

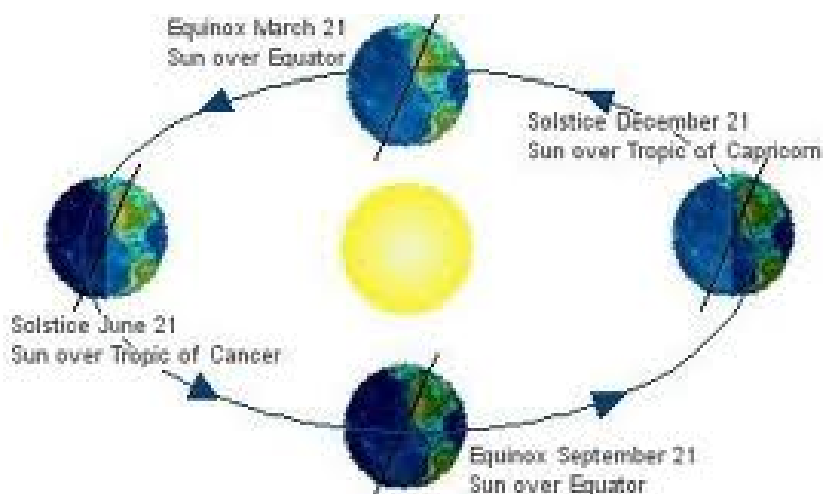
MEHREGAN

The Autumnal Equinox

The Earth in its revolution around the sun goes through two equinoxes, it is a moment in time when the sun crosses the equator, one around 20 March (Nou Rouz) and the second around 21 September (Mehregan).

Ancient Iranians have celebrated both of these occasions with great fanfare. In March the precise moment of the sun crossing the equator has always been designated as the start of a New Year and the beginning of spring. Similarly in September it marks the beginning of autumn. On both occasions the celebrations started with the beginning of the equinox and ended after the day when the name of the month and the name of the day were the same. In case of Spring Equinox the celebrations ended 19 days latter on Farvardin Day in Farvardin Month. In case of Mehregan the celebrations ended on the tenth day, on Mehr Day in the Month of Mehr.

There are two other positions of the earth in relation to the sun that are also celebrated. The winter solstice and the summer solstice. The winter solstice happens around 21 December and we have the longest night, the summer solstice happens around 21 June and we have the longest day, on the northern hemisphere, as a result of the 23 degree tilt of the earths axis. The winter solstice is celebrated as Yalda – the birth – of the sun, and the summer solstice is celebrated as Tirgan which has become a festival of water. People wet each other in celebration and wad off the summer heat.



Recognizing such precise moments in the revolution of the Earth round the Sun and celebrating it, shows the knowledge of the ancient Iranians in comparison

with the belief of the rest of the world who in 1633 CE punished Galileo for simply mentioning that the earth went around the sun.

No doubt the Bible calls the Persians wise. Zarathushtra had even made a more precise calculation when 3738 years ago in 1725 BCE he calculated the natural phenomenon of the Equinox coinciding with the Sun Rise on the natural Meridian (Nim Rooz) and naming the New Year of 1725 BCE as Nou Rooz - New Day.

Unfortunately most of the ancient knowledge of the Persians was destroyed first by Alexander the so called great and even to a greater extend by the Arabs who in name of Islam burnt books and cut the fingers of Persian scholars who attempted to write. Centuries latter Persian scholars were allowed to write but only in Arabic and today western scholars mindlessly call them Islamic scholars because they have written in Arabic.

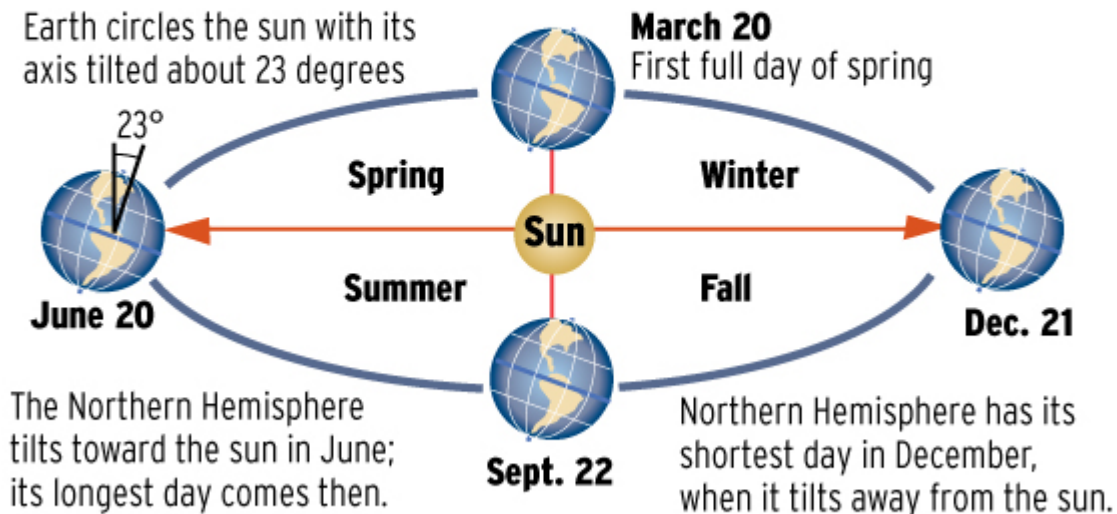
What little is left of the ancient knowledge is mistranslated by western scholars who can not even imagine that the ancient Persian knew more than their European contemporaries and in some cases more than modern science. Today Mehregan instead of being celebrated on the equinox is wrongly celebrated on its last day on Mehr Day in the month of Mehr.

May Knowledge Prevail

Fariborz Rahnamoon

Seasons change with the sun

Equinox occurs each spring and fall when noon sun is overhead at the equator. Day and night are each about 12 hours long.



Sources: The Old Farmer's Almanac, McClatchy-Tribune

The Register