

'In thy time hast thou ordered the morning,  
Made the dawn to know its place,  
To lay hold on the ends of the earth,<sup>1</sup>  
Which is changed as the clay by the signet?<sup>2</sup>

'Out of it the wicked are shaken,  
And stand as men ashamed;  
From the wicked their light is witholden,  
And the arm of pride is broken.

'Hast thou entered the springs of the sea?  
Hast thou walked the range of the deep?  
Have the gates of death been revealed?  
Hast thou seen the warders of the night?

'Comprehendest thou the breadth of the earth?  
Declare, if thou knowest it all.  
Thou knowest, for then thou wast born,<sup>3</sup>  
And great is the number of thy days!

'Where is the road to the dwelling of light?  
And darkness, where is its place,  
That thou shouldst take it unto its bound,  
And bring it to the paths of its house?

'Hast thou entered the chambers of the snow?  
Hast thou seen the guardians of the hail,  
Which I hold for the time of trouble,  
For the day of battle and war?

'By what way is the storm-cloud parted,  
And the cold rain spread o'er the earth?  
Who hath cleft a channel for the flood,  
And a way for the lightning of the thunder?

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<sup>1</sup>The dawn lifts up the mantle of darkness which covers the Earth, and in the light the Earth stands forth revealed in sharp outlines as the stamped clay when the seal is lifted.

<sup>2</sup>v.v. 14a and 13b. are transposed.

<sup>3</sup>V. 21 should follow V. 18. The language is ironical.