

ORIGINAL LOVE

by Sandra Merimo

Original Love

Original title: Ursprunglig kärlek

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Translated from the Swedish by the author. Thanks to Marianne Sheehan for helping me improving the English in my translation.

This play has previously been published in the book "Three plays by Sandra Merimo 1997-98", with the number: ISBN 91-630-7314-5

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ORIGINAL LOVE

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Place: The Garden of Eden, in the centre of the Temple of Love, on the star Estheris.
(The stage directions are suggestions.)

Time: The present (The play was written in 1998.)

Characters:

ESTHER

- the Goddess of Love on the star Estheris.

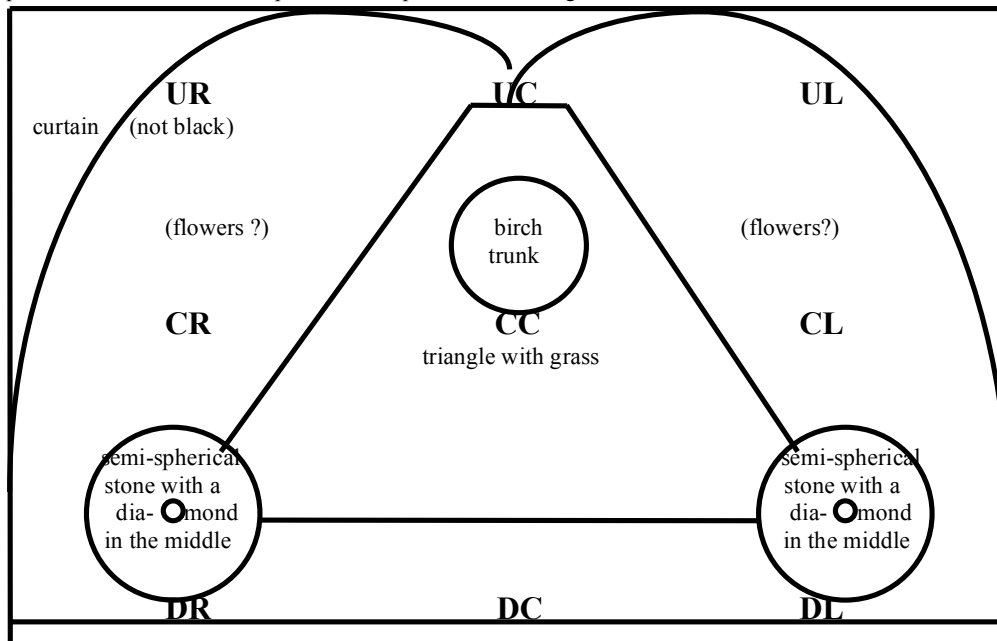
STELLA

- has earlier lived on Earth as Ella, but died 27 years of age. If she would have stayed on living on Earth she would now be 34 years. Now she lives an eternal life on Estheris and her body is ethereal and lighter than a physical body.

ELIAS / WILLIAM

- has turned 32 years. On Earth his name is William, and he has a well-paid job as a financial advisor. Nine years ago he met Ella and they had a love relationship.

a white cover, (maybe) a briefcase, a mobile phone
apple pie and vanilla custard on a plate with a spoon, a metal ring



Esther sits (CC) leaning towards the white birch trunk and meditates. Depending on the distance to the ceiling of the stage, the whole birch can be seen or else only the trunk of the birch. If the leaves are showing they are light green like in the spring. It is a warm light (without shadows) in the Garden of Eden in the Temple of Love. By one of the stones close to the curtain (CL/DL) lies William absolutely still, partly covered with a white cover. Esther knows that William soon will die on Earth and she has prepared his arrival at the star Estheris. When she is sitting there in her meditative state she perceives that Stella is on her way to the Temple of Love. Esther rises, puts the cover over William and walks to the opening (UC). She meets Stella, who walks in (towards UR). Stella has lived on Estheris since she died on Earth, seven Earth-years ago. Esther is her guide, who has helped her to work out the life she lived on Earth (as Ella):

STELLA (/ELLA)

I'm not well... the memories have come back... I don't know why... It came so suddenly... I thought I'd be fine by now...

ESTHER

What do you feel, my child?...

STELLA (/ELLA)

I'm on edge... it's like he's calling for me...

ESTHER

Trust your intuition...

STELLA (/ELLA)

It's embarrassing... I need to be stronger... I can't be carried away by my feelings like this...

ESTHER

Calm yourself... Everything is as it should be...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Why can't I see that?...

ESTHER

You're learning...

STELLA (/ELLA)

...slowly, you mean...

ESTHER

Yes... slowly... it takes time to learn...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Thank you for receiving me...

ESTHER

Please, sit down...

Stella sits down on the stone (CR/DR):

STELLA (/ELLA)

I'm so disappointed with myself... I've gone through this time after time... I'm drawn to him so much that I lose myself...

ESTHER

Your relationship has been distorted...

STELLA (/ELLA)

I become so dependent... Everything revolves around him... I think I would have coped with this in a better way if I hadn't had my miscarriage...

ESTHER

Did it help to meet her?

STELLA (/ELLA)

Yes, it helped... She said she hadn't been able to come through since I was so unhappy... but it's not that... It's as if the miscarriage became a sign that our love had no ground... that it couldn't bear fruit...

ESTHER

What does your feeling tell you?...

STELLA (/ELLA)

My feeling is still telling me that our love was true... original in some way...

ESTHER

...and why can't it be like that?...

STELLA (/ELLA)

...it's like everything breaks down!... as if no one trusts in love... as if we're letting everything break down, because we don't trust in it...

ESTHER

There are many who want to separate two people who love each other... and in your case they succeeded...

STELLA (/ELLA)

But why?...

ESTHER

We'll talk about that some other time... Right now it's more important for you to regain your strength...

*Esther leads Stella to the birch and she sits down and leans towards the trunk (CC).
Esther sits down on the grass and leans back at the stone (CR/DR):*

Relax... you know the rest...

Stella closes her eyes and relaxes. The life force in the tree helps her to experience a connection with her inner strength. She starts to breathe deeply and calmly and is filled with energy of love. Bird song can be heard. Stella concludes her meditation and looks up towards the trunk, feeling relieved. She laughs:

STELLA

I wish I could always feel this love energy within me...

ESTHER

You will.

