



# **In the Shadow of the Moon: The Science, Magic, and Mystery of Solar Eclipses**

*Anthony Aveni*

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# In the Shadow of the Moon: The Science, Magic, and Mystery of Solar Eclipses

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**In the Shadow of the Moon: The Science, Magic, and Mystery of Solar Eclipses** Anthony Aveni  
**In anticipation of solar eclipses visible in 2017 and 2024, an exploration of the scientific and cultural significance of this mesmerizing cosmic display**

Since the first humans looked up and saw the sun swallowed by darkness, our species has been captivated by solar eclipses. Astronomer and anthropologist Anthony Aveni explains the history and culture surrounding solar eclipses, from prehistoric Stonehenge to Babylonian creation myths, to a confirmation of Einstein's theory of general relativity, to a spectacle that left New Yorkers in the moon's shadow, to future eclipses that will capture human imaginations.

In one accessible and engaging read, Aveni explains the science behind the phenomenon, tracks eclipses across the ancient world, and examines the roles of solar eclipses in modern times to reveal the profound effects these cosmic events have had on human history. Colored by his own experiences—Aveni has witnessed eight total solar eclipses in his lifetime—his account of astronomy's most storied phenomenon will enthrall anyone who has looked up at the sky with wonder.

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