



Total Eclipse of the Sun

By: Hilary Peddicord

Never have I ever felt closer to my ancestors more than the time the midday Sun turned black.

Reaching back in time and consciousness I wondered, how did they feel, with no knowing of stars and planets and moon orbits, when father Sun succumbed to darkness.

I've heard stories from Asian, Pacific and Native American peoples who believed that a giant frog was trying to eat the sun. Warriors would scream and fight and threaten the frog until the Sun was free again.

So here I was, feeling the fear, myth and confusion of my familial line and a sense of reverence as sister moon commanded my attention.

In the moment that day turned to night, father sun's mane, like wild tentacles, flowed out in all directions showing me that he was still in charge.

And yet the birds and bugs silently stared and the crickets rushed to play their night songs. Our breaths stopped. It felt as if life was begging my sister to relent.

Slowly her night crescent shifted letting the light flow, gracing us once again with life force, blinding and hot but calming. Because our Sun would shine again.

I was shocked, when the day began oddly anew, and the roots that broke through the soil of time awakened my cells. I was instantly one with all life. The day that time did not end.

Activity:

Solar eclipses are impactful events for those that are lucky enough to experience them. Impactful events or even daily beauty can awaken our artistic senses. We sure hope you will have the opportunity to see an eclipse at some point in your life. The annular solar eclipse (almost total) will happen on Oct 14, 2023. The total solar eclipse will happen on April 8, 2024.

- Read the poem, "Total Eclipse of the Sun."
- Draw, paint, or digitally create a picture of a scene that is described in the poem. Either one line of the poem or multiple lines.
- Send a photo of your art to: hilary.peddicord@noaa.gov or upload to social media and tag @scienceonasphere.
- We might use them in a movie we are making!

Hilary Peddicord is the Education lead for the NOAA on the Science On a Sphere team in Boulder, Colorado. She wants you to remember that if you love science and art, you don't have to choose. Just do them both! Also, poems are always worth writing and sharing even if you don't think they are very good. :)