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LILIT

(A HEBREW MYTH)

After creating the heaven and the earth and all the animals and plants with His single creating word, He took a piece of earth from the ground lying under the hooves of animals and created the man out of it.

He created him, so that he would admire His noble deeds and praise God's Name. And as an abode He gave him the Garden of Eden.

The newly-created Adam was enraptured with God's wonders. He, one by one, looked at the animals, birds, and various plants; he was amazed and glorified the Maker's Name.

And feeling lonely and friendless, he became bored, terribly bored.

When God saw Adam's solitude, He spoke to Himself. "Let's create a loving friend for him, so that he would not enjoy the fruits of heaven alone."

And He caught hold of the flames dashing up and from their shivery, fluttering blazes created Adam's first wife - Lilit.

And looking at His creation, He said in delight. "She is kind because she is beautiful."

Then He called Adam and said, putting Lilit's little hand into the forefather's palm.

"Adam, here is a friend for you, beautiful Lilit. See your pictures in one another's eyes and love each other in your hearts. Reproduce and proliferate.

Adam, follow Lilit in all your days and you, Lilit, be obedient to Adam."

Lilit looked at Adam very attentively and she smelt something like clay.

She felt Adam's glance falling heavily like earth down at her hair and shoulders.

And she hastily pulled her hand out of Adam's palm.

Adam looked at Lilit, and an abyss full of beauty reared and deepened before him, which was luring and pulling his soul down into the dreadful chasm to destroy it.

And he closed his eyes, appalled by her charm.

And when he opened them again, his lips could hardly tremble.

□Glory to You, God, You created the most beautiful and the most perfect among Your creatures.

Everlasting life and eternity to You□.

When Lilit heard his words, she daintily bent her head to her right shoulder, and the first gratifying smile beamed on her charming face.

Being incited by a feeling unknown to him before, Adam wanted to hold Lilit□s hand once again. But Lilit fled away from Adam like a blaze.

Adam felt that his heart was inseparably and ineffably attached to Lilit□s light-shedding heels. And following Lilit, he saw her standing on the bank of a golden-glittering lake, where snow-feathered swans were wafting.

Lilit was watching, with rapture, the graceful swans. Their willowy and slim necks fascinated her. And she called out to them in a sweet voice, and when Lilit knelt to fondle them, suddenly she beheld a wonderful, fire-sprouting image on the waters; when she understood that it was her reflection, she grew proud and admired herself.

She plaited her hair dragging on her breasts and left them rippling on her shoulders and back. She looked at her own reflection in admiration over and over again and couldn□t get quenched.

The sun shining through the blue sky with a piece of Eden mirrored on the glass of the lake.

And Lilit saw that the sun wasn□t as fiery as the fire in her eyes, and the sky wasn□t as deep as the depth of her eyes. She was the most perfect one in the paradise; both the lake and the heaven were washed by the light of her face.

Before them a couple of hyacinth-colour butterflies with diamond wings came and sat on her sweet-smelling hair. Lilit looked and smiled.

□How beautiful it would be if these would always stay on my hair...□

And she immediately picked up flowers which sparkled with a thousand colours and gave of a pleasant fragrance, and then she arranged them in her hair.

Adam stood far away watching his friend captivated; all of a sudden he took heart to draw up to her. When Lilit saw Adam□s reflection commingling with hers, she stood up angrily and directed the wrathful fire of her eyes to him.

□Lilit, my most beautiful of all angels□, prattled Adam, □what flowers were they that you picked up?□

□These ones? They are marvels, you don□t understand□, interrupted Lilit Adam with contempt.

□No, my darling, I know such places in Eden where even the creator hasn□t set foot on yet. Such incomparably beautiful flowers with unrivalled fragrance

and colour, such trees with luminescent foliage and adorned with the most luscious fruits.

Wouldn't you like to go and stroll in those places? Adam said it in such a doting voice that Lilit's anger yielded for a moment.

All right, Adam, we will go but not today, later.

Lilit, my graceful, yes, whenever you want, but now night is falling, let's go to my hovel which I have built next to the nest of ravishing nightingales covered with the most opulent flowers. Sleep there and I will guard your sleep.

No, no, leave me alone. I am very tired today, she said and directed her light steps towards deep groves.

Adam didn't know what to reply. He followed her tacitly, with his head lowered.

