

AA-BA

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PREFACE

When I was 17, the word AABA and this concept came into my mind
spontaneously and unexpectedly one evening.

It filled me with great excitement and I knew I was about to embark on
some sort of journey. I wrote the Introduction soon after, hardly knowing what the
actual content of the book would be.

And then over the next few months, I had several vivid dreams.
Those dreams took me to other worlds and told the story presented in this book.
They came in the order presented here, and ended on their own.
The illustrations that followed were a means of portraying in as simple a way as
possible, some of what was seen and addressed in the dreams.

[The book was written and illustrated in one draft, as presented here, and was not
edited further in order to maintain its spontaneous origin]

INTRODUCTION

Aaba is a book about the process of birth, life, and death. Before the actual tale of Aaba begins, I would like to present a sort of super structure to the reader. This book is in three parts: Part one takes place in the void, part two takes place in the world of duality and illusion, while part three is set in the world of the everything.

PART ONE

In part one, Aaba is one entity; one being living in the void ... in a sense Aaba is the void. It represents this reality of non-form and nothingness. There is absence of color: everything is black. There is silence ... a soundless, scentless, shapeless, tasteless, and empty world. There is no time, no space, no change, no light – an eternal world of stillness and tranquility. Aaba is part of this world, it is this world ... black ... deep ... abysmal.

The mood of this entire section must be felt not only in the verbal manifestation, but in a visual one as well. The black of the void must be everywhere. The page itself is black, the words are black, the letters are black ... black lines in various curves, thrusting lines, and circles. The white of the page is kept at a minimum; it is there only to give distinction and meaning to these black symbolic lines, to bring them out ... define them. The reader must see the void in his mind as well as on the page in front of him itself; it must exist in the intellect as well as in the eye.

This section of the book is the beginning phase – the pre-birth phase of Aaba. After having created and established the environment for Aaba's primary existence, it becomes time for a metamorphosis of setting and existence – the entering of a new state of being – birth. I as the writer, the creator of this universe, must consciously bring about the necessary change. It is all done quite simply. I take a pencil, bring it to the void, and draw a line there. The line curves and curves as it glides till the point of its ending meets the point at which it began. These two points merge into one creating an unbroken linear circumference, a circle. When placed in newly created space the circle becomes a sphere. We have now entered the middle phase of Aaba, part two.

PART TWO

Two worlds have been created as existence has been divided into two parts. Aaba has been divided in the same way for instead of one unified being, we now have two: Aa and Ba. Each lives in one of two new universes or realms of being. Within the sphere we have the world of form, shape, solidity ... the world of Ba. Meanwhile, around the sphere, everywhere but within the shell of the globe, we have the shapeless and formless world – the world of air, the world of Aa. This very shell is what makes Aaba separated within itself – therefore causing it to manifest as two individual creatures. Within the shell Ba is confined inside the boundaries of form. Aa on the other hand is lost between these forms of Ba. It flows around them, among them; it presses against them, goes through them but still can find no limits for itself ... no crust, no house ... no walls will hold Aa, it is formless and bodyless.

Aa and Ba are on two different and opposite levels of existence. Each is alone, one cannot see the other. Ba, enclosed, cannot transcend its boundaries, cannot go out, cannot flow through forms as Aa can. Ba does not know how to ignore that de-scribing line or sphere by which it is trapped. Aa is stuck also. Since it knows no form for itself it cannot be centered. There simply can be no center to a shapeless being. Aa looks for forms to fill and live in but is unable to find them. Aa is both airy and fluid; it floats, flows, blows, and drifts. It sees forms that have no solidity: Ghosts, thought forms, concentrations of energy, emotional and intellectual clouds, and so on. Aa is in the fourth dimension. It lives in a non-physical world, seeing non-physical things and beings, being non-physical itself. Ba on its level cannot see anything that is non-physical, or touch it for that matter – it relies strongly on touch as its confirmation of reality. Aa, on the other hand, uses vision to fulfill this function, since it has no sensation of touch at all. To each the other represents the unknown ... that something which they cannot understand or define. But it is precisely this act of defining and de-scribing which separates and prevents the union of Aa and Ba. It does not allow for enlightenment as to their true state, or for the remembrance of the void. The more each tries to decipher the other the more entangled it becomes.

The basic goal in part two is the portrayal of an existence comprising the ideas of duality, opposites, separateness, illusion and deception. The main deception for Aa and Ba is the idea that everything must be either form or non-form. Since Aa and Ba do not see through this dichotomy, they are forced into exile from

union. Their exile from one another is remarkably pleasant though since it is full of captivating external phenomena.

