August 2026 Eclipse Season

The Total Solar Eclipse of August 12 and the Nearly Total Lunar Eclipse of August 28

August 2026 Eclipse Window

August 2026 brings not one but **two extraordinary eclipses**, separated by only sixteen days.
On **Wednesday, August 12, 2026**, the Moon will pass directly between Earth and the Sun, producing a **total solar eclipse** whose path of totality crosses Greenland, Iceland, northern Russia, Spain, and a small corner of Portugal. Much of Europe, Canada, northwestern Africa, and portions of the northern United States will see a partial eclipse.
Then, during the night of **August 27–28, 2026**, the geometry reverses. Earth will pass between the Sun and the Full Moon, casting its shadow across the lunar surface and producing an exceptionally deep **partial lunar eclipse**. At maximum, approximately **96.2 percent of the Moon's visible area will lie inside Earth's dark umbral shadow**. It will be so deep that, at first glance, it may resemble a total lunar eclipse with only a tiny bright portion of the Moon escaping complete shadow.
Together, these two events form the second eclipse season of 2026.
Astronomically, they demonstrate the remarkable geometry of the Earth-Moon-Sun system.
Astrologically, they present a fascinating contrast: a **New Moon total solar eclipse at approximately 20°02' Leo**, close to the South Node, followed by a **Full Moon lunar eclipse at approximately 4°54' Pisces**, close to the North Node.
Symbolically, one could describe the story of August as:
Release what obscures the authentic heart.
Then listen for what emerges from the deeper soul.

Two Eclipses, One Eclipse Season

Eclipses do not occur randomly throughout the year.
The Moon's orbit around Earth is tilted by approximately **5.1 degrees** relative to Earth's orbital plane around the Sun. Most New Moons therefore pass slightly above or below the Sun, while most Full Moons pass above or below Earth's shadow.
An eclipse becomes possible only when a New Moon or Full Moon occurs sufficiently close to one of the two points where the Moon's orbital plane intersects the ecliptic. These crossing points are called the **lunar nodes**.
NASA calls the roughly **35-day period** during which the geometry permits eclipses an **eclipse season**. Eclipse seasons occur a little less than six months apart.
That is why eclipses frequently arrive in pairs.
A solar eclipse near New Moon is commonly followed about two weeks later by a lunar eclipse at Full Moon—or the sequence occurs in reverse. Occasionally an eclipse season even contains three eclipses.

August 2026 provides a particularly dramatic example:

Date	Eclipse	Lunar Phase	Astrological Sign	Character
August 12, 2026	**Total Solar Eclipse**	New Moon	Leo ~20°	Sun completely covered along the path of totality
August 27–28, 2026	**Deep Partial Lunar Eclipse**	Full Moon	Pisces ~4°54′	About 96.2% of the Moon's area enters Earth's umbra

The two eclipses are physically related through the geometry of the same eclipse season, but they produce almost opposite experiences.
During the solar eclipse, **the Moon casts its shadow upon Earth**.
During the lunar eclipse, **Earth casts its shadow upon the Moon**.

Part One: The August 12, 2026 Total Solar Eclipse

The first act begins on **August 12**.
A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes directly between Earth and the Sun and appears large enough to completely cover the Sun's brilliant visible surface.
The August 12 eclipse reaches maximum globally at approximately **17:46 UTC**, with the longest totality lasting about **2 minutes and 18 seconds**.
The path of totality crosses parts of:

- Northern Russia
- The Arctic region
- Greenland
- Iceland
- The North Atlantic
- Spain
- A small portion of northeastern Portugal

A much broader region will experience a partial solar eclipse, including much of Europe and Canada, northwestern Africa, and portions of the northern United States.

Spain's Historic Eclipse

Spain will become one of the world's principal eclipse destinations.
The August 12 event will be the **first total solar eclipse visible from mainland Spain since 1905**, and it begins an exceptional run of important solar eclipses visible from the country during the following two years.
Totality will occur very late in the day.
That creates an extraordinary visual opportunity: a totally eclipsed Sun hanging low above the western horizon.

