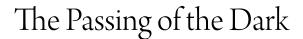
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## THE PASSING OF THE DARK

Once, you could see antiquity, Look back into time on silver shafts That went on into forever. Ancient fire refracted and scattered: Inspiration and mystery, Guideposts for continents, Breath of creation myths.

Once, before the bright rage of security Crawled over coal pit eyes and Point-source lights grew on copper chains, Before the night light of blind hearts Destroyed the intensity of black, Once, you could feel: Endless time, Blink of eons, Massive insignificance.

Paul Alan Overeiner