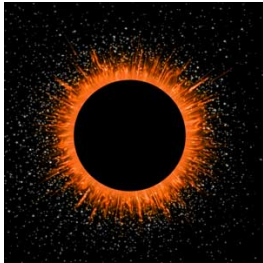


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Solstice Lunar Eclipse

This year's winter solstice will coincide with a full lunar eclipse for the first time in 456 years. According to Nasa the shortest day of the year has not fallen on the same day as a lunar eclipse since 1554. Dec. 21st, is the first day of northern winter and the full Moon will pass almost dead-center through Earth's shadow

The eclipse begins on Tuesday morning, Dec. 21st, at 1:33 am EST (Monday, Dec. 20th, at 10:33 pm PST). At that time, Earth's shadow will appear as a dark-red bite at the edge of the lunar disk. It takes about an hour for the "bite" to expand and swallow the entire Moon. Totality commences at 2:41 am EST (11:41 pm PST) and lasts for 72 minutes. If you want to dash out for a quick look - it is December, after all - choose 3:17 am EST (17 minutes past midnight PST). That's when the Moon will be in deepest shadow, displaying the most fantastic shades of coppery red.

Why red? If you are standing on the Moon, overhead hangs Earth, night side down, completely hiding the sun behind it. And as opposed to completely being dark, when the eclipse is fully underway the rim of Earth is on fire! From the Moon if you scanned your eye around Earth's circumference, you're seeing every sunrise and every sunset in the world, all of them, all at once. This incredible light in turn transforms the Moon into a great red orb. To us on Earth, the shadowed Moon paints Earth's landscape with unfamiliar colors and an eerie beauty.

*May the Solstice Lunar Eclipse herald in a Holiday time of awe, magic and love.
And as the sun's light increases in the coming months, may your
good fortunes expand in every direction.
With Love & Light for 2011, Judith + Sacred Currents*

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