

STGZ303

03/13 - 03/19

SPRING EQUINOX 2023!

HI STAR GAZERS, TRACE HERE – MARCH 20 IS THE VERNAL EQUINOX -  
- WHEN OUR SUN IS DIRECTLY OVER THE EQUATOR AND DAY AND  
NIGHT ARE EQUAL.

IN ANCIENT TIMES THE SUN PASSED THROUGH ARIES IN EARLY  
SPRING, BUT TODAY IT PASSES THROUGH PISCES BECAUSE OF  
PRECESSION.

PRECESSION IS THE WOBBLE OF EARTH'S AXIS. THIS WOBBLE CAUSES  
EARTH'S ROTATIONAL AXIS TO SHIFT. OVER TIME THIS SHIFT CAUSES  
THE CONSTELLATIONS TO CHANGE POSITION IN THE SKY – ABOUT A  
PINKY ON AN OUTSTRETCHED ARM, EVERY 72 YEARS.

THIS ADDS UP! LEMME SHOW YOU...

FACE NORTH ANY NIGHT AFTER MIDNIGHT AND LOOK FOR THE BIG  
DIPPER ASTERISM. THE TWO END STARS, DUBHE AND MERAK FORM  
AN ARROW TO POLARIS – THE CURRENT NORTH STAR. BUT IN 13,000  
YEARS OUR NORTH STAR WILL BE VEGA!

TO FIND VEGA USE THE OTHER TWO BOWL STARS OF THE BIG DIPPER  
– MAKE AN ARROW TWICE AS LONG; THAT BRIGHT STAR IS VEGA!

THE SKY IS ETERNAL, AND ALWAYS CHANGING – JUST LIKE SPRING!  
KEEP LOOKING UP!