

The Creation

5 1/2 hours
in
Paradise

from the
Book of Enoch

Natalie d'Arbeloff



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And the Lord summoned one of his archangels by name Pravuil, whose knowledge was quicker in wisdom than the other archangels, who wrote all the deeds of the Lord; and the Lord said to Pravuil:

'Bring out the books from my store-houses, and a reed of quick-writing, and give it to Enoch, and deliver to him the choice and comforting books out of thy hand.'



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I

NdA 92

AND he was telling me all the works of heaven, earth and sea, and all the elements, their passages and goings, and the thunderings of the thunders, the sun and moon, the goings and changes of the stars, the seasons, years, days, and hours, the risings of the wind, the numbers of the angels, and the formation of their songs, and all human things, the tongue of every human song and life, the commandments, instructions, and sweet-voiced singings, and all things that it is fitting to learn.

And Pravuil told me: 'All the things that I have told thee, we have written. Sit and write all the souls of mankind, however many of them are born, and the places prepared for them to eternity; for all souls are prepared to eternity, before the formation of the world.'

And all double thirty days and thirty nights, and I wrote out all things exactly, and wrote three hundred and sixty-six books.





AND the Lord summoned me, and said to me: 'Enoch, sit down on my left with Gabriel.'

And I bowed down to the Lord, and the Lord spoke to me: Enoch, beloved, all thou seest, all things that are standing finished I tell to thee even before the very beginning, all that I created from non-being, and visible things from invisible.

Hear, Enoch, and take in these my words, for not to My angels have I told my secret, and I have not told them their rise, nor my endless realm, nor have they understood my creating, which I tell thee to-day.

For before all things were visible, I alone used to go about in the invisible things, like the sun from east to west, and from west to east.

But even the sun has peace in itself, while I found no peace, because I was creating all things, and I conceived the thought of placing foundations, and of creating visible creation.





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III

NdA-92

I COMMANDED in the very lowest parts that visible things should come down from invisible, and Adoil came down very great, and I beheld him, and lo! he had a belly of great light.

And I said to him: 'Become undone, Adoil, and let the visible come out of thee.'

And he came undone, and a great light came out. And I was in the midst of the great light, and as there is born light from light, there came forth a great age, and showed all creation, which I had thought to create.

And I saw that it was good.

And I placed for myself a throne, and took my seat on it, and said to the light: 'Go thou up higher and fix thyself high above the throne, and be a foundation to the highest things.'

And above the light there is nothing else, and then I bent up and looked up from my throne.



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IV

NDA-92

AND I summoned the very lowest a second time, and said: 'Let Archas come forth hard,' and he came forth hard from the invisible.

And Archas came forth, hard, heavy, and very red.

And I said: 'Be opened, Archas, and let there be born from thee,' and he came undone, an age came forth, very great and very dark, bearing the creation of all lower things, and I saw that it was good and said to him:

'Go thou down below, and make thyself firm, and be for a foundation for the lower things,' and it happened and he went down and fixed himself, and became the foundation for the lower things, and below the darkness there is nothing else.





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V

NAA 92

AND I commanded that there should be taken from light and darkness, and I said: 'Be thick,' and it became thus, and I spread it out with the light, and it became water, and I spread it out over the darkness, below the light, and then I made firm the waters, that is to say the bottomless, and I made foundation of light around the water, and created seven circles from inside, and imaged it (sc. the water) like crystal wet and dry, that is to say like glass, and the circumcession of the waters and the other elements, and I showed each one of them its road, and the seven stars each one of them in its heaven, that they go thus, and I saw that it was good.

And I separated between light and between darkness, that is to say in the midst of the water hither and thither, and I said to the light, that it should be the day, and to the darkness, that it should be the night, and there was evening and there was morning the first day.





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VI

11dA 92

AND then I made firm the heavenly circle, and made that the lower water which is under heaven collect itself together, into one whole, and that the chaos become dry, and it became so.

Out of the waves I created rock hard and big, and from the rock I piled up the dry, and the dry I called earth, and the midst of the earth I called abyss, that is to say the bottomless, I collected the sea in one place and bound it together with a yoke.

And I said to the sea: 'Behold I give thee thy eternal limits, and thou shalt not break loose from thy component parts.'

Thus I made fast the firmament. This day I called me the first-created.





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VII

NH-92

AND for all the heavenly troops I imaged the image and essence of fire, and my eye looked at the very hard, firm rock, and from the gleam of my eye the lightning received its wonderful nature, which is both fire in water and water in fire.

And from the rock I cut off a great fire, and from the fire I created the orders of the incorporeal ten troops of angels, and their weapons are fiery and their raiment a burning flame, and I commanded that each one should stand in his order.





