



The Enlightenment



A Secular Mini-Journal for Inquiring Minds

Volume 1

Number 10

October 2020

Donald Arthur Hatch

May 20, 1930 – September 24, 2020



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our good friend, Don Hatch, founder and editor of *The Enlightenment* and past president of the Humanist Association of London and Area (HALA). The following is an excerpt from the obituary written by his daughter Alison Cunningham:

On a bright and warm September day, Don slipped the surly bonds of earth as his kind and gentle heart stopped beating, in his 91st year. That day was spent as many others, sipping tea on the deck and breathing in the splendid early fall air as maple leaves softly fell. He contemplated dinner that evening with his "lady friend" Connie White and caught up with his son in Vancouver. Morning papers read, crossword done, he worked on an article for a humanist newsletter, e-mailed and phoned friends, walked a bit, got the mail. And then he left us. Don died a happy man and leaves a huge legacy as patriarch to three generations. He lived his values. As friend Jack Schenck said, Don never said no to anyone. A sweet and genuine man, he was liked by all.

Deeply missed and loved by children Alison Cunningham of London ON and Graham (Karen) Hatch of Port Moody BC. He was our rock. Adored grandfather to Hilary Cunningham (Andrew Romanchik), Christopher (Christine) Hatch and Kayleigh Hatch. A welcome lap for cuddles with great-granddaughters Maeve and Mila. ...

Born in Guelph, Don graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1953 and worked for 37 years in various capacities in the Canadian chemical industry, travelling across Canada and many parts of the U.S. and England ... After retirement, Don realized his dream of earning a private pilot's license. Flying fly-ins and everything about aircraft brought him joy. He was a busy guy with a wide circle of friends. He was active in the 427 Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association as well as the London chapter of the Recreational Aircraft Association. He was Past President of the Humanist Association of London and Area and enjoyed great connections with like-minded thinkers ... Don restored old radios and TVs and was a long-time member of the London Vintage Radio Club. He could fix anything. His 30 years of retirement were never boring.

As readers of *The Enlightenment* know, Don was a voracious reader with eclectic interests. Beginning with the first issue of this "mini-journal" which appeared in April 2005, and culminating in this, the 130th issue, his articles, opinion pieces, and book reviews have delved into a wide range of topics, including humanism, science, philosophy, religion, secularism, ethics, history, economics, political theory, social justice, global warming, and more. His writing was always interesting, enlightening, and thought-provoking.

This final issue of *The Enlightenment* combines two issues that Don had prepared for the months of October and November. The topics covered in the following pages give us some insight into the sorts of transcendent questions of human existence that occupied Don's mind during the last few months of his life. His discussion of the heart, as both physical organ and metaphor for the mind or emotional self, seems particularly apt given that it was his heart that gave out in the end. In his discussion of paradoxes in religious faith, he reasserts his own rejection of belief in the supernatural, the existence of God, an immaterial soul, or life after death. For him, the key to a fulfilling life was "to live this life to the fullest extent possible while on this earth, without believing in supernatural phenomena." The next piece, no doubt written with an awareness of his own failing body yet still active mind, explores the wonders of the human body as a product of evolution, and the even more amazing abilities and potential of the human mind. In the final entry, he contemplates the current perilous state of the world, threatened by global warming, income inequality, and failure of leadership, wondering what the future holds for his own great-granddaughters after he is gone. This issue ends on a note of optimism, in keeping with his overall outlook on life. Farewell good friend, we will surely miss you!

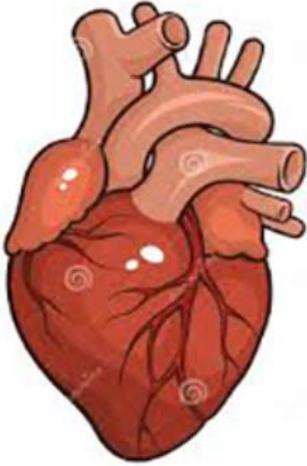
~ Rod Martin and Goldwin Emerson

Please Note

We invite you to visit the **Memorial Website for Don Hatch** where you can view the full obituary, photos, condolences and memories from others, and contribute your own tribute to his memory:
<https://affordablefuneraloptions.ca/tribute/details/393/Donald-Hatch/obituary.html>

All **130 past issues of *The Enlightenment*** may be downloaded from the HALA Archive site at:
<http://humanists-london.org/enlightenment.html>

Have a Heart



The Organ



The Symbol

The human heart is an amazing organ. It is a pump beating away in our chest cavity at from 60 to 80 beats per minute. It pumps oxygenated and nutrient-rich blood to all parts of the body at the rate of five or six quarts per minute or about 2,000 gallons per day, throughout a person's lifetime. If it stops beating for any length of time, a person dies.