STELLA

It's such a pleasure being here... I love this Temple. This is like Earth when She is as beautiful as She can be...

ESTHER

The Temple is built of love... like an idea form for how life on Earth was meant to be...

STELLA

What went wrong in the Garden of Eden?...

ESTHER

People lost their innocence...

It is quiet for a short while:

STELLA

I've been wondering about some memories I've got... events which I think I've experienced, but they didn't happen when I lived on Earth as Ella... it seems as if I share someone else's memories... In any case... it must have been a long time ago: I have a husband and we have three small children... my husband reminds me of William, but it's not him... We live in a little cottage up high on a beautiful mountain... and we are very happy... It's like it's *natural* to be happy...

ESTHER

You say it's not William?

STELLA

His face looks different... Then one day he's just gone and I never find out what really happened... Another man appears... He beats and defiles me... as if he thinks he has the right to do so... Then he moves into the cottage and forces me to work for him... From that day on it's like life turns grey and I can't see any colours... I grieve for my husband and think he's lost forever. Sometimes I think I'm to blame for his disappearance, although I know deep inside that it's not true...

ESTHER

Do you know why you're telling me this now?...

STELLA

No.

ESTHER

Do you think it's got something to do with William... and your miscarriage?

STELLA

I don't know... you mean that I lost my husband...

ESTHER

What happened to the children?...

STELLA

They were still there, but I hardly paid attention to them... I was so unhappy...

ESTHER

I think this event has affected your relationship...

STELLA

But it's not my memories and even if the man reminded me of William, it wasn't him...

ESTHER

That's true. You had other identities then. You share the memories with the woman you were at that time...

STELLA

How?

ESTHER

Now you're Stella...

STELLA

Yes...

ESTHER

...and you have your origin here on Estheris and you live an eternal life here...

STELLA

Yes...

ESTHER

...but when you've lived on Earth and on other planets, then you've had other identities...

STELLA

...so the memories are someone else's and this someone is a part of myself, but it's not me, Stella?...

ESTHER

It's not your original identity, no... and you'll never live, having that subjective ego again... It's tied to a certain room and a certain time... The reason you remember this now, is that you can learn something from what happened... If I read you correctly, these are very old memories...

STELLA

Who was the man who violated me?...

ESTHER

Do you recognize him?

STELLA

Vaguely...

ESTHER

Either he belonged to those who keep on plundering the Earth without Her permission, or else he was influenced by them...

STELLA

He was horrible... I'll never forget his eyes...

Esther perceives that William is soon to arrive:

ESTHER

Stella, I have to ask you to leave the Temple very soon...

Stella rises to leave:

You don't have to leave right away. You can stay a while longer...

Stella might walk, sit down or lie down in the grass:

STELLA

All of Earth must have been this beautiful once?...

ESTHER

She was... before She was raped... The question is if you people value Her... if you love Her?...

STELLA

I feel ashamed when you say that... When I lived there I never perceived how She was tortured... I was too wrapped up in my own pain...

ESTHER

Don't put any blame on yourself. You were limited and unaware, so you're not to blame... But it's still possible to save the Garden of Eden. It can still become a reality for all people living on Earth.

STELLA

I wish I could have another chance to go there... I know so much more now...

ESTHER

If so, when would you like to leave?...

STELLA

As soon as possible.

ESTHER

Don't you want to stay here until you find a match?

STELLA

No. I don't think I'll find anyone. Everyone else seems to find their equal, except me... It's better that I return to Earth.

ESTHER

Are you sure?

STELLA

Of course. I'd like to teach people how they can love the Earth...

ESTHER

You don't think you'll be unhappy again?...

STELLA

Oh no, there's no risk of that... Oh... you mean what happened just now... But that was just temporary... I've felt incredibly strong lately... I know I could handle living alone on Earth...

ESTHER

Oh well, I guess you should do what you think is best...

Stella is about to leave the Temple (and to the Original power which she has within herself, she is going to wish that she will be granted to leave Estheris):

STELLA

The sooner I leave, the better...

ESTHER

It sounds good... Oh, I just remembered, there's something I forgot to tell you: William is coming here.

Stella's whole world of perceiving stops when she hears this news:

STELLA (/ELLA)

William...

ESTHER

Yes, I thought...

STELLA (/ELLA)

...is he coming here?

ESTHER *teasing*

I thought you might want to see him, but if you've decided that you want to leave Estheris, then you might not be interested...

STELLA (/ELLA)

When is he coming?...

ESTHER

He might already be on his way...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Oh, I can hardly wait...

ESTHER

Stella, I suppose I need to warn you. William has changed. He's not the same person he was when you two met...

STELLA (/ELLA)

It doesn't matter.

ESTHER

At first he might not even recognize you...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Do you think so?...

ESTHER

It happens sometimes...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Is he leaving a wife and children on Earth?...

ESTHER

I'm not supposed to answer that question, but you'll find out soon enough: No, he leaves no family...

STELLA (/ELLA)

I've always wondered what happened afterwards...

Stella understands that Esther has known about William's arrival for quite a long time:

Why haven't you told me this before?

ESTHER

You haven't been ready for it. It was important that you found your own strength first...

Stella is overjoyed:

STELLA (/ELLA)

I never thought I'd see him again... When is he coming, no, I forgot, I've already asked that... You'll call for me when it's time, won't you?

ESTHER *teasing*

I don't think I'll need to call for you...

STELLA (/ELLA) *happy*

I don't think so either...

ESTHER

I have to ask you to leave now.

STELLA (/ELLA)

Oh, I see... You're going to meet your Equal here?...

Esther does not answer.

I'm glad I could talk to you.

Stella is about to leave, but feels that something is holding her back. She has seen that there is a body (CL) under the cover behind the stone and she knows that Esther meets the people who have their origin on Estheris, when they die on Earth. Now she understands that William is the one who is going to arrive:

That's William, isn't it?...

ESTHER

Yes.

STELLA (/ELLA)

Let me stay and welcome him!... Please!...

ESTHER

You'll soon meet him... but I want you to leave now.
Don't worry, all is prepared.

STELLA (/ELLA)

How long do I have to wait?

Esther leads out Stella, who does not want to leave and longingly looks at William:

ESTHER

Stella, come now.

STELLA (/ELLA)

Wait! I want to look at him once more...

ESTHER

Stella. You have to leave now. Now.

