

Genesis 1:1-4

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ:

When God began to create heaven and earth

והארץ היתה תהו ובהו והשך על־פני תהום ורוח אלהים
מרחפת על־פני המים:

the earth being unformed and void, with darkness
over the surface of the deep and a wind from God
sweeping over the water

ויאמר אלהים יהי אור ויהי־אור:

God said, "Let there be
light"; and there was light.

ורא אלהים את־האור כייטוב
ויבדל אלהים בין האור ובין
החשך:

God saw that the light was
good, and God separated
the light from the darkness.

Sonnet 43

William Shakespeare

When most I wink, then do mine eyes best see,
For all the day they view things unrespected;
But when I sleep, in dreams they look on thee
And, darkly bright, are bright in dark directed.

Then thou whose shadow shadows doth
make bright, How would thy shadow's form form
happy show

To the clear day with thy much clearer light
When to unseeing eyes thy shade shines so!

How would, I say, mine eyes be blessed made
By looking on thee in the living day,
When in dead night thy fair imperfect shade
Through heavy sleep on sightless eyes doth stay!

All days are nights to see till I see thee,
And nights bright days when dreams do show thee
me.

Sforno on Genesis 1:4

יבדל אלהים בין האור ובין החשך. אותם הימים
ששמש בהם האור הראשון היו זמני אור וזמני חשך
שלא בכח סבוב גלגל אלא ברצון אלהי שהבדיל בין
זמן האור לזמן החשך:

ויבדל אלוקים בין האור ובין החשך,

the days (prior to the fourth day when
the sun was placed in orbit) during
which use was made of the "original
light," periods of light and darkness
alternated due to causes other than
the revolving of the planet around its
own axis, i.e. due to the direct
expression of G'd's desire. He ensured

that periods of light
alternated
with periods of
darkness.

Here comes the sun...and
the moon, and the stars, the
day, and the night. All
separated by purpose
and necessity. Each entity
providing it's own creative force.
Alternating, perhaps battling for
dominance, the goodness of
light and the difficulty of
darkness is acknowledged
endlessly in both religious and
secular texts. Darkness is often
described in desolating terms,
but is not deprived of creative
force nor purpose. Clarity comes
in the night through rested eyes
as easily as in the brightness of
day.

Thought Starters

What are some sources
of "original" light that
guide our creation of
the world we live in?

Given the context of
original light, what role
does original darkness
play in our ability to
build the structures
(family, work, activism,
etc.) in which we
conduct our lives?

Despite the textual
juxtapositions of light
and darkness, with
darkness being
described in somewhat
negative terms (void,
chaos, lonely, cold),
how can we, like
Shakespeare,

contextualize darkness in a place of
positivity rather than strict necessity?

Creation is depicted as both
instantaneous and multi-phasal, but in
all instances incomplete. Does the
essence of entropy ever cease in the
process of creation?



Shleesh

Here Comes the Sun

The Beatles

Here comes the sun, doo-d-doo-doo
Here comes the sun
And I say, "It's alright"

Little darling
It's been a long, cold, lonely winter
Little darling
It feels like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun, doo-d-doo-doo
Here comes the sun
And I say, "It's alright"

Little darling
The smile's returning to the faces
Little darling
It seems like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun
Here comes the sun
And I say, "It's alright"

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Little darling
I feel that ice is slowly melting
Little darling
It seems like years since it's been clear

But here comes the sun, doo-d-doo-doo
Here comes the sun
And I say, "It's alright"
Here comes the sun, doo-d-doo-doo
Here comes the sun
It's alright
It's alright