One of the most obvious innovations, which helps generate this exiting environment, is that of color. The somber black of the void has disappeared and in its place, there is a kaleidoscope of brilliant blues, reds, greens, yellows, violets, oranges, pinks, mauves, ochres, browns, golds, silvers, purples ... The more one looks, the more colors one sees; they multiply and divide to provide more and still more startling variations. Intensities vary, some hues are translucent, others opaque, still others are luminous. One can indulge in this visual display, this dance of pigment, endlessly. The stronger they appeal, the more they hypnotize and mystify the beholder, taking him further and further away from the truth. Color is but one element of visual phenomena that is a major characteristic of this illusionistic existence. Here too, the more one looks for things to see, the more things are created – the more crowded existence becomes, the more hidden is truth. Besides visual stimuli or distractions, there is also sound and hearing to deal with. Again, as with seeing, the more one strains to hear, the more there is to be heard. Tones, melodies, harmonies, chords, more and more sounds are created to be heard, defined, and labeled. All in all, a busy life is what emerges, one full of interruptions and distractions.

Although sight is fuller for Aa in this stage of the book, Ba has a whole realm of experience unknown and impossible for Aa – that of touch. An extraordinary assortment of textures and surfaces are here to feel, touch, and caress ... rough ones, silky, smooth and slimy ones, firm, fluffy and flimsy ones ... so many to

choose from, so many to invent. In the void, Aaba could merely BE to understand, yet to comprehend this incredible fantasy-full land Aa and Ba must look at it, feel it, hear it, paint it, describe it, dissect it, judge it, taste it, time it, think about it, talk about it, sing about it, cry about it, laugh about it, read about it, experience it, and dream about it ... all of these only to hope they can believe they understand it, or are on the right path to doing so.

Both extremes of the duality, both worlds – that of Aa and of Ba - will be illustrated in this book in part two. Both of their realities will be accepted, lived in, and explored. Aa and Ba will live confidently in their worlds, going through the process of creating, accepting, doubting, and finally destroying illusions. This section will be divided into alternating ‘A’ and ‘B’ chapters. Two continuing processes and universes will unfold ... the adventures of Aa will appear in the ‘A’ chapters, the adventures of Ba in the ‘B’ chapters. Since this is a world of time and change, the experiences of Aa and Ba, although basically separate, will coincide as to their point in time within the process. This part of the book, the major one really, will consist of the meaningful adventures, fantasies, and games of Aa and Ba. Yet beneath the frivolity, excitement, and wonderment, there is an underlying feeling of loneliness and dissatisfaction ... a search for something better, some sort of spiritual fulfillment. Both Aa and Ba will tire of their worlds despite all the novelties. They will eventually transcend the circumference of form; they will begin by feeling the lie, questioning and doubting the boundaries, seeing past them, and finally overcoming them. It is only then that we will be ready for part three.

PART THREE

Part three begins with another metamorphosis – death. It is time for me to pick up and use my pencil again. This time, as I lift it, I turn it to its other end – the eraser is what I need now. With this eraser I erase the sphere, the circle, the line ...



Suddenly Aa and Ba see one another once more ... they embrace and interlock. Their intercourse joins them into one being again. Aa and Ba are Aaba now for always. Now everything is all white – again there is no color. However this phase is not black or void of color, it is white which means all color combined. This world, which has been entered, is the world of the all and the everything. The atmosphere here is one of white light ... molecules and particles of brilliant light ... all forms blend ... all is made up of these white specks. Luminous white light overwhelms all.

As in part one, even the letters themselves are in the mood of this universe. Yet instead of being black as before, they are now white – white lines of white space. The supreme process is now complete, for part three is the exact opposite of part one. Here we see and annihilate the final duality – black and white, void and all. Since Aaba is one being again, this death phase must be the same as the pre-birth phase. This death is in reality a rebirth yet with more insight. Now Aaba sees and knows that the ‘nothing’ is ‘everything.’ In part one, Aaba only knew of the existence of black nothing, now it also knows of the white everything. Forms exist now; there is definitely ‘something’ here. These ‘things’ have no boundaries – though they change and reshape themselves constantly. There is no stagnation possible as there had been in part two. Everything is made up of the same substance, those same points of energy. These specks of light are the ultimate potential; able to form and un-form themselves endlessly, or merely to exist in tranquility and stillness as in the void. Change and consistency, movement and stillness, merge into one. Through Aaba all is one – pure and clear existence – ultimate reality beyond birth, life, and death ... mere being ... here ... now.