Esther manages to get Stella out. William is soon going to arrive but is now lying absolutely still. Esther removes part of the cover so that he is not completely covered. Then she sits down like before by the trunk of the birch (CC). With her consciousness she ensures that William's travel from the Earth to Estheris goes as easy as possible. (She stays sitting there until William calms down.) A gentle wind can be heard going through the Temple and William "wakes up" with a jerk. He has just crossed the street in the morning's rush hour and been hit by a Jaguar. He is in the City and on his way to the company MMR (MakeMeRich), where he works as a financial advisor. In William's mind he is still on Earth and he sees everything around him (the street, the tall buildings, the cars, the people...etc.) as if he was still there.

William rises and shouts to the driver (a man), who he can see sitting in the Jaguar in front of him (towards the centre of the stage where the stone is, CL/DL):

WILLIAM (/ ELIAS)

Look where you're going!!! That was really dangerous!
You're driving like a bloody idiot!

The driver is in shock and stares right in front of him and William tries to get his attention:

Get out and let's talk about this!... Hello! I'm here!...
What the hell are you staring at?! Are you in shock?!...
Can't you see I'm okay?... Nothing's broken... So
come out, then!

William walks up on the pavement (DL/DC/DR) and brushes the dust (from the street) off his nice suit. (In his consciousness he hears the sound from the cars and he sees the people walking past him on the pavement):

So drive off then, damn it! You're blocking the traffic...

William takes up his mobile phone to call his work and say that he is late:

Oh no... what's wrong with this?... What a bloody
morning!...

He sees that a well-built man is about to walk right through him, so he moves quickly to the side. Then he screams after the man:

Hey, you, I'm not invisible, you know!...

William stops. He feels strange and dizzy, as if he was about to faint and he has difficulty seeing:

So, what's happening now?... Damn, I can't see anything...
I must have got concussion?... Where's that light coming
from?...

William starts to perceive the light on Estheris and it is blinding him. The street is slowly fading away in his mind. He sits down, since he feels he is "losing his grip":

Maybe I should see the doctor, just in case...

William's head feels heavy and he lies down:

I'm losing it... Can... can somebody help me, please!...

Esther walks up to him. She is completely calm and strokes his hair to calm him down:

ESTHER

It's okay. Everything's fine.

William looks up, confused. He thinks Esther is a nurse:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Who are you?... Am I in a hospital?... I must have fainted... What's wrong with me?...

ESTHER

Just be calm.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I was supposed to meet a client... Can you phone for me and say that something came up?...

ESTHER

You're not going to do anything right now...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I don't think you understand... it's an *important* client...

ESTHER

You've come to the star Estheris and I am here to help you.

William laughs. He is still looking through half-open eyes (because of the bright light) and cannot see his surroundings properly:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

What did you say?... Estris?... And what are you, then? A star?... I'm sorry, but I've never heard of you... No offence, please... Can you get me a doctor immediately! There's something wrong with my eyesight... I was hit by a car just now... I might have concussion...

ESTHER

Your body is transforming...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Transforming?... I'm not having plastic surgery, am I?... Bring me a mirror, please! What's happened??!... Is my face damaged?!...

ESTHER

There's nothing wrong with you. Relax.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Relax!! Give me a mirror!

William rushes up. He still has difficulty seeing his surroundings and he feels unsteady:

Where am I, really? This is not a hospital... Do you live here?...

ESTHER

Yes, but it's just as much your home...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Have you kidnapped me?...

William suddenly feels worried and Esther laughs, warmly and welcoming:

ESTHER

Oh no, I would never do that...

WILLIAM (/ ELIAS)

But where have you taken me? Is this some kind of club?...

ESTHER

Club?

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Yeah... dance club...

ESTHER

You're welcome to dance if you want to...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Could you please turn out some lights?

ESTHER

No... I can't.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

The light's blinding me.

ESTHER

You'll get used to it.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Ah, now I know... This is the "Candid Camera", right?... Admit it!

ESTHER *puzzled*

Candid... camera?!...

William is sure that he now understands what is happening. His eyes are beginning to get used to the light and he sees more of his surroundings:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I should've guessed. Okay. Where's the camera?...

ESTHER

What camera?

WILLIAM (/ELIAS) *ashamed*

I can't believe I fell for it.

ESTHER

William, I don't know what you're talking about...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Aha, you know my name... That was a slip of the tongue...

ESTHER

William, calm down now and listen to me:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Oh, yes, I'm completely calm and I'm listening... Can we get this over and done with, so that I can leave...

ESTHER

You'll be staying here for a while... William, you're dead. You've just died in a car accident.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

No. Wait! This is not funny anymore... It's one thing that you brought me here... it's okay, it doesn't matter... but don't try to fool me into thinking that I'm dead... I'm not in the mood right now... This joke has gone too far!

Esther lets William get used to his new surroundings in his own pace:

Right... then you stop talking... You could at least tell me where I am!

ESTHER *calmly and patiently*

You're on the star Estheris.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS) *giving up*

Yes, of course I am. Where else would I be? What was it called, did you say?

ESTHER

Estheris.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Esth-e-ris. Wonderful...

William is (slowly) influenced by the loving atmosphere on Estheris:

It's unusually beautiful here... But where does the light come from?... It's like sun light, although we're inside?... or aren't we?... Don't tell me you've taken me to the countryside!... with cow shit and insects...

ESTHER

You're not on Earth anymore.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Oh, that's right... we're playing that game... I'm on a star... What's your name, by the way?

ESTHER

Esther.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Of course. Esther on Estheris... and what are you?... a bouncer guarding the door?...

ESTHER

You could say I'm your guide.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Good. Then you can let me out of here...

ESTHER

You'll have to stay here until your body has stabilized.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I *am* stable! You can let me out any time!!..... Funny though... when you say it, my body feels lighter somehow... and my ulcer doesn't bother me, even though I've forgotten to take my medicine... Maybe you're a nurse after all?... Have you given me something?... Am I hallucinating?...

ESTHER

I know this is difficult to grasp. You've just died, William, and I understand your confusion. It's difficult to orientate at first.

William has a strong fear of death and is convinced that death means the end:

WILLIAM (ELIAS)

Don't talk about death! I know I'm not dead, because I can see you and talk to you! I can see my own body too.

ESTHER

You could say that this is your rebirth on Estheris.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Rebirth??!

