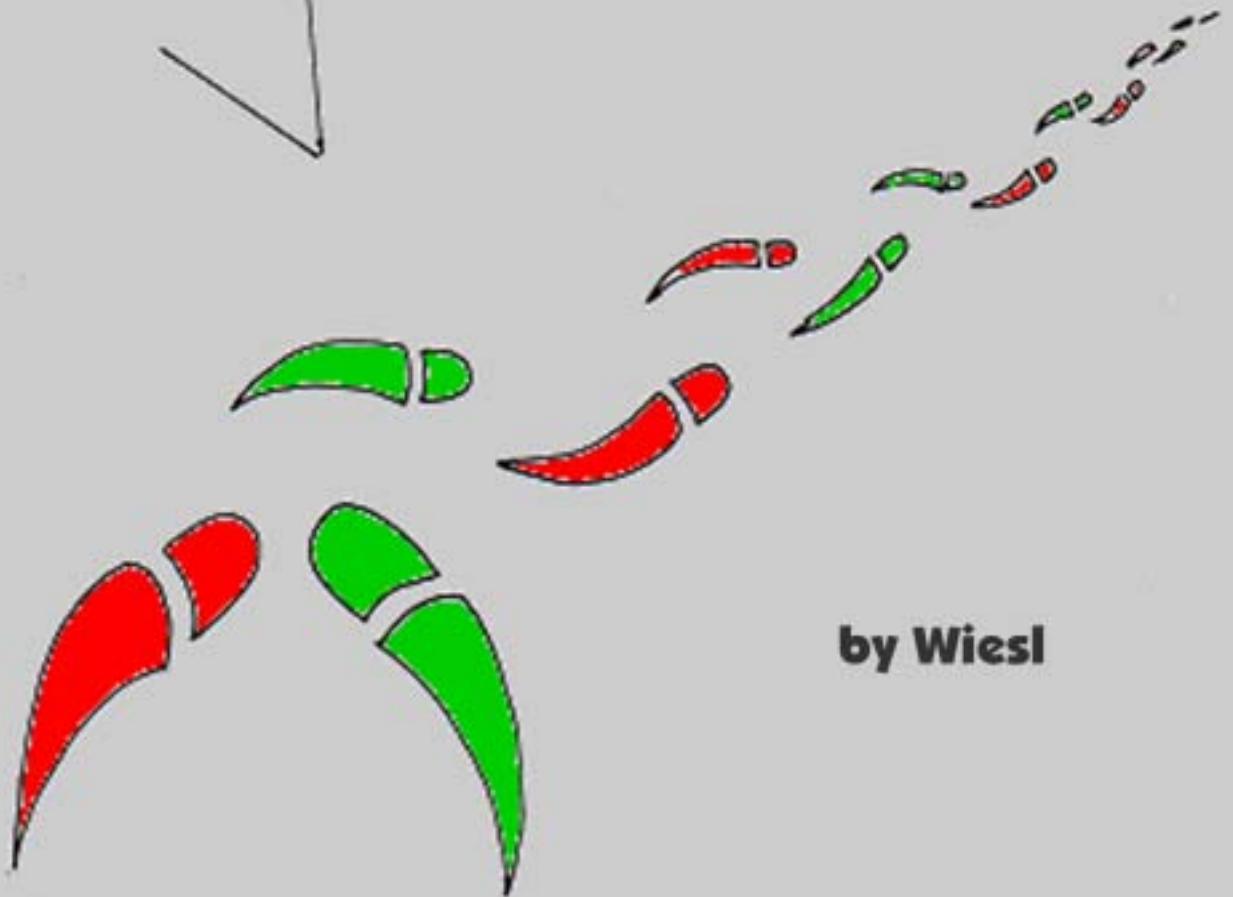




A
JOURNEY
THERE &
BACK



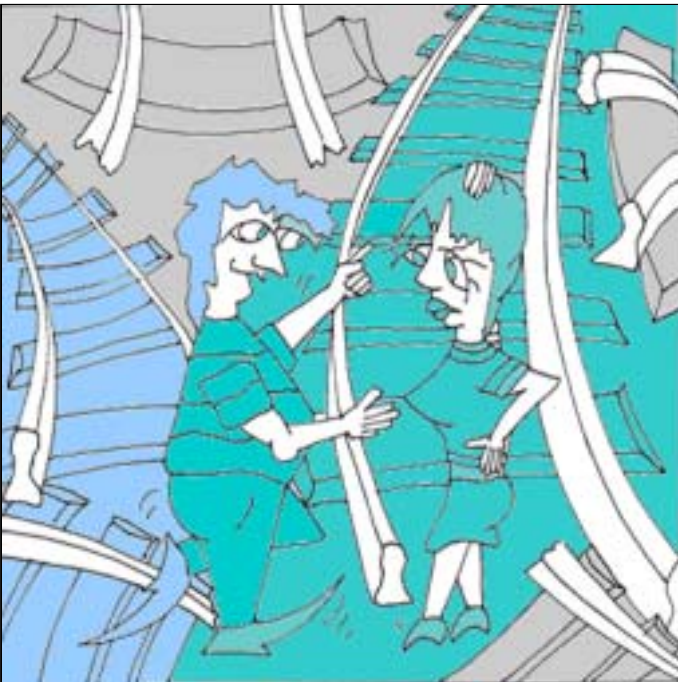
by Wiesl



Hugo sleeps in his bed.



I....
want to know?



Your broad knowledge - your sensitive intellect - You - Irina Bel-Espirit - shall be my muse! Let's get on the train.



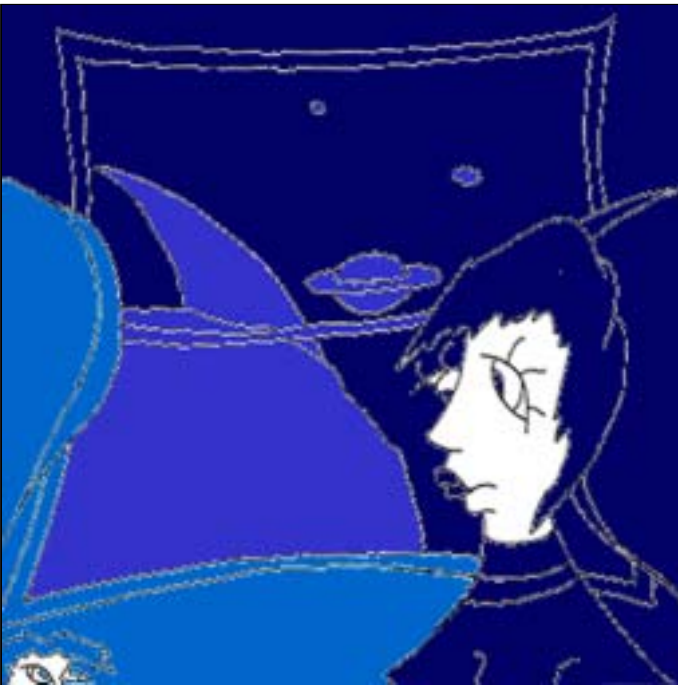
Scenery passing by - mountains, trees, rivers, lakes, everything has its meaning...



Buildings, factories,
even the smallest shack...



Dogs, cats, cows, horses
insects, parasites...



The sun, the moon, the stars,
the whole universe.



Everything has its meaning -
everything makes sense -
everything has its meaning...



Only me, I haven't !



So how do you want to find yourself ?



A journey through various climatic conditions, mentalities and their art and culture.



Do you have money, passport, brain and your senses with you?



In Prague:
A long night in the Old Town - conversation
and beer. - **Let's go and find rooms.**

**The Hradčany Castle - what an impressive
building - its magnificence gave joy to many
people - something positive...**



That building with the name of a nasal
disease - how am I to understand that ?

**The architecture, the workmanship,
the will to create something -
already in the 14th century...**



A nice pub with front garden and they have draught beer!

Since when can you find art and culture in a pub garden?

Already in the 14th century...



Do you want to understand or drink?

Both.

Literature, Neruda, Seifert, Havel, Hâsek, Hrabal...

Do you have the hiccups?



The combination of slavic and western values, traditions, art, culture...

A muse - a waitress would be more adequate.