Adam, leave me alone, please!

But Lilit, thousand times desired Lilit, when can we see each other? Say when...

Tomorrow, cut Lilit Adam's talk imperiously and in a blink flitted into the bushes.

* * *

Sitting near the spring and giving an ear to its crystalline euphony, Lilit was looking at the heaven's starlit sky, and the fire-glowing clusters of stars were intoxicating her heart with a mysterious craving.

And Lilit, intoxicated with the stars, fell asleep on the flowers and woke up from the heart-thrilling warbling of nightingales.

Dawn broke with its delusively beautiful graces and stretched upon the heaven steeping every pint-sized clod in its rays and in the speechless magic of colours.

Adam, with a hamper full of fruits and flowers, was walking to Lilit's hovel and hailed her from afar. There was no response. He hailed again, and again no response.

Impatiently he was walking here and there around the spring with a strained look at every side. Lilit was nowhere to be seen.

He went to the shore of the lake, roamed in the groves, rummaging in every shrub and bush. He again returned to the spring. Lilit was nowhere to be found, absolutely nowhere.

What has happened to her, to Lilit, thought Adam. Maybe she has taken a strange path and stuck in some far-off groves, all lost. I must search, search for her.

And leaving the hamper beside the spring where Lilit's hovel was, he went to look for her.

Adam wandered all day long loudly shouting Lilit's name. But it was of no use.

Then evening came and night fell. Adam, being tired and unable to find the path back in darkness, fell asleep under a tree.

And only at dawn, when the sky and Eden were filled with twilight, Adam was able to find his way back.

Running, breathless and yet far off the spring, he called. "Lilit, good morning."

"Don't come close to me. I haven't washed myself yet."

Hearing Lilit's voice, Adam suffered the whole agony of the previous day with the same poignancy. Anger rose up in his heart. He wanted to reproach Lilit severely but restrained himself.

"Where were you yesterday, the whole day? I searched for you day and night..." said Adam softly.

"Yesterday? Yesterday I came to the lake and I didn't see you, you didn't come," answered Lilit. "Then I ran a little after roes, and discovered new, alien places. There were wonderful nightingales, and fascinated by their song, I stayed there till evening."

"Yet, it is surprising! When did you come to the lake? I was here and there. At last I roamed about the heaven so much. Where were you that I didn't find you?"

"Yet, I waited for you both here and there, by the lake, and you were nowhere to be found," answered Lilit sharply.

Adam was silent for a while. He was thinking: "Could it be that I hadn't noticed her? But it's impossible..."

He reconciled, and with a calmed heart said:

"Beautiful Lilit, I have brought wonderful fruits for your breakfast."

"Wait! I haven't done my hair yet!"

"And for your marvellous hair I have brought flowers steeped in morning dews."

"I am thankful, but I also have flowers. Wait a little and I'll be back in a moment."

And Adam waited.

Lilit fluttering like flames came and stood before Adam, her feet hardly touching the ground.

"Oh! You've brought the same wonderful fruits that I found in front of my hovel."

"I have always brought them from the same beautiful places. Now we can go, can't we?"

"We will go, there is still time," said Lilit and sat down to have breakfast. Adam took a place on the left side of Lilit and gave a free vent to his heart's effusion.

"Ah! Lilit," said Adam. "You're indeed relentless. Loneliness has trodden my heart."

And with yearning he embraced Lilit's waist and with his whole heart squeezed her tightly to his craving chest.

Lilit ran away from Adam's arms and standing afar she said in a weeping voice.

"Adam, you're holding very bluntly, you're smashing my ribs."

And turning her back to Adam, she stood resented.

Her back was more golden-blazing than the luxuriously woven purple of the dawn by which the heaven was adorned.

Adam looked and sighed; he held Lilit's hand tenderly and staring at her, said, "Lilit, my dear, forgive me, Lilit, you're the meaning of my life, don't look at me so tacitly and sadly, smile, please, talk! Ah! How I would like to have a thousand ears to hear your sweet voice a thousand times and even then I wouldn't be sated."

Lilit sat. A strained silence prolonged.

"Adam," Lilit broke the silence, "Did God create you long ago?"

"Yes, my graceful Lilit."

"What were you doing in the paradise?"

"I was roaming all alone and I was looking for a friend for me among the idle animals."