Perhaps most importantly it pumps blood to the brain. If sufficient blood does not reach the brain, fainting or unconsciousness can occur. Thus, for a person to function normally, both the heart and the brain must be operating efficiently. A healthy heart and a healthy brain are equally important for the well-being of every individual.

But oftentimes, when a person uses the word *heart*, he or she is not referring to the bodily organ *per se*, but rather to a metaphoric symbol for love, affection, and tenderness. The symbol is most evident on millions of Valentine's day cards sent out every February 14th. And the word is also part of everyday vocabulary in phrases such as "having a heart," and "thinking with the heart rather than the head" and in adjectives such as "heartfelt" and "hardhearted."

The metaphorical use of the word heart was in use before the discovery of the circulation of the blood by William Harvey in 1628. Shakespeare used the term "heart of gold" in the play Henry V in 1599. And the quote "One beautiful heart is better than thousands of beautiful faces," is also attributed to Shakespeare. So how did this use of the word heart in this manner come about?

It is really not very surprising that early humans would equate the heart with life, because they would have observed that life ends when the heart stops beating. Thus, the heart would be thought to be the source and cause of life itself. As time passed the heart seems to have naturally evolved to being thought of as the seat of emotions. And even to this day, the heart is still being associated with emotions including love and compassion, if only symbolically or metaphorically speaking. And what about the emotion of sadness on the loss of a loved one? This is sometimes described as having a heavy heart.

In any discussion on emotions it is necessary to differentiate between emotions and feelings. Feelings are conscious experiences like hunger and pain, while emotions are not conscious but instead are manifest in the unconscious mind. But what exactly are emotions? If you google emotions looking for a definition, you will find that to date there is no scientific definition. Nevertheless, we do know emotions are real. We experience positive euphoric emotions like love, or sympathetic emotions like concern and compassion. There are also unfortunately negative emotions including hate, anger, and shame. But they are all esoteric, or in other words, obscure. And what about spiritual emotions. Are they limited to religious experiences only, or is there such a thing as secular spirituality? I would argue there is.

Devout religious people who believe in the supernatural will claim humans have a mysterious entity called a soul that has a spiritual quality and survives death. And they may also say that a combination of heart and soul is the source of emotions. Apparently, this simple explanation gives them great comfort and spiritual satisfaction. But where is this supposed soul? No doctor doing autopsies has ever found a soul; so if it exists, it must be hidden in the brain, not the heart. The heart is nothing more than an efficient pump.

Now, people who call themselves humanists, secularists, or free thinkers, will immediately discard the concept of a supernatural soul that survives death, and firmly believe this life on earth is all there is, and they will attempt to live their life with as much satisfaction as possible. They will experience various emotions throughout their lifetime, and they will most likely conclude that emotions originate in some mysterious, yet unexplained way, within our complicated brain.

Today neuroscientists know a great deal about the brain and its various parts. They know analytical and methodical skills reside in the left half of the brain and artistic and creative skills in the right half. They know the sections involved with sight, hearing, touch, feeling, and taste. They know which areas light up when people meditate successfully and what chemicals are released during periods of euphoria. But they do not yet fully understand consciousness. Perhaps when they do, they will be able to define emotion. In the meantime, it seems clear that emotions are embedded in the brain, not the heart. Thus, the paradox between head and heart has been solved. Three other paradoxes follow.

Three Paradoxes

A paradox is defined as: “An assertion or sentiment seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense, but that yet *may* be true in fact.” Below are three paradoxes involving religious faith. Each has an assertion or assertions that defy common sense, but are nevertheless believed to be true by devout religious people. Even though the assertion may involve supernaturalism and appear to be unrealistic to non-believers, devout believers will accept that the assertion is extremely likely to be gospel truth.

