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Sun in the Sky When You Die

Revd David Gaffney writes:

Imagine waking up on a sunny day. You feel the sun's warmth on your face and see light streaming in through your window. The heat makes your whole body feel alive, and the light helps you see, move, and do everything you want to do. Without the sun, life on earth couldn't exist—plants wouldn't grow, and we wouldn't survive. But what if I told you that there's a spiritual kind of sun, too, and its warmth and light are just as real—and in a sense even more important—than the natural sun above our heads in this world?

The Bible and the teachings of the New Church describe two different kinds of suns. The one we all know is the material sun, which gives physical warmth and light. This is what our natural, earthly bodies are built to feel and respond to. We feel warmth when we sit by a fire or in sunlight, and our eyes are designed to receive and use natural light ([Genesis 1:14-18](#)).

But in the spiritual world we have a spiritual body, and there's a different kind of sun; a spiritual sun. This sun doesn't give off heat and light you can feel or see with your physical body. Instead, it gives off love as warmth and wisdom as light. The sun in the spiritual world is actually the Lord appearing to angels and good spirits. The warmth there is the Lord's love, making people feel joy, connection, kindness, and life. The light there is the Lord's wisdom, giving people understanding, insight, and the ability to see what's true and good ([Divine Love and Wisdom 95, 99](#)). People in the spiritual world have spiritual bodies, and these bodies are "tuned in" to receive love and wisdom, just as our physical bodies are tuned to receive natural heat and light.

Understanding this is really important for a few reasons:

First, it shows us a deeper picture of life. Everything we see and experience in the natural world is like a symbol of something spiritual. Just as the natural sun keeps plants and animals alive, the Lord—through His Divine love and wisdom—gives us spiritual life. The warmth and light of the spiritual sun give us the ability to love others and understand what's true. When we feel inspired to be kind and when we understand something deeply, we're experiencing spiritual warmth and light from the Lord ([Divine Love and Wisdom 32, 108](#)).

Second, it helps us understand ourselves. We're not just physical bodies; we're spiritual beings, too; one 'inside' the other. What makes us who we are is our ability to love and to think. Our goal is to open ourselves more and more to the warmth (love) and light (wisdom) from the Lord. When we do this, we become happier, make better choices, and feel closer to God and to other people.

Third, these ideas help our faith in the Lord become real and practical. Faith isn't just believing in God as an idea. It's actively tuning our hearts and minds in to the Lord, like turning toward the sun to feel its rays. When we try to be loving and look for what's true and good in the world, we are facing the Lord's spiritual sun, and He fills us with real life and energy ([John 8:12, Arcana Coelestia 7083](#)).

In short, learning about the two kinds of suns and what we're really "tuned" to—both physically and spiritually—gives us a bigger understanding of life and a stronger, more vibrant faith. We see that the Lord gives us everything we need to live, both in this world and to prepare for eternal life, where love and wisdom are what truly matter. That's why these ideas aren't just interesting—they're essential for anyone wanting a deeper, more meaningful connection with the Lord God ([Divine Love and Wisdom 86, 89, 99](#)).

Note: For those who wish to delve further, the above quotes are printed below:

Genesis 1:14-18

14 God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of sky to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years;

15 and let them be for lights in the expanse of sky to give light on the earth;" and it was so.

16 God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars.

17 God set them in the expanse of sky to give light to the earth,

18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good.

Divine Love and Wisdom (DLW) #95.

That love produces heat, and wisdom light, is evident from simply the experience of it. When a person loves, he grows warm, and when he thinks wisely, he sees things as though in light. It is apparent from this that the first emanation of love is heat, and the first emanation of wisdom is light.

It is apparent that they are also correspondent forms, for warmth does not exist in the love itself, but arises from it in the will and so in the body, and light does not exist in wisdom, but in the thought of the intellect and so in the speech.

Consequently love and wisdom are the essence and life in heat and light. Heat and light are what emanate from them, and because they are emanations, they are also correspondent forms.

DLW 99. Spiritual heat and light as they emanate from the Lord as the sun are united, as His Divine love and wisdom are united. How Divine love and wisdom are united in the Lord was explained in Part One: (DLW 34-39). Heat and light are united in the same way, because they are what emanate, and any attributes that emanate are by correspondence united. For heat corresponds to love, and light to wisdom.

