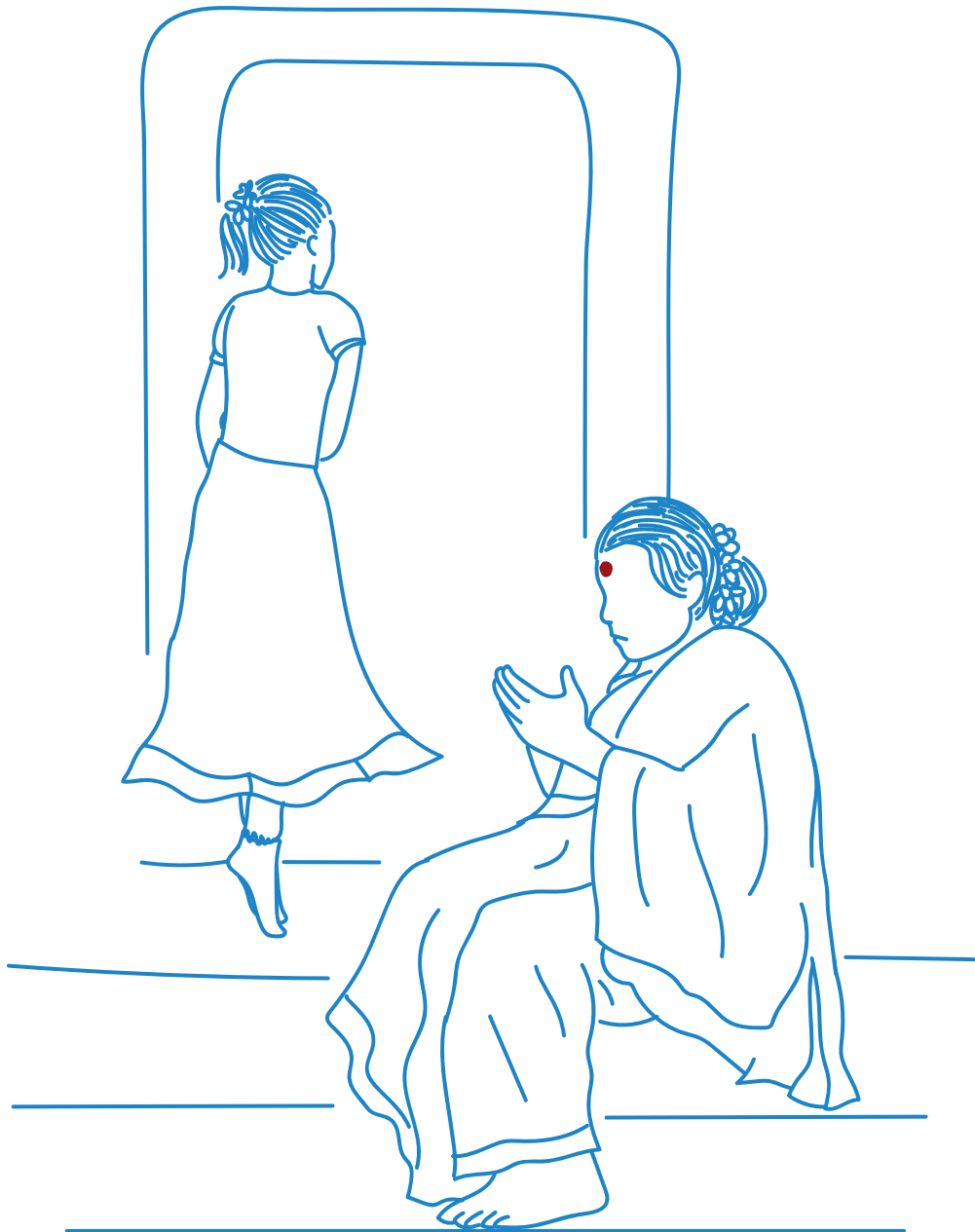




God's Keeper

Vasanthi Vasudev

She sat.....
Her naked calf
Gleaming in oil;
Hands outstretched
Menacingly
Her fore head
Bore a big
Red stop-light.
Remnants of flowers
Hung from the
Mangled mess
Of her silvery hair.





