

ARTUR EDAR

"STATE OF SPIRIT"

(Incomplete drama in which could reside each Spirit)

Yerevan 2004

Characters

A Spirit

An Angel

Place - Paradise, which, indeed, resembles the description

An empty space;

(The Spirit and the Angel enter).

Angel – So, here we are, welcome to Paradise!

Spirit – I am thankful, greatly thankful especially to God... I must say, I have always been thankful to God.

Angel – We know that; and for that exact purpose God made a decision to adopt you in Paradise.

Spirit – I'm cordially thankful, thankful (looking around complacently)... So, I am in Paradise (not seeing anything, rather than an empty space)..! Sorry, sir, which direction do we take..?

Angel – To where..?

Spirit – To Paradise.

Angel – But you are already in Paradise...

Spirit – Yes... I understand ...But here...it looks like...

Angel – It looks like, what...?

Spirit – It's not, as it's said to be?

Angel – What is said...?

Spirit – What is said to be in Paradise.

Angel – And - to you; what it is said, to be in Paradise?

Spirit – (little bit worried) I don't know? You must know that entire realm better than I do...

Angel – I don't understand what you mean?

Spirit – I do not understand either, what you don't understand (nervous) ... What were you instructed to do with me..?

Angel – Accompany you to Paradise.

Spirit – And where did you take me..?

Angel – To Paradise.

Spirit – To Paradise...?

Angel – Paradise.

Spirit – And you are calling this - Paradise...?

Angel – Yes. The most authentic Paradise.

Spirit – This empty space...?

Angel – And what else would you like to see here?

Spirit - Me?

Angel - Yes, you.

Spirit – Sounds like you may fulfill wishes?

Angel – Not for sure, it's the business of Satan.

Spirit – Than why do you ask what do I wish to see here?

Angel – Just for nothing.

Spirit – What does "just for nothing" mean...?

Angel –Yes, just for nothing. I am just interested in how you picture the Paradise.

Spirit – And I am interested in... Where everything might be...?

Angel - And what does "everything" mean?

Spirit – Everything, what in reality turns a Paradise into the Paradise.

Angel – Couldn't you, please, bring a single example of what you call "everything", in order to be clearer for me about what you mean?

Spirit – For example ...a... A tree... For example.

Angel – A tree?

Spirit - A tree, a tree!

Angel – What for?

Spirit – Let's say, to protect oneself from the Sun.

Angel –You will not have a need of it here, because there is no Sun in Paradise.

Spirit – How can it be, no Sun...?

Angel – Yes, no Sun there is here.

Spirit – Come on, what is this light then...?

Angel – It's evidential... The Light of God...

Spirit – Sounds like, no darkness and no nights at all?

Angel – Indeed, no.

Spirit – Come on, how shall we sleep then... Under the Light of God?

Angel – Who told you, that you are going to sleep?

Spirit – What?

Angel – That's it. You will not have a need of it.

Spirit – Yes... What else will I not have a need of?

Angel – You will need nothing...Isn't it too clear? You'll need nothing in Paradise?

Spirit – Wait, I don't understand... A Person does not feel a need in something only when, he has – what he needs, am I correct?

Angel – You are not. A person does not feel a need of something only when he doesn't have a need.

Spirit – But, a need is being felt not because of the need; but when you wish for something...

Angel – The point is that there isn't a need to wish for something.

Spirit – How can that be?

Angel – Yes, there isn't... You, for example, in your earthly life you were wishing for everything without exception, because you knew, that at the end you would die. And here, an everlasting life is granted to you, go and enjoy your pleasure.

Spirit – Did you say "pleasure"...?

Angel – Yes, pleasure.

Spirit – Then I am kindly asking you to say, what you believe this pleasure to be.

Angel – An everlasting life.

Spirit – And that's all?

Angel – What else then? Wasn't it your desire in your passed life to live as long as possible, when the only true need you have ever had - was not to die?

Spirit – Probably yes...

Angel – You see?

Spirit – Yes, but not only that.

Angel –What else?

Spirit - ... A woman... For example. How can a man survive without a woman?

Angel – Let me notice, that pure terrestrial instincts speak in you now. You are forgetting that at this present moment and from now on you are a spirit eternally, an immaterial spirit.

Spirit – Wouldn't you like to say, that...

Angel – Yes, yes... that you will not have a need of anything any more. You know, frankly, I do not understand your annoyance. You have completed your earthly mission without a fault – you got married, have not been unfaithful to your wife and the most important thing - you have supported the business of securing the human heredity.

Spirit - (Abstracted) What? It turns out, that in my passed life...

Angel – Why "turns out", why "turns out"...? You have just had a devout life of a believer and you deserve Paradise.

Spirit – Where there is nothing that creates a need...?

Angel – You are right.

Spirit – But if there isn't a need, then there isn't complacency of satisfaction? And if there isn't contentment, then what is Paradise?

Angel – Sincerely, you amaze me.

Spirit – Why?

Angel – For your common sense... Let's say, what do you feel after you get contentment?

Spirit – Pleasure...

Angel – You see? You came to my point again, - Pleasure. And, what's this mercy and truthful pleasure, if not the grace of having an everlasting life granted to you? You are not going to die forever... Can you understand?

Spirit – I am trying to catch it... Pleasure without contentment...Light without Sun... A life granted to me to live eternally, without... By the way, are other people here...?

Angel – You would better say - other spirits...

Spirit – Yes, other spirits.

Angel – Yes, indeed, they are.