Kierkegaard’s Absolute Paradox

Sometime during the first half of the 19th century, the Danish theologian, philosopher, and author Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) commented on what he considered to be the “Absolute Paradox.” There are many paradoxes, so what could the absolute or ultimate one be? Well, it turns out to be the basis or foundation of Christianity, which is the contention that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah, the incarnate son of God, born of a virgin, lived, and then died on the cross to atone for the sins of believers who after death

would be guaranteed a place in an idyllic everlasting heaven, providing they repent for their sins. But, is this supernatural portrayal of Christianity factual or just a human invention?

Kierkegaard struggled with this paradox, but being a devout believer in the existence of God, he summoned up the *faith* necessary to believe the basis of Christianity to be true, even though it could be argued that this supernatural construct is, to say the least, unrealistic.

The Theodicy Paradox – Does God Exist?

If there is an all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful God, why does he or she allow so much evil and human suffering in the world? The traditional Christian argument is, “God is testing our faith, or God moves in mysterious ways.” This does not cut it! Conclusion: God does not exist, and by extension, neither does the Jewish Yahweh, or the Islamic Allah. (They are supposedly all one and the same).

The argument against the existence of God is straightforward. The Christian God is supposed to be omnipotent, omniscient, and benevolent. If God were all-powerful and all-knowing, then he or she would have the power and the knowledge to prevent natural disasters that claim lives, and to prevent wars and other evil acts on earth. And to boot, if God were benevolent, he or she would not hesitate to use his or her unlimited power and unlimited knowledge in order to alleviate the dire conditions that exist in our world.

And so we conclude. If there is no God influencing events on earth, then we must get on with trying to make the world a better place on our own.

The East Versus West Paradox

East is east and west is west, and never the twain shall meet. So said Rudyard Kipling in his poem, *The Ballad of East and West*. This poem is almost 100 lines long and relates a complicated story about two warriors meeting face to face. But the first line of this poem can also be applied to religions: the monotheistic linear religions of the west, versus the cyclical reincarnation religions of the east.

The adherents of the linear western monotheistic religions – Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Baha’i – believe in one God and an afterlife in some sort of heaven. They believe in a soul that leaves the body after death and continues on eternally in an idyllic heaven or in an everlasting hell, depending on whether the individual lived a virtuous life or an evil one.

The adherents of the cyclical eastern religions – Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Buddhism – believe in reincarnation, the rebirth of a soul in a new body. It is supposed that upon death the soul moves into some kind of spirit world and eventually is reincarnated into a new body at the time of a new birth. This new individual will have learned from mistakes in its former life and try to live better in the present one. This is known as karma.

This dichotomy poses the obvious questions: which one is right, or is neither one right? Non-believers will say neither one is right. They believe that death is the end. There is no heaven, no hell, and no reincarnation. It’s as simple as that. We are born, we live, and we die. Therefore, as mentioned in the previous article, get

the most possible enjoyment out of this life while here on earth. With this approach, the paradox of the eastern beliefs versus western beliefs disappears.

It is interesting to note that both eastern and western religious beliefs involve the concept of an ethereal soul that survives death. The idea of a soul goes back a long way. Plato talked about humans having a soul and the possibility of an afterlife, and there is a possibility that this is where the early Christians picked up the concept. The Jews did not make a big issue of either. But the idea of a soul entering an individual at birth makes little sense to a non-believer, and it did not make sense to the Greek philosopher Epicurus. He put it this way:

It is surely ridiculous to suppose that spirits are standing by at the mating and birth of animals – a numberless number of immortals on the look-out for mortal frames, jostling and squabbling to get in first and establish themselves most firmly. Or is there an established compact that first come shall be first served, without any trial of strength between spirits?

Epicurus' analysis, I submit, suggests with some certainty that souls do not exist, and therefore, both linear religions and cyclical religions lack credibility. As already stated, the alternative is to live this life to the fullest extent possible while on this earth, without believing in supernatural phenomena. It is simplicity itself.

That being said, however, every individual has the right to choose the concept that works best for them.

The Incredible Human Body and Mind



The Little Shepherdess

At left is *The Little Shepherdess*, painted by London artist Paul Peel in 1892. It hangs in the Art Gallery of Ontario. I believe this painting tastefully portrays the female body in all its beauty and magnificence.

This article is about the incredible human body – both its physical and mental aspects.

Humans sit at the top of the evolutionary pyramid, and evolution has truly created a miracle. As opposed to our closest relatives, the chimpanzees, we are able to speak, write, learn, reason, create, and invent. All these aspects will be considered. But first a word about the artist.

