

## *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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