Depending upon location, observers may see the black disk of the Moon and surrounding solar corona suspended above mountains, plains, ancient cities, coastline, or the Mediterranean.
But a low Sun creates a challenge as well.
A seemingly insignificant hill, tree line, building, mountain ridge, or layer of coastal haze could block the eclipse completely. Anyone traveling to Spain should therefore prioritize an **unobstructed western horizon**.

Why 99 Percent Is Not the Same as Totality

One of the most important facts about a solar eclipse is that **99 percent totality is not almost the same experience as 100 percent totality**.
Even a tiny uncovered portion of the solar photosphere remains extraordinarily bright.
During a very deep partial eclipse, daylight may become strange and silvery. Temperatures may drop. Shadows sharpen. The environment can feel distinctly unnatural.
But the Sun's corona remains hidden.
Only when the Moon covers **100 percent of the photosphere** does the transformation occur.
The final sunlight disappears.
The sky rapidly darkens.
Bright planets or stars may emerge.
The horizon may glow in every direction.
And surrounding the absolutely black Moon appears the ghostly white atmosphere of the Sun: **the solar corona.**
That experience is available only from inside the path of totality.

Baily's Beads and the Diamond Ring

Immediately before totality, the last rays of sunlight shine through valleys along the rugged edge of the Moon.
Instead of disappearing smoothly, sunlight breaks into brilliant points known as **Baily's beads**.
As the remaining beads vanish, one particularly bright point may remain beside the emerging corona.
For an instant, the sky appears to contain an enormous jewel.
This is the famous **diamond-ring effect**.
Then the final direct sunlight disappears and totality begins.
A second diamond ring occurs when the first direct sunlight returns from the opposite edge of the Moon.

The Solar Corona: Seeing the Sun We Normally Cannot See

The ordinary daytime Sun is so brilliant that its faint outer atmosphere is overwhelmed by glare.
During totality, however, the Moon acts as nature's perfect occulting disk.

The solar photosphere disappears while the much fainter **corona** remains visible.
It may resemble an immense pearly-white crown, with streamers and filaments stretching outward several solar diameters.
Pink or reddish **solar prominences** may also become visible along the edge of the Moon. These enormous structures consist of glowing plasma shaped and suspended by the Sun's magnetic field.
Modern spacecraft can study the corona with instruments called coronagraphs, but natural total solar eclipses continue to provide valuable opportunities for solar and atmospheric research. NASA has announced airborne and balloon-based scientific campaigns for the August 2026 eclipse, including observations of the corona and studies of how Earth's atmosphere reacts to the sudden temporary loss of sunlight.

An Eclipse and the Perseid Meteor Shower

There is another remarkable feature of the August 12 date.
The eclipse occurs during the annual **Perseid meteor shower**, one of the best-known meteor showers of the year.
The timing is especially favorable because a solar eclipse necessarily occurs at **New Moon**.
That means there will be essentially no bright moonlight washing out the night sky after sunset.
For observers fortunate enough to have dark skies, August 12 could therefore become an extraordinary astronomical double feature:
A total solar eclipse before sunset followed by Perseid meteors after darkness falls.
The two events are not physically related. Their appearance on the same date is a coincidence produced by different astronomical cycles.
But for a skywatcher, it may be difficult to imagine a more memorable evening.

Part Two: The August 27–28, 2026 Partial Lunar Eclipse

Sixteen days after the solar eclipse, the celestial geometry reverses.
Instead of the Moon passing between Earth and the Sun, **Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon**.
The result is a lunar eclipse.
The August event is officially called the **August 28, 2026 partial lunar eclipse**, because maximum eclipse occurs on August 28 in Universal Time.
But for much of North America, the eclipse begins during the evening of **August 27** and continues past midnight into August 28.
This distinction is useful when planning to observe it.

