

1. At time the truth shines so brilliantly that we perceive it as clear as day. Matter and habit then draw a veil over our perception, and we return to a darkness almost as dense as before. We are like those who, through beholding frequent flashes of light, still find themselves in the thickest darkness of the night.

Post-thunder-strike: A world of not knowing

1. The beginning of life

Before the first day, there was only darkness. This nothingness lingered in every corner of a world yet to be born, a world that was less then a question. With the first flash of light, there comes existence and life – though still in its very beginnings, far from being fully formed – and there comes the enlightenment itself. However, in the blink of an eye, it gets lost in the absurdity of life and leaves behind nothing but questions over questions, for some the answers are missing and can only be found in the next flash of light. So, how does one search for truth in a world hidden from sight? Or is this a question of the impossible, and can life only be lived correctly in those brief moments of clarity?

Awakening to a world that seems to have existed longer than the subject whose eyes now take in all that is visible creates a strange sense of mystery. "Where has this world come from that makes up the earth and the sky beneath me?"

2. The fault of darkness

Since before light, there was only darkness, it must have evolved in blindness, which means that all one can see was built with closed eyes. This is perfectly plausible, as the world is a world of fault and failure, of inconsistency, lies and hypocrisy, which is precisely what one would expect of a world that was formed in the absence of light. However, does that necessarily mean that the entirety of the wrongdoings that were committed by human beings throughout the course of history can be attributed to the persisting lack of truth created by the mundane? Or is it merely an excuse of irrelevance to say that all of human faults are results of the denseness that one found themselves in?

The answer here, I say, is clear as day: It is pointless to blame the lack of knowledge or truth, in that sense, for all of humanity's sickness. The first reason that brings me to state this, is that the perception of truth that is momentarily granted by the "flashing light" that one is come over by every now and then differs greatly in different human beings, and though there are some parts of life that can generally be agreed upon as a universal truth, there are some that remain the cause of conflict, no matter how true one thinks them to be at a certain point in time. Due to the differences in nature and upbringing, some things may never be agreed upon and there might never be an all encompassing truth to be found, thus there will most likely always be things done by one who thinks they truly are right, when another could be sure that they must be wrong. Hence why there will always be vice in this world, which is nothing more than an action of questionable morality. Secondly, the mere persistence of the fog created by, as the quote states "matter and habit", does not have to keep one from acting and from living a life of truth, as it is still possible – and that we see every day that is spent alive in that same fog – to navigate a life through the waves of unclarity. Thus, the question to be raised is not at all how to eradicate said fog or darkness, but rather the one of how one does best manage a life that is partially lived in blindness.

3. Defining the strikes of lightning

This truth that the quote mentions is here to be taken as a philosophical truth that can or cannot be found as an answer to questions that have long been asked. Since there is a lot that the human does not know, there is an endless number of examples this could be written about; here I will illustrate

just a few: Talking about things that get lost in the mundane distractions of an evermoving life, it is to assume that the subject is of theoretical matter. The countless unknown theoretics that bother the human mind include things like the purpose of life, the questions surrounding the existence of a god, the mystery of what lies beyond the mundane and the differentiation of wrong and right – morality – and questions of how one could possibly manage the world in such a way where war and violence fail to exist, and lastly, in a way, the question of how to live. To wonder how one should live might not sound too abstract or theoretical, since living is inately all one ever does, but yet, the answers to said question can easily disappear in the fog created by life itself that is responsible for the darkness of truth we find ourselves in. Thus, this too I count as a question of theoretical nature in this regard, considering it does get lost in its very own subject matter, like all the others do. When it comes to those aspects of the truth that we search for, it is easy to get lost in definitions and wonderings and ponderings and questions, in the thinking about thinking or whatever else one might betitle the theoretical nature of human thought. And yet, one is obligated to live not only in between, but throughout the process of that thinking, percistently, without pause – even in darkness, we live on. Even in rest, we live. Only when one goes to sleep it is that questions are no longer asked and life comes to a sort of stillstand that is the death of philosophy and the birth of dreams.

This however means that, inherently, we go on living either way in those moments of being surrounded by darkness and a lack of truth, as we have to. We find our way despite the fact that the brilliant light of the truth we once managed to see is fading away just as quickly as it appeared. How do we live on? From the point that the lightning fades out and one is left alone in the thickness of the night, there are two ways one could go on about life.