Eyebrows crossed and skewed;

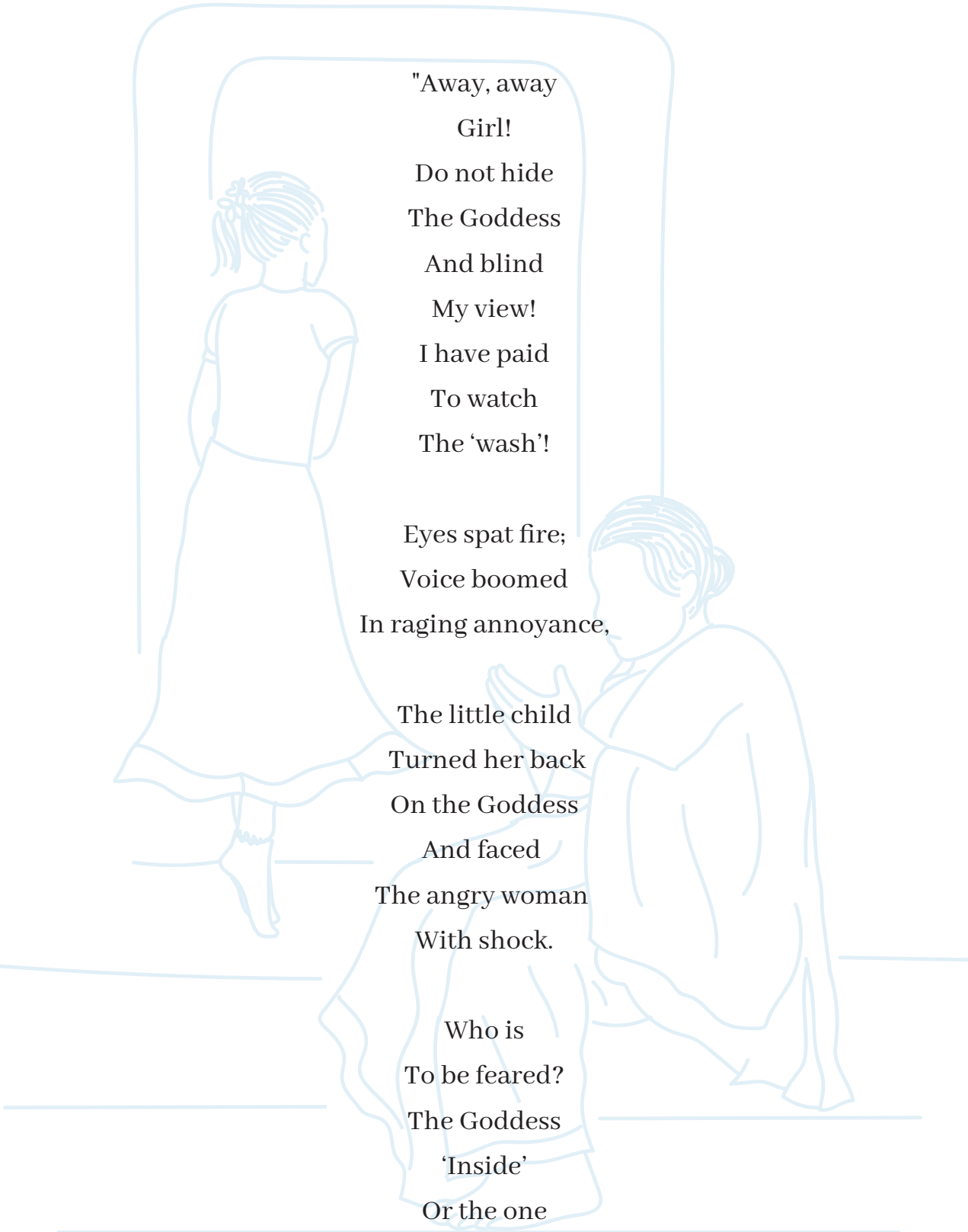
Eyes alert, angry,
Pursed lips
Locked in a frown.

Did she vye
The faceless icon
In the sanctum sanctorum
In her wrath?

The fiery idol
Was being appeased
With coconut water,
Turmeric & milk,
In accompaniment
To a mechanical chant.

A little girl
With curious eyes
And happy face
Rushed towards
The sanctum sanctorum
To see the Goddess,
To feel her love.

As she stepped
Upon the threshold
Between the holy
And the unholy,
She rumbled
In the thunder
Of rage!