ESTHER

This is where you lived before you came to Earth.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

What are you talking about? I wasn't anywhere *before* I was born?... Besides, I'm not dead... so I can't have come back to a place where I was before I lived, since I'm still alive!

ESTHER

I'm confusing you. You're right. It's true that you've never been here before. You, William, were born on Earth, but your true self, which we call Elias, lived here before he decided he wanted to go back to Earth.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I can't take any more of this... I don't know who Elias is... and he can live wherever he wants, as long as he doesn't bother me...

ESTHER

You'll soon understand. You have an inner self who we here call Elias, which isn't really correct, since you actually have no gender... Anyway, Elias has incarnated many times on Earth and even on other planets... at first as a woman and later as a man...

William does not understand. He feels a bit uneasy, but is still beginning to be influenced by what Esther says:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

...let's say, if I was dead... How come I've got a body?...

ESTHER

You said you were feeling lighter?...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Yes.

ESTHER

You don't have a physical body anymore.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

It looks just the same.

ESTHER

...because your thoughts are keeping it in its form. You can change your body by thinking about it. You don't have to age here on Estheris. You can transform into any shape you like.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

No.

ESTHER

Not right now, because you think it's impossible, but you'll soon learn... Your ulcer's gone, for instance.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

It's gone?... It's probably just temporarily better...

ESTHER

It's gone. ...if you don't want to create a new one, that is...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Am I in good health?...

ESTHER

Of course you are.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I've wanted that for a long time... even if it's kind of in demand to have an ulcer... it goes with the job somehow..... Not that I believe it, but... can you prove that I'm dead?...

ESTHER

Do you want to see your physical body? It's still on Earth.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS) *amused*
How can you show me that?... if we're on a star,
as you say...

ESTHER
You can see the Earth through the diamond in the stone.

Esther suggests that he looks through one of the stones (CL/DL):

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)
Through this one?... So how does it work?...

ESTHER
You just have to look... you don't have any problems
with your sight now, do you?...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)
Oh no... no...

William feels worried and hesitates to look through the quite large diamond, which exists like a "stick" through the middle of the stone:

Right, so I'm supposed to look through here?...

ESTHER
Do you really want to see your body?

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)
Oh yes... Of course...

William relaxes and realizes how silly he is. He is convinced that he is still living with his physical body on Earth. He laughs, relieved:

Yes, of course I want to... So, I'll look here, then...

William looks down through the diamond in the stone (CL/DL), while Esther moves her hand above the diamond in the other stone (CR/DR):

Well, I can't see anything... Am I supposed to see my
body by looking through here?...

William looks away, being relieved that he did not see anything:

ESTHER
Take another look...

William looks one more time and expects to see only the diamond, but this time he sees his body lying in the street before the car. He sees ambulance personnel lifting the body onto a stretcher. He does not want to continue to watch, but he cannot stop:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

There has to be something wrong?... What's this?...
That can't be me?...

Esther hopes that he will realize that he has died, so that he can let go of his attachment to his dead physical body, which is now a coating he has peeled off:

The head is covered in blood... and they're covering
me with a blanket... as if I'm dead?...

William panics:

No!... It can't be true!!... Am I dead?!... No!!... I...
I haven't got *time* to be dead... I've got lots to do...
this can't have happened... not now, anyway... I'm
still young!... Help me!!... Say it's not true... it can't
be true!...

Esther says nothing, but feels compassion for his pain and fear:

There has to be some justice... I can't die!... not this
way... It can't have happened...

William seeks protection in some way, maybe through curling up by the stone or under the tree. He feels like he is freezing:

Is there a God?... I want to speak to him!... I might not
be dead... there is some condition called dead-alive...
maybe the doctors can resurrect me?...

ESTHER

You died immediately, William. That's why you didn't
notice when it happened.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I don't believe this. Something must have gone wrong.
I had a brilliant career in front of me... All that can't
be taken away from me like this!...

ESTHER

You can't own anything on Earth... everything is just
a loan...

William thinks about this for a short while:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Oh... so you mean my body is just a loan?

ESTHER

The Earth gave of her materia so that your body could be created...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

...but I was killed!

ESTHER

The driver didn't mean to kill you... he's in shock too... Before you were born on Earth, your inner self had decided what you needed to go through during your lifetime... Now you've learnt those experiences... and you didn't need to stay there...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I don't remember that... and in that case I'll change my mind!

ESTHER

You can't change your mind. It's already happened.

William is beginning to accept that he has really died:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

But... but I still have my identity?...

ESTHER

Your identity as William is related to your body. Now you've taken off that coating and you'll never again incarnate as William.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

So I'm both dead and alive?...

ESTHER

William is only a mask you've been carrying. Here on Estheris you'll remember your basic identity, Elias.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Elias?... Should that be me?

ESTHER

You'll have to learn to listen to yourself.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Ah, I've heard so many people talking about that...
You're supposed to *listen* to yourself... and go to a
Men's camp and howl... and find the true man within...

ESTHER *amused*

...and you haven't longed to do that?...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS) *denigrating*

One of my friends went to a camp like that... He came
back and said that he'd found a tiger inside of him...

ESTHER

What if he did?

William does not bother to answer.

Some people discover their basic identities while they
still live on Earth, but in your case you've been quite
trapped by your striving for materia...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

What's wrong with that?... I want to live a good life...

ESTHER

You can. As long as you don't influence the realities of
others, then you can create any existence you like... and
here on Estheris it goes much faster than on Earth... but
it also disappears as fast...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

But then, what's the point?

ESTHER

Everything which you don't love, disappears.

*William thinks about this for a few seconds, but he does not understand the full
meaning of it. He starts to relax a bit and is getting used to his situation. He
thinks that he has not ended up in such a bad place, after all:*

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

All right. I'm here now... and I guess I'm not alone...
So what do you do around here?... Do you sit and drink
champagne all day long?...

ESTHER *laughing*

Of course we do. All the time.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS) *joking*

Do I get a halo?

ESTHER

Oh yes. Hallelujah.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Will I get to see my relatives?... grandfather and grandmother, for example?...

ESTHER

You'll meet them. Don't you want to change your clothes?

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Yes, why not... since I'll be staying here... Do you have designer clothes?

ESTHER *joking*

"Made in Heaven"... is that good enough?... William, there's someone who'd very much like to see you. May I let her in?