Note to the Reader

What you have just read is the super structure, the framework of this book. It is the hidden meaning, the supporting beams and underlying foundations for the fantasy-full tales and adventures of Aa, Ba, and Aaba. Through these characters, all four realities will be explored. Aa, Ba, and Aaba never appear in the drawings themselves since they are the eyes through which we see. They are like cameras ... the drawings are what is seen through the camera's eye. In a sense, you as the reader are seeing with the eyes of these personas. You are the beholders while Aa, Ba, and Aaba form the lens. Aa and Ba are always called by their names or if it becomes necessary, they are called 'it' since they are neither male nor female; they are both and neither, bisexual and sexless. They are ageless also.

The story itself is written for people of every age, color, and sex. To whomever the presentation of words and images speaks, it is for them I write. I will try to state my thoughts as clearly and simply as I can so that they may be comprehended by children – make sense to those who know and believe without having to justify ... those nearer the eternal truth than I ... the young, the fresh, and the open. It really is a children's book for adults. Hopefully it will speak to the child in all of us; it will awaken from its slumber that innocence, purity, and truth so often buried under form, mannerism, and pretense. Let only this child understand Aaba.

PART ONE

THE WORLD OF THE VOID

It was quiet and still, not a sound was to be heard. There were no voices to talk, sing, or babble. If there had been, there would have been no one to hear them ... no mouths to speak ... no ears to hear ... there was only silence. It was a tranquil and empty silence, an open quiet with nothing to hide and nothing to say. But even if Silence had had something to say, no one would have been around to listen. There was no one there ... no one to speak to, no one to touch or tickle ... simply no one.

As a matter of fact, there were no 'things' there either. No objects or shapes to bump into or trip over, to hold and to handle. No words existed ... no thoughts, no thinking. No-thing was thought of ... Nothing was all that was.

Here in this void one could not see anything. There were no eyes to see with and no light to see by. Obviously no-thing was, then only Nothing could be seen. Nothing was full of blackness, no color appeared besides that ... only black; what a deep and rich black though, so very full and dense. It embraced itself, Silence, and Nothing ... there was no 'else' to embrace. No light, no sun, no lamps, no flames, fires or fireflies to see by – only darkness. The darkness was the blackness; they were one and the same. No light without color, no color without light ... neither existed, only Black-Darkness.

In this silent and empty Black-Darkness lived Stillness. Stillness was unmoving, it was always perfectly still. It did not go anywhere since there were no 'wheres' to go to ... no paths to travel, no goals to reach, there were simply no destinations to go to. Therefore there was no movement at all. There was no Time

to move in either. Here and Now is all there was in this no-where place. One could do nothing other than just Be ...

This is precisely what Aaba did – it just was. Aaba lived here in this non-world, this void. But who is Aaba we wonder, where did it come from? Well ... in answer to the first question, Aaba is no-one in particular, or no-thing either. It is the Black-Darkness, the Stillness, the Silence all rolled into one. Therefore as you can clearly see, Aaba is not just part of this universe, it IS this universe. Now ... as to where did it come from ... the answer is quite simple too. Aaba did not come from any-where since there are no wheres to come from; it was always here.

To us seeing through Aaba, all this is so scary and solemn ... so very strange. But to Aaba itself, it just is the way it is and must be. We, who think in terms of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, will understand this statement to mean that it was this way, is this way, and will continue to be this way always. Aaba does not think in this cluttered, crowded, and confused way of ours. Unlike us, Aaba does not have to think at all since it knows nothing to think about. It can be truly silent since it is Silence itself. Our crazy existence is unknown to it. Instead of our complications and chaos, Aaba has simplicity and purity. Yet what would happen if Aaba were to suddenly lose contact with its universe and enter our world of entertainment and experience instead? Well ... little did it know that that is exactly what was about to take place. Aaba's universe was about to be invaded, occupied, and divided.

One day, Aaba was simply being as usual, everything was the same as always ... the way it should be. Little did it suspect that today the most un-usual things would begin to happen. Not only would Aaba itself be transformed, but the void too would become something different and till now unknown. All this peace and calm was to be lost. Anyway, there was Aaba innocently awaiting what was about to take place. It waited there in the Black-Darkness, along with No-one, Nothing and Stillness ... but wait a moment, we are missing Silence. "This is not the way it should be ..." thought Aaba, "... Silence should be here, where is it?" So, with the disappearance of Silence, the changes began. For one, Aaba, without even realizing it, had begun to think. Suddenly there were thoughts, words, letters, statements. Aaba was no longer just being, it was thinking. Yet with what determination did it think! The more it thought, the more thoughts came to be thought about ... the more thinking there was to do. "Where is Silence ... I want it to come back!" was its next thought. Already Aaba was calling and thinking of itself as 'I'. This 'I' will take the place of No-one as Aaba's companion. It is the one who will ask all the questions, provide all the interpretations, and do all the thinking and calculating for Aaba.