The beer is excellent!



no comment

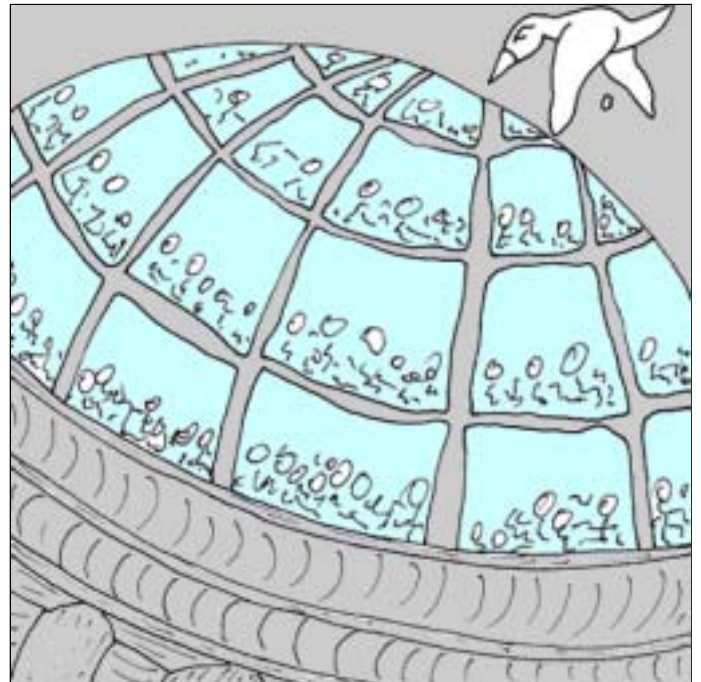
Well rested?
Did you take something with you from...?

A towel.



In Berlin:
 During the war the city has been almost completely destroyed, then been rebuilt with the new spirit of the age.
 The prefab-style-era!

Democracy - freedom ...
 That's where men and women part.



Separate political ideologies - east and west.
 Communism and ?

Destroyed, rebuilt and open to everyone,
 as a symbol for democracy and freedom.
 And a bird's eye view of politics.



In the center of German culture - Goethe, Schiller, Brecht, Casper David Friedrich...

Does he have a surname too?

We're talking about a country which has brought forth great intellectual achievements...



What do you associate with this?

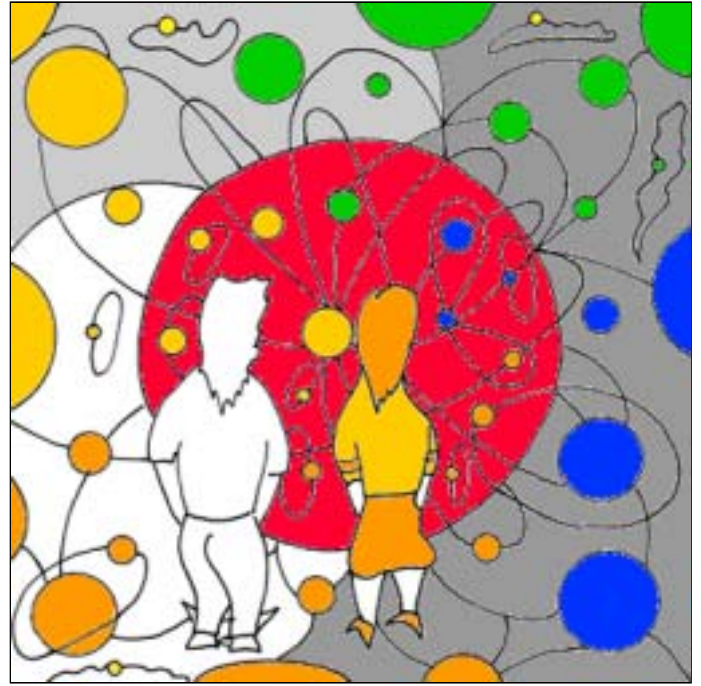
The beer is a little more expensive than in Prague.

Do you want to keep on talking about beer prices?

All right - I got it - I appreciate your knowledge - your intellectual diversity - cheers!



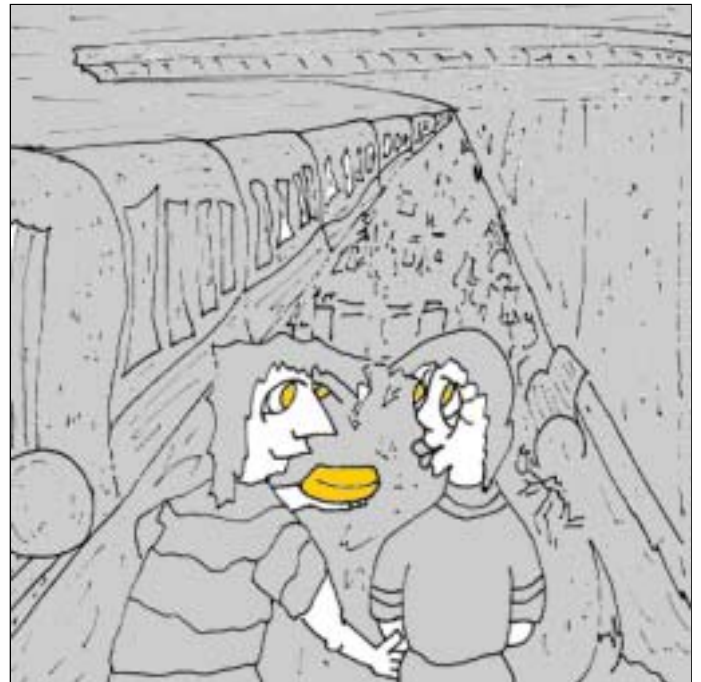
Actually a placid crowd,
if they would speak more quietly.



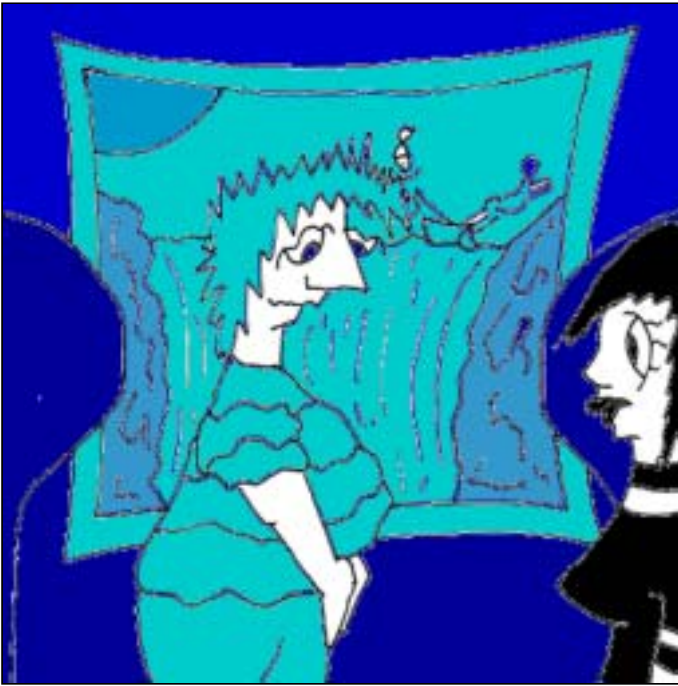
Especially fine are the achievements in
science - Heisenberg, Planck, Hahn...



It's a paradox, they play football
badly and still win.



Let's drive on... and what do we take with us?
Soap.



