

KING EDWARD THE SEVENTH



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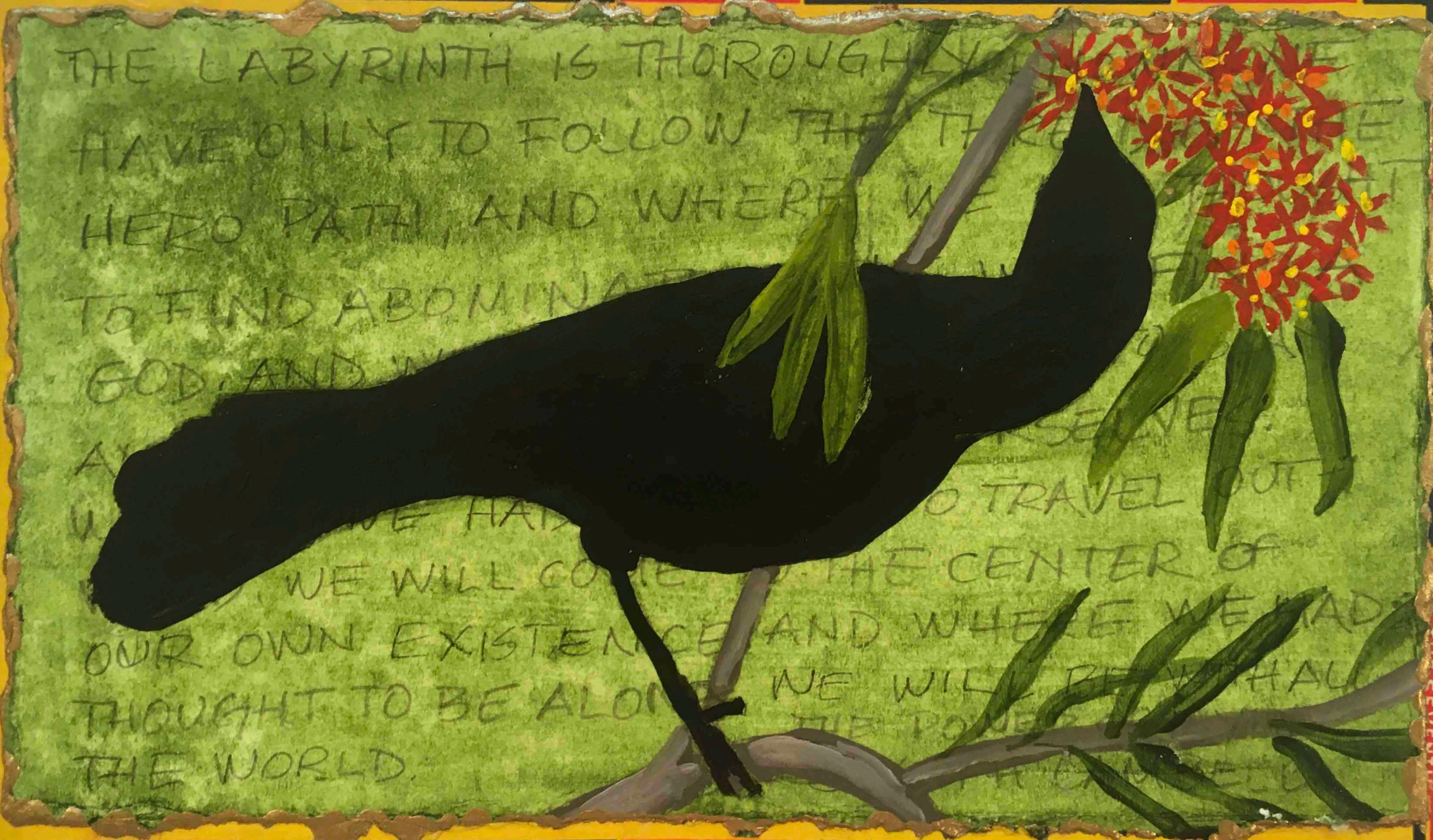


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THE LABYRINTH IS THOROUGHLY
HAVE ONLY TO FOLLOW THE
HERO PATH, AND WHERE WE
TO FIND ABOMINATIONS
GOD, AND WE
AS WE
WE HAD
WE WILL COME TO THE CENTER OF
OUR OWN EXISTENCE AND WHERE WE HAD
THOUGHT TO BE ALONE WE WILL BE
THE WORLD.

Cuban Blackbird

Thinking back on Cuba on the way to Havana
On a hotel balcony overlooking a savannah
The Valle de Vinales spreading out before me
Reflecting today about Cuba and simplicity.

This Covid situation has brought us back
From complicated lives and lots of flack
Where we wanted more than living requires
Things often failing to satisfy desires

I remember a blackbird with jet-black eyes
Sitting stoicly in a tree as the sky cries
Rainwater dripping from its soaked feathers
Seemingly unconcerned about stormy weather.

The blackbird seems neither happy nor sad
Just surviving the rain like a good comrade
Rain that comes with the end of summer
Sometimes being a Cuban can be a bummer.

They survived the collapse of the Soviet Union
And the embargo of the U.S. to punish the Cuban
They had to find ways to keep alive
Self-sufficiency was needed in order to survive.

It's a noble goal to seek self-sufficiency,
And economic efficiency without moral deficiency,

No computer-generated trading and unchecked greed
Just trying to establish one's own code and creed.

Although many of us would not want to participate
In the Cuban system forced upon them by fate
There are some interesting aspects that are worthy of study
And you don't have to embrace Fidel as your buddy.

Cuba today is amazingly resilient
With some tweaks and changes it could be brilliant
Be careful of your judgment of the Cuban way
The blackbird may yet see the sun today.

So welcome to Earth church
Pull yourself up a pew
Pray the winds of change
Don't overwhelm you.