Paul Peel was born in London, Ontario, in 1860 and became one of the first Canadian artists to receive international recognition in his lifetime. He studied in Philadelphia and Paris. In 1890 he won a bronze medal for his painting *After the Bath*, which can be seen in the London Ontario Art Gallery. He is known for his sentimental nudes and his paintings of children. He died in Paris at the young age of 31. His childhood home can be seen at the Fanshawe Pioneer Village in London, Ontario.

Having chosen the *Little Shepherdess* to represent the female body, it is only fair to select an image to represent the male body. I have chosen Michelangelo's statue of *David* shown at right. I believe David depicts the male physique most handsomely. This statue, which is fourteen feet high, can be seen in the Accademia Gallery in Florence, Italy.

Michelangelo (1475-1564) was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect, and poet. His best-known works are the statues *David* and the *Pieta* (in St. Peter's Basilica) and his painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

Both Paul Peel and Michelangelo, I believe, portray just how talented and capable humans can be. With his brush and palette and his inherent creativity and skill, Peel produced a masterpiece. And in a period of four years with his mallet and chisel, Michelangelo turned a huge slab of marble into what is often described as the greatest and most recognized statue in the world. A truly remarkable example of human skill and creativity.



David

Humans possess a physical body as well as a more esoteric entity usually called the mind. First, the physical body.

The Physical Human Body – A Complex, Well-Coordinated Organism

The physical human body consists of a conglomerate of various organs, each with its own purpose working in unison with all the others. I think it is worth exploring the amazing things the major organs do.

The Heart – The heart is an amazing pump. It pumps approximately 2,000 gallons of blood through its chambers every single day of our life. It beats more than 100,000 times a day to achieve this incredible feat.

The Lungs – You take around 17,000 breaths a day, and don't have to think about a single one of them. Yet if you want to stop breathing temporarily, you can hold your breath for a brief period, for instance if you wish to swim under water. A typical pair of adult lungs can hold a huge six liters of air.

The Stomach – The cells in your stomach lining produce an alkaline substance every few milliseconds to neutralize stomach acid. If they didn't do this the stomach would digest itself instead of food, because some of the acids are strong enough to dissolve metals. It takes about 6-8 hours for food to pass through your stomach and two days to complete the digestive process in your intestines.

The Liver – Your liver is so busy over the course of a day it is almost impossible to summarize its activities. It manufactures cholesterol, vitamin D, and blood plasma; it identifies the nutrients your body needs, and stores some away for future use; it filters 1.53 quarts of blood every minute and produces a quart of bile every day to help you break down your food. Basically, you have a factory running inside you every day, which is pretty amazing!

The Kidneys – Each of your kidneys contains 1 million tiny filters that work together to filter an average of 2.2 pints of blood every minute or about 3,200 pints a day, despite each kidney being only the size of a fist. And they also expel 2.5 pints of urine a day from your body.

The Mouth – The glands in your mouth produce an incredible 1.5 liters of saliva every day. If this did not happen, your mouth would dry up and become overrun with bacteria, and you would not be able to digest your food. Your mouth, larynx, and brain work together to allow you to speak an average of 7,000 words a day.

The Eye – You blink about 28,800 times a day, with each blink lasting just a tenth of a second. This is a voluntary reflex the body uses to keep the eye clean and moist, which is very critical considering that 90% of the information you process is visual, and you can weigh up a visual scene in just 0.01 seconds. Consider how many people and objects you look at every day – it's remarkable!

The Skin – The skin is the largest organ in the body. It sheds more than 40,000 skin cells every day. They are constantly replenished automatically to save you from becoming transparent and rather exposed.

The Blood – Red cells in the blood literally shoot around the body, taking less than 60 seconds to complete a full circuit, delivering oxygen and keeping your body energized. Each cell lives for about 40 days, before being replaced by a younger model.

And of course, there are other essential organs including the nose, the ears, the pancreas (the producer of essential insulin), the spleen (part of the lymphatic system that fights infections and keeps body fluids in balance), and the endocrine glands that produce hormones. Then there is the nervous system, the muscles, and the arms and legs, all working together to enable the body to function. Yes, this ultimate result of three-plus billion years of evolution, is truly a miracle.

But none of the organs mentioned above can function properly without what is arguably the most important organ of all, the brain.

