

## Night Teaches Us

The inspired apostle says that even the heathen are without excuse for their ignorance and depravity, because they refuse to listen when the "day uttereth speech,"—they refuse to learn when the "night showeth knowledge."

We should ever hold ourselves ready to receive instruction both from the day and the night. In the present instance let us take our lesson from the calm and meditative teacher that speaks by silence, and brings forth knowledge out of darkness. What salutary impressions can we gain from the night, considered not in its astronomical aspects, but simply as the visible contrast of the day,—the season of darkness, of silence, and of repose?

Night teaches us the solemn and fearful lesson of the individuality of our being. Far more than the day it shows us what it is to be alone with ourselves and God. It drives all the faculties and sensibilities of the soul inward upon itself. You spend a wakeful hour upon your bed at night. There is no sight to be seen, no sound to be heard. The voices of the day are hushed. The diversions and activities of busy life are all removed. You have nothing to do but lie awake in the night watches and think. Without light, without sound, without fear, without pain, a solitary thinking mind, with the curtain of complete darkness shutting you in on every side, you still must feel that there is another Being whose dread omniscience is haunting the secret depths of your soul.

With no thought of what your fellow-men may do or be or say, you think only of what you yourself are and ought to be when alone with God. Every fibre and feeling of your whole being tells you that the eye of the Infinite One is upon you, and that there is no escaping His presence. You feel for the time that it were better for you never to have had any being than not to be at peace with Him, who is around you and within you and everywhere, and who seems to you in the darkness and solitude to be the only being in existence outside of yourself.

(Night Unto Night; A Selection of Bible Scenes, 2nd Ed., by Daniel March, London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., e-book, 1870, 2-3; paragraph structure modified)