

study of the female dilemma which is, alas, an entire field of study on its own. The overall tone of the writings I investigated was that of being stuck in a role prescribed for a lifetime by others in a society.

What really happened to women over the years? We became separated from our nature and our vision got narrowed down. We were reconstructed by the prevailing social norms, which we came to accept. We live as a dichotomy of beauty and aloneness. In our attempt to express ourselves and move forward, we got caught in the net of the world of men and became discontent. Our perspective on life was not honored and we were struck with self-doubt. Then the worst of all happened—we forgot our own visions and began to search for one that would be acceptable to men in general.

You know the rest of the story. The protest has been going on for a long time, both quietly, within consciousness, and loudly, in the world. Our desire is to see ourselves as an image in our own right. We have been distorted and split apart by prismatic interpretations that give an entirely different image of women, but underneath it all, the image of Paradise still lives within us. We must experience the unknown in order to follow our hopes and desires so that those can be revealed and our minds be relieved of chaos and false notions as a result.

I reread Alice's adventures a third time because her behavior struck a familiar chord in me since, like Alice, I too found it difficult to allow myself a total freedom of mind. I saw how we were both compelled to have one foot remain in what we saw as "reality," while the other foot could test the waters of the "irrational" for a bit of a feel of it. Now I can see that the truth is only contained in the imagination, and that what we call "reality" is, instead, a