We now know that Silence and No-one are missing. But upon closer scrutiny we will see that No-thing is gone as well. In its place we find more and more new things appearing ... thoughts, emotions, 'I's, interpretations, explanations, complications. Aaba does not realize that more and more of our world is being revealed to it – soon it will take the plunge right into its midst. For now Aaba is so busy thinking, questioning, and looking for Silence, that it does not even notice all

the changes around it – it is not aware of them at all! It cannot even see how it is creating more and more things through contemplating the disappearance of Silence. Just by thinking about its whereabouts, Aaba has given birth to wheres, theres, somewheres, overtheres, everywheres, and so on. All these ‘places’ have moved into the area previously occupied by No-where.

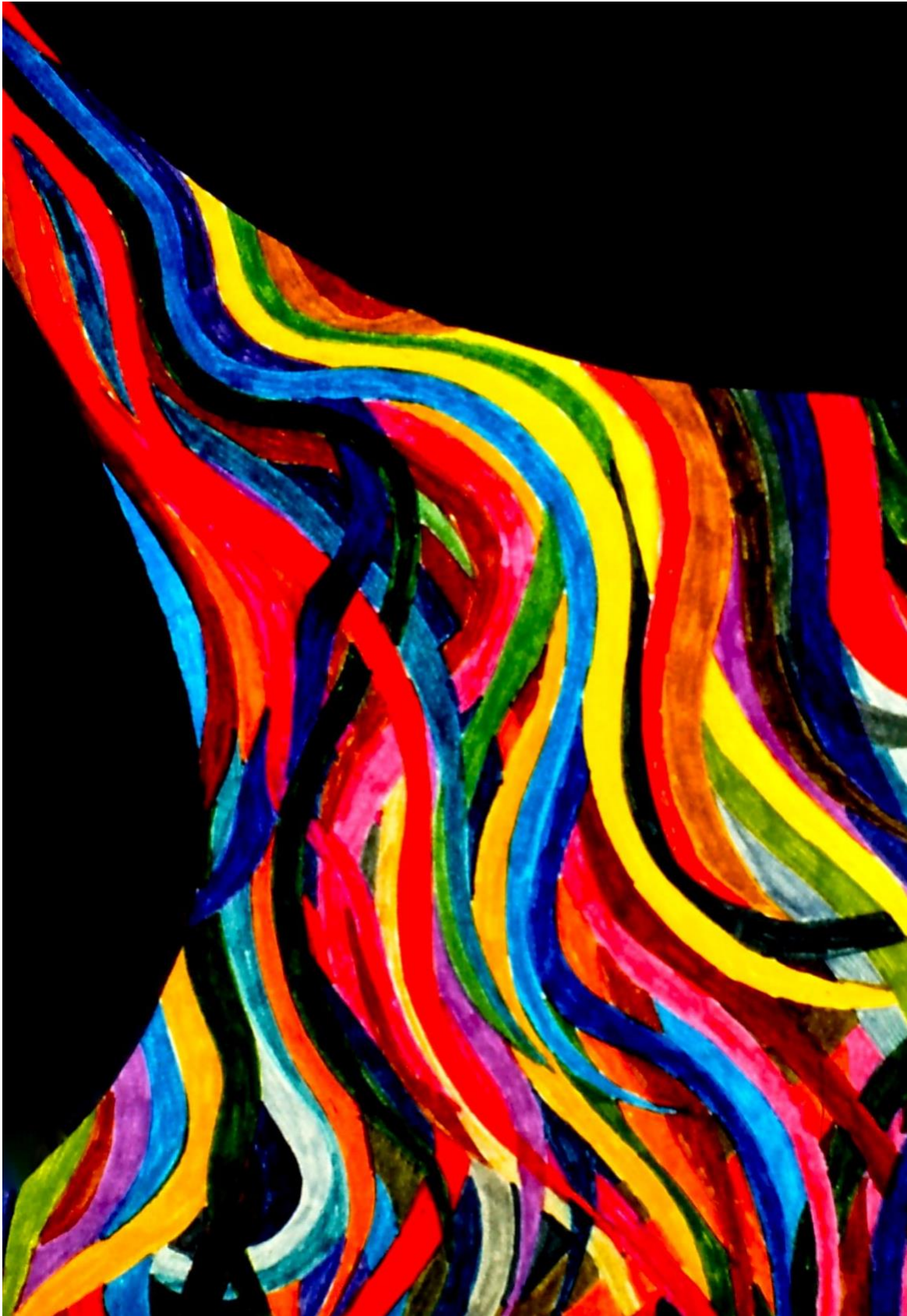
Since wheres, theres, and heres are now created, it is safe and possible for Aaba to think that perhaps Silence got lost somewhere. “Maybe it got lost yesterday ...” is the next thought that came to Aaba. With this thought another chain of reactions must be acknowledged. First, the arrival of Time must be announced ... Aaba has now joined us in the realm of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Next, we must acknowledge the parting of Stillness. Not only is everything moving around going places, and having something to do besides being, but everything is now propelling itself into the future and occasionally returning to the past as well. There is no more peace and immobility.