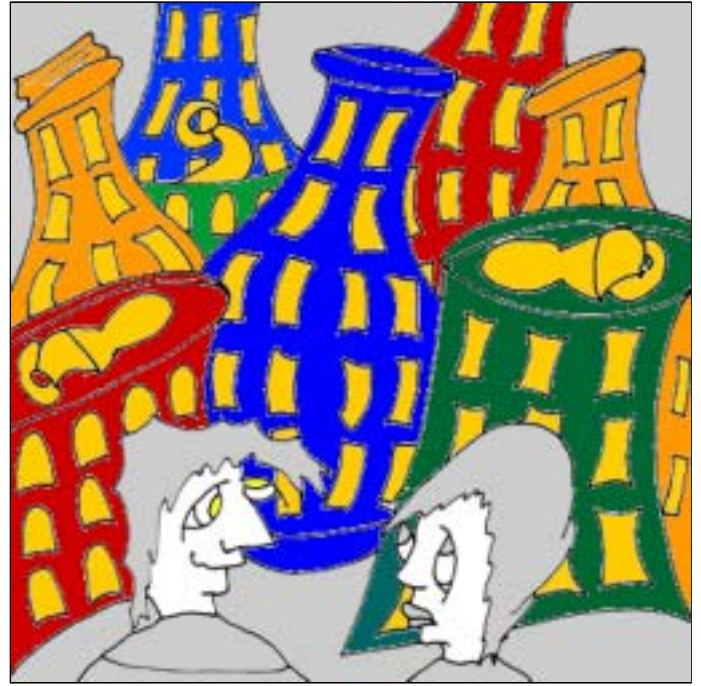
You have to tolerate other ways
in order to find your own.
Is the toilet in the front or the back?

In Odense:
This place looks just like from Hans Christian
Andersen's stories.
Finally a cultural basis!



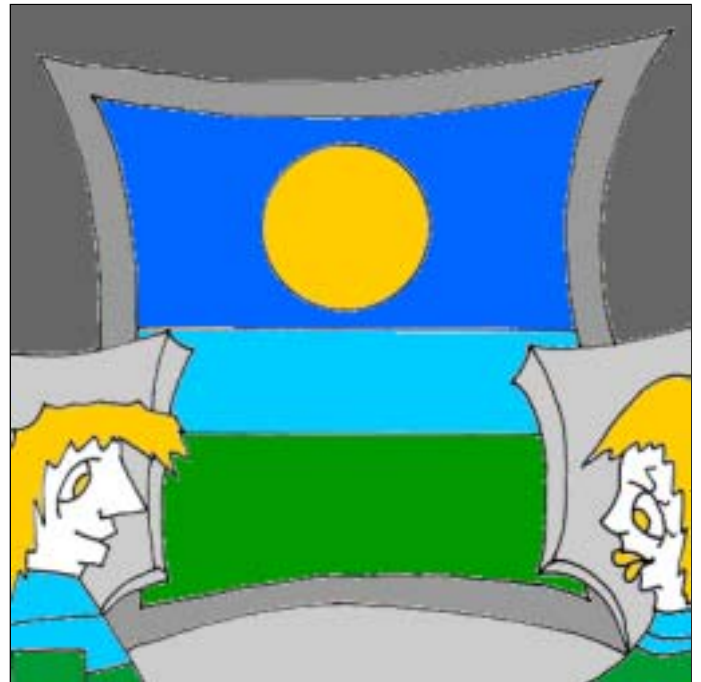
In Copenhagen:
Very nice - shall we eat something?

Sweet sausage - sweet bread - sweet mustard
- and the mayor is wearing a purple suit with
yellow spots.



World-famous designers...

Tu Borg and Carl Sberg



Are you offended?
I'm trying to understand everything. I'm trying hard...honestly...they've got good beer.

I don't dare to ask.
Yes you do - I perceive the various lifestyles. The influence of climate and landscape on mind and soul.



So what did you find here?

A different relation to sweets!

In Stockholm:

Influenced by the climate,
a lot of profound poets live here.



From profound contemplative art and
culture to amusing children's stories.

My impression is, that Pippi is surely
the most cheerful Swede ever.



With these prices we rather go back to the hotel and drink in the cellar.



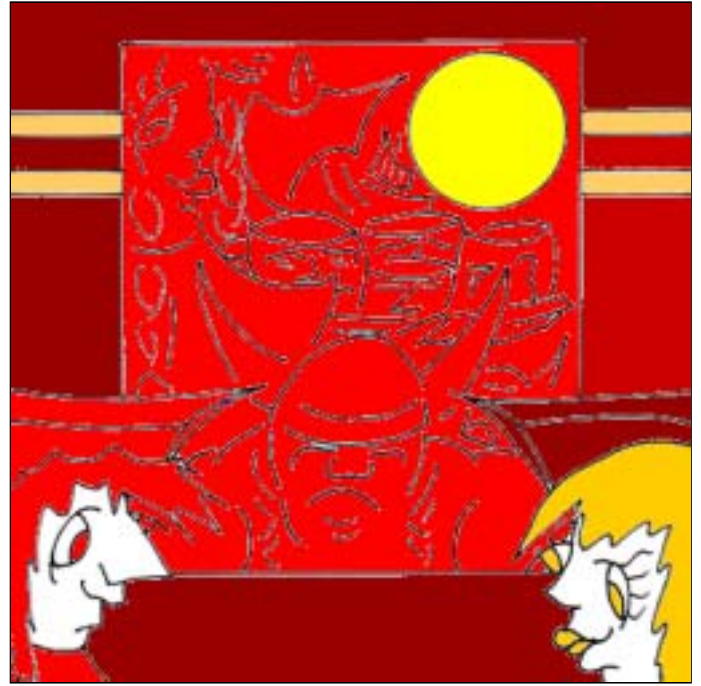
In the country for such a short time and you already discovered one of its characteristics!



Sweden is also noted for social matters, tolerance, lots of nature, wood products...



In Oslo:
Are we still in Sweden?
Conservative but...
Impossible drinking culture!



If you were a painter, how would you name a picture about these living conditions?

The Scream.

Hard to believe that once they were Vikings using the skulls of their enemies as drinking vessels.



Wonderful - forest, forest, nothing but forest - and not a soul.

We'll be in Finland soon.



In Helsinki:

They have clothing!

Land of a thousand lakes.

Land of a zillion mosquitos.



Land of long winters.

Land of long faces.

What's the positive aspect they find in these conditions?

Vodka.



We should seriously focus on your problem again.

You can't run away!



There is manifold folk poetry with lyrical epic songs, spells, myths and legends from unknown masters.

Because they couldn't memorize their names.



We are lucky,
today they are cheerful.



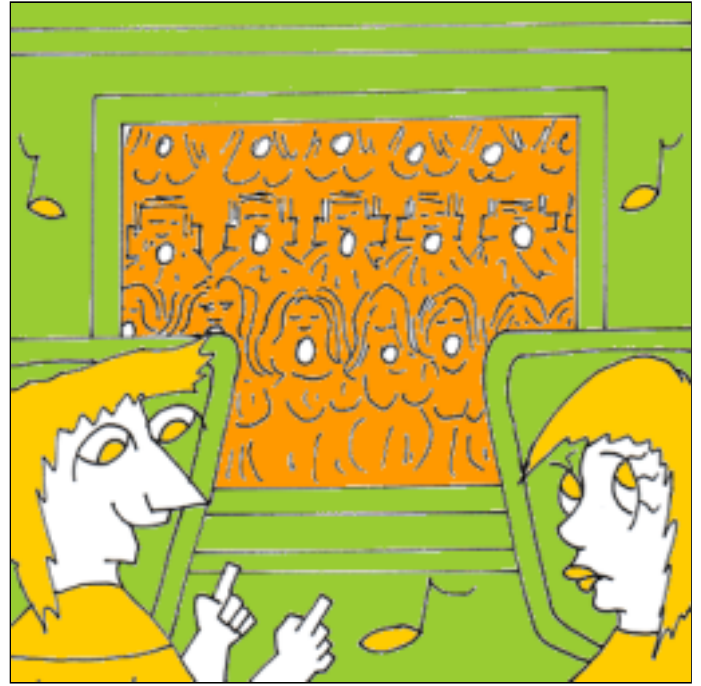
What's the balance of your journey so far?
2 towels, 1 soap, 1 ashtray and 1 bathrobe.



We are going through the baltic provinces
now - for a long time they have been part of
the empire of the Soviet Union...

