Quaker Silhouettes

Early Friends believed that to have your portrait painted was very expensive and unnecessary. They thought that kind of money could be spent on helping others. Instead they began to have silhouettes cut out of black paper.

They also reasoned that since they were copies of our shadows which are cast by Light - they were in closer keeping with our belief in the Light within. These portraits often were better likenesses than paintings.

You can make your own silhouettes.
This project takes three people.
Do one silhouette for each of you.

What You Will Need

- Working flashlight
- Scissors
- Black construction paper
- Tape
- White chalk or pencil
- A friend to hold a flash light
- A friend to draw your shadow
- White or some other light colored construction paper
- Glue or paste

Instructions

1. Tape your construction paper to a wall at the height of your head.
2. Stand or sit in front of a wall just far enough away that one friend can trace your shadow and facing to the right or left of the paper.
3. Have one friend hold a flash light so that your shadow falls on the paper.
4. Have your other friend trace your shadow.
5. Carefully un-tape your paper from the wall.
6. Slowly cut along the line your friend drew.
7. Glue or paste your silhouette to a piece of lighter colored paper.

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