The August 28 Lunar Eclipse at a Glance

The worldwide stages occur at approximately:

- **Penumbral eclipse begins:** 01:23:58 UTC
- **Partial eclipse begins:** 02:33:54 UTC
- **Maximum eclipse:** 04:12:53 UTC
- **Partial eclipse ends:** 05:51:59 UTC
- **Penumbral eclipse ends:** 07:01:47 UTC

The entire event lasts approximately **5 hours and 38 minutes**, while the visually dramatic partial phase lasts approximately **3 hours and 18 minutes**.

For **U.S. Eastern Daylight Time**, those stages occur at approximately:

- **9:23 p.m., August 27:** Penumbral eclipse begins
- **10:33 p.m., August 27:** Partial eclipse begins
- **12:12 a.m., August 28:** Maximum eclipse
- **1:51 a.m., August 28:** Partial eclipse ends
- **3:01 a.m., August 28:** Penumbral eclipse ends

The complete eclipse is visible from New York and many other parts of eastern North America, weather permitting.

A Partial Eclipse That Is Almost Total

Calling this eclipse merely “partial” understates just how dramatic it will be.

At maximum eclipse, the **umbral magnitude will be approximately 0.930**. This means about 93 percent of the Moon’s diameter will extend into Earth’s dark central shadow.

Because area and diameter are different measurements, an even more impressive figure emerges when we calculate how much of the lunar surface is shadowed:

approximately 96.2 percent of the Moon’s visible area will be inside Earth’s umbra.

Only a thin portion of the lunar disk will remain outside the deepest shadow.

Visually, the eclipse may therefore appear tantalizingly close to totality.

Most of the Moon may become dramatically darkened or reddish while one edge retains a brighter appearance.

Why Does an Eclipsed Moon Turn Red?

Earth’s shadow is not completely black.

Sunlight passing through Earth’s atmosphere is filtered and refracted.

Shorter blue wavelengths are scattered efficiently by the atmosphere—the same general phenomenon that makes Earth’s daytime sky appear blue.

Longer orange and red wavelengths travel through the atmosphere more successfully and are bent into Earth’s shadow.

During a lunar eclipse, that filtered light can illuminate the Moon.

In a sense, an observer standing on the lunar surface during a lunar eclipse would see **every sunrise and sunset on Earth forming a reddish ring around the dark Earth**.
That collective sunset-colored light falls upon the Moon and can produce copper, orange, brick-red, or brown coloration.
Because the August 2026 eclipse is technically partial, one thin section of the Moon will remain outside the full umbra. This may create a striking contrast between the deeply shadowed majority of the lunar surface and the remaining bright portion.

The Penumbra and Umbra

Earth casts two principal regions of shadow.
The **penumbra** is the lighter outer shadow. Here, Earth blocks only part of the Sun as seen from the Moon.
The **umbra** is the dark central shadow. From inside it, Earth completely blocks the Sun.
When the August eclipse begins, the Moon first enters the penumbra.
The initial change can be extremely subtle. Observers may have difficulty noticing anything unusual.
As the Moon approaches the umbra, however, one portion should begin looking distinctly dimmer.
At **02:33:54 UTC**, the Moon begins entering Earth's umbra and the unmistakable partial eclipse starts.
It may initially look as though a dark bite has been taken from the Moon.
That bite grows for approximately an hour and forty minutes until maximum eclipse.

Where Can the August 28 Lunar Eclipse Be Seen?

Unlike a solar eclipse, which is visible from a relatively narrow geographical region, a lunar eclipse can be seen from **any location on Earth's nighttime side where the Moon is above the horizon**.
The August 27–28 lunar eclipse will be visible to varying degrees from:

- North America
- South America
- Europe
- Africa
- Parts of western Asia
- The Atlantic
- Portions of the Pacific
- Portions of the Indian Ocean
- Antarctica

NASA broadly lists the visibility region as the **eastern Pacific, the Americas, Europe, and Africa**.

For many people in the United States and Canada, this eclipse will therefore be far easier to experience than the August 12 total solar eclipse.
No international travel is necessary.
No narrow path of totality needs to be reached.
No specialized equipment is required.
Just find the Moon.

