

**Shortest Day/ Longest Night**  
**By**  
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Shortest day  
Longest night  
Why would I emerge  
Into the light  
In a world that says light is right  
And dark is fear?

Dark is  
The deep internal warmth.  
Dark is the womb  
Of life;  
It is the slow stillness  
That leads to birth  
That holds the river  
Suspended  
And has the power to  
Say "stop" to nature.

Give me the shortest day  
Longest night.  
Let me rejoice  
In the power of  
That darkness  
Mighty river held at bay  
Birthing energy building  
To a crescendo.  
Dark is not fear  
It is a promise of the new.