"Didn't you find any like you?" she asked observing Adam with the sly play of her eyes.

"No, Lilit. That's why God created you for me."

"Created me for you? Ha! Ha! Ha!" laughed Lilit loudly in a lively manner.

Adam got insulted. A bitter silence fell.

"Yes, yes," spoke Adam broken-heartedly, "God created you for me, so that I wouldn't live alone, so that we would be friends... My life is fading away because of you and you...? You don't know that the paradise is unbearable for me without you, and life is just a torment... It's not agreeable to God; if He finds out, He will get awfully angry."

And his voice quivered with tears.

Lilit looked at Adam's piteous face and let out a sonorous chuckle, but for a moment only. Then her look mellowed; God's name sobered her.

"But Adam, why are you snivelling? Why are you talking in such a way? I have always been kind to you, haven't I?"

And she caressed Adam's shaggy beard with her fire-spilling fingers.

Adam's heart filled with endless affection. He was ready to fall down at Lilit's feet and ask for mercy.

"Good, Adam, my dear," said Lilit in a caressing voice. "Catch this flying flower for me."

"This is a butterfly, and not a flower."

"It's all the same, catch it!"

Adam ran after the butterfly, but was not able to catch it.

"Do you want me to catch it at once?" said Lilit, and soaring in the air, she caught the butterfly in a wink.

"Did you see, Adam? What a sluggish man you are!"

"I can't frisk through the air like you," protested Adam, offended, "but I can run very fast."

"Even that you can't," objected Lilit, "don't boast."

"I can," insisted Adam, "let's try."

"Don't, you'll get tired in vain."

Adam insisted again.

"All right," said Lilit, "If you catch me, I'll give you the sweetest fruit of the paradise."

"Which one it is you know, but I don't, though I have already tasted all fruits of the paradise?" asked Adam astonished. "What's its name?"

"A kiss."

"A kiss?" repeated Adam amazed and inquisitive.

"Yes, a kiss - the plunging of lips on other lips. Don't you know?"

Adam was wondering how she came to know that, when and how...? And he looked vacillatingly at Lilit. While the latter was looking tacitly into Adam's eyes.

And yet her tongue-flame look with its fiery beams swooped down through Adam's eye-pupils, and grasped Adam's soul like a raspberry.

Adam understood and willingly assented. Lilit was running swiftly and lightly, Adam was panting inspired by her.

Lilit hid herself in the shrubs, then leaped up, stopped for an instant, and said with a resounding laughter.

□Come on, come on, catch me, I□m waiting. And she stood waiting with her ruby lips contracted like a bud of a kiss. Adam stopped mind-scattered.

□Adam, what did God create you from?□ asked Lilit moving close to him.

□From earth, but just like His image□.

□From earth? Earth...? Ha! Ha! Ha!□ she laughed and laughed scoffingly.

□That□s why you□re so laggard, large and crude□.

Adam was fermented and angry, and gathering all his strength, he ran at Lilit, and was about to catch her and to squeeze her in his arms, but his fingers only tipped her hair .

And Lilit, in a blink, dashed above like a lark and swept away into the thickets with a jolly laughter and loudly hailing:

□Adam, come tomorrow to go round the paradise□. Adam defeated and ashamed remained riveted for a long time and did not blink his eyes at the thickets encircling Lilit.

* * *

At dawn Adam came and roamed around the spring. He waited until Lilit appeared smartened up with flowers and a thousand graces.

□So, you suppose we go to your praised places□, said Lilit carelessly.

□Oh! Peerless Lilit, praising is nothi ng but a sound; you should see those superb groves, springs of water, lakelets with your own eyes m order to perceive the fathomless splendor of the paradise. And Adam showed the way they should take. □No, Adam, let□s go this way□, said Lilit, pointing the side opposite to Adam□s.

□Excuse me, my graceful, but this is the way□, objected Adam gently.

□Let□s go this way□, repeated Lilit.

□My precious Lilit! That way is not so good. I know all the footpaths, and the one I showed you is the most beautiful. I am sorry, if I said you don□t know□.

□No!□ said Lilit angrily, □I said I want this one; if you□re not coming, I□ll go alone□.

And she set her foot on the way she wanted.

Adam followed her obediently. After walking for a while, Adam dared to say, "Admirable Lilit, I□m begging you, now try the way I said□.

