

# THE EIGHT DAYS OF CREATION

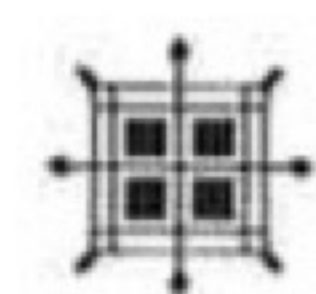


KENNETH TREISTER

PAINTINGS

Regards  
Ken Treister '15

SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 23



FUTERNICK FAMILY ART GALLERY



# THE EIGHT DAYS OF CREATION

## INTRODUCTION



GOD CREATED THE WORLD IN SEVEN DAYS & THEN ON THE EIGHTH DAY  
TURNED HIS CREATION OVER TO MAN.

GOD CREATED THE UNIVERSE OUT OF TUMULTUOUS CHAOS THAT WAS WITHOUT FORM, A VOID  
FACED IN DARKNESS. THEN GOD GAVE IT MEANING, AN ORDER ENCUMBERED IN A TOTALITY...  
THE ONENESS, RHYTHM AND RIGHTNESS OF NATURE. THIS JUDAIC CONCEPT OF CREATION, LATER  
PROVED BY MODERN SCIENCE, WAS UNIQUE TO ANCIENT MAN.

IT IS AMAZING THAT AMONG THE MIGHTY, THE EGYPTIANS, BABYLONIANS, ASSYRIANS,  
PHOENICIANS & PERSIANS, A SMALL BAND OF NOMADS, KNOWN AS HEBREWS, COULD DISCOVER  
BELIEFS THAT WOULD SHAPE THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD.

*"... & GOD SAW THE LIGHT, THAT IT WAS GOOD..."*

*GENESIS 1:4*



BIBLICAL WORDS ARE NOT SIMPLY THE PAST HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE BUT A PRESENTATION OF IDEAS, GIFTS FOR ALL ETERNITY. WHILE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS LEFT ONLY DECAYING MONUMENTS THE JEWS LEFT A LEGACY THAT ENRICHED THE WORLD FOR MILLENNIA.

THE JEWISH HOLY SCRIPTURES BEGIN WITH CREATION, LYRICAL PROSE THAT FLOWS LIKE A STRING OF SHINING PEARLS. HERE GOD CREATES THE WONDERS OF NATURE FOR US TO MARVEL AT & HOPEFULLY NEVER TAKE FOR GRANTED. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE JEWS & GOD ALLOWS MAN FREEDOM OF ACTION, TO CHOOSE GOOD OR EVIL, LIGHT OR DARKNESS. THAT CHOICE IS THE STORY OF THE EIGHTH DAY.

"... MEN ARE MORE WONT TO BE ASTONISHED AT THE SUN'S ECLIPSE THAN AT HIS UNFAILING RISE."  
FROM THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUS, SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS, 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

KENNETH TREISTER, FAIA  
COCONUT GROVE, FLORIDA

THE PAINTINGS IN THIS EXHIBITION ARE CREATED NOT TO  
MAKE YOU LAUGH BUT RATHER TO SMILE.



# THE FIRST DAY

*"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN & THE EARTH. ... & THERE WAS EVENING & THERE WAS MORNING, ONE DAY." GENESIS 1: 1*

