

Beautiful Savior

LIGHT

When an
Orthodox Christian artist
paints an icon
the face
is first painted
as a flat of brown,
a deep ochre.
Then gradually
the painter
layers lighter
and lighter
hues on top of
the darker shades
to show the divine light
that shines from within,
from within the saint's face,
from Mary's face, from Christ's face.
The face is featureless
until the light is painted
The face is shapeless until the divine
is painted.
It is the divine light
that shows the true face.
Divine light from within
reveals our true identity.
St. Paul wrote:
"All of us, with unveiled faces,
seeing the glory of the LORD
as though reflected in a mirror
are being transformed into the same image
from one degree of glory to another."