□All right□, agreed Lilit, □Let it be so, as you said. Already it always occurs what you□re saying□.

On both sides of the road thousand-scented and thousand-coloured flowers with myriad shapes had embellished the flower garden. The swamps of dreamlike butterflies hovered over the verdure and poppies around Lilit. In the

groves bananas and pineapples had girdled all the lakelets where glittering fishes were playing among the clutches of lotuses and nenuphars.

Under the verdant shadows silvery and rainbow-vivid peafowls were sauntering with firebirds and red starlings.

Birds of paradise and lyre-birds were bobbing up and down from one meadow to another. On the worlds, in the odour-filled air iridescent birds were hovering sparsely like reveries and were tilting their love and longing with a thousand thrills and soul-enchanting twitters.

Luscious fruits of bewitching colours and shapes were hanging from golden-barked trees.

Lilit picked the one her heart wished and tasted. She was fascinated by the scenes of paradise and, without blinking an eye, she looked round and round over and over again.

"My darling, look! My arbour is there," said Adam.

But Lilit was heedless and didn't hear what Adam was saying and was only walking delighted and carried away.

She was rather skipping like birds than walking; her light-dripping feet didn't touch the ground.

Adam was following her with heavy and steady steps, not taking his eyes off her refulgent hair rippling like flames of fire.

A rough and turbulent wave of a feeling surged Adam forward, to go and crash at Lilit's feet and Adam hastening his paces came near to Lilit held her fiery elbow with fear and breathlessly said:

"My marvellous friend, look there far away, how lofty!"

Lilit apathetically looked out of the tail of her eye. And in the far corner, sky-stretching mountains had pierced in the blue silence with silver-glittering snow-coronets.

From column-like crags waters were falling away head-down, and with a roaring rumble were filling the caves where flaxen roes were having a rest.

At the foot of mountains, far away Satin Sea was where bright-feathered gulls tenderly hit their breasts to the golden-tipped billows and flitted to the distant emerald isles. There motley-petal flowers incensed and heaven-kissing date-palms fluctuated in the stroking breezes.

"Do you see, honey, how beautiful it is? I didn't expect," whispered Adam and affectionately held Lilit's waist.

"That's not bad, but my way was also good," said Lilit, and leaping up she bounced out of Adam's arms and stood on the bank of the nearest brooklet which, with a cheerful laughter, was tumbling about the motley grits.

□Oh! How beautiful these tiny stones are, how pretty colours they have: red, blue, green... Adam, give me a few of these gravels□.

□Lilit, what are these to give you? I know such gravels which are as bright as the sun is, as limpid as the water is and are hard and very beautiful□.

□Ah! Where are they, Adam, my dear? Where are they now?□

□They are lying very far away, in the deep and fathomless ravines, in the crevices of rocks, far, very far off□.

□When will you bring them, Adam?□ and Lilit tenderheartedly put her hand on Adam□s hand.

□If you are pleased, my graceful, I□ll go today and I□ll bring them tomorrow□, said Adam gladly as he had an opportunity to cause rejoices to her.

□Go, Adam, go now, immediately. How good you are, my Adam□, and with the inside of her palm she softly stroked Adam□s forehead.

With the throbbing heart Adam mildly took Lilit□s hand; daintly like a lily and put it on his lips. The lusciousness of the kiss dribbled down till the bottom of Adam□s heart...

He glanced yearningly at Lilit, and then dashed off quickly while Lilit, with the blazing play of her eyes where sweet promises lay, wished Adam good luck. After a little reposing, Lilit made her way to her arbour on other paths.

Suddenly a serpent with its head stuck up met her.

Lilit looked into the serpent□s eyes, and the serpent-into Lilit□s. And they both remained still; they both were enraptured by each other. The serpent□s rippling, wriggling body, sleek, pointed and flinging, was so fascinating to Lilit. It seemed to her so as if penetrated through her body.

Lilit was looking for a long, long time, but the serpent feared the bolt of her look, hissed and in an instant disappeared into the peaks. Adam was breathlessly running to reach the ravine of the beautiful stones earlier while that time. When he reached, he fervently began to gather multicoloured gravels.

Without getting tired and despondent, he climbed up the cliffs, and from the crevices with the help of the teeth, he was plucking up the stones, injuring his fingers and feet, but getting courage from the prospect what a pleasure he was going to endue heavenly Lilit.

