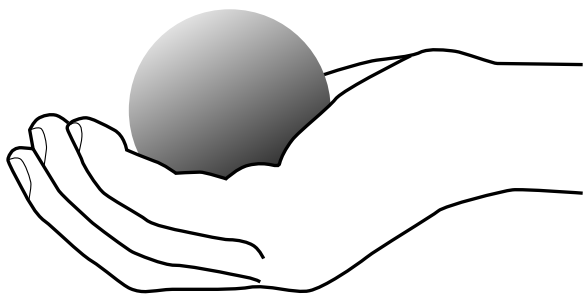
Then God did a very strange thing, a small thing that changed everything for ever and ever. Amen.



God winked at the snake.

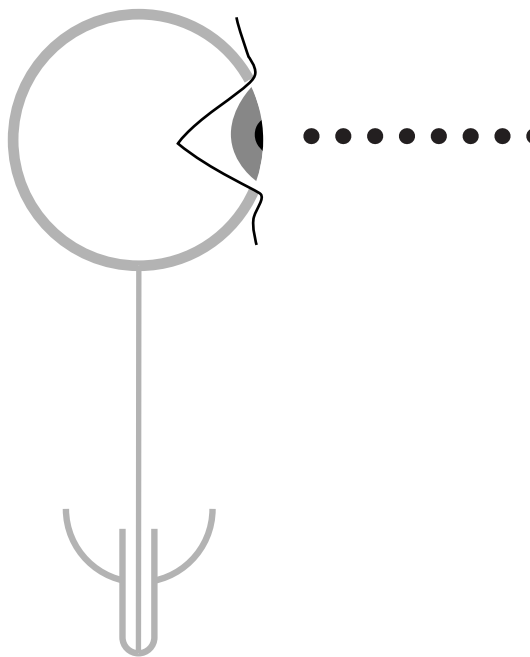


Eve was standing close by, also watching the snake. It slid effortlessly between the branches of the tree. The sun glistened on the sleek, powerful body. The motion mesmerised her as the ripples of muscular flesh followed one another in a sinuous dance. It slid along a branch and caressed the glossy fruit hanging easily within reach of Eve's hand.



Eve reached up. Her perfect hand held the plump weight of the apple for a long instant.

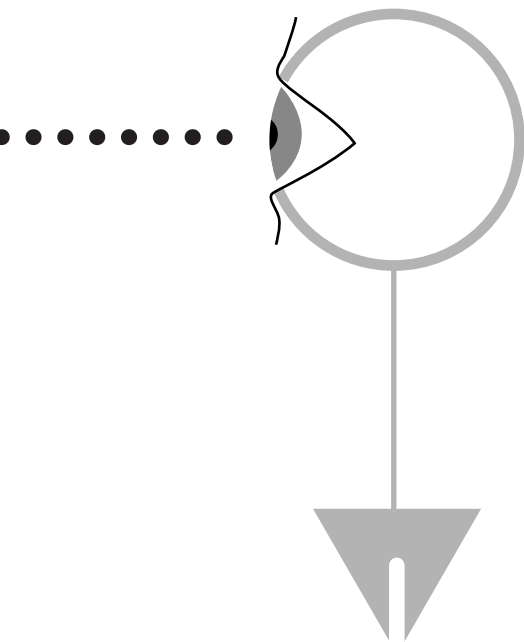
Then she gave it a twist and it rested in her palm.



'What are you doing?' asked Adam (though he could see very well what she was doing).

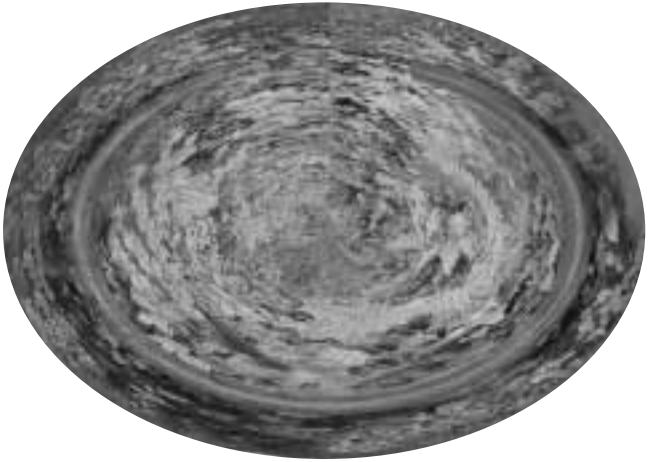
'This is the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, if we eat it we shall be like God.'

