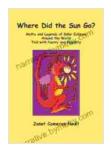
## Where Did the Sun Go? Myths and Legends of Solar Eclipses Around the World



Where Did the Sun Go? Myths and Legends of Solar Eclipses Around the World Told with Poetry and

**Puppetry** by Janet Cameron Hoult

★★★★★ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1478 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 72 pages

Lending



: Enabled

Solar eclipses are one of the most awe-inspiring and mysterious astronomical events. When the moon passes between the sun and the earth, it can block out the sun's light, casting a shadow over the land. This can cause a sense of wonder and fear, and has led to many myths and legends about solar eclipses around the world.

In this article, we will explore some of these myths and legends, and learn about the different ways that people have explained and understood solar eclipses throughout history. We will also provide some scientific information about solar eclipses, so that you can better understand this amazing phenomenon.

#### Myths and Legends of Solar Eclipses

Solar eclipses have been observed and recorded for thousands of years. The earliest known records of solar eclipses come from China, where they were recorded as early as 2,000 BC. Solar eclipses have also been recorded in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Mesopotamia.

In many cultures, solar eclipses were seen as a sign of bad luck or misfortune. In China, for example, solar eclipses were thought to be caused by a dragon eating the sun. In ancient Greece, solar eclipses were thought to be caused by the god Apollo driving his chariot too close to the sun.

In some cultures, solar eclipses were seen as a time of great danger. In ancient Rome, for example, it was believed that solar eclipses could cause pregnant women to miscarry. In some Native American cultures, solar eclipses were thought to be a time when evil spirits could roam the earth.

Despite the negative connotations that solar eclipses often had, they were also seen as a time of great power and magic. In some cultures, it was believed that solar eclipses could be used to cast spells or perform miracles. In ancient Egypt, for example, solar eclipses were believed to be a time when the gods were more receptive to prayers.

#### **Scientific Explanation of Solar Eclipses**

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the earth. The moon's shadow falls on the earth, blocking out the sun's light. Solar eclipses can only occur during a new moon, when the moon is in the same part of the sky as the sun.

There are two types of solar eclipses: total solar eclipses and partial solar eclipses. A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon's shadow completely blocks out the sun's light. A partial solar eclipse occurs when the moon's shadow only partially blocks out the sun's light.

Solar eclipses are relatively rare events. A total solar eclipse occurs about once every 18 months, and a partial solar eclipse occurs about once every 6 months. Solar eclipses are visible from only a small part of the earth's surface.

#### **How to Observe a Solar Eclipse**

If you are lucky enough to be in the path of a solar eclipse, there are a few things you can do to safely observe the event.

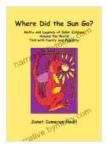
First, it is important to wear special eclipse glasses. Eclipse glasses are designed to protect your eyes from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. Do not look directly at the sun during a solar eclipse without wearing eclipse glasses.

Second, find a safe place to observe the eclipse. Do not observe the eclipse while driving or operating machinery. Find a spot where you can sit or stand comfortably and have a clear view of the sky.

Third, be patient. Solar eclipses can last for several minutes. Take your time to enjoy the experience and observe the different phases of the eclipse.

Solar eclipses are one of the most amazing and awe-inspiring astronomical events. They have been observed and recorded for thousands of years,

and have led to many myths and legends around the world. Solar eclipses are also a reminder of the power and beauty of nature. The next time you see a solar eclipse, take a moment to appreciate its beauty and wonder.



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