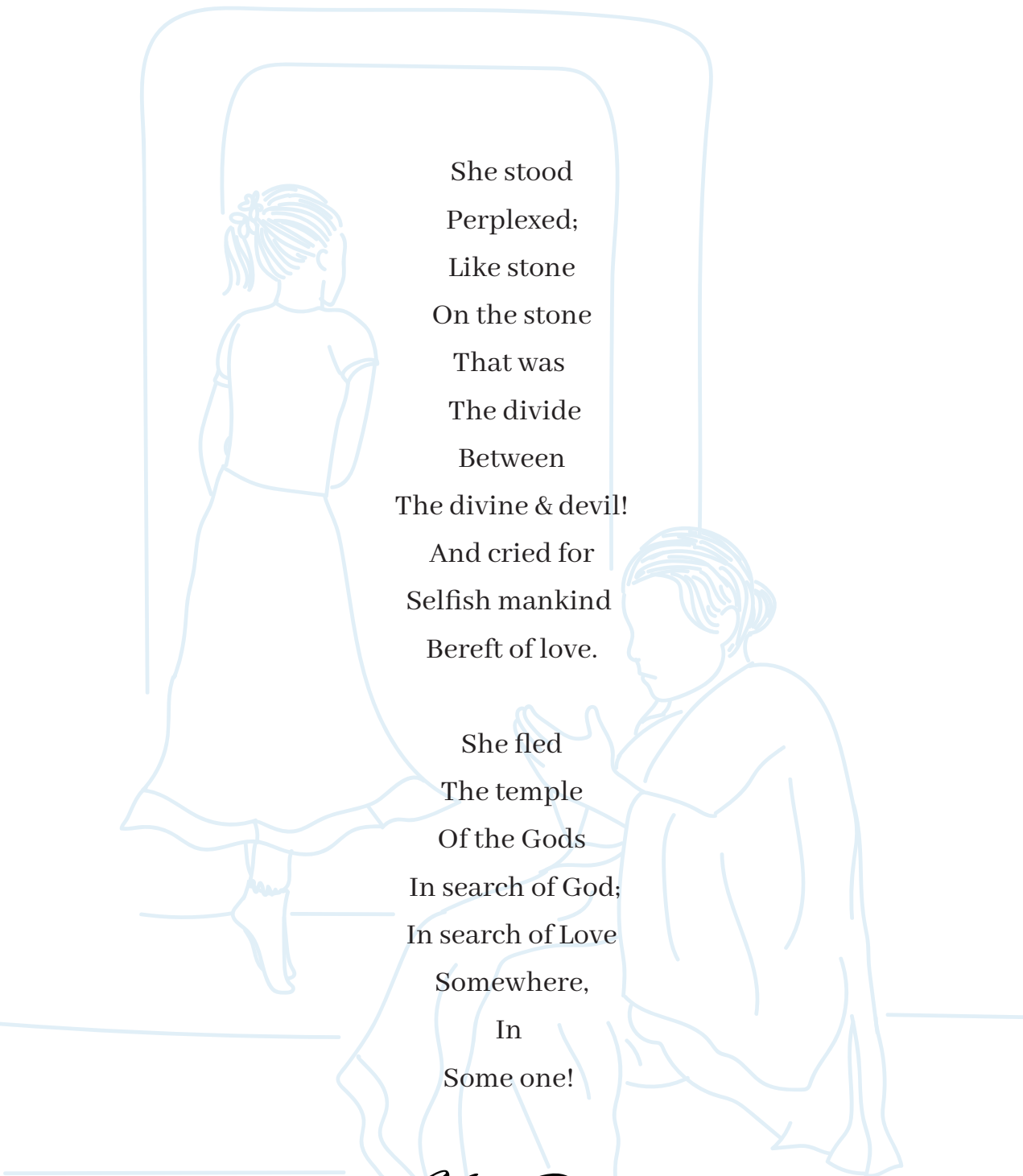
"Away, away
Girl!

Do not hide
The Goddess
And blind
My view!
I have paid
To watch
The 'wash'!

Eyes spat fire;
Voice boomed
In raging annoyance,

The little child
Turned her back
On the Goddess
And faced
The angry woman
With shock.

Who is
To be feared?
The Goddess
'Inside'
Or the one
'Outside'?



She stood
Perplexed;
Like stone
On the stone
That was
The divide
Between
The divine & devil!
And cried for
Selfish mankind
Bereft of love.

She fled
The temple
Of the Gods
In search of God;
In search of Love
Somewhere,
In
Some one!

Verses
BY VASANTHI