

**THE TRIUMPH OF LIGHT: A
CALIFORNIA MIDWINTER
SUN MYSTERY**

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The triumph of light: a California midwinter sun mystery by Charles Keeler

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CHARLES KEELER

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SUN MYSTERY**

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OF LIGHT  **
A California Midwinter Sun Mystery
BY CHARLES KEELER

**PUBLISHED AT THE SIGN OF THE
LIVE-OAK, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA
MCMIV**

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

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CHARACTERS REPRESENTED

In the order of their appearance

Priest of the Sun
Chorus of Night
Mortality
Seraph of Dawn
The Spirits of California—
 Quercus—the oak
 Pinus—the pine
 Madroño
 Sequoia
 Sacramento
 Shasta
 Pacificus
 The Sierrades
Nymphs and Dryads, led by Pan
Chorus of Birds—
 Meadow Lark
 Quail
 Goldfinch
 Wren
 Jay
 Robin
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 Song-Sparrow
 Wren Tit
 California Woodpecker



TO READ
ALSO SEE

CHARACTERS REPRESENTED

Nature—Mother of Earth and Sea

Chorus of Flowers—

Violet Nightshade

Orange Mimulus

Fern

Brake

Thimble-Berry

Mustard

Buttercup

Scouring Rush

Wild Currant

Purple Lupine

First, Second, Third and Fourth Heralds of
the Sun

Chorus of the Sun, representing the twelve
signs of the Zodiac

King of Light

Love—a little child

Scene—A Church. The organ plays *Fantasie*
in *Freiem Style* by Gustav Merkel (Leipsic,
J. Reiter—Biedermann).

THE TRIUMPH OF LIGHT

(Enter a Priest of the Sun in scarlet robe, piped
with gold.)

PRIEST OF THE SUN

Attend, O host devout, we bid you heed
A pageant timed for the ascending sun.
The southmost arc is traced, and day by day
The orb of light in widening zones aspires,
Scaling the zenith in triumphant round.
Season of eld to Saturn dedicate,
With twinkling tapers and new-lighted pyres,
Commemoration of the golden age
When Cronus with titanic hierarchy
Dominion held within the zodiac.
Here by the wide west sea another race
Of forms cyclopean have conspired to rear
Wild monuments of wonder and delight.
With fire and ice, with wind and rain and snow
The giant sculptors long have striven here,
Fashioning with tireless zeal their work sub-
lime.
Attend, O friends devout, and learn what
chanced
To that world-surfeited, unhappy man,
Mortality, who, lost in ebon gloom,
Unfriended wandered. Lore of earth had he

THE TRIUMPH OF LIGHT

With Science probed, and to its utmost deeps
With microcosmic scrutiny explored;
And he was tyrant in that mighty realm
Where well-stored coffers buy what men will
sell—

Labor and life and honor—all for gold!

(Alas that we are subjects of this lord!)

You shall behold the harbinger of Dawn
Encounter him amid the sombre night,
And summon round the spirits of the West—
The everlasting hills, the trees, the sea,
The birds and flowers. And then a pageant
bright,

The King of Day with radiant throng shall
come,

While all the wild things chant a hymn of
praise.

And stately Nature shall invoke his power
To lift the veil and show Mortality
The mystery of life. O hallowed sight!
The mystery that Hindoo Krishna taught,
That Indian Buddha preached by Ganges
stream,

That Plato in Athenian groves made plain,
That Christ maintained in death on Calvary.
Now at this festal hour we hail the light,

THE TRIUMPH OF LIGHT

And peace on earth, good will to men we sing.
O Lord, we pray Thee, lead us toward the
right,

As sure as winter moveth toward the spring!

(Exit Priest of the Sun. The lights are turned
off, leaving the church in total darkness. A
low murmur of the organ is heard. Oriental
Sketch No. 2, F minor, by Arthur Bird.
Voices sound in the darkness intoning sol-
emnly while the music plays.)

CHORUS OF NIGHT

Darkness and gloom and the spectres noctur-
nal enthralled,

Flutter of bat-wings tumultuous fanning the
air!

Weird ullulations of owls by night unappalled,
Echoing deep through the caverns of doom
in despair!

Hoo! too hoo! Hoo! too hoo!

With the whisk and the whir of the bat-wings
astir

'Mid the boughs of the oak, in the needles of fir!
O dolorous darkness, O chaos of gloom,

We chant from the deeps of the forest of doom!

(From another part of the church is heard a
voice crying out in the dark).