

Quaker Light Terminology

Some "light" terms used by Quakers:

Look to the Light

quaker.org/2025/04/14/god-will-wipe-the-tears/

Hold someone in the Light

George Fox song, Walking in the Light

Inward Light

Light within

Ocean of light (that lay over the ocean of darkness in Fox's vision)

Mind the light

Lift up your light and more shall be granted thee

This little light of mine

Let your light shine

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light," - Genesis 1:3

Some alternatives to light terminology:

Hold someone in love, in my heart

Inward truth

'holding you in God's chocolate pudding'

Some positive "dark" language or associations with the dark:

We sleep in the dark

We dream in the dark

Seeds grow in the dark

We crawled out of the ocean, most of which is dark

physicists say that 27% of the universe is 'dark matter', & 68% of the universe is 'dark energy' = 95% of the universe is darkness - the stuff that we still don't understand

Black Friday - day after US Thanksgiving, start of Xmas season, busiest shopping day of the year, the day a retailer's revenue stream turns from red (debt) to black (profit)

indigenous ceremonies in the dark (inipi) & at night (hanjbléčheyapi)

I hold friends in whatever form they ask. To hold someone in Divine Dark or Divine Light is an honor and something I can do if asked. Otherwise I say that “i’ll keep you in my thoughts and hold you tight” - MaryPags

1st biblical references ...

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
 - 3 And God said, “Let there be **light**,” and there was **light**.
 - 4 God saw that the **light** was good, and he separated the **light** from the **darkness**.
 - 5 God called the **light** “day,” and the **darkness** he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.
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precedence of language change in quakerism ~

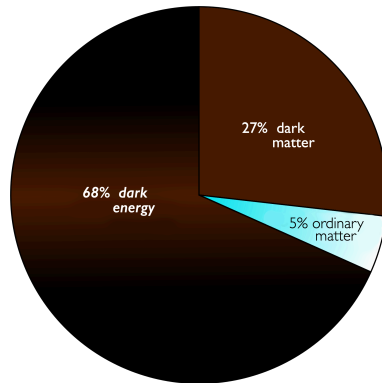
Eldership and oversight

Note: *The word “**overseer**” has traditionally been used by Quakers to describe Friends who are responsible for pastoral care. After consultation, in 2022 Meeting for Sufferings asked all area meetings to use another word or phrase because the traditional one has often been associated with the transatlantic slave trade, slavery and other forms of oppression.*

12.05 *In this edition of Quaker faith & practice, there are many references to “overseer” and “oversight”. Quaker faith and practice is currently being revised and, while we wait for it, we trust that readers will bear in mind our firm intention to remove the word as soon as we can. Older quotations may need some explanatory text where editing would be inappropriate.*

- *Quaker faith & practice*, 5th edition, The book of Christian discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

qfp.quaker.org.uk/chapter/12/#:~:text=Note%3A%20The%20word%20%E2%80%9Coverseer%E2%80%9D.are%20responsible%20for%20pastoral%20care.



has been introduced before ~ FGC Central Committee 'Transforming Committee' talked about 'white is good, dark is bad' language as eurocentric to Central Committee ca. 2015

'Quaker Language' discussed on zoom by affinity group 'White Friends Addressing Racism' ca. 2020

the dark & scary bodhisattvas of compassion of tibetan buddhism - Ji



While Tibetan Buddhism is known for its beautiful and serene deities, some bodhisattvas, particularly in the context of Vajrayana Buddhism, are depicted in dark and fierce forms. These depictions, often referred to as "wrathful deities," are not meant to be frightening or demonic, but rather represent the transformed power and skillful means needed to overcome negative emotions and obstacles on the path to enlightenment. The "dark" imagery serves to symbolize the energetic force needed to transform negativity and the skillful means to guide sentient beings.