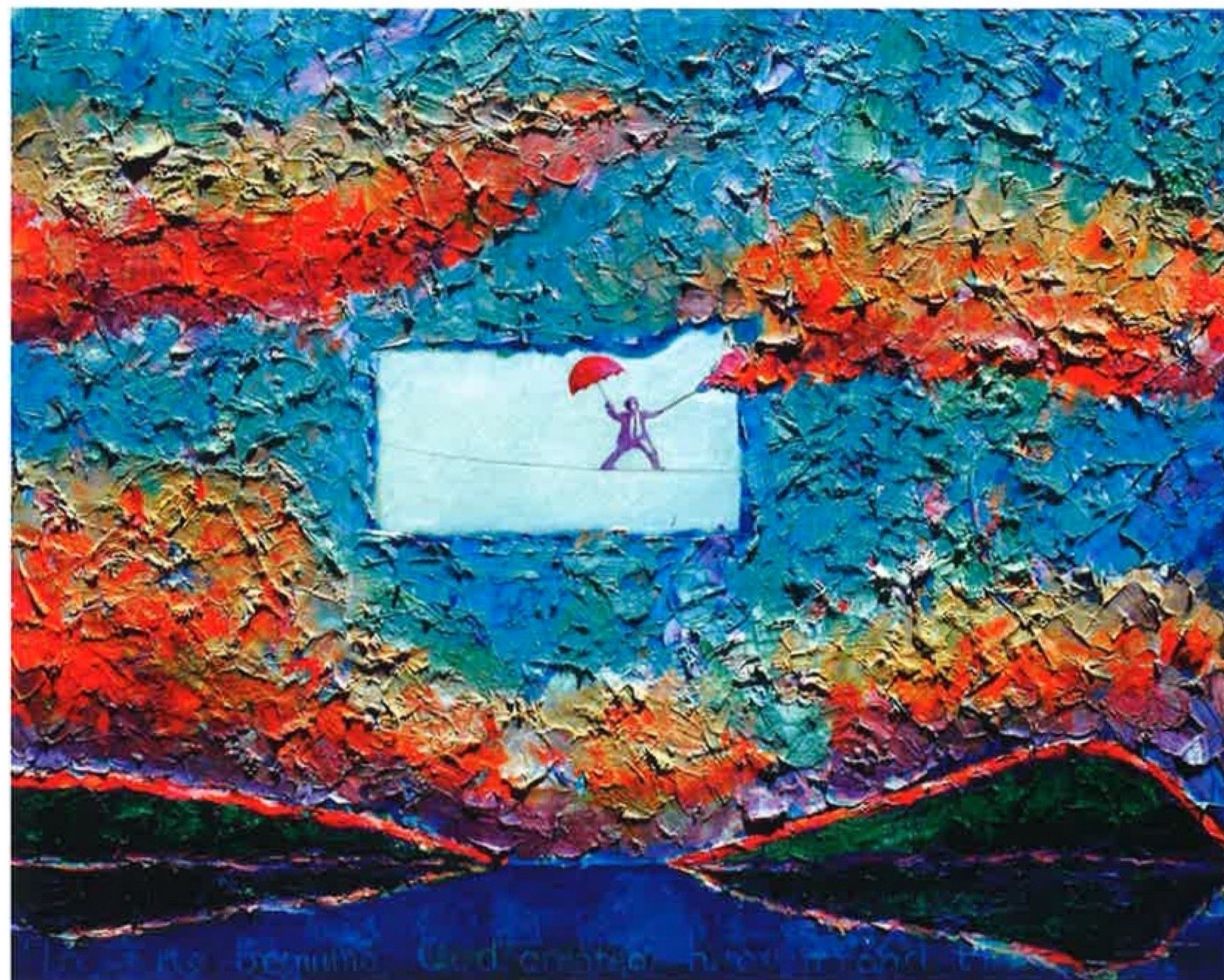
IDEAS CREATE HISTORY & THE BIBLICAL HEBREWS UNDERSTOOD BRILLIANT IDEAS THAT OTHERS COULD NOT FATHOM. AT A TIME WHEN EVERYONE THOUGHT THAT THE EARTH WAS FLAT, THE SUN ROTATED AROUND THE EARTH & THERE WAS A PANTHEON OF GODS, THE JEWS KNEW THAT A COMPASSIONATE & INVISIBLE GOD CREATED IT ALL.

READ NATURE FOR IT IS A FRIEND... A FRIEND LIKE A GOOD BOOK ON A LAZY DAY. READ THE WISDOM IN ITS GREEN VALLEYS & THE TRUTH IN ITS ENDLESS OCEANS. READ THE MAGIC IN ITS SNOWFLAKE'S PERFECT CRYSTALS, THE MUSIC OF ITS SPRINGTIME WINDS & THE GARLANDS OF FLOWERS FLOODING ITS FIELDS. LET YOUR IMAGINATION SOAR IN THE LAZY, FLOATING CLOUDS OR IN THE CATHEDRAL OF SHADE FOUND IN THE DEEPEST FOREST.

YOU ARE NOW READING NATURE AS THE SOUL OF GOD.

OH THE WONDER OF IT ALL.