Esther walks towards the opening (UC). William thinks that it is his grandmother who wants to see him:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Of course. I think I know who it is... Let her in. I haven't seen her since I was a child.

ESTHER

I'll leave you for now. I'll come back later with new clothes.

Esther leaves and William shouts after her:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Do I get wings, too?

ESTHER

Is that what you want?

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

No... it can wait...

Esther leaves (UC).

William is alone for a few moments. Stella is full of hope, but also a bit afraid of how William will react, when she walks into the Temple. William is expecting to meet his grandmother. When he sees someone else entering, he does not look very closely:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Hi?...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Hi.....

William has not recognized Stella, or Ella which was her identity on Earth:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I'm waiting for my grandmother... she'll be here soon...

Now William recognizes her and he feels a mixture of happiness (he has longed to meet her), shame (he left her for someone else when she was pregnant with their child) and fear (he is now talking to an absolutely dead person):

Ella!... it's you!...

Both are quiet and do not know what to say. They become shy, almost like two children:

I didn't expect to meet you... but... you're dead!...

STELLA (/ELLA)

You're dead too...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS) *confused*

Oh, right...

STELLA (/ELLA)

How are you?

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Ahm... it feels weird... I haven't got used to this yet...

I was hit!... by a Jaguar...

STELLA (/ELLA)

I've longed to see you...

Stella walks closer and strokes him on the cheek. William has regretted his action many (Earth-)years ago:

WILLIAM (/ELIAS) *surprised*

Aren't you angry with me?...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Not anymore...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I'm sorry.

STELLA (/ELLA)

I forgave you a long time ago... I came to the conclusion that you hadn't wanted to hurt me...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Of course I didn't want to do that... I regretted what I'd done, but it was too late... I tried to get hold of you. Your mother told me you'd died...

STELLA (/ELLA)

I've thought so much about you... I didn't know if I was going to see you again..... although I was very angry with you at first... you leaving like that without a warning... I didn't understand?...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I wanted to make a career... and Jackie was a step on the ladder... I thought I loved her...

STELLA (/ELLA) *surprised*

You didn't?

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

No... but she didn't love me either... She left me for a plastic surgeon...

It is quiet for a short while:

STELLA (/ELLA)

When I had my miscarriage it was like you'd been right... that our relationship wouldn't have lasted anyway...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I didn't value what we had... I did get a career, but I can't say that it really made me happy...

STELLA (/ELLA)

You went to the United States, didn't you?...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Yes... We were engaged and moved to New York... Then when Jackie left me I moved back... Jackie's father had contacts within the financial business and he helped me get work... I've done well... I really have...

STELLA (/ELLA)

I actually hoped you'd get what you wished for...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

And so I did... but what does it matter now?... Now I've lost everything.

STELLA (/ELLA)

You would have died sooner or later...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

I know... but I haven't had time to enjoy my success... I've always been working... I was going to travel... and buy a house by the coast...

STELLA (/ELLA)

...and go riding?...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

...go riding...

William and Stella look at each other and remember how they met nine Earth-years ago. Stella (then Ella, 25 years) worked in a stable and William (then 23) had just started working in a bank. All the employees at that bank office met one Sunday to socialize and the ones who wanted could try riding. William and Stella soon realized that they liked each other. In the evening all the bank employees had gathered around a camp fire and it was that evening they began their relationship.

I'm so happy to see you... When I heard that you'd died, I thought I'd lost you forever... I've never believed in an after-life...

Stella's feelings are almost overwhelming her. She is so happy:

STELLA (/ELLA)

I haven't known that you were coming here... I found out just now... It was like you were crying for me...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Esther claimed that my inner self knew that I was going to die now... I can't really say that *I* was prepared... Did you see me by looking through the diamond?...

STELLA (/ELLA)

No... Esther hasn't let me follow your life on Earth... She's said that you should live your own life there and that I could only influence you if you asked me to...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

How did you die?

STELLA (/ELLA)

In a riding accident... I was riding Star when she stopped suddenly before a barrier... It was quite close to the lake... where we made the camp fire... I was conscious for a few more hours...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

You've been here for... seven years now?...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Seven Earth-years... it's not the same time here...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Right... I guess it's not... You know, I've always thought that death means the end... darkness... but I have to say it's very bright here... Are we actually on a star?

STELLA (/ELLA)

Yes. ...and this is the Garden of Eden... we're in the centre of the Temple of Love.

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

What?... the Garden of Eden?...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Mmm...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

Mmm?...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Come and sit down with your back towards the trunk and let the birch adopt you...

WILLIAM (/ELIAS)

What do you mean?... It's a tree...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Don't mind about that... Sit down...

William sits down (CC) with his back towards the trunk of the birch. He does not understand what Stella means:

Relax... The birch will take care of you...

William relaxes and after a while he hears a low humming sound, which sounds like it comes from the earth and the roots. It is the song of the Earth. The birch adopts him and he is filled with a love energy that he has only felt a few times before. He is close to crying because the feelings are so strong. He breathes calmly and deeply. For the first time since his childhood, he also connects to his inner self, Elias, which makes him feel strong and safe. William comes out of his meditation:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

The feeling is so strong... I think the tree loves me...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Of course... Do you love the birch?

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Yes... I do!

William hugs the birch out of joy. Stella is happy to see William being so happy:

Did you say we're in the Garden of Eden?

STELLA (/ELLA)

Yes... This is part of the Temple of Love...

William is still inquiring and Stella laughs:

Do you expect me to offer you an apple?

WILLIAM / ELIAS *laughing*

No, no... in that case I'd wish for apple pie... But what does one do in the Garden of Eden?

STELLA (/ELLA)

What do you think?...

William guesses correctly and Stella is of the same mind. They begin a "mating dance":

WILLIAM / ELIAS

It's been a long time...

William wants to catch Stella's eyes:

You said you had longed for me...

STELLA (/ELLA)

Did I?...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Have you longed for anything in particular?...

STELLA (/ELLA)
What would that be?...

WILLIAM / ELIAS
My presence...

STELLA (/ELLA)
...in me?...

WILLIAM / ELIAS
Yeah... have you longed for that?...

STELLA (/ELLA)
Maybe...

WILLIAM / ELIAS *smiles*
So you're not sure...

Stella smiles back:

I love you.

Stella is happy and hugs him:

STELLA
...and I love you.