'It looks delicious' said Adam.



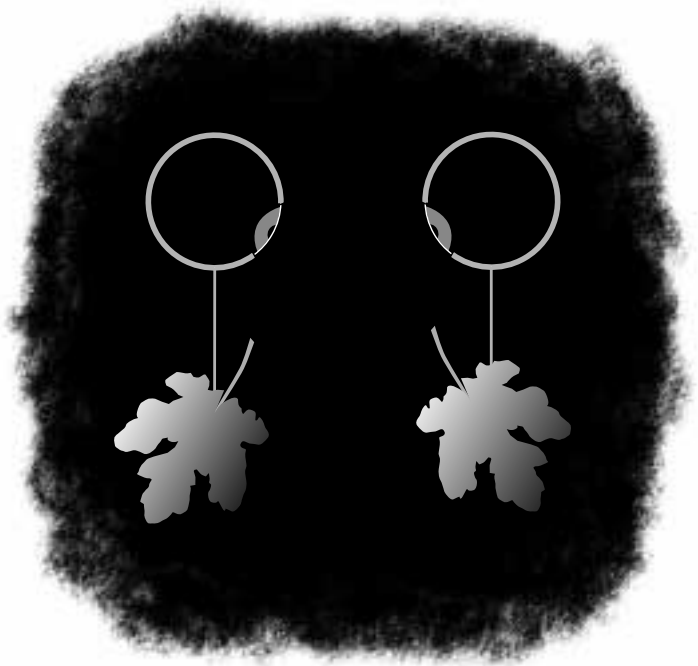
‘Yes’ said Eve. And looking Adam in the eye, she took a big bite of the sweet white flesh of the apple, then handed it to Adam, who did likewise.

Their eyes remained locked in contact as the import of that moment began to sink in. ‘We’ve done it now’ thought Adam.



The first thing they noticed was that everything was different. Yet it was just the same. Or everything was just the same but they felt differently about it. And that made everything different.





Their new eyes were probing each other's bodies with unprecedented interest. 'Stop it!' said Eve as she grabbed a fig leaf to cover her crotch. Adam grabbed another fig leaf and covered his.

Then a voice from out of nowhere:

ADAM?

God was walking in the garden in the cool of the day.



Quickly Adam and Eve tried to hide in the thick foliage.



‘ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE IN THE THICK FOLIAGE?’

It was useless. You couldn’t hide from God. It wasn’t long before they confessed like naughty children. And God told them off in rhetorical questions, just like a headmaster ‘AND WHAT DID I TELL YOU PARTICULARLY **NOT** TO EAT?’

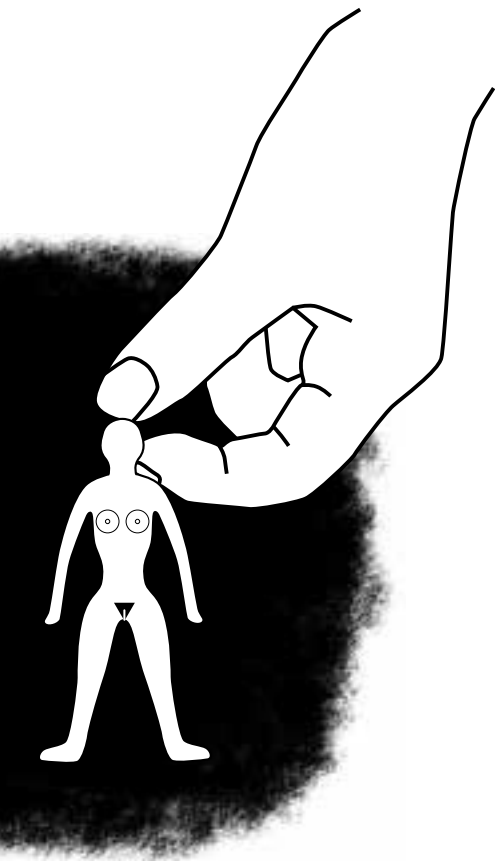


Finally he got to the punch line.

They were to be banished from Eden, their lives would be full of suffering and then they would die.