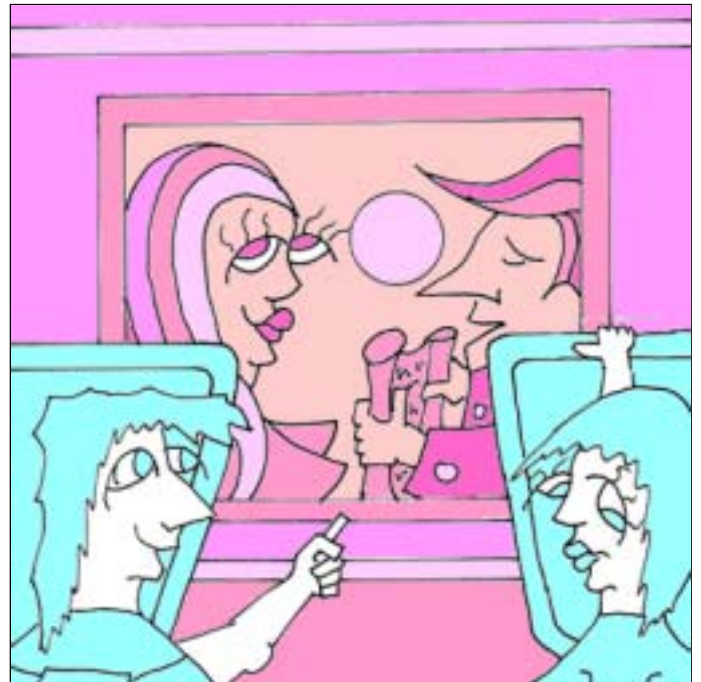


Instead of
Freedom - Equality - Brotherhood:
Neon - Plastic - Happiness.



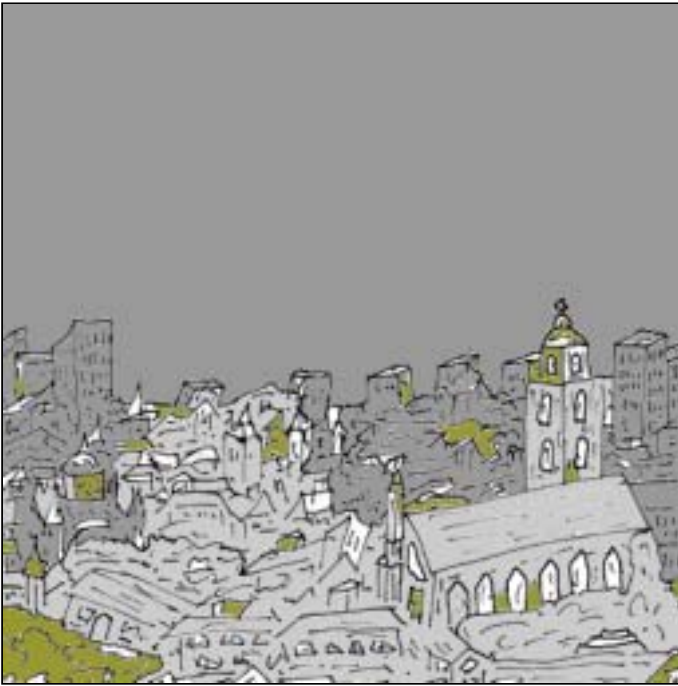
Give others the chance to find themselves!
The Estonians possess a repertoire of medieval early-
modern songs which is one of the largest in the world.

A song - 2, 3...



The Latvians have a significant
leaning towards lyric and prose.

The world is pink and we are all
sky blue - 2, 3...



In Lithuania they cultivate the Dainas - myths and folk songs.

Hopefully freedom is not a myth...



In Warsaw:
A country with rich art history -
Wyspianski, Przozowski, Karokiewwicz,
Mickiewicz, Mrozek, Andrzyewski...

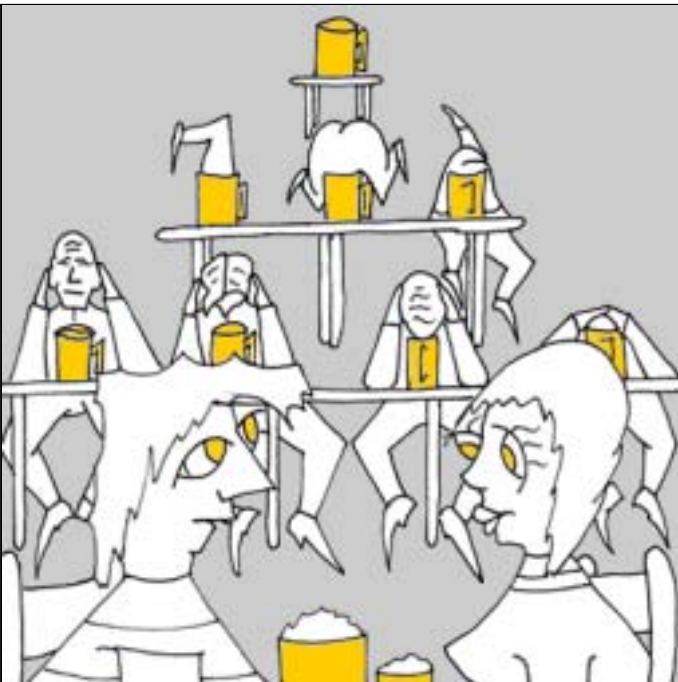
Anything wrong
with your throat?



This is always your first stop!



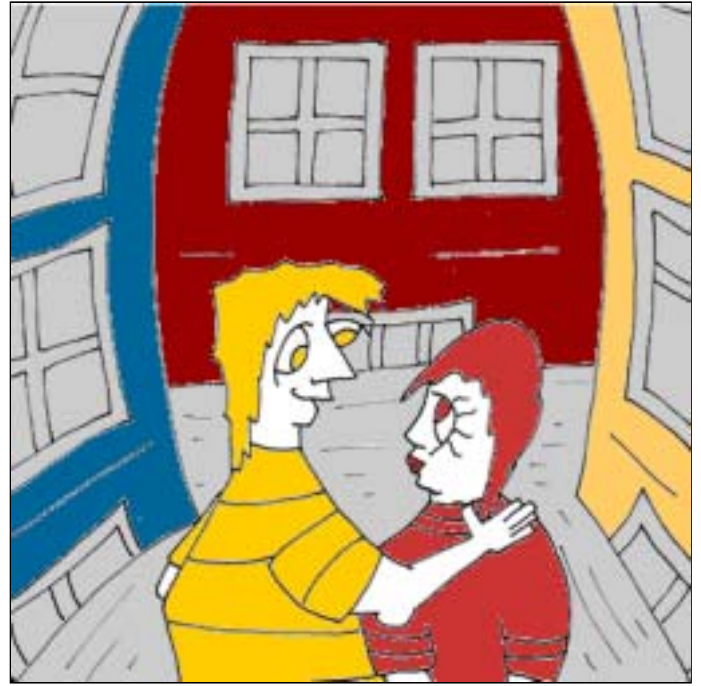
They seem a little melancholic, almost sad.



That's their profound meditative nature.

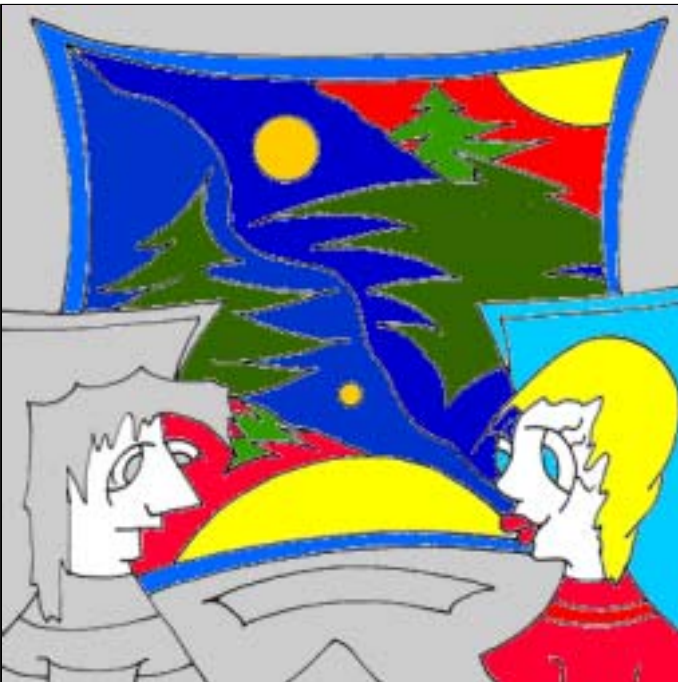


It is said to be a very musical people.



Exceptionally gifted musicians in Chopin's country...

