

The Discovery of Darkness

A Parable by FP

She had lived in this room since her eyes were opened and her voice gave forth words in which the room had found its description. It was a well-lit room, for which she was glad, and she made it so increasingly. There were many sources of light, it seemed, both within her control and not. There were globes that spun lazily out of reach, with their dark green hue and random glimmers; candles whose flames burnt straight as hot spear-heads; lanterns and torches; bulbs that beckoned and beacons that bloomed; an array of incandescent shafts that cut through the still air. In such a room she came to be, and made her home.

All in avoidance of shadows, which she feared and hated.

Oftentimes, should a source of light give up its fragile hold, she would replace it with another. In this manner she came to understand that there could never be enough light in the room; once full, adding further light made no difference. In this there was revelation.

And finally, she came to see that the sources of light were never exhausted.

So slowly, fearfully, she put out the lights, one by one; some by a mere whisper of breath, and they fluttered out like bright butterflies, others took trials to reach and break. Others required subtle craft and trickery, puzzles in the making and breaking. Yet others went of their own accord, only to return later, renewed and resplendent.

So it came that there was only one solitary light left, one flame burning in the centre (perhaps, it was hard to tell in that final absence of other light) of the darkness. Surely she had made some mistake; the dark and the doubt assailed her. But she had come to a place of no choice; that light would surely not sustain her for long. So she reached out and placed her hand on the flame, killing it before remorse could claim her, or some other sudden emotion. And once that last light was extinguished, it seemed as if her very life had gone with it.

In that darkness was seen a light; a crack around a door. A door leading out.

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