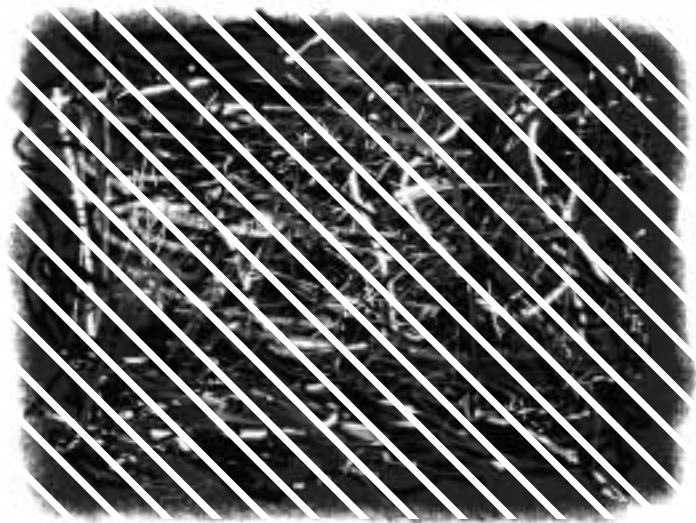


God took hold of one ear each, led them to the edge of the garden and threw them out.



‘AND DON’T THINK YOU ARE EVER COMING BACK!’

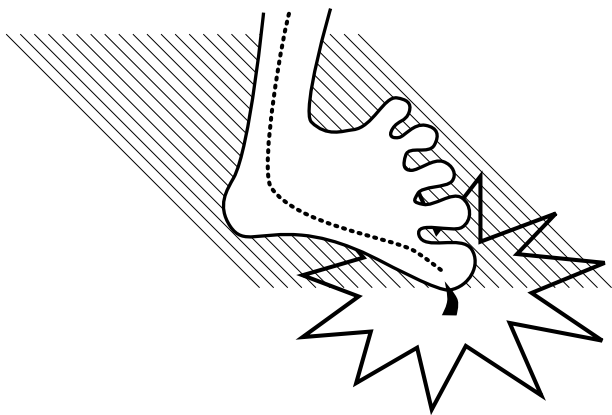
he shouted at their backs. And just to make sure, he posted Cherubims at the gates with flaming swords.



Outside the garden it was raining hard and it was cold. The mud was slippery under their bare feet.

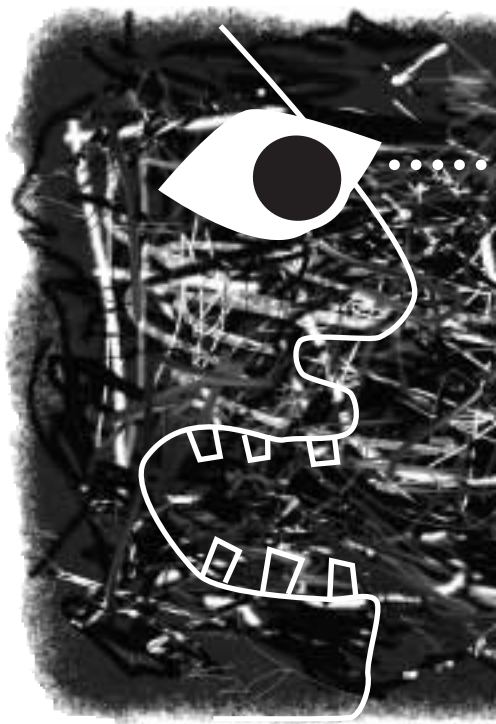
Adam stepped on a thorn.





A blinding flash of pain stabbed up his leg and suffused his whole body.

He yelled.



Eve was shocked at the noise. Adam had never known pain before, it was frightening and it was awful. This was the worst moment. of his life. He shouted at Eve, imitating God's tone of voice. 'This is all your fault!'. Eve shouted back 'You were just as keen as I was!



The rain ran down their angry faces as they stared and shouted. Each looked ugly to the other.

Adam ran under the cover of some trees to examine his foot.



Eve's anger turned to compassion and she ran over to help. In a few moments she had extracted the thorn.

Eve began to cry. Adam put his arms around her.

Their bodies were very close.



Since they left the garden they had experienced pain, anger, fear, hatred, despair, compassion - and now lust.

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TO KNOW  
MORE...

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