

Reflections on Darkness and Light

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I The Asking

After having retired to the place I had designed to go, having looked around me, and finding myself alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart. I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such an astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction. But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction—not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being—just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. (JS-H 1:15–17)

All that has gone before makes the now, somehow.
Whys are sucked deep into the darkened spirit's
black hole where desperate reaching retrieves
distraught questions from God's battered children.
Response comes in increments,
not yes or no, but *maybe*, no matter, not yet.

Born through a veiled past
we experiment upon the Word;
begin the long quest to fade shadow into light
only to realize, when the tests
and pleadings for help are done,
that we have to write our own answers.

II The Setting

How long will you choose darkness rather than light? (Hel. 13:29)

Disembodied in darkness
sightless
there is only what we feel
what we grapple for

Actors, chained to fear,
flailing ourselves with other's lives
performing on an unlit stage,
the curtains closed

Voices of an invisible audience
taunting

III The Awakening

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. (Isa. 9:2)

Let us chant a litany to day
with its certainty of sun
its lavishness of light;
to fires that appease the specter of night;
to the spark within
that is the hugeness of us all,
that lights our dreams, our visions
and causes us to yearn
for an unfathomable love.

IV The Testing

The light which is in all things, which giveth life to all things, which is the law by which all things are governed. (D&C 88:13)

Why not a passion for the source
to counter dark's obsession?
See how lightning lashes at the night,
how the prudent carry lanterns into caves
to wrestle both angels and demons,
how focused beams transform matter.

Wave, particle, quantum,
 aspects of the whole.
 In a universe made of
 shards of shattered stars
 the shadows the light.

V Double Helix

We were in the beginning. Intelligence, or the light of truth was not created or made, neither indeed can be. The body filled with light comprehends all things. (D&C 88:67)

We come knowing
 but don't know we know
 eons encrypted, spiraled
 inside us, encoded in an
 infinite of atomic light
 Intervolved between shadow
 and sun, life breeds in darkness,
 intaglioed leaves dying
 their golden death crumble
 and decay into the entropic
 dregs that infuse nascent
 roots with opposed force
 to push stems, leaves
 flowers towards visible
 light, while we, in the
 night, like blossoms
 triggered by dusk
 effloresce dreams and
 visions illumined from
 within to bloom in the
 gardens in our minds
 Let there be light and
 there was . . . is . . . in
 all things, through
 all things, brilliant, bright