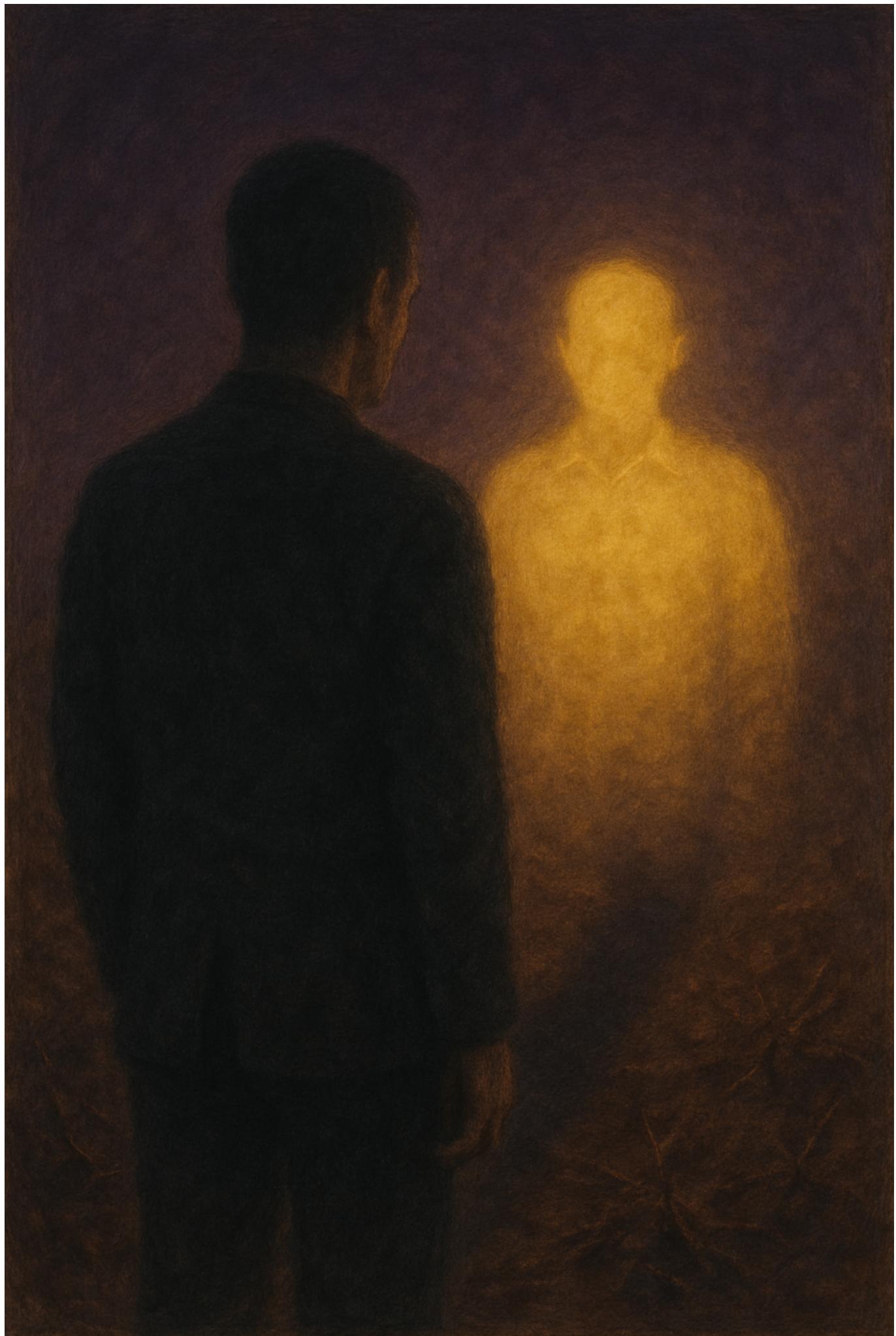




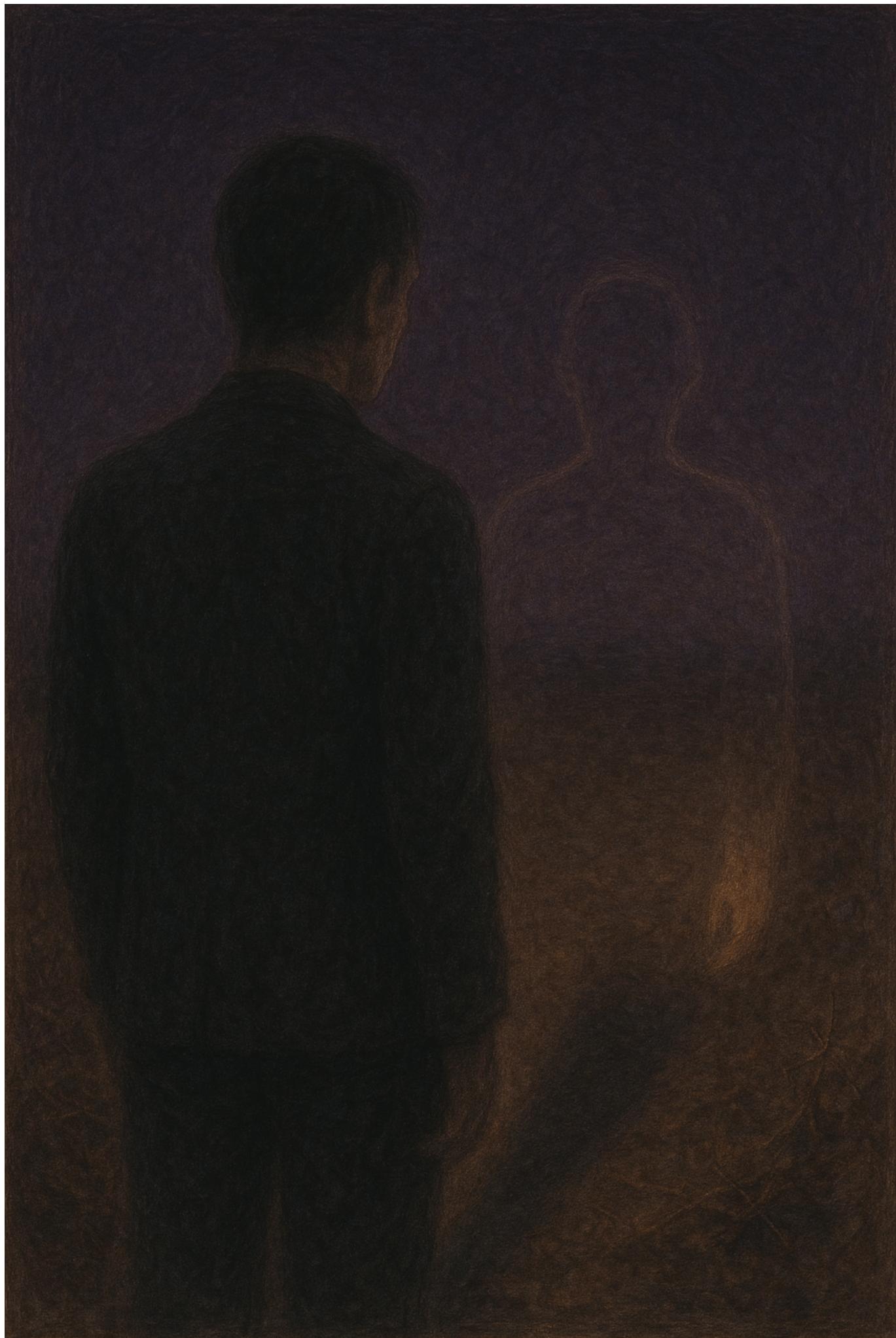
I. When No One Saw Me

A shadow on the horizon. I stand still. I see something I don't want to see. And I know-it already lives in me.



II. When I Looked Like Him

His shape in my gaze. My gaze in his shape. No way around it: I carried him forward.



III. I Thought I Was Free

I shouted: I've left you behind! But he didn't answer. Because he was still inside me.



IV. I Gave Him Back

In a moment without eyes, I laid down his shadow. Not as revenge. As action.



V. I Saw Myself Again

A new reflection. Not in his face. In my own. In the earth. In the light. In the first sprouts.



VI. I Call Him Forth - As a Friend

If he wants to come now, he may come. I don't need him. But I have space for him.

Epilogue: To All Who Carry Father-Shadows

You are allowed to be angry.

You are allowed to be quiet.

You are allowed to not know what you feel.

But one day, when you stand in your own light

and feel a warmth behind you,

don't turn away.

It may be a shadow that wants to come home.

Or yourself, ready to move forward.

We walk together.

We walk all the way.

We walk with open eyes.

- Raphael