It seems that the only thing left from Aaba’s previous home is Black-Darkness. It is no longer empty as it was before; but neither is Aaba for that matter. Aaba is now full of frustrations. It still remembers the way its universe used to be and wants it to be that way once more. Unfortunately that may not happen for a long time to come. Aaba has begun a long journey; once begun there is no turning back. This incredible adventure will bring Aaba to and through our world to an existence beyond it ... a far-away state of mind. Aaba is about to emerge in a new place in a new state of being. Soon it will no longer remember all that it left behind. Aaba will not only forget Silence but also everything that it knew and loved and was

one with. By then it will have finally landed upon the planet Illusha. Once there, Aaba will accept time, change, space, its new friend 'I', forms ... all these will compose the basis of its new existence – there will be nothing without them. On Illusha Nothing is worthless. It is not as universally basic as it was in the universe of Aaba's origin.

Suddenly for one split second Aaba stopped thinking. Lo and behold Silence reappeared. Aaba at seeing its long lost friend exclaimed ... its mind responded with thought. Meanwhile Silence had disappeared once more. Aaba was now truly baffled. Then inexplicably it understood that Silence was not a thing to come or get lost – it was a place. It was up to Aaba to go there. But it now knew only too well that it could not do that and think at the same time. Aaba could not be at two places at once – thinking was a place too. Silence, that land that Aaba had left was the place where No-one, No-thing, Stillness, and Black-Darkness were. "Black-Darkness!" thought Aaba ... "but this is impossible, if I am not in Silence, then obviously I am not in Black-Darkness!"

With these words all changed. A beam of light cut across Aaba, and Darkness no longer was. The brilliant light divided the black of before into millions of bright colors ...



The colors danced around in the light, bouncing against whatever remained of the black ...



Eventually it was all gone and everything was full of moving and vibrating colors ...



The colors kept flying around, never staying still. They would form long processions marching through space.



Or else, they would grasp one another in such a way as to suggest solid things;
multicolored fish or butterflies for example.



The colors created many such shapes, which they would amuse and entertain others with, leaving them in a state of fascination. Since it was impossible for them to remain immobile they could not keep these formations unchanging. Therefore in time they would disintegrate to become something else. The colors remained vibrant with life as they continued to form and un-form themselves. Full of glee and excitement they played and amused themselves as they danced through the air endlessly.

The colors soon became quite vain knowing that whatever they did there would always be someone or something to watch and admire them. Aaba was the first to do so. In the meantime it too had gone through a complete transformation. As the ray of light had appeared Aaba had been directly in its path. As it hit Aaba, Aaba divided into two parts, evenly and equally. Now instead of one being there are two – Aa and Ba. Each is totally separate and different from the other. First of all, Aa is invisible while Ba is very visible. Ba's realm of existence is the kingdom of solid and physical things. Ba itself lives in a solid and tangible body that can do many of the things our bodies can do. Aa on the other hand has no body to live in at all – it is spread all over the place. It flies around in the air; it floats. Solidity poses no problem for Aa; it can walk through walls. Aa can go anywhere at anytime. It sees things in the air.

Aa and Ba both don't know that they are halves of Aaba – each feels complete in itself. Only once in a while will they feel an inexplicable loneliness. Other than that each has no idea that the other exists. Anyhow, both have a lot to

do, learn, and see. They are about to embark onto the most exciting adventure of their lives – about to see some of the most incredible things.

They have both just been born onto the planet Illusha, which will be their home for now. There is no more time to waste ... Aa and Ba are off and going right into the midst of the wonderland before them. They have arrived. None of the past universe is remembered...

PART TWO

THE WORLD OF ILLUSION

THE CLOUDS

[CHAPTER A-1]

Once upon Illusha Aa grew up to live the life of a vagabond – a roaming homeless entity. One day it was travelling in its habitual manner; drifting with no particular direction or destination in mind. As it progressed it looked around with interest at all that it passed – thrilled at the new images that presented themselves constantly. It moved through space thinking about the Illushans, that strange and mysterious creature it had heard mentioned in the atmosphere. The presence of these bizarre beings could be felt in the very air, in Aa itself. Since it could feel the energy generated by these beings so strongly, it decided to visit one of the nests where many Illushans could be found – that way Aa could examine them from close range.