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VIII

Nat 92

And one from out the order
of angels, having turned away
with the order that was under
him, conceived an impossible
thought, to place his throne
higher than the clouds above
the earth, that he might become
equal in rank to my power.

And I threw him out from
the height with his angels, and
he was flying in the air continu-
ously above the bottomless.



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IX

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IX

NDA 92

ON the third day I commanded the earth to make grow great and fruitful trees, and hills, and seed to sow, and I planted Paradise, and enclosed it, and placed as armed *guardians* flaming angels, and thus I created renewal.



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II

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X

NdA 92

Then came evening, and
came morning the fourth day.
On the
fourth day I commanded that
there should be great lights on
the heavenly circles.

On the first uppermost circle
I placed the stars, Kruno, and
on the second Aphrodit, on the
third Aris, on the fifth Zeus, on
the sixth Ermis, on the seventh
lesser the moon, and adorned
it with the lesser stars.

And on the lower I placed
the sun for the illumination of
day, and the moon and stars for
the illumination of night.

The sun that it should go
according to each animal (sc
signs of the zodiac), twelve, and
I appointed the succession of
the months and their names and
lives, their thunderings, and
their hour-markings, how they
should succeed.





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XI

NOTA 92

Then evening came and morning came the fifth day.

On the fifth day I commanded the sea, that it should bring forth fishes, and feathered birds of many varieties, and all animals creeping over the earth, going forth over the earth on four legs, and soaring in the air, male sex and female, and every soul breathing the spirit of life.



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XII

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XII

NDA 92

And there came evening,
and there came morning the
sixth day.

On the sixth
day I commanded my wisdom
to create man from seven con-
sistencies: one, his flesh from the
earth; two, his blood from the
dew; three, his eyes from the
sun; four, his bones from stone;
five, his intelligence from the
swiftness of the angels and from
cloud; six, his veins and his
hair from the grass of the earth;
seven, his soul from my breath
and from the wind.

And I gave him seven na-
tures: to the flesh hearing, the
eyes for sight, to the soul smell,
the veins for touch, the blood for
taste, the bones for endurance,
to the intelligence sweetness....





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XIII

NDA 92

And I appointed him a name, from the four component parts, from east, from west, from south, from north, and I appointed for him four special stars, and I called his name Adam, and showed him the two ways, the light and the darkness, and I told him:

'This is good, and that bad,' that I should learn whether he has love towards me, or hatred...

And I put sleep into him and he fell asleep. And I took from him a rib, and created him a wife...

...and I took his last word and called her name mother, that is to say, Eva.



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XV

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XIV

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ADAM has life on earth, and I created a garden in Eden in the east, that he should observe the testament and keep the command.

I made the heavens open to him, that he should see the angels singing the song of victory, and the gloomless light.

And he was continuously in paradise, and the devil understood that I wanted to create another world, because Adam was lord on earth, to rule and control it...

And he understood his condemnation and the sin which he had sinned before, therefore he conceived thought against Adam...





