

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS



What had at first been a faint light grew bright.

I reflexively shielded my watered eyes enough to see through their slits.
I felt sure I had made my way to that next place.
Surely a warm embrace would greet me.

I saw the faint outlines of those I had known in life but were no more.
They appeared in my mind's eyes, barely visible amid halos that surrounded them.

"You do not belong here!" thundered a chorus of voices.

I startled violently, blinking through those same eyes of my mind at the apparitions.
Their form took on greater clarity that I began to recognize.
I now beheld them as they truly were: gowned figures haloed by a different sort of light.

That mind of mine became wracked at the tumult of it all.
What insidious force brought me to this place?
Then I stumbled upon a memory of it.

My blood had run as cold as the trail I was following.
I came to a dark, dank place, staring into a black abyss.
I was seeing nothing, but knowing that something, *someone* was staring back at me from the
other side of the invisible obelisk that blocked my way forward.

Was fear holding me back? Fear of knowing the truth?

I had reached forward to sweep away the murkiness, like so much curtain dust.
I have a memory of my hand touching the surface of the nothing.
My hand disappeared.

Then, so did the rest of me.

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I emerged to find myself in a dark crypt.
I had passed through a solid wall of dust, dissolving to a new dream sequence.
Walking without legs through a dimly-lit hallway, I saw a faint light to which I was drawn.
There were doorways that led somewhere.
I was afraid to pass through them.

Who – or what – would be on the other side to greet me?

The light at the end of the tunnel that was my vision beckoned to me.
The light lured me along a path that had chosen me.
I felt sure that the others were waiting for me there.

Oh, how I longed to embrace them.

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April 4, 2023

Day 4 Prompt: Write a narrative poem and then rearrange the order in which it was presented.
Credits: Promo Photo for Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977)(Fair Use).