He himself was wondering that from the moment he saw Lilit his heart was filled with a serene and sweet feeling, and since then the paradise had become a thousand times more beautiful, and every moment lived by him had a meaning and an inexpressible charm...

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By dusk, Adam, loaded with a heavy frail, breathlessly reached the lake where Lilit was impatiently waiting for him.

She had in her arms a plushy kitten which she was continuously petting in order to while away the time.

□Lilit, ravishing Lilit, I am here and I have brought them□, exclaimed Adam.

Lilit who had seen Adam□s reflection on the water, turned her back to him as if taken aback. □Adam, is that you?□

□Forgive me, my soul, I couldn□t come earlier. I was very far away. Has it been long since you are waiting for me?□

□No, Adam, I□ve just come. I didn□t want to come, I had a headache, and I came for no particular reason. Have you brought the stones? Let□s see!□ And with a restrained patience, she cast her eyes into the hamper.

□Oh, what gems! How luxurious they are!□ cried put Lilit delighted.

□Is the name of these a gem? How did you know?□ asked Adam with surprise.

□Yes, it is so, I know it. Adam, my darling, come, I□ll kiss you, how kind you are!□

And Lilit couldn□t help her joy, let the cat off from her arms, jumped and kissed Adam□s forehead.

Adam, having lost his mind, prostrated himself at Lilit□s feet and was watching her astonished as she was sinking her fragile fingers into the frail, playing with gems, taking them into her palm, looking at them insatiably, smiling herself, again filled them back into the frail, and again taking them back.

□What wonderful diamonds they are with white admiring rays! What red hyacinths! What pure green emeralds! What rubies! What sapphires! Which one to name? Which one? And they are so, so many...

And Lilit was playing with gems, was strewing them in her hair and again was gathering them together until the full moon climbed from behind the trees and lightened every bush and shrub, every leaf-blade and sprout in the paradise.

Lilit was sitting under a pomegranate tree. The subtle moonshine had enwrapped her face like luminous veils. Ad am□s heart was fluttering like a bird under his chest and wanted to fly out from his mouth.

□Lilit, peerless Lilit, you are wise; tell me, what feeling is this which has built its nest in my soul from the moment I saw you. I want to melt away under your lit-up feet, I want to kiss away the soil trodden upon by you, I want to put the sun as a crown in your head, and to pave your way with stars□.

Lilit was listening to Adam, and a mild laughter was rounding up her lips.

□Tell me, my most wonderful Lilit, what is this feeling? When I am by you, the paradise becomes more marvellous and life-sweeter, and when I am far away from you, the paradise becomes ugly and desolate, and life - bitter and hard.

Both awake and asleep all my dreams are filled only by you. You are living in my heart and in my eyes□.

Laughing, but with a cold voice, Lilit said:

□It□s love, Adam, it□s called love□.

□Love? How do you know...?□

□I□ve known it long since, Adam...□

□Love an innermost and hideous name. Love, yes! Even God said the same - love each other. And I love you, Lilit; I love you...

How can I not love you? You□re ravishing, charming, myriad times charming.

And now I know that Love is the soul of all things; it□s love that has put the sweet murmur of breezes and seeps into birds□ mouths. It□s because of love that from the footpaths you have stepped on I smell a fragrance of pinks and marjorams.

You know, Lilit, the sea burnt with the storm, which with mountain-sized waves it beating against the land□s crags, is weaker and brittle than my love that impetuously wants to kneel down to your feet and fade away in the silence.

I want to gild you with my kisses and to droop and wear off in the kisses of my soul.

Ah! So, so much I love your eyebrows, graceful, desired Lilit. Your eyebrows are so arched like a rainbow. Like a rainbow your eyebrows have built a vault over the sky of your eyes.

In the sky of your eyes I see the Milky Way where thousands of suns are shining.

Your eyes burnt with thousand of suns are scorching my soul; they are scorching my soul. Let me forget myself looking into your eyes; forget the whole paradise, looking into your eyes.

And he kissed Lilit□s eyes, and kissed her eyebrows and eyelashes.

Lilit was indifferent to Adam□s endearments. Lilit was pensive.

□Adam, what□s there beyond the paradise?□

□There is the earth - parched and thorny. Let it be down with the earth; I love your neck, Lilit. Your neck is lofty and white, loftier and whiter than the birches of a fine and gentle height that are standing on the doors of paradise.