They look into each other's eyes. They know that they belong, as if they had been twins and they are sure of each other's love:

Before I met you I didn't know that love could be so strong... I knew immediately that I liked you... I didn't have to think about it... I must have seen myself in you...

WILLIAM / ELIAS
When I met you it was as if I already knew you... but I couldn't understand why...

They "drown" in each other's eyes and are now very close to kissing. Esther comes in and is happy to see them get along so well together. She carries William's new clothes (lighter and more comfortable than the suit) and a halo made of metal on one arm. In the other hand she holds a plate with apple pie, vanilla custard and a spoon (which she then places on one of the stones):

ESTHER
It's wonderful to see you back together again..... This must be your apple pie... I'll put it down here...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Apple pie?

ESTHER

Yes, you must have wished for it... with vanilla custard, right?

WILLIAM / ELIAS

I love vanilla custard... but...

ESTHER

...and here are your new clothes...

Esther gives the clothes to William:

You can change behind the tree if you want to... and then you'll get your halo afterwards...

William goes behind the tree and changes. He is curious about the halo. Stella thinks it is funny that William has wished for a halo, but she does not show him that:

STELLA

How is it going?

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Oh, just fine...

STELLA

I'll have some apple pie...

Stella eats a piece of the apple pie, which tastes "heavenly" good. William comes forward, wearing his new clothes:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

What do you think?...

STELLA

You look great...

Now William wants his halo and Esther gives him a large ring made of metal, which he places on his head. Stella has to control herself not to burst out laughing:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

...but I thought it would hover over my head?...

ESTHER

Then you must make it do so...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

How?

ESTHER

Well... you'll have to think that it's hovering up there
above your head...

*William concentrates and tries to make the metal ring to lift by his thinking power.
Stella cannot hold back any longer and bursts out in "hysterical" laughter:*

WILLIAM / ELIAS

What is it?

STELLA

You look so funny... William, it's only newcomers who
wish for a halo... that's how we recognize them... They
walk around here with their halos and wings and they sit
on little clouds and play the harp...

WILLIAM / ELIAS *feeling ridiculous*

Oh...

He gives the halo back to Esther:

...it wasn't that important... I just wanted to try it...

Stella does not want him to feel stupid:

STELLA

William, you don't need any of it...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

No, of course not...

ESTHER *teasing*

There's a place left in our beginner's course in harp
playing...

William realizes the comedy in the situation and laughs with Stella and Esther:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Okay... I get it...

ESTHER

Don't you want your pie?

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Yes, I do...

William starts eating his pie:

Mmm, it's so good... Who made this?...

STELLA

You wished for it... so you made it...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

...but I can't cook...

STELLA

Now you can...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

So I just have to wish for the food I want?...

ESTHER

Yes... you can eat as much as you want...

STELLA

You don't want to know how much I've been eating since I came her... without getting fat!...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

But... I haven't got a physical body anymore?...

ESTHER

No, that's true...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Do I have to eat at all?

ESTHER

No.

WILLIAM / ELIAS

But I still have a craving?...

STELLA

So, eat!...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

It seems so meaningless...

STELLA

Is it meaningless to like food?...

William does not know what he believes and continues to ponder.

ESTHER

All your wishes can come true... as long as they don't interfere with someone else's reality...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Aha?... but how do I know that they don't?

ESTHER

If you believe there are shortages and that the resources won't last for you... that's when you start thinking that you need to grab things from others...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Aren't there always limited resources?...

ESTHER

The people *think* that the resources are limited... so they grab and collect enormous amounts of riches... as if the Earth would end tomorrow...

STELLA

Isn't that what's about to happen?

Esther likes to teach and she takes her chance:

ESTHER

Yes, but that situation is *created*... The Earth actually has *unlimited* resources... She answers and gives you food... no one would need to go hungry... but for people to discover that, they'd need to live simple lives in close harmony with nature. The Garden of Eden can still be recreated and only people can do it... *You* two can do it... not alone of course, but with the help of others... All of you carry Paradise within you and you can at any time manifest it on the surface...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Has the Garden of Eden really existed?... I've always thought it's a fairy tale...

ESTHER

It has really existed... but now there's not much left of it... Within you, you carry old memories of how it was to live in the Garden of Eden. If you could reach those memories, everything would go smoother... Now you're so convinced that love doesn't last... There was a split up between men and women a very long time ago... and you're still influenced by the memories of that separation, but you keep placing it into the future the whole time... The break up has already happened!... You don't need to revive it again and again... Now it's time for reunion and love!..... You could say that the Garden of Eden still exists on Earth, but that it's been distorted... just like your love's been distorted...

STELLA

Why is that?

ESTHER

Many people believe they are living in a limited and loveless world, where you have to fight to survive. When they experience love, they don't believe it... It usually ends with them distorting the love, to prove, both to themselves and to others, that it's not genuine...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Is that a hint for me?

ESTHER

Do you think it is?

WILLIAM / ELIAS

I recognize my own behaviour...

STELLA

William, I did exactly the same thing... We're all influenced by how the collective describes our world...

(The author believes that the acting in most cases should be kept within the context of the play. Esther wants to influence William and Stella, and she has no reason to speak directly to the audience, as if she has "a bone to pick" with them.) Now Esther has become quite "energetic". She walks around gesticulating and she might show the two stones as examples of two opposite, equal forces:

ESTHER

You can say that women and men symbolize two opposite forces... which are both necessary... just like a plus- and a minus pole... or like two sides of the same coin... All humans have both a female and a male side within... Both forces are just as important. One can't exist without the other... What has happened is that the two forces have been separated and are now working away from each other... like a pair of twins with their backs towards each other, they work in opposite directions, instead of turning towards each other, looking into each other's eyes and working together... The male force has come into power and created a one-sided and limited world. The female force, which could open new possibilities, is not allowed to express itself, but is suffocated and denied. Women are defiled every day... and you're violating the Earth, your Mother, who loves you...

STELLA

Why has the male force come into power?

WILLIAM / ELIAS *teasing*

What do you think... We're smarter, better looking and sexier...

STELLA

No... are you?...

William flirts excessively and Stella cannot but flirt back:

ESTHER *joking*

I agree it's completely beyond comprehension... What do men have that we haven't?...

STELLA *teasing William*

There you go!...