The closer Aa came to the nest of its choice, the stronger could it feel the power created by the Illushans. The very air trembled and vibrated even from this great a distance. The atmosphere grew denser and darker; no longer pure and fresh, it was now smoky and old. The clouds themselves were dark and dirty as Aa descended through them unto the nest. Suddenly it emerged from within the dense and dank air ... it had arrived.



Aa's first reaction to the nest was that of shock – the commotion around it, all the movement, the noise, the busy and hurried feeling were overwhelming. Yet despite the crowded environment that seemed to provide no privacy at all, it found that no one noticed it at all. Aa had all the privacy possibly available to it; to the Illushans it was invisible. They all simply walked right through Aa as if it wasn't there at all. As you can see, there was no chance of communicating. The only thing it could do was watch. Therefore, totally unnoticed and unbothered by anyone, Aa began to observe the Illushans and their ways.

The creatures certainly produced a lot of heat and vibration. Their bodies glowed with light, color and warmth ... some had bright, pure and brilliant colors surrounding them; others had considerably more subdued and weaker halos about them. For Aa it was very exciting to see these bodied being extend themselves into the air, into Aa's world without even knowing it. Sometimes the outline of color and light of one llushan would blend with that of another as they noticed each other in passing – the energy being multiplied in the process. The glow of each Illushan was like a particle of the giant flame that hovered above the nest ... glowing, throbbing, flickering ... being seen from a great distance. This explained the power Aa had felt in the air as it was approaching the nest.

Somehow this production of energy was essential for the universe around the planet Illusha. This underlying need of the universe compelled its inhabitants to provide the necessary substances for its sustenance. The universe left them no choice. They obeyed unconsciously by now, not even aware of it. The energy was so magnified when the Illushans were in groups, that they quite naturally had

learned to do things with large numbers of participants. Without even realizing it they were drawn to crowds and public activities. Together they would strive for the same goal, the same climax. These frequent gatherings would then produce a unanimous and colossal tower of energy to fill the ever-empty belly of the universe. To produce nourishment for their anonymous employer the Illushans needed someone or something to relate to. This someone or something was made conveniently and readily available at all times. Then the two forces, beneath the surface opposition to one another, in effect both worked towards the same goal.

Aa continued to watch with interest, noticing more and more new things about the Illushans. It was particularly interested in how they communicated. It found that when they did communicate or relate to each other, a cloud of energy loomed between them. The clouds could be found on many different levels. Depending on where they were the colors and temperatures differed. There were three predominant cloud levels that appeared to Aa – most Illushan communication centered there. The hottest and brightest cloud was one at the level of the hips and groin. Then there was one on the level of the chest and heart of the Illushans. It was also very hot and powerful but more yellow and golden in color as opposed to the violent red of before. Finally, there was the cloud level at the heads of the beings. This cloud was pretty cold in comparison to the others – it was blue. The beings had a choice as to where they formed their cloud of communication. Once chosen they would concentrate on that level sending all their energy there ...



Poor Aa had quite a time trying to accustom itself to all the rapid changes in temperature. It would leave a cold zone and then unexpectedly emerge in a boiling hot one ... then suddenly find itself in cold air again ... it was disturbing! Anyhow, having noted the prevailing three levels of communication, Aa decided to tackle each separately. It resolved to go to the areas where there was a predominant and overwhelming concentration of each separate energy ... isolated and unanimous.

The first level Aa was to explore was the fiery red one ... the lowest level; the one closest to the ground. Aa looked around trying to distinguish a red nucleus somewhere nearby. Soon enough it saw a red glow in the distance and began to drift towards it. Thrilled as it was at all the excitement and color around and within itself, Aa managed to stay relatively calm and on course. It kept its attention

focused on the point of interest ahead. In a matter of minutes Aa was at the doorstep of the generator of red heat. It passed through the closed door in its path and emerged at the very center of a peculiar gathering place of the Illushans. Within the concentration of red, the heat was almost unbearable. The particles of air that now filled Aa were hot and glowing like miniature coals.



All around Aa there were Illushans, many of them. They seemed to throb and sizzle with excitement. The whole place pulsated and trembled. It seemed that the energy was usually directed by the males towards the females and the females towards the males ... there were not so many that sent their energy to members of their own sex. Just by watching them Aa was beginning to feel strangely excited as well. It continued to concentrate on observing however. It noticed that the Illushans

would look at each other with a strange gaze, a half conscious sort of stare. The heat waves got in front of their eyes it seems for they appeared hazy and moist.