And with the glittering eyes, Lilit craned her neck and Adam kissed her neck again and again with lust. □Adam, who lives on earth?□
□Satan does, Lilit, but let it be down with Satan. I lovingly love your mouth, Lilit. Your mouth is the heaven□s wonder, Lilit...□
□Adam, who□s Satan?□ interrupted Lilit his heart□s outpourings.
□He was the adversary of God. He was a fiery angel - both wise and beautiful, but he rebelled against God, he wanted to become vie to Him. And God punished him. He threw him off down from the heavens and his friends, execrating them for ever. And let them be damned.
I love your mouth; your mouth is the nectar of inexhaustible and unfathomable charms, of nameless enjoyments from which the gold-bee makes the sweetest honey. Your tongue has the love-soaked songs of all nightingales and your tongue is sweeter of all bird s□ twitters. With one sweet-smelling kiss of your lips I will have relished the whole paradise, will have amply savoured the whole universe and perpetuity with your one sole kiss...
And Adam protruded his lustful lips to kiss Lilit□s mouth, but she, with her hand, closed Adam□s mouth and strongly pushed him; back, immediately with a bounce she stood up.
Adam fell down to the ground swooned.
□I want to sleep□, said Lilit, □tomorrow wait for me on the bank of the lake□.
And at a bird□s pace she flew and sank into the shades of the night.
With blurred eyes Adam was following leaving, sprinkling, shining Lilit.

* * *

In the morning Adam opened his eyes, found his head on the ground and Lilit was not there. Adam thought he was dreaming. He closed his eyes again, but Lilit was not there again.
Suddenly he remembered Lilit□s last words.
At a quick pace he hurried to the bank and with eyes fixed on all the footpaths of the paradise, he began to wait.
With the gait of every deer his heart was bitterly throbbing; with every zephyr that was soughing the bushes, his heart was being ruffled.
So impatiently he waited till twilight, but Lilit didn□t come.
Adam desperately stretched out on the ferns with closed eyelashes in order to dream about Lilit.
He heard a murmur in the reeds of the bank; it seemed to him that a heart was grieving there.

Hastily he stood up, cut a reed, opened a few slits on the stalk and began to sing. That wasn't a melody but Adam's blazing love itself which, trickle by trickle, was leaking through the reedy pipe, turned into tears and desires, desires and laments. And he was singing:

"Lilit! Lilit! You're my destiny.

Without you what is immortality?

You're the heaven of leisure, Lilit.

Of all delights and glammers you're the only heaven.

Its reverie you are, its rapture you are,

Its capture, Lilit.

You're an unknown secret, Lilit,

You're a seep in the sun.

The seep in the sin of all tormenting and reviving lures.

You're an invincible woman, Lilit,

Lilit, perpetual Lilit...

* * *

All night long Adam was sleeplessly wandering, singing his sorrowful, yearning which was scorching his heart. Through the whole next day Lilit didn't appear either. All day long Adam was roving and raving. He was burning and parching and none of the cold seeps in the paradise could cool him.

Adam had decided to scold her with rude words, to scold roughly and even to threaten her by God's name when he saw Lilit.

Adam's soul was so wearied, so severely wearied.

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At dusk, suddenly from the deep bushes Lilit appeared with thousands of coquetries, smartened up in her body's all graces.

Adam, like a mad, bounced towards Lilit in an instant forgetting every spite and decision. And he saw Lilit lively and skittishly running after coiling black-glance snake, not taking her eyes off the snake.

Adam, all in a breath, was calling out and chasing her.

"Lilit, stop! Where are you going? Stop!"

"Is it your business where I am going? Why are chasing me?" replied Lilit irately.

"Why so? Is it your business? God wanted me to follow you and you to obey me, didn't He?"

"I obey you? Who are you? Who? Out of my sight! You rough clod of earth!" shouted Lilit disdainfully and like flames rushed through the air and disappeared.

* * *

With an expired patience Adam went directly to God to complain.

"My Lord, what a friend did you give me?" said Adam with a stifled wrath. "She never followed Your Commandments, never obeyed me. She allures me, smoulders and then leaves me thirsty, runs away. I'm burning when I'm far from her; I'm burning again when I'm near her. She's an evil fire, a piece of a scorching fire, I'm suffering, I'm expiring..."