It follows from this that as Divine love is the Divine being, and Divine wisdom its Divine expression (as shown above in nos. 14-16), so spiritual heat is the Divine attribute emanating from the Divine being, and spiritual light the Divine attribute emanating from the Divine expression. Consequently, as by virtue of that union Divine love is a property of Divine wisdom, and Divine wisdom a property of Divine love (as shown above in nos. 34-39), so spiritual heat is a property of spiritual light, and spiritual light a property of spiritual heat. Moreover, because of that union, it follows that heat and light as they emanate from the Lord as the sun are one.

That they are nevertheless not received as one by angels and people will be seen in subsequent discussions: (DLW 125).

DLW 32. It is because the Divine essence itself is love and wisdom that the universe and all its constituents, both animate and inanimate, depend for their continued existence on heat and light; for heat corresponds to love, and light corresponds to wisdom. So it is also that spiritual heat is love, and spiritual light is wisdom. But more on this subject, too, below.

DLW 108. The distance between the sun and angels in the spiritual world is an appearance in accordance with their reception of Divine love and wisdom. All misconceptions that prevail in evil people and in the simple originate from affirming appearances.

As long as appearances remain appearances, they are apparent truths, and everyone may think and speak in terms of them. But when they are accepted as actual truths, which happens when people affirm them, then apparent truths become falsities and misconceptions.

For example, it is an appearance that the sun travels daily about the earth and proceeds annually in a path along the ecliptic. As long as this is not affirmed, it is an apparent truth, and everyone may think and speak in terms of it. For one may say that the sun rises and sets, and so produces in succession morning, midday, evening and night. Or one may say that the sun is now in such and such a degree of the ecliptic or of its altitude and now in that, and so produces in succession spring, summer, fall and winter. But when one affirms this appearance as being the actual truth, then out of his misconception the affirmer thinks and speaks falsity.

So it is with countless other appearances, not only in natural, civil and moral matters, but also in spiritual ones.

John 8:12 .Again, therefore, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."

ARCANA COELESTIA 7083. Heat and light in the natural world emanate from the sun in the world, whereas spiritual heat and spiritual light, or love and faith, emanate from the sun in heaven. The Lord is the sun in heaven, and the heat which comes from Him as the Sun is love, while the light which comes from Him as the Sun is faith. The fact that the Lord is light is clear in John,

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. John 8:12.

And the fact that the Lord is a sun is clear in Matthew,

When Jesus was transfigured His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became [white] as the light. Matthew 17:1.

DLW 86. The sun in the spiritual world is not the Lord Himself, but an emanation from the Lord. It is the emanating Divine love and wisdom which appear as the sun in that world. And because love and wisdom in the Lord are one - as shown in Part One 1 - we say that that sun is Divine love. 2 For Divine wisdom is a property of Divine love; 3 consequently it, too, is love.

DLW 89. From the sun arising from Divine love and wisdom emanate heat and light. The spiritual world where angels and spirits dwell has in it heat and light just like the natural world where people dwell. Moreover the heat is also felt as heat and the light seen as light in a similar way. But still heat and light in the spiritual world and heat and light in the natural world differ so much that, as said above, they have nothing in common. They differ from each other as something animate and something inanimate. Heat in the spiritual world is, in itself, animate, and so, too, light, whereas heat in the natural world is, in itself, inanimate, and so, too, light. For heat and light in the spiritual world emanate from a sun which is pure love, while heat and light in the natural world emanate from a sun which is nothing but fire; and love is animate, and Divine love is life itself, while fire is inanimate, and solar fire is lifelessness itself. We can call it that because it has not the least speck of life in it.

DLW 99. Spiritual heat and light as they emanate from the Lord as the sun are united, as His Divine love and wisdom are united. How Divine love and wisdom are united in the Lord was explained in Part One. Heat and light are united in the same way, because they are what emanate, and any attributes that emanate are by correspondence united. For heat corresponds to love, and light to wisdom.

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Rev D Gaffney, 28/5/25