



## Reflection

Dr. Maria Bozoky (1917-1996) was a Hungarian artist, art critic, and writer. She primarily used watercolor and gouache techniques in her impressionistic paintings. Besides painting, her interest took her to writing and illustrating books and poems.

Unfortunately, World War II and its following tragedies cast deep shadows on her personal life. She married Dr. Balogh László, and their daughter, Edina, was born in 1948. Dr. Balogh for political reasons spent many years in prison. Bozóky was forcefully expelled, with others having similar family connections, to “harvest cotton” in Eastern Hungary between 1951-1953.

The story of Jonah, the non-conformist prophet and his non-conformist God, spoke to her and she made a series of pen and ink sketches. In one, Jonah is depicted as lying on his side in the hot sun. His head and arms are visible on the left side, his legs on the right side. But in the middle, his torso seems to have melted in the heat. Meanwhile two big mosquitoes torment their victim.

In the second painting, a big fish gives the viewer the stink eye. Dr. Bozoky might have appreciated the following thoughts by Episcopal author Robert Farrar Capon in the book The Third Peacock:

*God has dangerously odd tastes: He is inordinately fond of risk and roughhouse. Any omnipotent being who makes as much room as he does for back talk and misbehavior strikes us as slightly addled. Why, when you're orchestrating the music of the spheres, run the awful risk of letting some fool with a foghorn into the violin section? Why set up the delicate balance of nature and then let a butcher with heavy thumbs mind the store? It just seems—well, irresponsible. If we were God we would be more serious and respectable: no freedom, no risks; just a smoothly obedient show presided over by an omnipotent bank president with a big watch.*

## Angry Jonah and The Fish By Maria Bozoky