

Shadows vs. Darkness

Shadows are cast
by the presence of light;
darkness comes
from its absence.

Shadows possess
form and outline;
darkness is void
of all contours.

The shadow, however,
is darkness diluted
or light obscured.

One merely sees shadows,
but inhabits darkness.

No, you will never grow
by peering at
the flatness of shadows
without feeling
the fullness of darkness.

For, shadows resemble
creatures;
but darkness reveals
the Creator.

The Creator is Darkness
not by deficiency,
but by intensity
of light.

Creatures, like shadows,
are discrete and multiple;
the Creator, like darkness,
is one and indivisible.

Creatures, like shadows,
have limits and lineaments;
the Creator, like darkness,
knows no bounds.

Therefore, do not shun,
but submit to
the nurturing darkness.

Since the Dark Abyss
is not for seeing,
but for hearing,
you must not only listen
in the darkness;
you must also attend
to the darkness.

Shadows, you see,
flit around
for our distraction.
Darkness, however,
surrounds us
for concentration.
While shadows foster
dissipation,
Darkness supplies
purification.

We are afraid of Darkness,
because we fear
profundity.

We skip among shadows
for we prefer
mediocrity
and run the risk
of idolatry.

Only after the descent
into the dark night
does the soul
ascend into the shadow
cast by beneficent Light.

Since this shadow reveals--
even more than conceals--
the beckoning beams of
Light,
what is deep darkness
to the despairing
is but a luminous shadow
for the believer.

The soul becomes fit
to move among the shadows,
for it sees the secret

of the divine Artist:
"the shadow is darkness
sculpted and shaped
by the Light."

The enlightened soul
perceives the pilgrim path:
"out of the darkness of night
through earthly shadows into
supernal
Light."

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September 4, 1989
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