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Shadows

Secure the shadow ere the substance fade

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Abstract

If we dip into the Oxford English Dictionary for information on the word 'shade', we find that 'the shades' was in use as a term for the Underworld by the late sixteenth century and that soon afterwards it was being applied as well to the inhabitants of that region, the ghosts and disembodied spirits of the dead. 'Shade' can also be something that is dark in tone. The two associated meanings of the word were fused in the popular, late-eighteenth-century term for a silhouette portrait, a 'shade'.

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