**“From the Tree of Knowledge”** (*„No atzīšanas koka”*) by Aspazija (1919)

The memoirs of Aspazija’s life were published in the journal “Jaunības Tekas” in the years 1913 and 1914. Later, in 1919, Aspazija gathered these eleven depictions in the collection “From the Tree of Knowledge” that was adorned with illustration by Alberts Prande. The collection was published by the publishing house of Latvian Soviet Commissariat for Education (*Padomju Latvijas Izglītības komisariāta apgādiens*). These depictions later make the introduction part of the autobiography “A Blue Sky” (*„Zila debess”*). The growth process of a young personality, where the tragic entwines with the beautiful, is decisively revealed in this work. The poetess sympathizes with the unfortunate; the work is full with sad moods. Aspazija starts the telling with a portrayal “A Tree Branch from Paradise” (*„Paradīzes zariņš”*). The literature scientist Saulcerīte Viese describes a scene like this: “the first gift of the world, which a child receives on an early spring morning, is a half-blooming branch of thorn, which smells fantastic. But while the girl in deep delight enjoys this never before felt scent, a tiny dribble of blood flows down her hand — life and beauty has been given together with a thorn needle.”