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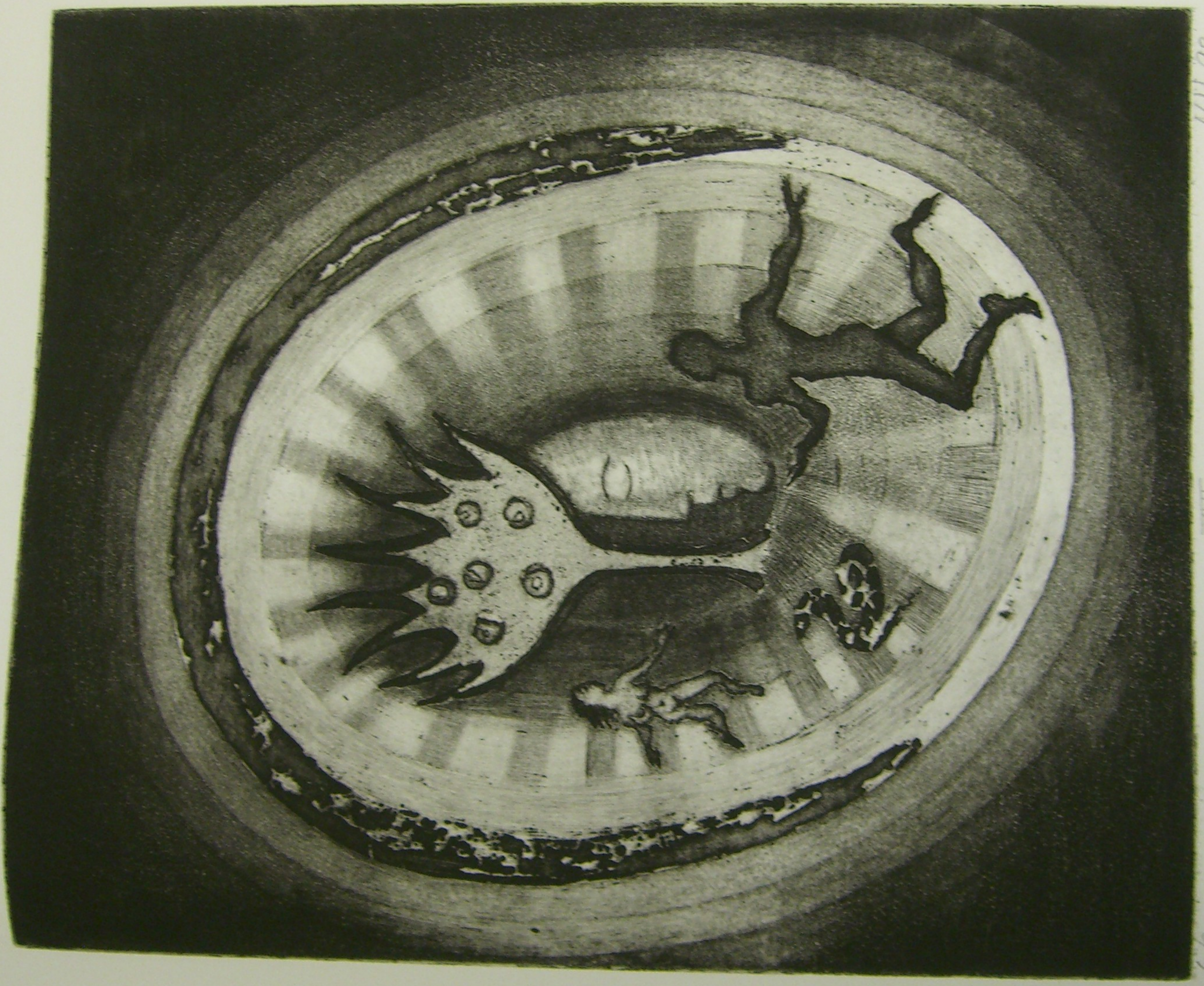
XV

N/A 92

And I blessed all my creatures visible and invisible. And Adam was five and half hours in paradise.

And I blessed the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, on which he rested from all his works.





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XVI

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AND I appointed the eighth day also, that the eighth day should be the first-created after my work, and that *the first seven* revolve in the form of the seventh thousand, and that at the beginning of the eighth thousand there should be a time of not-counting, endless, with neither years nor months nor weeks nor days nor hours.





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XVII

NdA-92

And now, Enoch, all that I have told thee, all that thou hast understood, all that thou hast seen of heavenly things, all that thou hast seen on earth, and all that I have written in books by my great wisdom, all these things I have devised and created from the uppermost foundation to the lower and to the end, and there is no counsellor nor inheritor to my creations.

I am self-eternal, not made with hands, and without change.

My thought is my counsellor, my wisdom and my word are made, and my eyes observe all things how they stand here and tremble with terror.

If I turn away my face, then all things will be destroyed.

And apply thy mind, Enoch, and know him who is speaking to thee, and take thou the books which thou thyself hast written.





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XVIII

NdA 92

THESSE extracts of text, abbreviated in places, were selected by NdA from *The Book of the Secrets of Enoch* which is included in its entirety in *The Lost Books of the Bible and the Forgotten Books of Eden* published by Alpha House Inc. (U.S.A.) in 1926/1927. The following quote from that edition prefaces the Enoch chapters: "This new fragment of early literature came to light through certain manuscripts recently found in Russia and Servia and so far as is yet known has been preserved only in Slavonic. Little is known of its origin except that in its present form it was written somewhere about the beginning of the Christian era. Its final editor was Greek and the place of its composition Egypt..."

The 19 images were etched by NdA in 1991 using the sugar-lift method, with open bite and some drypoint. For the text, portions of pages from the trade edition mentioned above were enlarged, made into zinc relief plates and printed intaglio.

The edition comprises:

A & B: Two similar but not identical copies on Velin d'Arches 250gsm painted by NdA in oil colours prior to printing the plates in black.

Bindings to be described in prospectus.

C: Artist's Proof – Black on BFK Rives 180gsm. Full leather binding made by Jan Ascoli, with design by NdA.

1-9: Black ink on BFK Rives 180gsm. Printed by Steve Jordan.

Bindings/boxes to be described in prospectus.

This is No.

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