

In the beginning there was darkness. We are born in darkness, and we die in darkness. Sadly, there are millions of us on this less-than-perfect planet who spend their days and years in this darkness.

In this moment we have together, let's try to understand their loss, that we might dedicate ourselves to their care, and their cure. Let's take a walk in the long, dark corridor they travel every day.

Try to erase from your mind's eye the visions they cannot share. Try to erase from your mind's eye the faces of your children, the view from your window, the words on a printed page. One by one erase from your mind's eye each flower, each bird, each sunset you have ever seen. Erase every work of art ever created, every panorama from nature's infinite palette. Erase even the concept of colour, of clouds and stars and morning mists. No blue sky, no golden fields of wheat dancing in the breeze.

Remove them, every beautiful sight you have ever beheld. Erase them one by one until there is nothing left but darkness. And when you feel alone, and perhaps frightened, you will have experienced just a small part of the terror that is blindness.