Apparently it's not sad to be melancholically profoundly meditative.



The Slovak artists like openness and enjoy experimenting.

Dumplings, potatoes, mincemeat, salads, beer and wine, checked napkins, blue ashtrays, plastic flowers in the pink orange yellow dining-car.



A country full of passion ...
Paprika runs in the blood ...

In Budapest:
... and water in the lung.



No need to be so negative - a country
with an extraordinary language holds a
wonderful culture!

The vast land - the Puszta - horses
- Csárdás ...



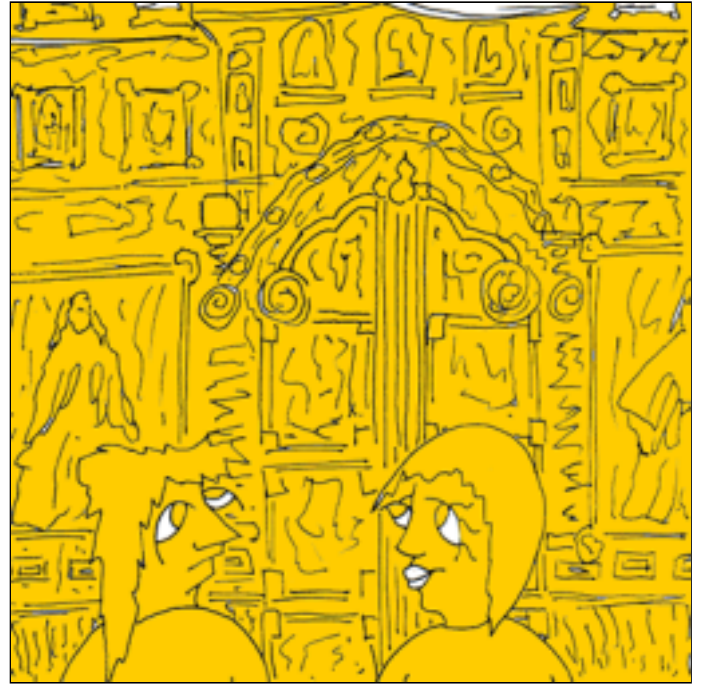
Delicious food, exquisite wines ...

Alright - we shall taste the Tokaj.
Egészségére!



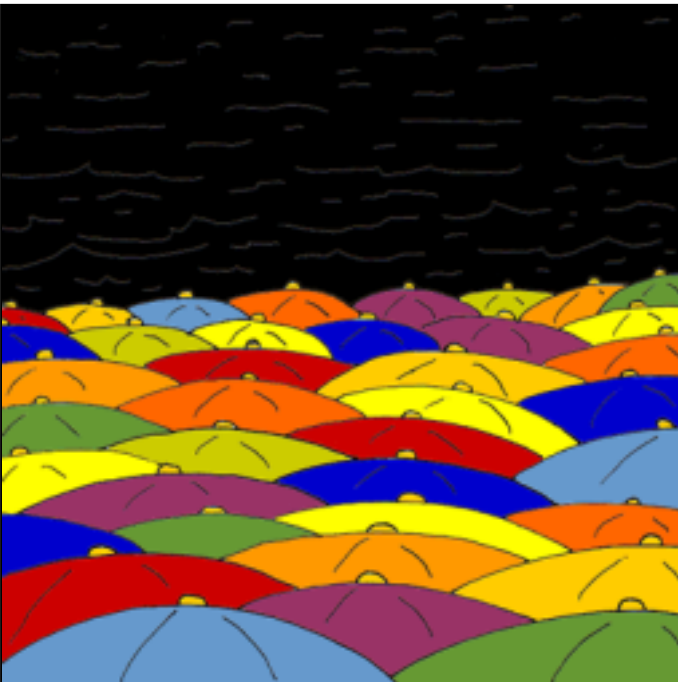
What's your impression of this mentality?
Finn-ugric.

In Romania:
Gigantic - monumental - impressive!



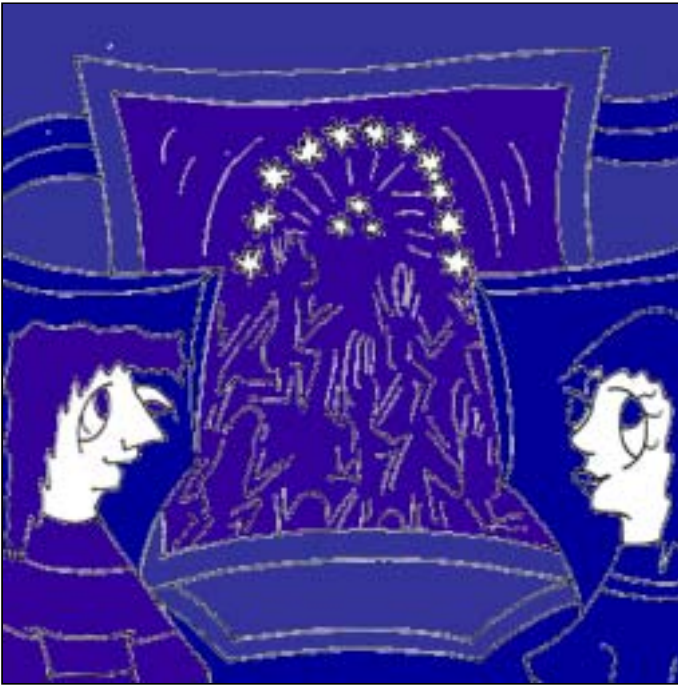
Ancient, but not less impressive.
And Dracula lived in both.

In Bulgaria:
Distinguished art combined with homage to God.
Gold.



What have you seen in this country?
Black.

We're going through Slovenia now -
it has become an independent state
a short while ago.



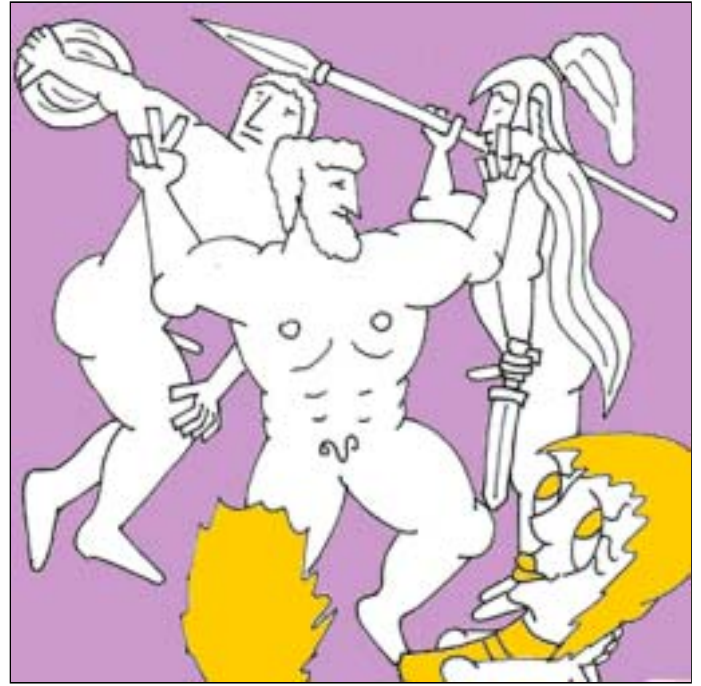
So fast and already over!

In Athens:
 The homeric hero as an idol for all men -
 the aspiration to bravery and virtue...
 - and the women?



Their realm was family, house and grange.
 Was that yesterday or 3000 years ago?

Greek mythology became the occidents' heritage.
 Yesterday and today?



The greek architecture ...doric, ionic, corinthian... dominated for a long time... Yesterday.

The sculptures with archaic style - gods - heroes - victorious fighters...