Spirit – And where are they?

Angel – God knows where... they are wandering some place...

Spirit – What does "wandering" mean...?

Angel – It looks strange, but they have abandoned Pleasure and are looking for contentment in Paradise?

Spirit - (Deciding something.) Where can I see them?

Angel – Am not saying, that you will succeed in seeing them. Paradise is endless. Not a single spirit has met another one so far.

Spirit – What does it mean, hasn't met?

Angel – Yes, hasn't.

Spirit – And why...?

Angel – That's God's will, again, nothing can be done...

Spirit – And why does God wish it so, can you tell me...?

Angel – Forgive me, but we do not interfere in God's affairs. One has tried, and you know, what happened to him after...

Spirit - (in meditation) I see ...Keeping spirits separate would be the most reliable pledge for security...

Angel – Excuse me, I don't understand...

Spirit – But I do understand everything very well. You have cheated us.

Angel – What have you said?

Spirit – Whatever you have heard, respectful sir. You have cheated us, yes. What pleasure is there in immortality, if there isn't contentment in life? This is worse than hell ... This... this... Do you know what the annoyance is?

Angel – I do, but you will not have an occasion for annoyance.

Spirit – How can you say that I'll not have an occasion for annoyance...inside this emptiness...?

Angel – The point is in the emptiness of the space. You constantly will search something- a slight unevenness and never will find it...

Spirit – And it will go on continuously...?

Angel – Continuously! But meanwhile you will not get tired of searching. The emptiness of the space and the immensity will create an illusion of immobility. Do you understand? Due to the emptiness of space will always seem to you that as much you wander, wherever you go, always you're in the center of space.

Spirit – And what will be after...?

Angel - You will lose your human habits of getting oriented or recognizing everything in comparison and will begin to exist in a Proper State of Spirit.

Spirit – I don't understand anything.

Angel – See, you may still somehow orient yourself in the space as far as I am next to you, yes?

Spirit - ...

Angel – Come on, take one or two steps to that direction. (Spirit does.) As you see, you may find yourself two steps away from me. And now take five steps in the other direction. (Spirit walks.) You see, now again you are two steps to that and five steps to the other side in comparison to my position? And now, imagine how you would conclude in how many steps and where would you go, not having me...

Spirit -...

Angel – Without an orienting point the difference between your mobile and immobile states will be reduced to a point that when you walk, it will seem to you, that you are standing, and the opposite, when standing will seem that you move.

Spirit – Give up; it's hell... I am feeling qualm already...

Angel – Cursing is not allowed in Paradise.

Spirit – And what is permitted, what...?

Angel – To enjoy the pleasure of living an everlasting life.

Spirit – But how, how...?

Angel – Be concentrated on the state of your spirit; as soon you forget your human instincts and habits as sooner you will tune your state of Spirit and will enjoy the pleasure of immortality.

Spirit - (Nervous) Idle words. Yes, yes, idle words. Your thoughts and convictions will not replace my share of Paradise. I don't need speeches, I need Paradise. Yes, verily my share of Paradise... By the way, who can verify that you have actually brought me to Paradise, and not another place?

Angel – No need of verification; you are truly in Paradise. As it is intended .You don't believe in me?

Spirit - Surely, I do not. And what grounds do I have to believe in you...? You may have filled the real Paradise with any kind of favorite-fellows, and these endless pastures are being served to devotees like me...?

Angel – I have warned you, not to use abusive language in Paradise.

Spirit – What wrong did I say...? If things are spelled out with their real names then it turns abusive?

Angel – You are not correct. It is not allowed to call Paradise an "endless pasture". It seems to me, that at this moment your Spiritual State is a little bit disturbed.

Spirit – Why a little bit? Greatly, greatly disturbed. After an entire modest and devout life I am being taken to...to ... Paradise; so how can my Spiritual State be normal...?

Angel – Are you unhappy, that you have fallen to Paradise?

Spirit – I am not unhappy with Paradise, I am unhappy with the place, where I am now.

Angel – But you are in Paradise.

Spirit – You must swear, you must swear in God's name.

Angel –God doesn't like, swearing...

Spirit – I see, as soon as you appear in a shaky situation, you immediately throw everything on God. "God loves this; God does not allow that..." And how can I be sure, that its God, and not you...?

Angel – You have nothing to doubt; you are a believer.

Spirit – I was...I was a believer in my passed life. And now I do not believe. I do not believe in you. Yes. And I'll complain...

Angel – To whom?

Spirit – To whom?... To God, of course...

Angel – It's impossible to do that. You can not exit of Paradise, and he does not visit Paradise.

Spirit – Then... then I'll gather all the spirits and we shall organize a demonstration of protest against you. Yes, and if our voice will not be heard, we'll raise a riot.

Angel – It is impossible too; you, spirits, never can meet each-other. God has taken care of it a long ago.

Spirit – Ah, then... Then I'll sit here and wait for the next spirit, who will fall into the Paradise, then the second, the third, the fourth and so on. I have enough time... Glory to God, I am immortal, I have eternal life. And we shall be together, congregated in a big, firm fist; we shall become united and shall create our Paradise...The Paradise of our dream...

Angel - (calm) Look, the state of your spirit is normalizing. You already feel the pleasure of eternal life... I have to go now. I cannot say "See you", cause I'll not see you any more.

The only thing I can tell you now is that you will never meet the next visitor to Paradise.

Spirit – Why?

Angel - ... You'll leave to wander...

The End

Translated by Habet Muradyan