

# The Light Fantastic

BY RABBI DAVID WOLPE

"Light is stored up for the righteous," writes the Psalmist. In the Torah, light is created on the first day, yet the sun is not fashioned until the fourth day. The Rabbis teach that the light of the first day is a mystical light; one day it will be liberated by our goodness.

The idea of a potential for light sewn into the fabric of creation, ready to burst forth, reminds us that goodness is not only a creation, but a liberation of powers that exist. The deed awaits. In order to liberate that light we need to be not only creators, but conduits.

Plato wrote that, "We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy is when men are afraid of the light." It is easy to be afraid of the power of our own achievements. Literature and mythology are filled with characters, like Gollum in *Lord of the Rings*, whose narrowness or fears prevent them from stepping into the light. Still the light has been waiting since the well-named dawn of time. We need only acknowledge and channel it to illuminate God's world.