The House of Death

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Darknesse and light hold interchangeable dominions, and alternately rule the seminal state of things. Light unto Pluto is darknesse unto Jupiter. . . . Light that makes things seen, makes some things invisible: were it not for darknesse and the shadow of the earth, the noblest part of the Creation had remained unseen, and the Stars in heaven as invisible as on the fourth day, when they were created above the Horizon, with the Sun, or there was not an eye to behold them. The greatest mystery of Religion is expressed by adumbration, and in the noblest part of Jewish Types, we finde the Cherubims shadowing the Mercy-seat: Life it self is but the shadow of death, and souls departed but the shadows of the living: All things fall under this name. The Sunne it self is but the dark simulachrum, and light but the shadow of God.

BROWNE, Garden of Cyrus
“O Teacher, some great mischief hath befall’n
To that meek man, who well had sacrificed:
Is piety thus and pure devotion paid?”

T’ whom Michael thus, he also moved, replied:
“These two are brethren, Adam, and to come
Out of thy loins; th’ unjust the just hath slain. . . .”

“Alas, both for the deed and for the cause!
But have I now seen Death? Is this the way
I must return to native dust? O, sight
Of terror, foul and ugly to behold,
Horrid to think, how horrible to feel!”

To whom thus Michael: “Death thou hast seen
In his first shape on man; but many shapes
Of Death, and many are the ways that lead
To his grim cave, all dismal; yet to sense
More terrible at th’ entrance than within.”

MILTON, Paradise Lost