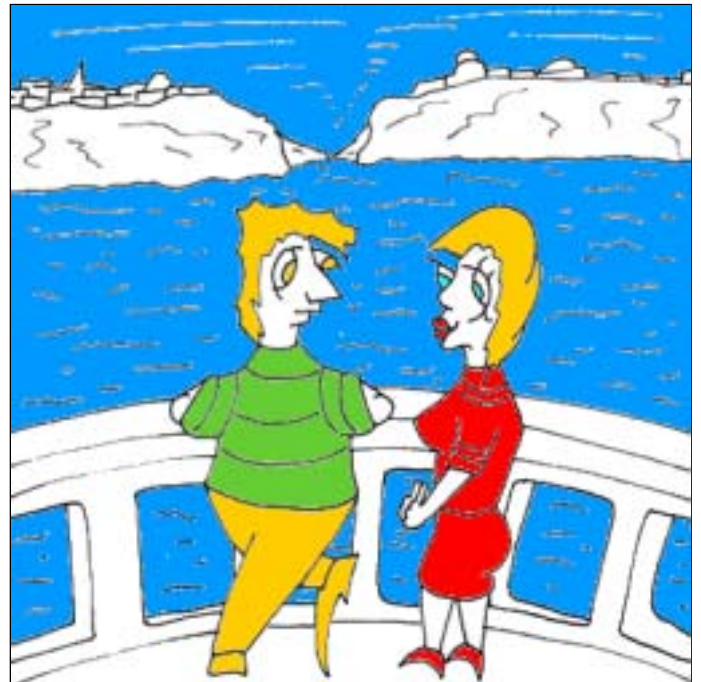
Apparelled women as Goddesses.

The ancient poetry - Iliad - Odyssey - Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides...



Greek philosophy -
Pythagoras, Plato, Aristoteles -
not the "How" but the "Why"!

The Gods say - the body of a man
belongs to earth - the spirit is divine...



Are you awake now?
So what day is it today?

It's not easy giving you access to other people's
creativity. They all develop their own personality
and make their thoughts available to humankind.



What do you think?
I feel sick.

In Rome:
In the center - which has released a pulse for the
occidental culture for centuries...



In search of the perfect shape -
Michelangelo...

... the painters - Botticelli, Carpaccio,
Caravaggio, Raffael, Tizian...



... poets - Machiavelli, Dante Alighieri or intellectual masters - Da Vinci, Galilei, Bruno, Eco, Fo...

The names keep on getting shorter - hopefully not ...?



... Monteverdi, Cavalli, Vivaldi, Verdi, Tartini, Corelli, Piccinni, Bellini, Donizetti, Puccini, Busotti...

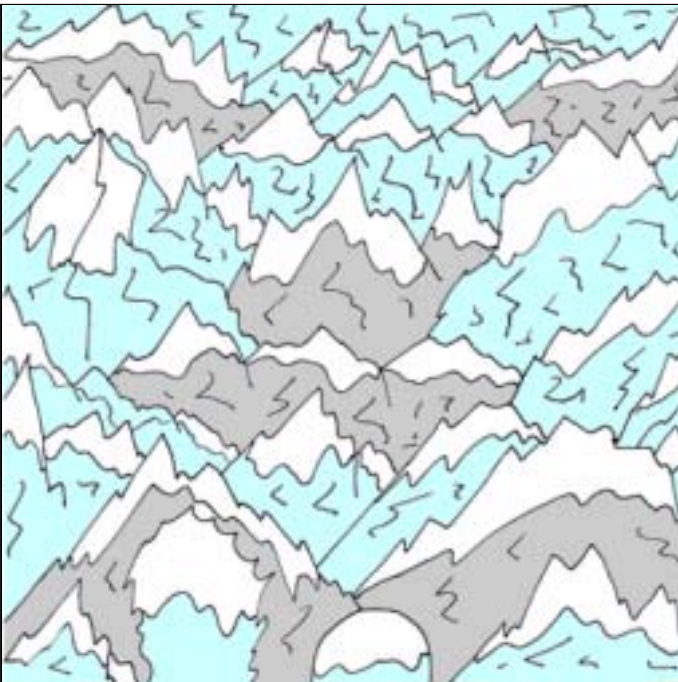
Pizza, pasta, spaghetti - the food is delicious - the wine exquisite!



I don't get it - how this crossing works with so much traffic and no traffic light.

What did you take with you?

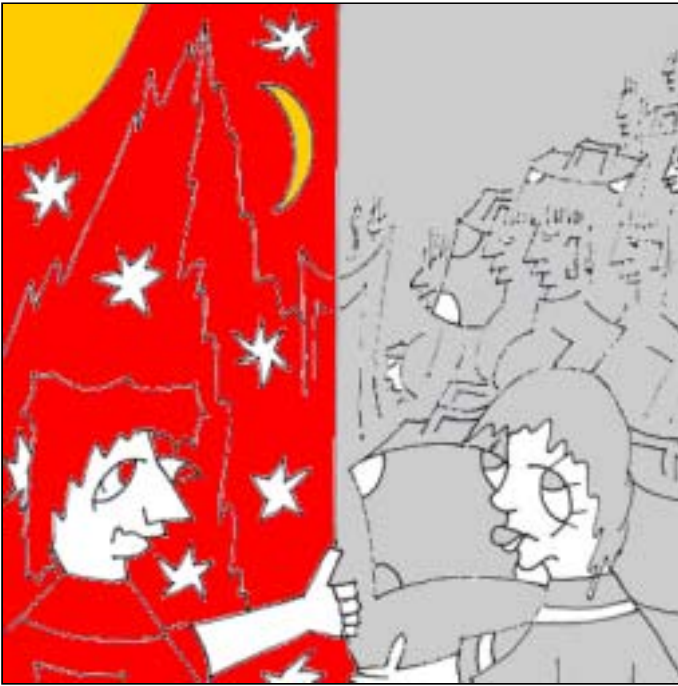
A slice of pizza - it was really too much.



In Switzerland:

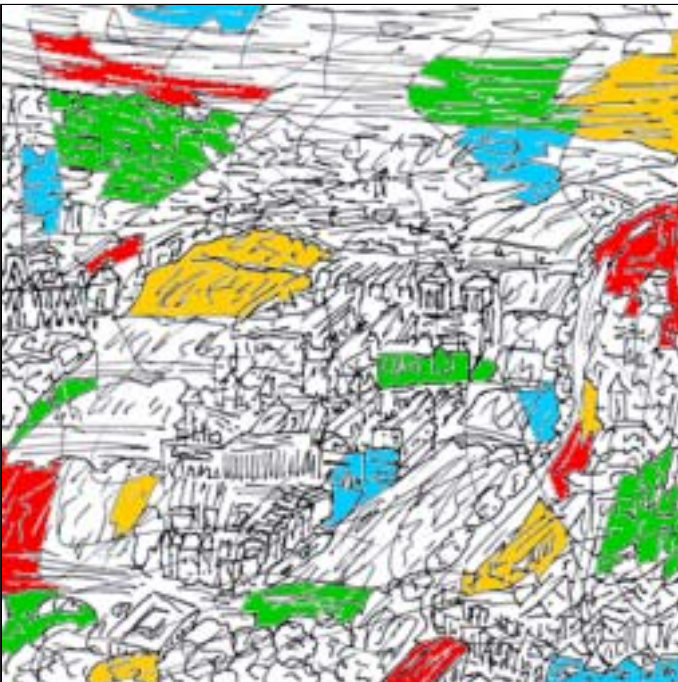
Enjoy the mountain air - mountains - valleys - in each valley people with their own separate culture settled.

Anyhow they allied with an oath in order to defend their interests.



Since that time
they want entrance fee!

France is calling us - Paris - the Louvre -
Montmartre...
Bordeaux - Burgundy - Champagne...



In Paris:
So many artists lived and worked here - it
would take me two days to specify them.

Let's come back tomorrow.



Please talk to me!
 The way of life, the flair, the smell of exquisite food, the sound of the language...

...the architecture - the romantic touch of the old - the courage of the new - the cultural diversity!



I've seen a black on a white bicycle with a kebab in his hand driving over a kippa.

You better read Molière and not De Sade!



I recognize the intellectual and cultural achievements of the Grande Nation - even though Napoleon was a little small.

It gets so loud!
We are in Spain.



In Barcelona:
Wonderful city - exceptional architecture!
Well-aired churches.

The everyday goes flow into art and culture seamlessly - a mass of irrational reality.



That's Greek to me...

In Madrid:
Historic paintings from different
masters of their epoch.