Having calmed Adam down God saw him home. And He ordered Lilit to come. But Lilit didn't obey God's order. With a troubled heart God sent the angels of Senoy and Sansenoy to find and bring disobedient Lilit to His Throne. Lilit was brought. She was standing before God with eyes cast down. God forewarned her saying:

"I created Adam from earth and you from fire so that you would complete each other. You must love him, and especially you must be obedient to him, your husband, because I created you for him. If you don't, you must know, I'll severely punish you...Now, go to Adam; that's My will..."

* * *

On the bank of a rivulet, under a willow, Lilit was sitting in sadness. Her dolefully sweet face was pale like a pearl and her forehead rested on her arms. The wreath of paradise roses rigging out her hair has already wilted...

Adam, who was waiting for her return, came and sat by her and holding her cold hand with fear and wholly turned into fondness, he whispered softly.

"Lilit, my love, why are you sad, why are you so sad? Why aren't you smiling, my sweet-beauty?"

"Ah! My sunshiny Lilit, why are you silent. Don't you know I'm living only by your love? If you squeeze my heart, your love will ooze out from it, only your love and nothing more. My love is as big as the universe is, as big as the universe... And with myriad cravings he kissed the tips of Lilit's hair and then caressingly kissed her hair and touched her golden-glowing hair into his eyes. But Lilit was silent and apathetic with her glance dispersed in the distance.

"Lilit, my graceful, let's go to my harbour, I have laid a table with the most succulent fruits. I have gathered delicious nectar from flowers and the sweetest honey from bees. And I have bedecked a hammock of roses for you. You should

sleep with ever happy dreams and till dawn I will watch over you under your feet.

Before the daybreak I should play my pipes. So that sweet nightingales and canaries, butterflies and partridges of paradise will flit about, sing and dance and amuse you. But Lilit was mute and apathetic; Adam held her frail waist, raised her to her feet and in arms took of heart to his arbour.

Lilit was tired of heart emotions. She was affected by God's ireful glare.

And spinelessly she lay in the bedding woven with flowers.

Adam put her head on his knees and he was watching her crystalline nudity delighted and captivated, recumbent on the petals of purple vivid roses.

Lilit had closed her eyes; she was both docile and humble like gazelles that quail even from the flower rustling. And she was pale like a pearl.

Adam was fondling Lilit's body and murmuring to himself. "I lovingly, caringly love your body because your body is gorgeous. And your body is light-flashing, more light-flashing than the flash of a lightning in the darkness.

And your body is the ewer of all pure graces, and your body is the peerless garden, the furnace of all shudders and lusts.

However, especially your body is more redolent than the pelt of Eden's is, it is more redolent and reminiscent of reveries than all jasmines and hyacinths, all narcissi and spikenards, than all their aromas that smell of thurifer and submerge the paths of the paradise in dreams.

And again your breast is more redolent than the up-craning tuberoses and the balsam and frankincense which are oozing off from the trees of paradise to scent God's steps.

And with burning lips Adam was kissing Lilit's body and smelling the sweet-smelling freshness of her hips and ribs which were refresher than the prime dew of the Creation Day on coughgrasses and leafages.

And with his blazing finders Adam was stroking Lilit's breasts and with heart's soul he was speaking:

"I lovingly, lovingly love your busts, you're the most excellent of all angels. Your busts are two light-smelling bunches, light-spilling bunches of matthiolas and sweet Williams, christened with a couple of buds of maiden roses; two entranching, seducing bunches that intoxicated my soul and separates my soul from my body..."

And Adam kissed Lilit's breasts and with shivering lips he kissed the seals of her breasts. Lilit had shut her eyes, she was indifferent and inattentive and she wasn't listening to Adam's voice.

□Lilit, heavenly Lilit, let me kiss your lips. Only with a single deep kiss of your lips I will have savoured the whole paradise. I will amply have relished the eternity of the whole paradise and the endlessness of your lips with their only nameless, priceless, matchless kiss...□

Adam had forgotten himself and nothing more existed for him. And there existed only Lilit□s lips which Adam was kissing, kissing insatiably and indefatigably; sucking up and sucking up Lilit□s all sweetness, her whole essence. Adam wasn□t satiated and Adam□s soul was being depleted, fading away in the depth of her kisses...

