

POEM OF THE WEEK

THE DANCE OF THE HEAVENLY BODIES (OR: DID WE CREATE TIME?)

The third part

A second

A day

is a period, roughly 24 hours long
the time it takes for the Earth
to rotate once on its axis
when part of the Earth faces
the Sun and gets lit up it is daytime.
when part of the Earth faces
away from the Sun, it is night

The Moon takes about one month to orbit Earth
(27.3 days to complete a revolution,
29.5 days to change to the new moon)
The Moon is always a sphere but we see different shapes
of the Moon in the sky
These are called the Moon's **phases**. A month

*For everything/turn, turn, turn/there is a season/
and a time for every purpose under heaven*

The Earth is spinning on its axis and orbiting
the Sun at the same time
The Earth takes 365 and a quarter days
to make one complete orbit of the Sun
(This is why a year on Earth is 365 days long.)

The Earth's axis is slightly tilted.
This tilt gives us our seasons.

Winter*

tilted away from the Sun.
Sunlight hits at a shallow angle
This spreads sunlight over a wide area

so it is weaker and less warm.

Spring^s

tilt towards the Sun. Longer days
with stronger sunlight making the weather
warmer and brighter.
This helps plants to grow.

Summer[&]

tilted towards the Sun.
this gives longer days
and means the Sun's rays
are more direct, stronger and warmer.

Autumn[&]

begins to tilt away from the Sun
Days become shorter.
The Sun's light hits
at a shallower angle;

making it weaker.
The weather gets colder.
The shorter days cause the leaves
on trees to change colour
We, in the Southern Hemisphere,
experience the same events,
in a different order
What we see is what we get.

The final part Some music, maestro

The heavenly bodies dancing,
never touching. In an intimate embrace
In a neverending cosmic dance,
to the music
Of Johann Strauss II's "The
Blue Danube Waltz

Let us pause a moment ...
Is there evidence of human intervention
No! We observed. We recorded.
We connected the pieces
To create effective time-measuring devices
Leslie D. Bush

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& in the northern hemisphere