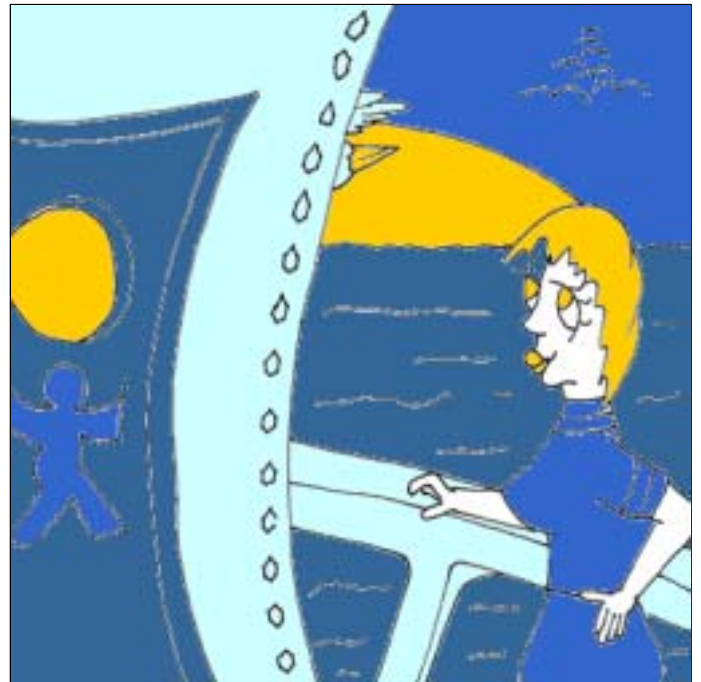
Has one face been posing for
centuries?

The country still suffers from
seperate ideologies...



A struggle for their own identity...

I suggest a football championship - with 20 champions at the end.



Through Portugal:
Do you notice how everything gets more lively and sprightly when going from south to north?
No.

What are your impressions so far?
OOUHFFF!!!



In London:

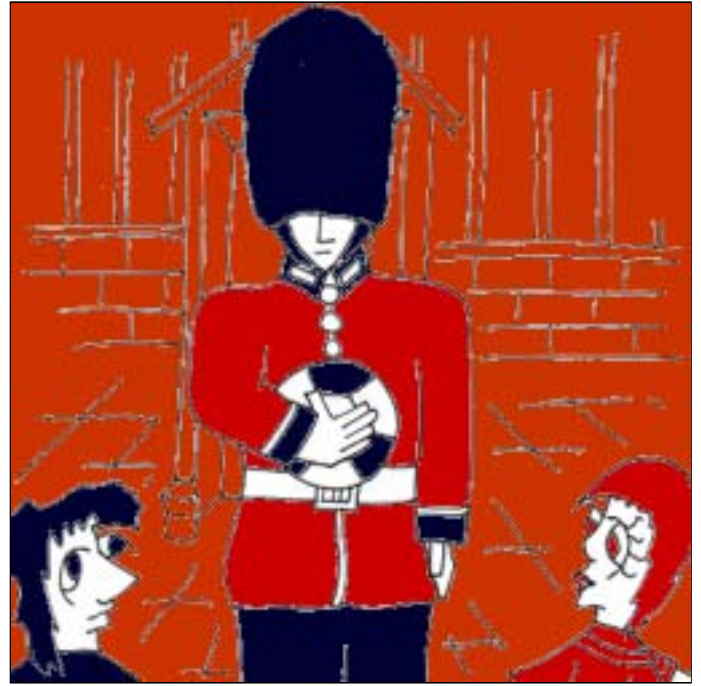
The capital - a place with many achievements for the rest of the world.

They seized a world empire without knowing where left and right is!



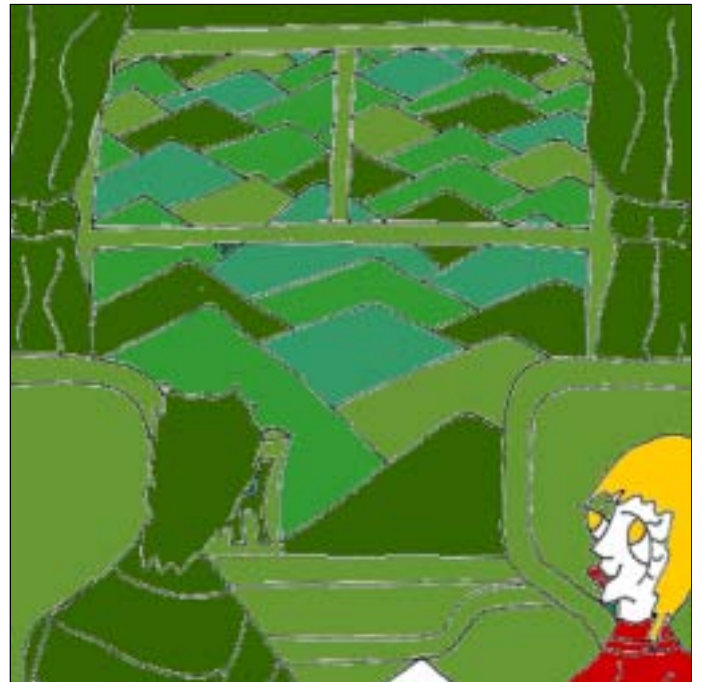
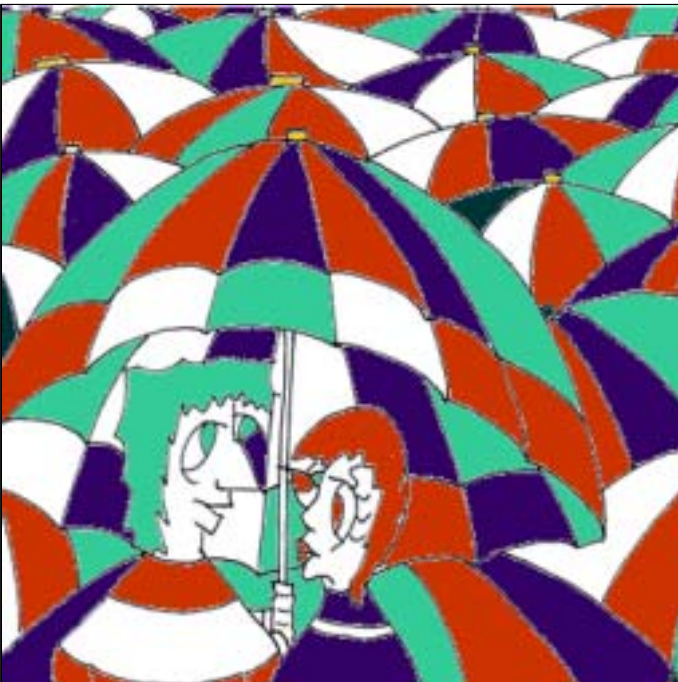
Your sarcastic cynicism is closing your eyes - the appreciation for other values...!
Right left - sorry - left right.

A Pub! Shall we?
You let thousands of art treasures pass by!



What would intellectual people do?
Go to the pub - shall we bet?

... their traditions ...



What do you think about them?
Decent, rainy, cool.

Through Wales:
[Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwillantysiliogogogach.](#)
Was that a hill or a mountain?



Through Scotland:
 Landscape - landscape - landscape, trunks, whisky...
 Mens naked knees.

Rather save fabric
 than wear english pants.



Through Northern Ireland:
 For decades they've been fighting, wether they are
 irish British or british Irish or Irish or British or.....

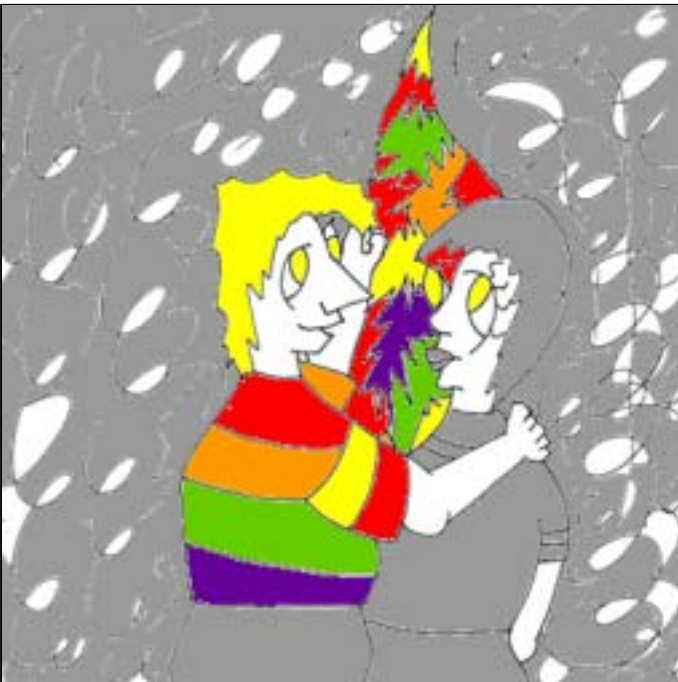
In Dublin:
 drink in order to drink or
 drink in order to drown or.....