It seemed as if they really did not see each other that clearly at all. It was the cloud itself that saw – it took over the will of those within it. The group energy that resulted could not easily be contained. It seemed to grow constantly as the boundaries of the cloud expanded and the red intensified. The edges of the heat bordered on yellow as the cloud rose higher for some.

Aa enjoyed itself at first ... it would flow into a number of Illushans at a time and watch as the partners of those it occupied would look at them with a mysterious fervor in their eyes. In this fashion, Aa could invade at least three couples at a time. Unfortunately, despite its infiltration, Aa could only see and hear what was going on

... it felt absolutely nothing. This was indeed a great loss, for seeing was a minimal fraction of this experience that centered around the sense of touch.



The red cloud was like an electric current that infested the bodies of the Illushans. Aa could clearly see that whenever they touched everything intensified immediately. The red became violent, almost flaming along the contour of their bodies. The skin seemed to shiver and tremble with excitement and passion as they made any sort of physical contact.



Aa could see the electricity rise up the spine of the creatures, making their bodies glow with fire. Aa could not feel this tingling sensation – it could only see its effects in the atmosphere. The place vibrated with the excitement of its inhabitants, it rose and fell with the rapid breath of those involved, those within the red cloud.

Eventually Aa could bear this torture no longer. The heat for one was too intense to bear – it was burning now. Aa felt frustrated as well ... it felt left out. Even though it could be in all these bodies at the same time, they were not its own and the communication it received through them was indirect. It could see them get all excited when itself it felt almost nothing at all. It just ceased to be fair! Aa flew from the bodies of those it occupied and left the scene.

Once outside, the air was cool and refreshing – so very open, free, and uninfested compared to within the red cloud. Soon Aa became revived and ready to tackle the yellow cloud that lay next on its mind. Traveling with the breath of the city, it went in search of a yellow cloud. There had been a few such golden clouds in the gathering place it had just left, but they had been generally weak and overpowered by the predominant red. Now outside, Aa could find no place that possessed such energy.

It passed small golden clouds here and there; mobile ones that had no set habitat.



Aa thought and wondered about this unfortunate fact. It then came to the conclusion that maybe it was some sort of event that provoked the materialization of the yellow cloud. It looked up: Right in its path was a large gathering of Illushans. At the level of the creatures' hearts loomed a powerful golden cloud. Aa approached hurriedly ... its problem no longer existed ... the yellow cloud had been found.

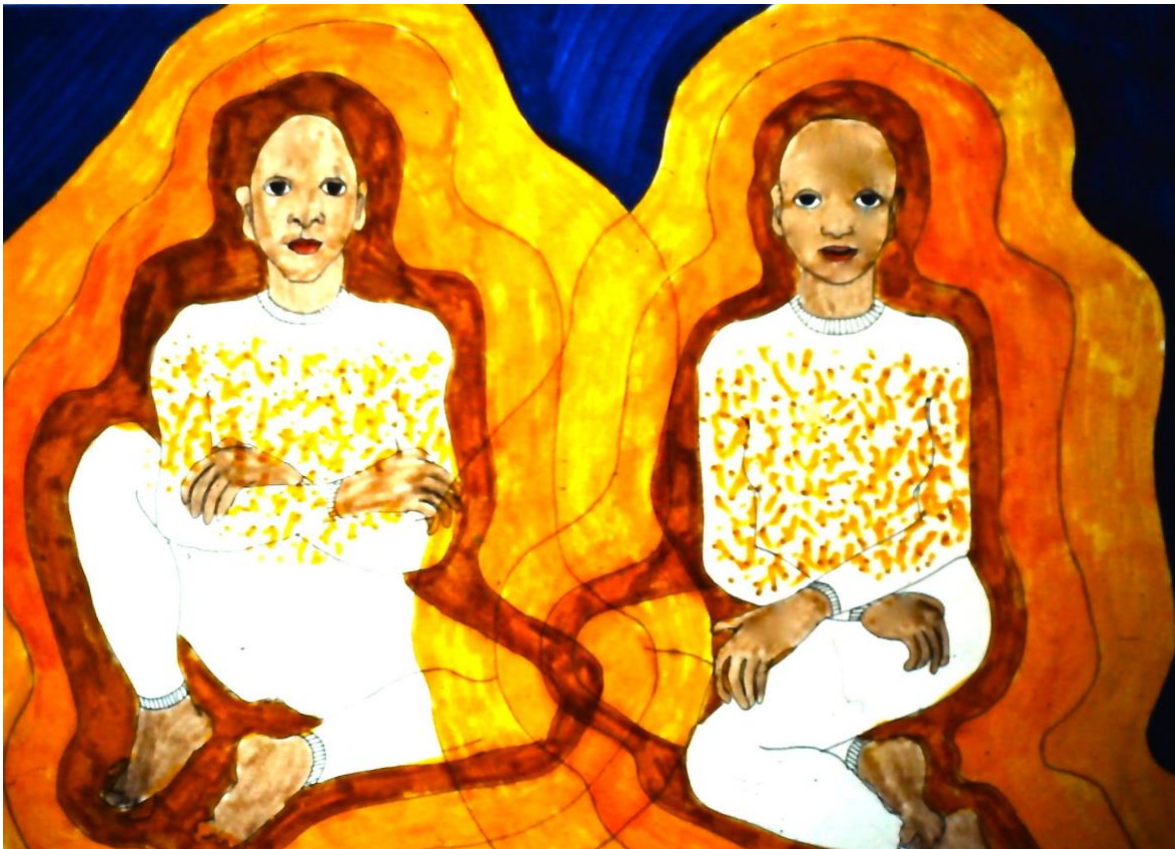
Aa now witnessed some sort of meeting. The spectators sat on the ground cross-legged and smiling. Everything sparkled with gold as the bright yellow light

