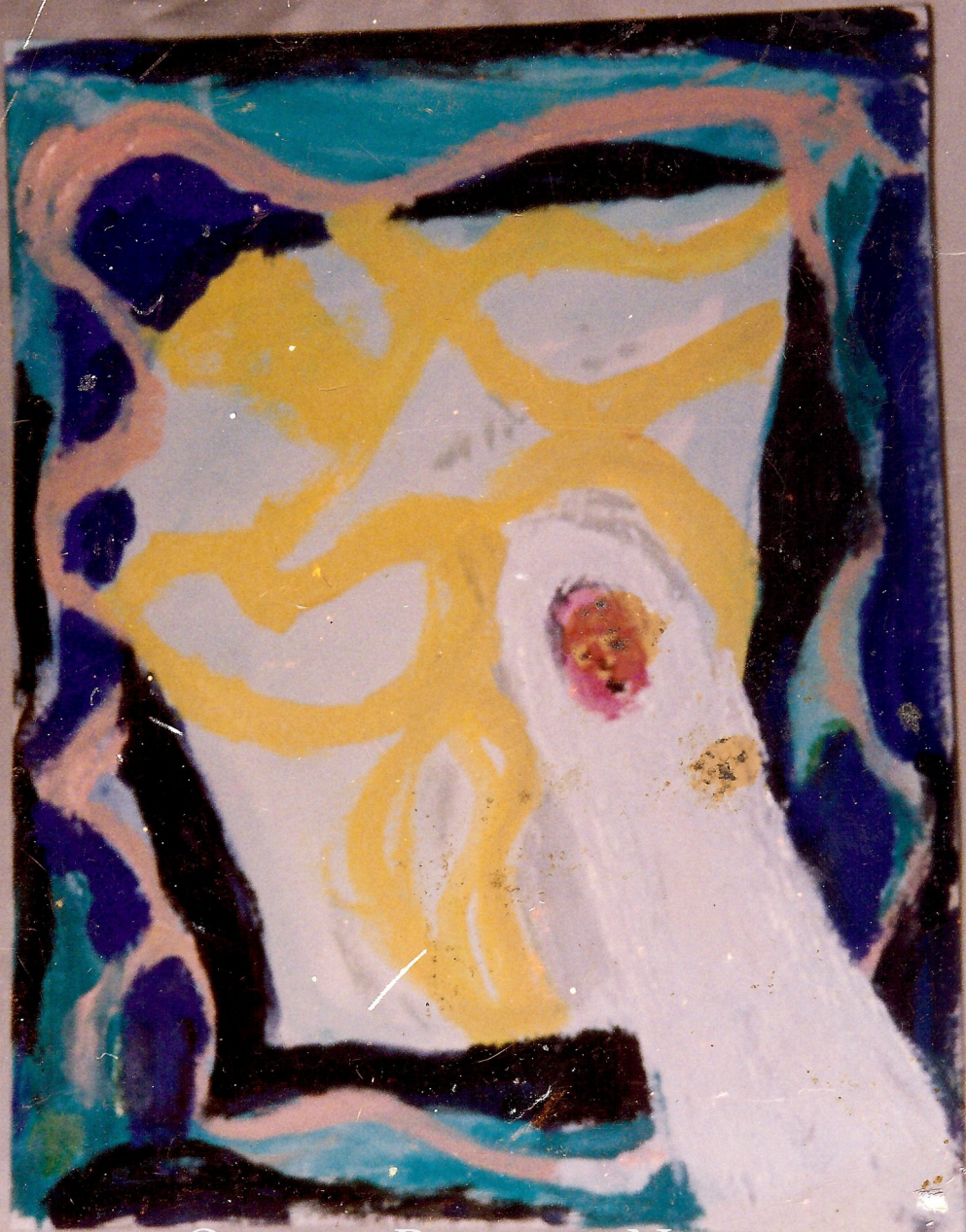


JUHANI IHANUS



ON THE ROAD TO NARVA
THE KABBALIST

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THE KABBALIST

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ISBN 978-952-215-382-1

TYPESET

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COVER IMAGE

Jyrki Pellinen

PRINTER

BoD – Books on Demand, Norderstedt, Saksa

2013

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www.ntamo.net

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On the Road to Narva the Kabbalist

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“... the genesis of language is as spontaneous an impulse as the urge of an embryo toward birth at the moment of its maturation. ... Only the obscure visionary or the brute, the most abstract prophet or the monad lost in dreams might think entirely without the help of words.”

Johann Gottfried Herder, *On the Origin of Language*

“Be still my tongue: here profit not
to tell the whole truth with clear face unveiled.”

Pindar, *Nemean 5*, epode 1

“A spark of impenetrable darkness flashed within the
concealed of the concealed.”

Zohar

I Memory of the Road

A sentence ahead
uncompleted,
unlived

From here on I tell
the passers-by
the doctrine
of the short path

They will keep to it
until the next crossword
or Sudoku
to be attempted

Nothing wrong with that,
except all words adrift,
puzzled
in keen pursuit of
the presence, voices hushed in a
midriff, vibrating between
seven-pronged notes of oblivion

The head almost gone
immersed in
viscous blood

the boxer's heart
upside down
fibres hanging
from the sides

the front painted
with red dots,
hands raised marking victory
as well as surrender

a two-fold being,
nobody breathing a syllable
against this background



Start a tour of poems for exploring the mindscapes of the northern Kabbalah. Neither truths nor dooms act here as guiding stars, but the road to wisdom is marked by itchy silence and obscure insight. While riding the chariot, the Fair Kabbalist is at full lick emptying all the cups of light and sliding faked cards from the sleeves.

Let's be Frank: puzzling emanations embrace the blissful path, and reading hands hover on the verge of these disconcerting and enwrapping texts.

JUHANI IHANUS is a poet, a literary critic, an established poetry therapist, and a cultural psychologist. *ON THE ROAD TO NARVA THE KABBALIST*, loosely based on his collaborations with the Finnish poet, Jyrki Pellinen, is his first book of poetry in English.