# THE SECOND DAY

*"AND GOD CALLED THE FIRMAMENT HEAVEN... & THERE WAS EVENING & THERE WAS MORNING, A SECOND DAY." GENESIS 1: 6-8*

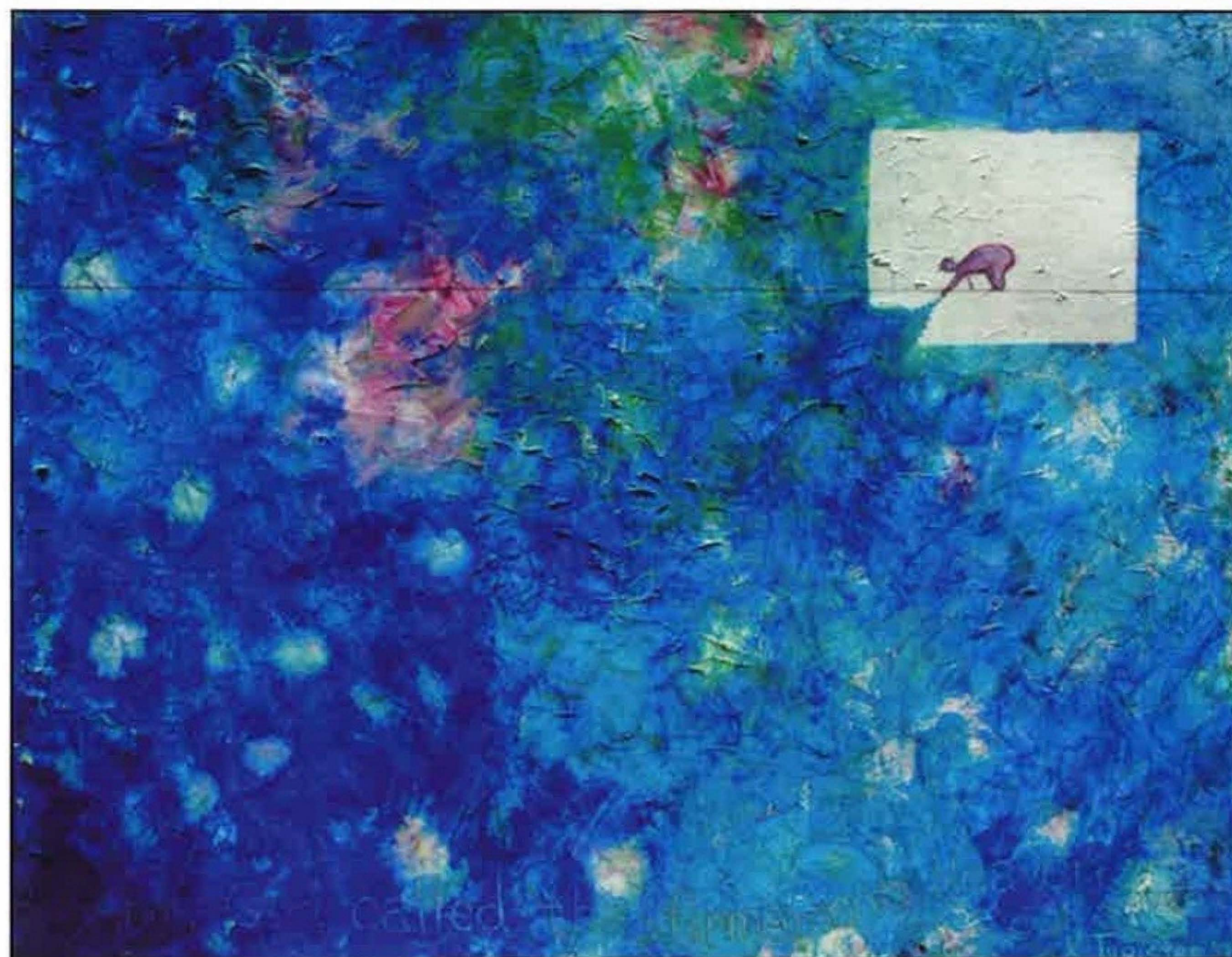
THE CONCEPT OF HEAVEN IS ANOTHER REMARKABLE GIFT FROM THE ANCIENT JEWS. THE IDEA IS THAT PERFECTION IS ALWAYS WITHIN OUR REACH... THAT THERE IS ALWAYS BEYOND THE BROW OF NIGHT A PLACE OF LIGHT WHERE MUSIC PLAYS IN SWEET HARMONY. THIS CONCEPT OF HEAVEN ON EARTH, THE GARDEN OF EDEN, IS A PLACE WE CAN ALL ENTER... IF ONLY WE TRY.

