

The Message from Astronomers

by Taki Yuriko

Translated by Deborah and John Saxon

June 6, 2012

Venus slowly entered

The sun's flickering flame.

Just the size of a mole.

On earth, a tepid wind was blowing.

From 7:30 am and for about six hours,

Venus drew a downward-facing arc

Across the face of the sun

Before passing on.

Such an event won't be seen in Japan again for at least a hundred years.

In a bold declaration,

The International Astronomical Union = IAU

Recently named ten planets after

Ten stricken areas from the

East Japan Great Earthquake.

Three from Fukushima, and one from my area of Ibaraki.



Fukushima.

Nuclear power plants.

Participating scientists,

Tempted by big money

From the economy-first government

And the electrical power companies,

Allowed their previously estimated levels of risk

To be bargained down.

The scientists thought that,

At any rate, no one else knew the risks,

So they signed off on the nuclear plants,

Declared them environmentally safe since they emitted no CO₂,

And in creating these myths said, in effect,
"100% safe."
Without any immediate accidents,
No one could verify the expected risk,
Because unlike celestial events,
No eye can see what is happening.

On May 23, 2012,
WHO (the World Health Organization) announced
Radiation exposure estimates from the Fukushima disaster.
One week prior, the Japanese government,
Astonished to receive WHO's preliminary report
Which included radiation levels in Tokyo,
Vigorously protested the results,
Which had spread fear and panic into the populace.
As a result, the officially published values were,
In every district, 1/10 to 1/2 of the announced original.
Yet the Japanese government's official values
Still differed greatly from WHO's.
The government, despite living in the radiation,
Measured only cesium, which leaves the body rapidly.
Strontium, which collects in the bones, and
Plutonium, which never leaves the body, and
Many other radioactive elements
Were not measured.
They emphasized the low cesium levels,
And continued charging that WHO's levels
Were still too high.

Called 99.9999...% safe,
Nuclear power still confers its risk of
Irreparable harm upon the health of many.

Having made the political decision
To turn nuclear power plants back on,
The Japanese government

Fixates on keeping up its show of safety,
Yet as time has passed after the accident,
It has continued lowering safety standards and reported radiation levels,
Like deep discounts from banana street vendors.

The director of the Radioisotope Center at Tokyo University,
Well acquainted with the medical uses of radiation,
And well acquainted with radiation's advantages and dangers,
Remonstrated the Japanese Diet:
"A true medical doctor never assigns
A value from probability theory
To the life of one
Who has suffered any radioactive exposure
From the accident.
A person is either ill or not. 100 or 0.
For living, breathing human beings, saying
'You are X% ill' is an outrage!"



All you honorable scientists and doctors, you "elite,"
Did you look up into the sky that day?
Did you see the sun? The movement of the planets around it?
Did you hear the message from the astronomers?
These astronomers accurately calculated
The time, the place, the appearance.
Every eye could see that
Their calculations were correct.
So we believe their expectation that
The same event will occur
in December, 105 years from now.
But we don't know whether any of our descendants
Will be left here on earth.
You honorable scientists and doctors,
No matter how often the government pressures you,
Don't knuckle under!

Make public the real risks of nuclear power,
And the radiation levels from all radioactive elements.
Instead of taking orders from the politicians,
Move the politicians by
Sharing the truth.

Note:

On May 21, 2012, an annular solar eclipse also occurred.

It lasted only five minutes, but the hidden sun held the brightness of dawn. The ring passed right over the Fukushima accident site, then disappeared into the Pacific. The accident victims, and all of Japan, stared speechless into the sky, as it occurred precisely as the astronomers had predicted.

However, on June 8, 2012, Prime Minister Noda of Japan announced that many nuclear power plants would be brought back on line, including some that are more than 40 years old, after they met certain government safety standards.