

As human beings, we're constantly seeking ways to deepen our knowledge and find explanations for what is beyond our comprehension. At the time of writing, the author of the Genesis story of creation had limited knowledge, and so I don't think we can make sense of why it was written as it was.

To me, it appears to be about balance; for everything there is the opposite, yin and yang. We see this balance as we read about the creation of land and sea, darkness and light, heaven and earth, sun and moon, male and female. Something had to differentiate "day" from "night" and so the "sun" and the "moon" were introduced. The story tells us these "lights", were signs for seasons, days, and years, with the sun ruling the day, and the moon the night. They do just that; they determine when we sleep and rise, when we reap and sow, when the tide comes in and goes out. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west and depending on where you are in the world, that path determines daily activity. Some native Americans consider sunwise motion sacred, and so it determines their movement in sacred spaces. For the Inuit at Igloolik, Canada, the extended period of darkness is associated with poor hunting and dangerous travel, while the return of the sun in mid-January is a cause for celebration and a time for making long-term weather forecasts. Over time, and for many deep-rooted reasons, many human beings have attributed positive connotations to that which is "light", and negative connotations to that which is "dark". I don't believe this was the intent here, nor do I believe it is accurate. Rather, we simply can't have one without the other and they both serve a critical purpose in our lives and the life of the planet.