The Brain – The brain is the most complex part of the human body. It is made up of more than 100 billion nerve cells that communicate in trillions of connections called synapses. The brain is the source of all the qualities that define our humanity. It is most probably the most remarkable entity in all the universe, the outcome of billions of years of evolution.

I know I am treading on dangerous ground in attempting to explain anything about a human brain. It would take a trained neuroscientist to explain everything that is known today about all the sections and all the functions of the brain, so what I am offering are essentially observations plus some help from Wikipedia.

We know that we humans cannot function properly without adequate periods of rest and sleep. We also know that when we sleep and sometimes dream, we lose consciousness, but even while we sleep, parts of the brain keep functioning as our heart keeps beating, our lungs keep breathing and digestion continues as well. Therefore, is it too much of a stretch to suggest that the part or parts of the brain that require sleep and come alive when we become conscious upon waking, can be defined as our mind?

The Mind

After conception, the physical make-up of the developing fetus is determined by the DNA inherited from parents. Immediately after conception, something truly remarkable begins to occur. Miraculously all our body parts are formed, and we become a living human being. But when we emerge from the womb, do we have a mind or does the baby function solely by intuition? Scholars who study these matters suggest that upon birth, the mind contains innate schemas that form the basic building blocks for further development of mental abilities such as pattern perception and language. Whatever the case, we do know that we do not inherit the knowledge that is embedded in the brains of our parents. Instead we need to memorize and learn, a process that continues throughout a lifetime. As we mature toward adulthood, the capacity to learn increases as we become capable of understanding more complicated things as our learning capabilities continue to develop and expand. And each of us will develop a mind that is unique.

This leads to the question of nature versus nurture. How much of our persona is inherited from our parents, and how much from the environment in which we are brought up? A person brought up in an affluent neighbourhood who received a good education and adequate ethical and moral guidance, would likely have a different mindset than a person raised in a slum ridden with crime. Thus, just how a person is nurtured could well influence and determine the true nature and character of any individual. So, dare we surmise that whatever is inherited from our parents, plus whatever is accumulated in our mind as we grow up, determines our character, or just who we are? In other words, it is our mind that determines who we really are, our character, our mental and moral qualities. Our physical body exists simply for the purpose of enabling our mind to function. Does this make sense? I think so.

Sometimes our brain is referred to as a computer. But in using this analogy, it is necessary to note that the calculations in a computer are performed strictly electronically, whereas the brain communicates electro-chemically. Our thoughts are believed to really be electro-chemical reactions, but the number and complexity of these reactions make them hard to really understand. And speaking of chemicals, our brain releases hormones that are known to be involved with our emotions. Serotonin is sometimes called the happy chemical, oxytocin and dopamine are love chemicals and oxytocin and vasopressin are released during orgasm. Oxytocin is sometimes referred to as the cuddle chemical. Amazing and wonderful!

It has been known for a long time that the body is really a conglomeration of chemical compounds. There are organic compounds such as proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and fats, and inorganic compounds such as calcium phosphate, a main constituent of bones. And water is present in abundance. Sixty percent of the human body is water and 73% of the brain is water.

So, dare we conclude that our mind, or who we are, is the result of electro-chemical reactions that we do not yet fully understand, occurring in parts of our brain? I think it is certainly a possibility. After all, amazing occurrences taking place over billions of years resulted in our wondrous planet earth being formed from star stuff. And then conditions on earth were once just right for the development of single-celled living organisms, leading after about 3.5 billion years to the evolution of homo sapiens, an animal possessing a miraculous living brain and an intelligent mind, all without the help of a supernatural deity. Truly amazing! So, as mentioned above, is it too much of a stretch to suggest that who we are is, in some mysterious way, electro-chemical phenomena going on in our brain? This is certainly not beyond the realm of possibility.

Now religious people will say that the above definition of who we are is cold and unspiritual, and that humans possess a supernatural soul that survives death. They will also say that only religions can manifest spiritual feelings. They admit none of this can be proven, but say their *faith* allows them to believe in a soul and an afterlife.

Non-believers will counter that spirituality is not the sole prerogative of religion. They experience secular spirituality from the awe and wonder of nature, the awe and wonder of just being alive, and through the enjoyment of the creative renderings of music composers, poets, and artists.