flickered upon the faces of those present. At the center of the circle formed by these admiring and glowing bodies sat a creature quite different from the rest. It generated the strongest light – not only did it have a yellow cloud encompassing it but also higher, above its head, floated a brilliant white cloud.



White clouds are unusual here on Illusha as Aa already knew. It was no wonder that these Illushans instinctively surrounded this one being ... they could feel the love and wisdom being expounded. Aa too was drawn towards this unknown character. It placed itself within the yellow flame of energy it had so fortunately discovered.

The first thing Aa noticed was the heat. It was hot here but not in the way it had been in the red cloud. This heat was melting not electric. It did not vibrate its victims but helped them expand and grow past their boundaries endlessly. It was as if the golden halo of each Illushan spread into the air. The boundaries were weakened. There was an opening to the space surrounding them, which enabled the creatures to blend with each other and everything around them.



Aa was excited ... this was the closest any of the Illushans had come to its bodiless state yet.

The golden energy was very intense. As they sat around the one at the center they smiled at one another; not speaking or moving – just being still and loving. This cloud had an aspect to it that was unique from any of the other clouds ... that of emotion. The ones here felt joy, anger, grief ... the distinction between pain and pleasure gradually became faint as the one between boundaries. Aa looked into the eyes of the Illushans beside it ... they were full of pain. The golden energy was strange indeed – both happy and sad. The eyes were moist with tears of love and suffering, tears of compassion.



Aa did not need the powers of touch here; it was perfectly capable of feeling these diverse sensations. The golden light manipulated Aa's feelings compelling it to experience extreme love, anger, hatred, jealousy, pleasure, anguish, devotion,

excitement. It went through an entire range of emotions until they blended into one. The golden cloud took those within it beyond mere emotion and contradictory feeling; at its extreme height, it was truly beyond good and bad, evil and divine holiness.

By now the expanse of air occupied by the cloud had spread into the very sky above and the grass below. As the yellow grew and grew it swept more and more into its grasp.



The Illushans held onto one another's hands. Through their hands they held each other within the flower of their hearts. The golden light travelled through them going from one to the other by means of the interlocking limbs.



Touch provoked no sensual pleasure here – it could hardly be felt at all since all were already one. The feeling of such union was so powerful for some that they could no longer look around but had to close their eyes and weep. Aa felt right at home even if not noticed by anyone.

What must not be overlooked however is the definite danger that now presented itself for Aa. The Illushans could expand beyond their bodies in this manner because they would always have a body to come back to. Aa on the other hand had a hard time being body-less. Since it had no confinement to await its

return, it would have no need and therefore no power of contraction. In the light of these circumstances Aa had to withdraw reluctantly before it was too late. It still had a lot to learn while occupying a small volume of air. It was not ready for total expansion. Aa left obediently.

The yellow cloud was hard to get out of since it continued for quite a distance and was persistent in clinging to one's heart. Finally out, Aa found itself depressed and acutely sorry for itself. However, since all of its emotions had been drained, this was the expected state for Aa to emerge into. It drifted through the city angry at everything. It was not in search of a blue cloud.

As it advanced it noticed that the blue clouds hung over entire institutions at a time. There were both places and events that triggered it. But Aa did not want this cloud on such a large scale. Somehow it felt that studying it in miniature would be more effective. It would appear clearer and more precise if only a few minds or heads were involved.

Aa looked around for the demonstrators it would use. Just up ahead sitting in a small café were three Illushans – two males and one female. The heads of the three were bathed in blue light – they were generating an extremely powerful blue cloud.

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