

# Lights and Shadows

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## Encounter

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ENCOUNTER

The blackout was a human catastrophe  
A power failure, wrought by uncertain hands.  
Pandemonium could have held no greater confusion  
Than was spawned in the sprawling city.  
Still, in one sequestered alley, there was peace.

An old man stood, listening . . . waiting.  
The soft sweep of silk could be heard.  
From the wall of darkness slowly emerged  
A luminous cowled-one. Shuffling forward,  
The cowled-one brushed against the old man.

"Brother, can you help me?" the old man wheezed, "I'm lost."  
"No . . . no," said the cowled-one, "I am lost, as well."  
"Then . . . thank you," the old man said and shuffled away.  
The cowled-one listened, but he never saw the old man.  
For the night was black . . . and his skin.

Robert McDaniel