Human Achievements

Although we do not understand everything about how the brain works, we do know that humans are capable of great achievement. Perhaps the Olympic Games, held every four years, are one example that exemplifies what humans can achieve when the body and mind work together in the quest for medals. Who cannot be impressed by the extraordinary display of athletic talent we observe at the different Olympic events, both summer and winter? And it must be recognized that this display of talent is the result of not only physical athletic skill, but also of mental concentration during hours of dedicated practice. How many hours? Malcolm Gladwell in his book *Outliers*, tells us his research determined that it takes 10,000 hours of practice for an athlete to obtain top form. Talk about dedication!

In addition to entertaining us with athletic prowess, the Olympic Games teach us a lesson on ethnic and racial differences. At Olympic villages, athletes from all over the world mingle peacefully with each other, and perhaps in some cases, form friendships that last a lifetime. So, if the youth of the world can get along together, why can't adults? Unfortunately, adult humans have not yet been able to put differences aside and work in unison toward world peace and prosperity.

Gladwell also notes that, as with athletes, practice and dedication are also required by professional musicians. In particular, he mentions *The Beatles*. It took 10,000 hours of practice and performing before they appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. And it takes the same amount of practice for us to enjoy a Beethoven piano concerto played to perfection by a talented concert pianist.

There are of course, many other human achievements of note brought about by individuals with imbued intelligence, ingenuity, talent and skill. The list would include scientists, engineers, inventors and technicians who have contributed to the betterment of humankind, by providing machines and appliances to reduce drudgery, and by making outstanding advances in transportation and communication. And we cannot forget the medical scientists who have eliminated many diseases and have also extended human longevity. And then there are the creative individuals in the disciplines of the arts: composers, musicians, novelists, poets, and painters, all providing esthetic pleasures.

And we dare not forget the rest of us – people with average capabilities who want to enjoy the fruits of modernity while hopefully being able to enjoy life and use our attributes to contribute in any way we can to advance the well-being of society.

On the other hand, we cannot ignore the reality that not all humans contribute positively to the societies in which they live. Unfortunately, there are those who are materialistic and greedy, desiring much more than

they really need to live comfortably. And there are others who wish to achieve power, are dictatorial and even evil. What is going on in the brains of these people? This enigma has been with us since the dawn of civilization, or maybe even before. Why do humans go to war and kill other humans? Why is there organized crime? I, of course, do not have any answers and as far as I know, neither do psychologists who attempt to fathom the reason for this shortfall in the character of those human individuals that commit crimes and atrocities. Are their brains wired differently from good people?

Where Are We Now?

At the present time, humanity appears to be at a crossroad. After the end of WWII, at least in the western world, a sense of equality prevailed with the establishment of a prosperous middle class. Today the middle class is shrinking, and inequality is prevalent as more and more wealth is ending up in the hands of the so-called 1%. At the same time, populism is on the increase and democracy is threatened. And we are finally recognizing that our use of fossil fuels that brought about all the comforts and conveniences we enjoy, is causing climate change that, if not halted, could cause the earth to become so hot that humanity could become extinct. Then to top it all off, we are in the midst of a pandemic that shows no sign of coming to an end.

What will it take for this mayhem to end? Will it take a catastrophe like World War Two, or a revolution, for humanity to unite in a common cause and for leaders like Churchill and Roosevelt to come forward to restore some sense of equality, where the wealth inherent in the world's natural resources is shared by all, not just the few? Will there be leaders with the right mindset and brain power to forge a future that our great-grandchildren can enjoy? Let us hope so, but the challenge is daunting.

Finally, let's go back to the Little Shepherdess and some poetry to soothe the mind. After seeing Paul Peel's painting in the Art Gallery of Ontario, my niece and poetess Jennifer Wenn, composed a poem expressing her feelings and impressions. Here is the third stanza; I find it to be very moving:

And there, high up on a wall,
the screen of trees in the distance,
meadow sloping down and left
to a pond just in front,
lily pads and blue irises, attendant
blossoms to the little shepherdess
bursting from the background,
seated on a large rock,
her charges grazing amongst the trees,
crook, clothes and cares cast aside,
hair garlanded with delicate pink flowers,
skin glowing with expectation,
a demurely sensual and unveiled adolescent,
quietly bold, gazing at nature's mirror
echoing her incipient beauty,
left foot curled shyly under,
right testing the pool awaiting her.