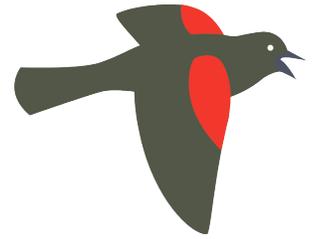


Sunrise Walkers



Beginning Comments to the Walkers

Dickson Yeager

So what is the Equinox from an astronomer's viewpoint. It is two things. Two points in the celestial sphere and an event. It involves two great circles. A great circle is a circle having the same diameter as the sphere it incircles. One great circle is the equatorial plane of the celestial sphere, Earth's equator projected outward. The second great circle is the ecliptic, the imaginary line the Earth scribes on its annual trip around the sun, i.e. the plane of the solar system. Because the Earth is tilted 23.44° to the ecliptic the two great circles cross each other's path twice 180° apart. These two intersections are the vernal and autumnal equinoxes.

The event of the equinox is the moment the center of the Sun is lined up with this intersection, which happens twice a year. Also, at the autumnal equinox the sun moves into the southern hemisphere. Likewise at the vernal equinox the sun will move into the northern hemisphere. Both due to the tilt of the Earth's axis.

At the equinoxes day and night are of equal length and at noon at the equator the sun, at its zenith, will be directly overhead. The Sun will rise due east and set due west everywhere on the earth except above the arctic circle where it skims parallel to the horizon.

As you walk into the sunrise I invite you to contemplate the impending rise of the Sun and consider its birth. A birth in a molecular nebula of gas and dust, like the great Orion Nebula. It is mostly Hydrogen and the remnant dust of super massive stars. Only in a supernova is there enough heat and pressure to produce the heavier metals. Because of its high metal content the Sun is considered a Population I star. At the Sun's birth it carried with it an accretion disc of left over

material. It is out of the left over gas and dust that the Solar system was created. So, look at the ground you are now standing on. It is literally star dust. You are literally made of hydrogen from the Cosmos's conception and star dust created by super massive stars end of life explosion. And once again out of death comes birth. A never ending cycle throughout our cosmos.

As you begin your walk, you can consider each sunrise as a birth. Out of the darkness comes the light and a new day. The universe lay in darkness for 380,000 years after it's conception. The newly born human laid curled and nurtured in the darkness of the womb for nine months. The new shoots of plant life break forth from seeds nurtured in the dark damp soil. To witness the sunrise is to witness the birth of a brand new day. A day unlike any other day that came before it , or will come after it. It is a wondrous moment, a miracle filled with awe. The heart and soul are awakened and filled with the promise the new day brings. It is a new beginning. And we can choose to take hold of this new beginning and bring Love and Peace into the world each and every new day.