It's a continent of it's own.
Or island fever!

In Amsterdam:

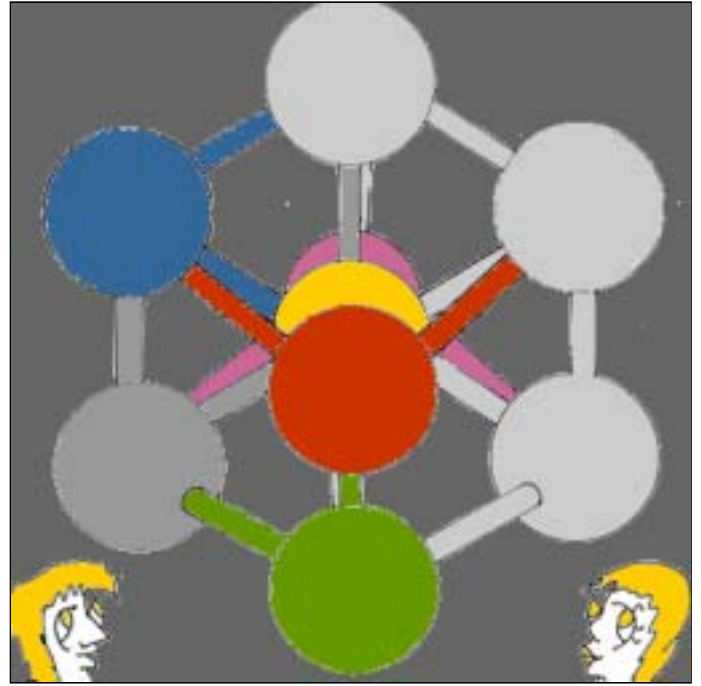
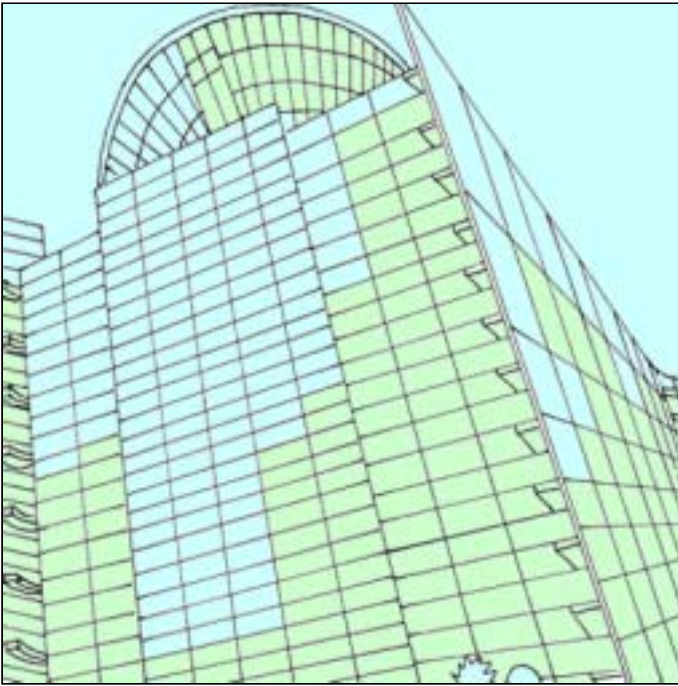
A role model for multicultural life, diverse art,
liberal political thinking.



A role model with exceptional
merchandise!

In Brussels:

In the center of a new identity - a new calendar -
with influence on future generations.



This is...
...the true carnival of the wise.

Like before ... the money in the middle and the rest around it.



Through Germany:
Anything to say - positive or negative...
Germany and Austria and vice versa.

In Vienna:
In the city with traditional maintenance of the ancient.
Everyone Waltz!



Where optimism has died
and pessimism is living.



That's the end of our journey through art and
culture. Your travelogue?
Crossbreeds are better dogs!



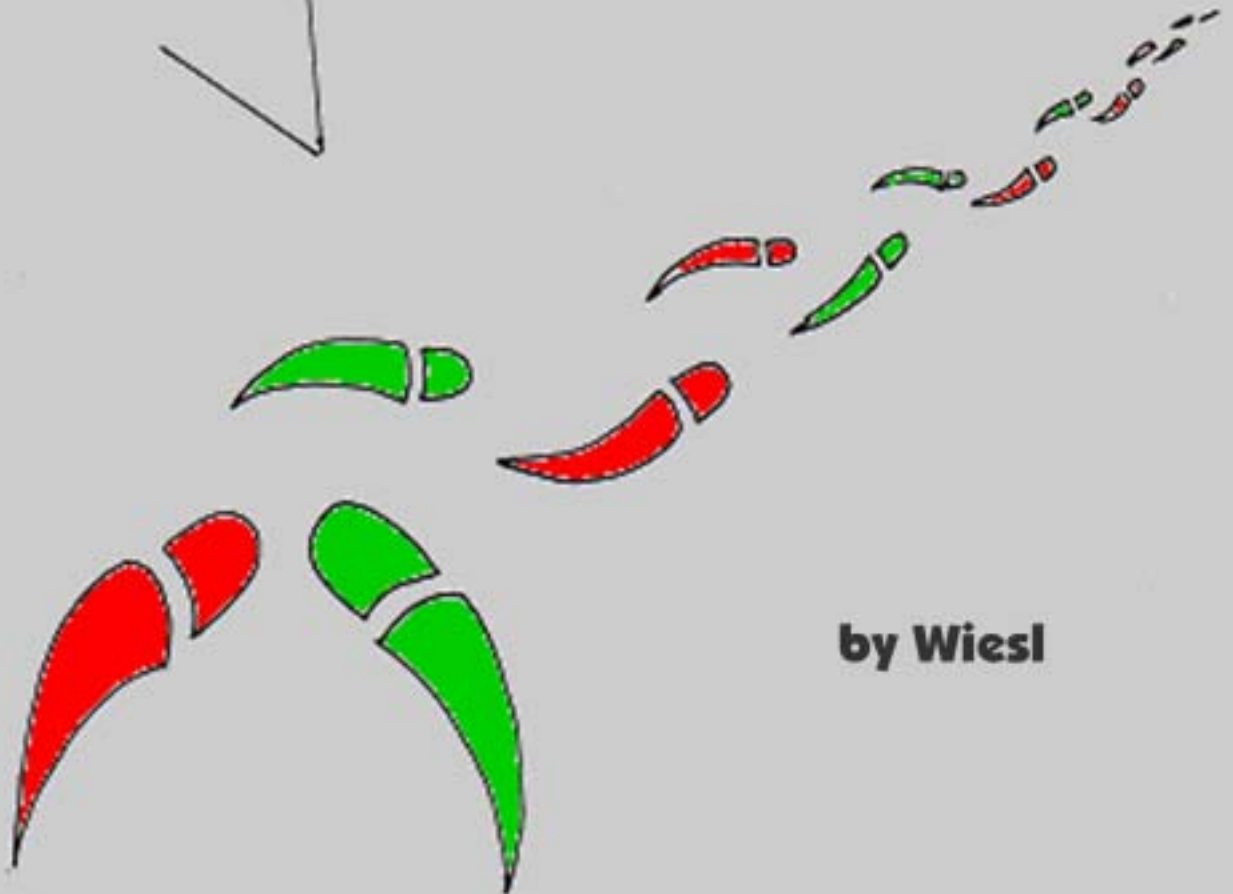
I am Me.



Hugo sleeps again.



A
JOURNEY
THERE &
BACK



by Wiesl