And suddenly Lilit swiftly coiled herself from Adam□s exhausting, blood-spilling kisses; she sprang up and bounced out of the hovel and vanished into the right-mazes of the paradise.

* * *

Adam lay unconscious till dawn. When he came round, he remembered that Lilit slipped away in the gloom of the night.

He stood up broken-hearted.

Then he tried to find Lilit again to entreat her once more not to leave him.

Pain-tortured and imploringly he called Lilit□s sweet name and heard only the vain echo of his voice.

He searched for her everywhere; on the lake-banks and around the seeps, in the groves and in the caves. And he found Lilit□s track nowhere.

For long periods of time he was rambling through the paths Lilit had stepped on, yearningly kissed the ferns and the spoil Lilit□s steps had trodden upon.

For long periods of times he was sitting in the places Lilit had lived and was shutting his eyes to see Lilit.

And in his allusions Lilit appeared more desirable, more desirable and unachievably more craved-for.

And in his illusions Adam was recovering himself with remorseful heart and was running and running like a mad...

He had already reached the borders of the paradise from where the desolate and arid land was stretching forth.

He was very tired. He sat down to relax.

And with his head in his palms he was wailing over his sorrowful condition and with burning memories was pondering over Lilit□s unforgettable and elusive charms when, as if from a dream, he heard Lilit□s jolly mirthful chuckling which like a spring salute stormed his heart.

With a hope he turned his eyes towards the chuckling... And he saw a dreadful scene which, like a black bolt, passed through the depth of his soul darkening and scoreching it.

From the sides of the thorny and gloomy land, on the paradise hedge he saw Satan's head with blackishly-glittering eyes, evil and sly.

He saw Lilit hanged over Satan's neck with her hair wreathed with lust-smelling poppies.

Lilit was kissing Satan's lips with a deep desire. And they were laughing together cheerfully and gleefully.

Enraged out of envy, Adam roared frantically.

□Lilit! Lilit! Is that you?□

But only he heard the triumphant Satan's tremendous giggling which thundering like a storm cloud cracked on his head.

And he even saw Satan with Lilit in his arms piercing deep into the earth...

Adam's eyes blinded and saw nothing any longer...

Maddened and without a rest Adam was roving through the solitary places of the paradise.

The paradise had become desolate and the songs of birds bored him.

□Lilit! Lilit! Ah! Lilit!□ he was calling her name with a groan and moan and his wail was passing through the leaves of the trees lamentingly, parching the leaves of the trees.

At nights in his stirred nightmares he was constantly seeing the traitor Lilit always in Satan's arms.

Adam's soul was hopeless cursing God and immortality: he was craving for death.

And Adam's groans were heard by God. He compassionated, him and absorbed in Himself, He considered that it was impossible to mingle the up-soaring fire with the earth adhered to the ground.

And God span a yawn over Adam and from his flank He created a new friend; Eve, so that by her origin she would obey Adam, would be able to love only him and console especially him.

When Adam opened his eyes, he saw a new friend sitting by him, not so perfect and fierily beautiful as Lilit, but also beautiful, though earth-smelling, though fleshly.

Eve came closer to Adam, put her hand on his shoulder and softly smiled, with her devoted eyes looking into Adam's doleful and dreamy eyes.

However, when Adam sitting by Eve heard the rustle of rose-trees, inside he felt Lilit's breath. Among all scents of the paradise he felt Lilit's scent and among the warbling of nightingales - Lilit's voice.

When kind Eve fondled Adam and with her black hair covered Adam's face, however Adam saw only Lilit's golden-glowing hair which covered all the horizons.

When there raged a tempest and a gale, he saw Lilit rapidly rushing by him, and when the lightning cracked the sky, that was Lilit's burning love which was splitting Adam's heart.

When he closed his eyes, he saw Lilit's deeply beautiful image in his heart, when he was looking at the stars, among them he was beholding Lilit's eyes and in the deep sun - Lilit in full body...

His sounded "Eve", but his soul resounded "Lilit".

And when he made an effort to forget Lilit, he was embracing his faithful Eve, snuggling her up to his breast and kissing - at that time he was seeing Lilit pressed to his breast, kissing Lilit, feeling Lilit, only and exclusively Lilit...

And lived Adam waiting and craving always for Lilit, and died Adam groaning and dreaming only and only for Lilit.

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