ESTHER

The technique governed by male forces are actually threatening to extinguish everything alive on Earth... the natural environments of animals and plants are about to be destroyed... Life is not valued... People have to become more caring... and men have to learn to love the Woman again, without wanting to use or control Her... At the same time, it would be just as bad if the female force was in power... It's the balance... the harmony that's important to discover... like when a woman and a man look into each other's eyes and see that there's nothing dividing them...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

You say that we could help?... How?

ESTHER

I'm glad you're asking... Here on Estheris your hearts are open, which means that you can send love directly to Earth... You can also send a wish to the Original power within yourselves, and ask for a consent to return to Earth...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Return?... I think I want to stay here...

ESTHER (*2nd sentence to William*)

It's not completely up to you if you stay here or not... But right now it wouldn't be possible for you to return... your old body hasn't even been buried... Besides, you need to settle the life you've lived on Earth, before you can move on and incarnate into a new physical body...

STELLA

Esther... if we were to return... wouldn't there be a risk that we'd split up again?...

ESTHER

That's always a risk... Once you're on Earth you get new identities, new subjective egos, and then you forget your eternal lives here on Estheris... Besides, you might not be allowed to incarnate at the same time... you might need completely different experiences... But even if you did split up again, sooner or later you'd find your way back to each other... but Stella, I don't think you need to worry... this time you recognized Elias, didn't you...

STELLA

Yes, but I doubted our relationship so much... and you didn't recognize me...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Stella?

STELLA

Yes?...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Is that your name here?

STELLA

Yes.

William receives more memories of his life as Elias, when he thinks about the name "Stella":

WILLIAM / ELIAS *to himself*

Stella?...

STELLA

You didn't recognize me when I lived on Earth, did you?

WILLIAM / ELIAS

What?... If I recognized you?... No, I didn't... or rather I guess I did, but I was so distracted by other things in my life...

STELLA

I don't want to go back!... not now when we're *finally* back together again...

ESTHER

Stella... I don't know if you're going to return or not... It's not up to me... But don't forget that the Earth needs you... You can help Her much more by living there than by staying here...

STELLA

Is there no way we could be sure to recognize each other?...
that is, if we were allowed to return together...

ESTHER

Not really... you get caught up in the created world on
Earth... but you *have* to get caught up in it, so that you
later can see through it and liberate yourselves... You
have to learn to create your own realities and to want
to learn that, you'll first have to realize that your minds
are controlled and that you live limited lives in the
hands of other people...

STELLA

...but you can realize that and at the same time think
there's no way out...

ESTHER

There's always a way out... Sometimes you live caught
up in nightmares, without seeing it's a nightmare you
could wake up from... The darkest hour is when you
discover the light, and then you also see where it comes
from. Don't let the fear take charge!... go through it and
see where it leads... and don't look at it as a failure if
you'd split up again... it would only be temporary anyway...
This Now is always changing... What's true today might
not be true tomorrow... Be open and receive all the
miracles that take place...

*Both Stella and William/Elias have a lot to think about. Stella is still hesitating
and William has received so many impressions in so short time that he almost
feels numb. Esther realizes that she has pushed forward too fast. She sits down
by the birch:*

Come and sit here...

*Stella and William/Elias sit down, one on each side of her, and she holds her arms
around them as if they were two children:*

You need to rest... and think about all this... I'm rushing
things... I get so stirred up when I talk about the Earth
and about all that can be done to soothe Her pain... The
important thing now is that you heal your relationship...
Your love is original and cannot die... it can be distorted,
but never die... Remember your Origin... and remember
that we all come from the same source...

*When they are sitting there, it starts to rain. They hear its sound and can see the
beautiful (non-physical) water drops falling down. The rain stops after a short while:*

WILLIAM / ELIAS

...but I don't really understand?... if we did return,
as you say... What could we do?... I suppose the work
would need to be organized somehow...

ESTHER

No, the work shall not be organized. There'll be *no more*
societies or structures, for they tend to restrict love... I
understand the way you're thinking... that there should be
established some kind of world wide organization, which
would see to it that love governed everywhere... but it
wouldn't work... Besides, it's not necessary... Love is
born in our hearts... and with it comes a realization that
we are responsible for our actions... With your love for
each other, you can be a *living example* which'll help
other people to remember how it was to live in freedom
and to love.

WILLIAM / ELIAS

...but... if it's true that the Earth actually has unlimited
resources, which sounds unbelievable?... but if it's true,
mustn't that message be made public somehow?...
Otherwise, how could people take it in, so that they'll
change their behaviour?...

ESTHER

I suppose you mean that it should be made public through
what you call the mass media, but I don't believe it would
work... Media is a structure which is ruled by people who
want to control other people's behaviour... Love makes
people follow their hearts, so you can be quite sure that
a message of love would be twisted in your media... to
enhance what you call the "news factor"...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

But how could love reach out without influencing people's
opinion on a larger scale?...

ESTHER

A message of love is best given from person to person and
every human being is important. The Earth cannot be more
flourishing than its weakest link... When people wake up
and stop believing in enemies... when they learn to create
from the heart... then they discover that life is more than
a limited three-dimensional world... That's when they see
themselves in every other human...

STELLA

...but it's not for certain that you wake up, is it?... if you
don't know anything other than the world surrounding you...

ESTHER

It can be difficult, that's true... The realization has to come to each and every individual... Life on Earth can sometimes be like a prison for a person... but it is her *own* prison she's created for herself...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

If I'd known I'd end up here, I wouldn't have been afraid of dying... so why didn't I know about this?...

ESTHER

You've been governed by your fear... you let it rule you...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

...it feels as if I've missed my life somehow... like I've followed someone else's dream... The success didn't make me happy, but at the same time I couldn't stop myself...

ESTHER

...if you'd let love guide you, your life wouldn't have been so hemmed in and cold... If there's love, then no power hierarchies are needed... then there are no power struggles... Learn to listen with your heart and act on it... I'm glad you're here now, William... or Elias if I can call you that?... It's good to see you reunited..... I'll leave you now but we'll meet again, later...

Esther rises and picks up the white cover and the clothes that William took off. She smiles at them and leaves (UC) calmly and peacefully. William/Elias and Stella stay sitting for a while:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

She's probably the wisest woman I've ever met...

STELLA *teasing*

Thank you very much...

WILLIAM / ELIAS *(smiling)*

I didn't mean it that way... It's just that I'm not used to talking about this kind of issues...

