

LIGHT AND SHADOW

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Abstract: In a quiet valley surrounded by ancient mountains, there stood a small town called Geneva. The people of Geneva believed that their land was special, for it was a place where Light and Shadow lived together. They were not merely natural phenomena but living forces, unseen yet deeply felt in every corner of life.

Key words: beneath trees, extra lamps, sun sank.

Light arrived each morning without fail. It painted the rooftops gold, awakened the birds, and filled the streets with warmth. People admired Light for its clarity and comfort. They said it revealed truth, guided travelers, and gave life to seeds hidden beneath the soil. Children laughed as they ran under its glow, and elders praised it for keeping fear away.

Shadow, however, followed quietly. It rested beneath trees, stretched along narrow alleys, and lingered at the edges of rooms. Many people in Geneva feared Shadow. They whispered that it hid secrets and bred uncertainty. Parents warned children not to wander where Shadow was thick, and merchants lit extra lamps to keep it away.

For a long time, Light accepted this admiration and Shadow endured the blame in silence.

One evening, as the sun sank behind the mountains, Light spoke to Shadow for the first time in many years.

“Why do you stay so close to me”, Light asked, “when the people praise me and reject you?”

Shadow replied calmly, “Because without you, I would not exist. And without me, neither would you be understood”.

Light was offended. “I bring truth and hope”, it said. “You only bring doubt and fear”.

Shadow did not argue. Instead, it said, “Let us see what happens if you shine alone”.

The next morning, something strange occurred. Light rose brighter than ever before. It refused to soften or move aside. It flooded every street, every room, every field. There were no shadows under trees, no cool places to rest. At first, the people rejoiced.



“Look how clear everything is!” they exclaimed. “There is nothing hidden anymore”.

But as hours passed, the heat grew unbearable. Crops began to dry, rivers shrank, and people struggled to keep their eyes open. Artists found their paintings flat and lifeless, for without shadow there was no depth. Children grew tired quickly, unable to escape the relentless brightness.

The elders gathered in the town square. *“Something is wrong”,* they said. *“Too much Light is blinding us”.*

That night, when Light finally withdrew, the town was exhausted. Light felt confused. For the first time, it was not praised.

The following day, Shadow made its request.

“Now let me exist alone”, Shadow said.

That night, Shadow spread freely across Geneva. Darkness covered homes, streets, and fields. Stars were hidden, and even familiar paths felt strange. Fear crept into hearts. People stumbled, unable to see one another clearly. Misunderstandings grew, and small problems turned into conflicts because no one could see the full picture.

In the deepest darkness, people began to miss Light desperately.

“Bring back the Light”, they pleaded.

Shadow listened and then slowly stepped aside. Light returned, but this time it was gentler. Shadow remained too, not overwhelming, but present.

Together, they created balance.

With Light and Shadow side by side, the town changed. Farmers learned that crops needed both sunlight and shade. Artists discovered that beauty was born from contrast. Teachers explained to children that mistakes, like shadows, help people grow and understand themselves better.

Light finally spoke again to Shadow.

“I see now”, Light admitted. *“Without you, I become harsh. Without me, you become frightening.”*

Shadow nodded. *“We are not enemies”,* it said. *“We are partners”.*

From that day on, the people of Geneva stopped fearing Shadow and stopped worshipping Light blindly. They learned that life is not about constant brightness or endless darkness, but about understanding both.

And so, in Geneva, Light taught people to see, and Shadow taught them to reflect. Together, they showed that true wisdom is born not from choosing one over the other, but from learning how to live with both.

Moral: Life needs both light and shadow. Success is meaningful because of struggle, truth is clearer through doubt, and wisdom grows when we accept balance rather than extremes.