NATURE IS THE VISIBLE GARMENT OF GOD. ITS CLOAK IS THE DARK, MIDNIGHT SKY ONE FINDS WHEN FAR FROM THE CITY LIGHTS. THIS CLOAK HOLDS CONSTELLATIONS WHOSE STARS WERE SCATTERED BY GOD'S HAND.

OH THE WONDER OF IT ALL.

*"AND THE LORD GOD PLANTED A GARDEN IN EDEN,... & THERE HE PUT... MAN... & THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL." GENESIS 2: 8-9*







# THE THIRD DAY

*"AND THE EARTH BROUGHT FORTH GRASS, HERB... & TREE BEARING FRUIT... & THERE WAS EVENING & THERE WAS MORNING, A THIRD DAY." GENESIS 1: 12-13*

GOD CREATED A WORLD OF ABUNDANCE. HIS FIRST TEMPLES WERE THE ENDLESS FORESTS OF PINES & OAKS BEARDED WITH HANGING MOSS, DENSE JUNGLES WITH SPIRALING VINES SEARCHING FOR LIGHT, FIELDS OF WILD FLOWERS POPPING BRIGHT, ROLLING HILLS WITH SEAS OF GRAIN, GROVES OF FRUIT TREES WHOSE SPRING FLOWERS GIVE WAY TO PLUMP FRUIT BURSTING WITH SEEDS.

GOD CREATED A BREATHLESS PANORAMA, WHERE THE BLUE SKY IS OUR CEILING ABOVE, THE DISTANT MOUNTAINS SURROUND & FRAME THE VALLEY, WHICH IN TURN IS SATURATED WITH NEW LIFE. A LIGHT SUMMER WIND STIRS THE GARDEN & THE AIR IS FILLED WITH THE DELICATE PERFUME OF ORANGE BLOSSOMS.

OH THE WONDER OF IT ALL.







# THE FOURTH DAY

*"AND GOD MADE THE TWO GREAT LIGHTS: THE GREATER LIGHT TO RULE THE DAY & THE LESSER LIGHT TO RULE THE NIGHT; & THE STARS... & THERE WAS EVENING & THERE WAS MORNING, A FOURTH DAY." GENESIS 1: 16-19*

THE SUN SHOWERS OUR BODY WHILE THE MYSTERIOUS MOON NOURISHES OUR SOUL. BOTH CAST A SHADOW THAT IS OURS TO KEEP. THINK OF THE SUN, WHOSE POWER CAN DRY THE EARTH, SHRIVEL PASTURES & DESTROY CROPS, YET IT IS THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT FOR LIFE, LIGHT & WARMTH.

EACH EVENING IT DISAPPEARS, AS IF SWALLOWED UP BY THE HEAVENS, TO BE STRENGTHENED & THEN, IN AN ACT OF REBIRTH, REAPPEARS IN THE EASTERN SKY. THE GREATEST FEAR OF PRIMITIVE MAN WAS THAT THE SUN WOULD BE LOST IN ITS NIGHTTIME JOURNEY & NOT REAPPEAR. IMAGINE NO SUN & A DARK WORLD WITH ONLY THE REFLECTION OF THE SILVER CRESCENT WE CALL THE MOON.

OH THE WONDER OF IT ALL.







# THE FIFTH DAY

"AND GOD SAID... LET THE WATERS BRING FORTH SWARMS OF LIVING CREATURES, & LET FOWL FLY ABOVE THE EARTH ACROSS THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVENS... BE FRUITFUL & MULTIPLY... & THERE WAS EVENING & THERE WAS MORNING, A FIFTH DAY."

GENESIS 1: 20-23

THE PURE, WHITE OVAL SHELL CRACKS & THE TINY CHICK APPEARS. THE MIGHTY EAGLE SOARS WHILE THE DARING HAWK ATTACKS. THE GRACEFUL HERON SILENTLY STALKS ITS PREY IN THE QUIET POND WHILE THE PROUD PEACOCK STRUTS ITS FEATHERS IN A BURST OF IRIDESCENCE. THE SUDDEN MURMUR OF THE BEES CARESSES THE HONEY-SWEET & HONEY-COLORED BLOSSOMS. THE OWL GUARDS THE LONELY NIGHT WITH HIS STRANGE SOUND WHILE THE ROOSTER PREPARES TO ANNOUNCE THE DAWN.