STELLA

I agree with you... she's priceless...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

I called her a bouncer... I feel ashamed now...

STELLA

...but in a way you could say she is... She guards the Entrance and receives the people arriving... She met me, too... I was all confused and didn't know where I was...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

We seem to be accident prone...

STELLA

Slightly...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Right... are we stuck with each other forever now?...

STELLA

Forever...

WILLIAM / ELIAS *teasing*

How will I stand being with you all the time?...

STELLA

How will I stand being with you?... you always fart when we're on our own...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

I don't have a physical body anymore... so how could I fart?...

STELLA

I'm sure you'll manage somehow...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

I'll eat curry all the time...

STELLA

...but I don't have a physical body either... which means I can choose not to smell your farts...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

That's true... so what will I do to tease you?...

STELLA *smiling*

You'll come up with something...

The attraction between the two is gradually increasing:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Mmm... I think I will...

STELLA

I'm happy to spend the eternity with you, Elias...
D'you know that the chronological time is created and
that it doesn't really exist... but eternity is here and
now!... I never want to lose contact with you again...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

You never said that when we lived on Earth...

STELLA

I didn't think you felt the same... it seemed as if you
didn't...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

It would have helped if you had said something...

STELLA

I'm not so sure... You had really strong needs to
succeed... to be someone... I could never have satisfied
those needs...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

I guess you're right...

STELLA

Sometimes I've wondered why my longing for you
has been so strong... I think it's because I've been so
lonely and in some way I've searched for reassurance
in my own reflection... and to me, you're my mirror...
In you I see my equal...

Stella looks into William's/Elias's eyes:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

What about homosexuality?

STELLA

What about it?

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Ahm... well... you and I love each other... but what if
we were of the same sex?...

STELLA

Yes?...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Well?...

STELLA

William, you could say that we have no gender... The physical bodies have gender, so that it's possible to make babies... but we're really both man and woman at the same time... The reason you're called Elias and I'm called Stella, is that we've just been man and woman... Here on Estheris there's a harmony between female and male forces, but you shouldn't interpret that as if homosexual love was wrong... it just means that the two forces are of equal worth and that none of them have power over the other... Besides, the important thing is *love*... not the gender... Every human is unique and follows his or her own heart...

A sudden sound is heard, it can be a hissing sound or a rustling of the leaves:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

What was that?

STELLA

I don't know... it could have been the serpent...

William rises suddenly:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Is there a *serpent* here? ...of course, I should have figured that one out...

STELLA *laughing*

There are many animals here... But calm down... it's not dangerous...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

This is not funny!... you know I'm scared of snakes...

STELLA

Relax!... it can't hurt you...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Are you sure?...

STELLA

Completely sure.

William/Elias relaxes a bit:

WILLIAM / ELIAS

...so where is it?... why can't I see it?...

STELLA

The serpent is within us.

WILLIAM / ELIAS

Within us!?... don't be stupid, I haven't got a serpent
within me!...

William/Elias feels his sexual energy waking up:

Oh... you mean that serpent...

He realizes what usually happens in the Garden of Eden and he looks around:

Now I understand... I was wondering why these stones
were placed like this... Now I see it... they look like two
breasts, don't they?...

Stella is amused by seeing William/Elias discover the picture that can be seen:

...and this grass is growing in a triangle... with this
birch trunk strategically placed in the middle...

Stella laughs:

STELLA

It's a picture of the process of creation... the union of
the female and the male...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

It certainly is...

William/Elias feels horny:

Weren't we about to do something earlier when we got
interrupted?... what do you say if we continue where we
left off?...

STELLA

Please, yes...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

I want you, Ella... I mean Stella...

STELLA *tempting*

You do?... but don't you think it would be meaningless
to make love?... after all, we don't have any physical
bodies anymore...

WILLIAM / ELIAS

I don't give a damn about that!...

Stella smiles and entices him by withdrawing a bit from him:

Stella... Stella, I don't think I can restrain myself for
much longer...

Stella walks behind the birch trunk and William/Elias catches her there:

STELLA

What are you waiting for?...

The act of sex happens out of sight of the audience. The actors will not have to either undress nor kiss for real, but they can make sounds as if they are kissing and making love. It should be obvious that Stella and Elias/(William) have a very good time together. (Maybe different sounds are heard, from animals who live in the Garden of Eden, but for practical reasons are not seen on stage. The birch trunk can be lit with different lights and colours. If possible, it can be lit from within and reveal a serpent within the trunk. In that case, the serpent's head, with its split tongue, is downward and the tail upward.) Stella and Elias experience love and sex in union and are now in full contact with their basic identities and their origin. After their climax they stay (out of sight) for a while to catch their breath:

STELLA

...William... this was almost *too* good...

ELIAS / WILLIAM

...d'you think?...

STELLA

...I can't remember that we've ever made love like this...

ELIAS / WILLIAM

...you and I have always had good sex...

STELLA

...yeah... but not like this... I've never felt this close to you before...

Stella and Elias/William straighten their clothes and come forward from behind the birch. They hold their arms around each other:

ELIAS / WILLIAM

We'll have to do this again...

STELLA

...I've missed you being inside of me...

ELIAS / WILLIAM

Something feels wrong...

STELLA

What?...

ELIAS / WILLIAM

I don't know... I feel different somehow...

STELLA

I don't think you need to worry... Sex can make us experience many dimensions at the same time... you've probably just got in contact with your true self...

ELIAS / WILLIAM

Now I know!... I don't feel tired... not at all, actually...

STELLA

...and what could that mean?...

They are about to start again:

ELIAS / WILLIAM

What do you think...

STELLA

No... you don't mean...

ELIAS / WILLIAM

Yes, I do...

Suddenly there's a long, soft and high tone. (The sound seems to come from violins):

STELLA *laughing*

William... there's another couple who want to be here now...

ELIAS / WILLIAM

Do you have to book this place, like at a restaurant?...

STELLA

Kind of... but not exactly...

ELIAS / WILLIAM

...but we can come back later, can't we?...

STELLA

You bet!

They still hold their arms around each other and walk towards the opening (UC):

Are you ready to meet your brothers and sisters here on Estheris?...

ELIAS / WILLIAM

Sure... I feel like I've come home...

They leave (UC). Maybe we see the serpent and/or hear its sound. The lights fade out.

the end