4. Losing the darkness

The first way is the one of the shallow mind, not to be interpreted as an insult, and of the person that cares more about the things they can see than the ones they cannot see. Living a life based in reality, it is not an abstract idea that one might focus on the things that lay directly in front of them. The present and the near future, that is all that exists in those priorities and that means, in the context of one who finds himself in nothingness after the lightning leaves them behind, the darkness itself. As mentioned before, either way we have to move forward in some type of way, thus this person has to move through the darkness that surrounds them and that is, for that moment, all that makes up their life. The glimpse caught of the truth is an offspring of the past and irrelevant to the present buried under some sort of dark fabric. Therefore, one who goes about his life in this way, may get so caught up in their way of moving through the darkness, that they forget that they are moving in fact, through the darkness. These are all very abstract and metaphorical illustrations, so to create an idea of what this path means in the context of our very real, existing world: Because of the knowledge that we do indeed know nothing, questions lose their meaning and one goes on without trying to find answers and thus loses the knowledge that they do not know anything. This would mean that everything around them had to be true, and that notion would lead them to fall victim to manipulation and fraud of those who do know more.

5. Getting lost in the darkness

The second way is the one of someone who lives only with the notion that life is nothing more than darkness at all until the next flash of lightening enlightens the world. Someone living this sort of way has no way of escaping the questions that surround them, since they assume that no answer can be found in a darkness this thick. One who lives their life with the constant reminder that they know nothing of life, that they lack answers and that they are surrounded by the night wherever they go, cannot lead a fulfilling life. Getting caught up in a question is just as fatal as forgetting about it, after all. Being aware of the questions to be asked and as a result, being aware of the missing answers to most of those questions, can mean a neverending battle of thought. What does one do

who needs to know in order to move on, but does not know? How does one go about life? They get stuck. Stuck in a place of stillness and fear, of nihilism or pessimism. Though being lived in awareness and thus differing greatly from the first way I illustrated, this way of dealing with the unclarity of life does not present a more "livable" option either.

6. Moving forward

As the saying goes for all things in life, balance is key. The goal, which is the point I am making, is to strive for the path in the middle. This entails both keeping the awareness of the darkness and still having the ability to deal with the present on its own, just for what it is. Moving forward in blindness while knowing that one is, in fact, surrendered to an inescapable darkness, can present unfeasible. It is natural for humans to be afraid of the dark, not only in the literal sense but in the metaphorical sense of this context as well. One can both be afraid of their own movement and also of the movement that the darkness makes without their contribution. Both the danger of hitting one's head and the danger of whatever creature awaits in the distance can prevent one from moving. But moving is changing, and change will always be not only necessary, but unpreventable in a world that is very much to be improved.

In world where flashes of light are all there is, all there will possibly ever be, there is no doubt that there is nothing left to do but to hold onto them for as long as one can and keep them as remainders of the truth, as a streak of inspiration leaving those that beheld it to ponder in the dark. And pondering in the dark, is that not worth the while as long as there is something to ponder about? Maybe the darkness is necessary to leave room for questioning the flashes of light.

We can still find our way through the darkness merely by moving around, reaching out our hands and feet to touch whatever it is that we cannot see, using the lingering of the flashing light as a guideline, and thus learn about our environment even without light. Sometimes we forget the answers to some of those questions on the way through the dark that is created by a distribution of attention to the things in front of us, and that is only natural. Yet, we have to keep in mind that we do indeed have moments in which the truth seems clear and that those are enough of a reason to keep exploring a world covered in darkness.

7. Of relevance

What does all of this mean for the human condition that we are forcefully stuck in? How do we live in darkness in actuality?

We are caught up in day to day rhythms, in living, in being, in moving. Objects of the present will always remain important as day, while questions of stillness are children of the night. Thus: We might be living in the darkness spiritually, and in a dark matter that is a matter of thought, but it is a darkness of movement and change and one that is filled with a light of a different, more practical nature. Therefore it is to remember that it is pointless to get lost in the dark; if one does so, it has to be willingly or at least with the knowledge that life exists beyond the cloudedness of thought.

What we know is beknownst to us and what we do not know is of irrelevance, because it is not known. Questions are of relevance, yes, because we do know the question itself and its origin; we know the substance of the question and thus have hope to find an answer to enlighten us. For the next flash of light, we wait not only, but we anticipate it. And in the meantime, we keep on living – just like that. Darkness is merely the absence of light, after all.