OH, THE WONDER OF IT ALL.







## THE SIXTH DAY

*"THEN GOD SAID, 'LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS: & LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, & OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR... & GOD BLESSED THEM, & ... SAID... 'BE FRUITFUL & MULTIPLY... & THERE WAS EVENING & THERE WAS MORNING, THE SIXTH DAY.' GENESIS 1: 27-31*

IN ADDITION TO BESTOWING MAN WITH DOMINION OVER THE EARTH GOD FURTHER HONORS HIM BY MAKING MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE. MAN NOW HAS THE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING MASTER OF THE EARTH. MAN CAN NOT ONLY ENJOY "EVERY PLANT YIELDING SEED WHICH IS UPON THE FACE OF ALL THE EARTH, & EVERY TREE WITH SEED IN ITS FRUIT..." (GENESIS 1: 29) BUT HAS TO CARE FOR & NURTURE ALL THIS ABUNDANCE.

GOD DOES NOT MAKE MAN AN EQUAL PARTNER WITH NATURE & ITS EARTHLY BOUNTIES BUT LORD & MASTER OVER IT.

OH THE WONDER OF IT ALL.







# THE SEVENTH DAY

"GOD... RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORK... & GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY, & HALLOWED IT... IN THE DAY THAT THE LORD GOD MADE EARTH & HEAVEN!"

