

wards became the legends of gods and heroes with human forms, and furnished the groundwork of the epic poems whether of the Eastern or Western world.

So long as we do not suppose that this great fabric was reared by system, it matters little how we arrange the legends of which it is made up. We may take the daily alternation of light and darkness, or the yearly changes of summer and winter, so long as we do not fancy that these old phrases spoke only of the sun in his daily course, or only of vapours and storms. The mythical or myth-making language of mankind had no partialities; and if the career of the sun occupies a large extent of the horizon, we cannot fairly simulate ignorance of the cause.

Men so placed would not fail to put into words the thoughts or emotions roused in them by the varying phases of that mighty world on which we, not less than they, feel that our life depends, although we may know something more of its nature.

Thus grew up a multitude of expressions which described the sun as the child of the night, as the destroyer of the darkness, as the lover of the dawn and the dew—of phrases which would go on to speak of him as killing the dew with his spears, and of forsaking the dawn as he rose in the heaven. The feeling that the fruits of the earth were called forth by his warmth, would find utterance in words which spoke of him as the friend and the benefactor of man; while the constant recurrence of his work would lead them to describe him as a being constrained to toil for others, as doomed to travel over many lands, and as finding everywhere things on which he could bestow his love or which he might destroy by his power. His journey, again, might be across cloudless skies, or amid alternations of storm and calm; his light might break fitfully through the clouds, or be hidden for many a weary hour, to burst forth at last with dazzling splendour as he sank down in the western sky. He would thus be described as facing many dangers and many enemies, none of whom, however, may arrest his course; as sullen, or capricious, or resentful; as grieving