

Q&A With Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S. On 13 Seasons After Light



Interview with **Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S.**

Conducted by **Catori Maasaw, Senior Journalist at House of Mason Publishing**

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Catori Maasaw: Dr. Mason, thank you for joining me today. I'm thrilled to dive into your latest release, *13 Seasons After Light*. This project has been highly anticipated, especially due to its intricate world-building. Can you begin by explaining the concept behind the title and what inspired this work?

Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S.: Thank you, Catori. *13 Seasons After Light* blends mythology, cosmic lore, and deep human emotions. Each "season" represents 3,300 years, and the story unfolds across these vast stretches of time, which is where the title comes from. It follows Venus and Mercury, two lovers among the few who can adapt when Earth's two suns disappear, plunging the world into darkness. They learn to hunt in the night and ultimately transform into vampires, a metaphor for their desperate struggle for survival.

The broader inspiration was to explore love enduring through radical transformation. When everything you know collapses, and survival requires you to lose what you once were, can love still survive in the dark? What new life forms emerge when light is no longer a guiding force?

Catori Maasaw: That's a powerful metaphor—love adapting to darkness. Can you talk more about Venus and Mercury as characters and what drives them through these transformative events?

Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S.: Venus and Mercury are deeply connected, and their love serves as an anchor in this chaotic, ever-evolving world. As the story progresses, they find themselves isolated, not only from their species but from the very concept of light. Their transformation into vampires is more than just survival—it's a rebirth into something entirely new. As others perish, unable to adapt to the eternal night, Venus and Mercury embrace the hunt, learning to thrive in this unfamiliar, dark world.

However, their bond is tested when the two suns reappear, and the moon begins to reignite, signaling a shift. Suddenly, they are unsure if they can survive in the light again. This dilemma reflects the human experience—how do we cope with change, especially when it means leaving behind parts of ourselves that were once essential for survival?

Catori Maasaw: That brings us to a fascinating point—the idea of survival and adaptation is central to the narrative. Can you elaborate on how Venus and Mercury adapt to the moon's light and how this differs from other species that couldn't make the transition?

Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S.: The moon, or Lunathra in the ancient Qxarian tongue, becomes a central force in their survival. While it provides a cold, indirect light, it's also a stark and reflective glow—one that accentuates the isolation of their new reality. The species that couldn't adapt to the moon's light failed to tap into their primal instincts. Venus and Mercury, however, embraced it, allowing the moon's influence to transform them into hunters of the night.

In **Qxarian** culture, **Lunathra** is viewed as a dual force—a guide for those who adapt and a death sentence for those who can't. Venus and Mercury attuned themselves to the moon's cycles, refining their hunting skills as others faltered. Over time, they became more than survivors—they became predators who thrived in the moonlit darkness, embodying the balance between life and death.

Catori Maasaw: It's fascinating how the celestial bodies in the story act as both literal and symbolic forces. Let's talk about the music in *13 Seasons After Light*. You've mentioned that the story is structured almost like a sonata. How does that influence the narrative?

Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S.: Yes, the story is structured like a sonata, with each movement reflecting different phases of Venus and Mercury's journey. These shifts in tone mirror their emotional and physical transformations. For example, Movement I, "The Vanishing Suns," introduces their world before darkness falls. The music is slow and mournful, with instruments like the cello and bass conveying the weight of the disappearing light.

In Movement II, "Learning to Hunt in the Dark - Vampiric Birth," the tone becomes sharper and more aggressive, mirroring their evolution into hunters. Violins, flutes, and harpsichords reflect the heightened sensitivity of their new existence, while brooding horns underscore the tension of

their predatory life. The music was carefully chosen to amplify the emotional and physical transformations they undergo.

Catori Maasaw: The music definitely deepens the emotional complexity of their journey.

You've hinted at a potential sequel—13 Seasons After Dark. Can you give us any details about what readers might expect from that story?

Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S.: 13 Seasons After Dark picks up where the first story leaves off, at the height of the Xephilim. With the two suns returned, the moon, Lunathra, reignites with a renewed force. This shift brings the rise of a new species—the Xephilim. These beings are far more powerful and advanced than the vampires, and Venus and Mercury must face the uncertainty of whether they can survive in a world where the night no longer offers them refuge.

The story transitions from a battle for survival in darkness to a struggle for survival in a world dominated by light and new life forms. Venus and Mercury's love will once again be tested, but this time by forces far beyond their control.

Catori Maasaw: The Xephilim sound fascinating! You've mentioned before that the Book of Enoch influenced their creation. Can you tell us more about how this text shaped the concept of these giants and why you chose to make them ten times larger than before?

Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S.: The Book of Enoch was a major influence. In that text, the Nephilim are described as giant beings—offspring of angels and humans. These giants were powerful, yet destructive, and their presence led to chaos. I wanted to explore the idea of these giants returning, but this time far more advanced, both physically and intellectually. The Xephilim are ten times larger than their ancient counterparts, symbolizing the immense power they hold over the world.

Their size represents not just physical dominance but the extraordinary evolution of their biology and technology. The "X" in their name signifies their otherworldly origins and the mysterious power they possess. As the Xephilim rise, they embody both order and chaos, challenging everything Venus and Mercury have known.

Catori Maasaw: It's incredible how ancient mythologies influence modern storytelling. You've introduced a rich universe in *13 Seasons After Light* and its upcoming sequel. I'd love to hear about the new race you're developing, which will play a key role in future series.

Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S.: Yes, the Nalthir are a new race that I'm very excited to introduce. They are deeply connected to Lunathra, with their evolution tied directly to the changing celestial forces. The Nalthir speak Nalthrion, a language that combines tonal and harmonic sounds. It's not just a way of speaking but a way of expressing emotions, intentions, and even physical states. Their language is intertwined with their abilities, such as heightened sensory perception and manipulating their environment through harmonic resonance.

As Lunathra continues to reignite, the Nalthir evolve faster than other species, becoming formidable hunters, protectors, and manipulators of light and sound. They are the spiritual and intellectual counterparts to the Xephilim, who dominate physically. The Nalthir's culture is built on balance—between light and dark, order and chaos. Over the course of the series, readers will see how this race navigates their role in the universe, and how their powers will shape the future of this world. They will play an integral role in 13 Seasons After Dark and beyond.

Catori Maasaw: The Nalthir sound like they'll add a fascinating new layer to the narrative, blending language, culture, and power in unique ways. Dr. Mason, thank you for sharing your thoughts and vision for the future of this series. It's truly exciting to see where you're taking this world.

Dr. Tyree Mason, C.S.: Thank you, Catori. It's always a pleasure to discuss these creations, and I'm eager for readers to explore the depths of this universe in 13 Seasons After Light and its sequels.

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