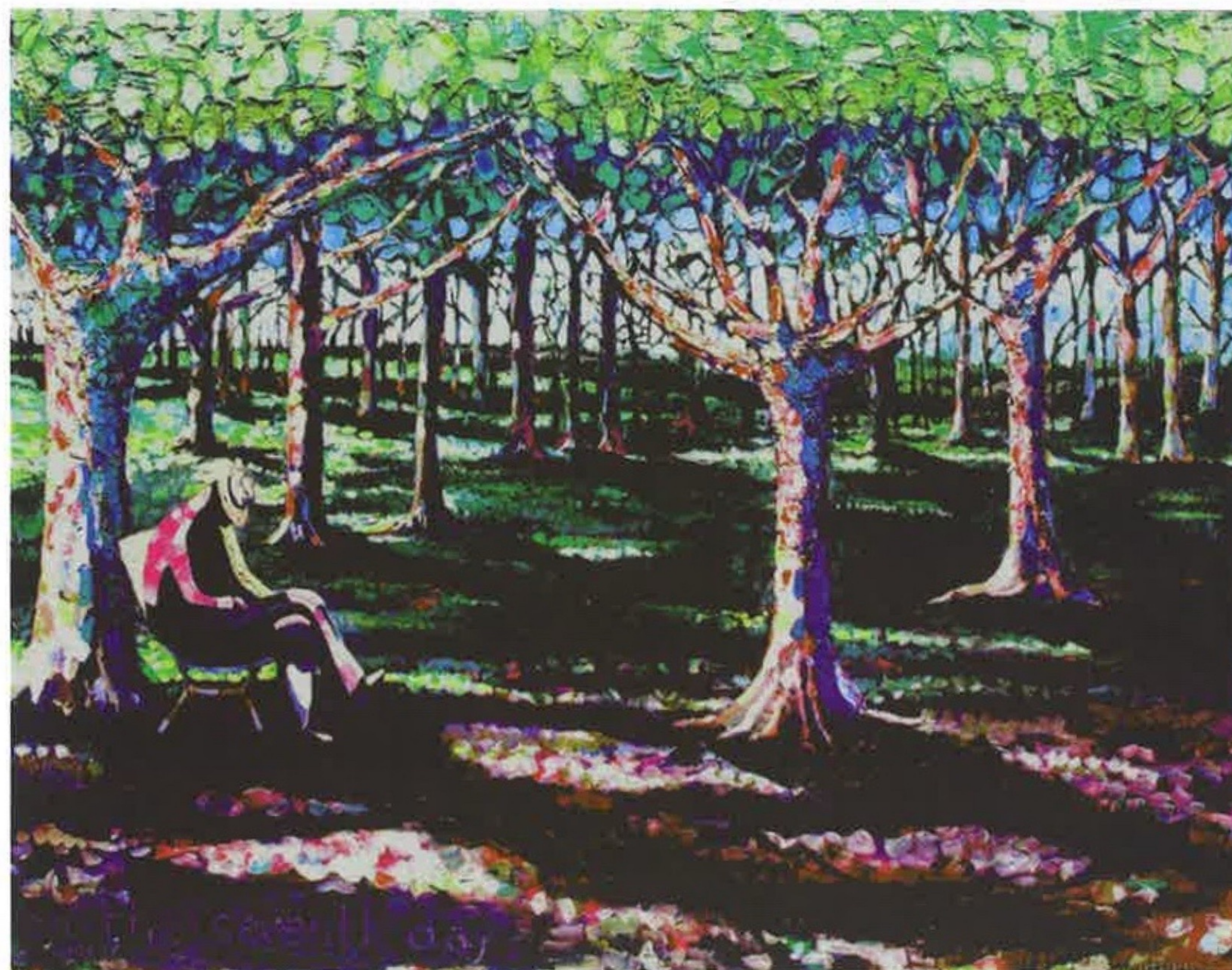
GENESIS 2: 2-4

THE CONCEPT OF THE SABBATH, A DAY OF WORLDLY REST, IS ANOTHER WONDERFUL GIFT FROM THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO THE WORLD. EARLY CIVILIZATIONS WORKED THEIR MAN & BEAST SEVEN DAYS A WEEK BUT THE JEWS UNIQUELY PRACTICED A DAY OF REST FOR ALL FREEMEN, SLAVES, & ANIMALS. THE SABBATH BECAME A TIME TO FORGET THE MATERIAL WORLD THAT ENVELOPES US & FOCUS, FOR A REFRESHING MOMENT OF TIME, ON DEVOTION, FAMILY & SCHOLARSHIP.

SABBATH IS THE LUSH OASIS OF SWEET WATER IN THE DESERT. IT IS THE CLEARING IN THE WILDERNESS WHERE ONE CAN FIND SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT & REPOSE.

OH THE WONDER OF IT ALL.







# THE EIGHTH DAY

"AND ON THE EIGHTH DAY, THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN, & PUT HIM INTO THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO DRESS IT & TO KEEP IT... & YE SHALL BE AS GOD, KNOWING GOOD & EVIL."

GENESIS 2: 15 & 3: 5

ON THE EIGHTH DAY, GOD TURNED THE WORLD OVER TO MAN. IN THE JEWISH TRADITION GOD GAVE MAN FREEDOM OF ACTION. MAN COULD NOW EITHER CONTINUE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD AS A PARADISE OR PARTICIPATE IN ITS DESTRUCTION. THE STORY IS STILL UNFOLDING. HOW WILL IT END? WILL THE FERTILE LAND, BLESSED WITH APPARENTLY INEXHAUSTIBLE RESOURCES TURN TO DESERT? WILL THE POPULATION EVENTUALLY MULTIPLY BEYOND THE NUMBERS THAT CAN BE SUSTAINED? WITH OUR FOREST FELLED, OUR SOIL ERODED & OUR WATERS POLLUTED WILL WE HAVE SUFFICIENT FOOD TO NOURISH US ALL? WILL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS FALL & CIVIL WAR FOLLOW IN A KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLLAPSE.

IS THIS OUR EIGHTH DAY OR WILL OUR EIGHTH DAY BRING  
A JOYOUS HEAVEN ON EARTH?







KENNETH TREISTER - 40 YEARS AGO KENNETH TREISTER'S ARTISTRY WAS EXPRESSED IN HIS SUPERB GUMENICK CHAPEL AT TEMPLE ISRAEL. HE THEN SCULPTED MIAMI BEACH'S WORLD FAMOUS HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL. LATER HE ENRICHED, WITH MAGNIFICENT ARTWORK & CRAFTSMANSHIP, TEMPLE EMANUEL ON MIAMI BEACH, & WITH PROFESSOR MEL ALEXENBERG, THE SYNAGOGUE AT MIAMI'S JEWISH HOME, NOW FOR THE ALPER JCC TREISTER IS EXHIBITING, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HIS ARTISTIC ODYSSEY *THE EIGHT DAYS OF CREATION*, AN IMPORTANT COLLECTION OF OIL PAINTINGS WITH A PROVOKING MESSAGE OF JEWISH FAITH.