Lunar Eclipses Are Safe to Watch With the Naked Eye

This is one of the greatest practical differences between the two August eclipses.
Never look directly at the partially eclipsed Sun without proper solar protection.
The August 12 solar eclipse requires certified eclipse glasses or proper solar filters throughout every partial phase.
The August 28 lunar eclipse requires **no eye protection at all**.
You may safely look directly at an eclipsed Moon.
Binoculars and telescopes can also be used normally during a lunar eclipse and can make the changing shadow particularly beautiful.
This difference exists because the Moon is merely reflecting sunlight. Looking at the Full Moon—even during an eclipse—does not expose the eye to the concentrated solar radiation involved in direct solar viewing.

Solar Eclipse Versus Lunar Eclipse

The August pair provides an almost perfect opportunity to compare the two phenomena.

August 12 — Solar Eclipse

Sun → Moon → Earth
The Moon's shadow falls upon Earth.
The eclipse occurs at **New Moon**.
Only observers within a relatively limited geographical region see the eclipse.
The total phase lasts only minutes.
Eye protection is essential during partial phases.

August 28 — Lunar Eclipse

Sun → Earth → Moon
Earth's shadow falls upon the Moon.
The eclipse occurs at **Full Moon**.
Most of Earth's nighttime hemisphere can potentially see it.
The partial phase lasts more than three hours.
No special eye protection is necessary.
The first eclipse makes the **Sun appear dark**.
The second makes the **Moon appear dark and potentially red**.
One briefly transforms daytime into twilight.

The other slowly transforms the familiar Full Moon during the night.

The Saros Cycles

Both eclipses also belong to long-running families called **Saros series**.
A Saros lasts approximately **6,585.3 days**, or roughly **18 years, 11 days, and 8 hours**. After one Saros, the geometry of the Sun, Earth, Moon, lunar nodes, and lunar distance becomes remarkably similar again.
The August 12 solar eclipse belongs to **Solar Saros 126**.
The August 28 lunar eclipse belongs to **Lunar Saros 138**, and NASA's eclipse catalog identifies it as member **30 of 83** in that series.
Eclipses belonging to the same Saros family resemble one another, although they do not repeat over precisely the same geographical locations because the extra eight hours in the Saros cycle allow Earth to rotate approximately one-third of a turn.
The heavens repeat—but never in quite the same place.

The Astrological Story of August 2026

Astronomy explains **what physically happens** during an eclipse.
Astrology asks what those events might symbolize.
Astrological interpretation is a symbolic and spiritual tradition rather than an established physical science, so the following section should be understood in that context.
What makes August 2026 unusually interesting astrologically is that these two eclipses do not simply repeat the same zodiacal theme.
Instead, they connect **two different eclipse stories**.

August 12: Total Solar Eclipse at 20°02′ Leo

The August 12 New Moon eclipse occurs at approximately **20 degrees 2 minutes of Leo** and lies closer to the Moon's **South Node**.
Leo traditionally symbolizes:

- The heart
- Creativity
- Self-expression
- Courage
- Individuality
- Leadership
- Romance
- Children
- Play
- Recognition

- Personal pride
- The desire to shine

The South Node, in many modern astrological traditions, is associated with release, old patterns, familiarity, completion, and qualities that have become overdeveloped.
A South Node solar eclipse in Leo therefore presents an interesting paradox.
A New Moon normally symbolizes beginning.
A South Node eclipse emphasizes letting go.
The resulting message is not simply:
“Begin something new.”
It may be closer to:
“Remove what prevents the real beginning.”

What Might the Leo Eclipse Ask Us to Release?

Symbolically, this eclipse may invite examination of the shadow side of Leo:

- Needing constant recognition
- Performing for approval
- Mistaking attention for love
- Excessive pride
- Fear of embarrassment
- Dominating instead of leading
- Hiding creativity because it may be judged
- Measuring self-worth through applause
- Maintaining an image that no longer represents the authentic self

The goal is not to extinguish Leo’s light.
Quite the opposite.
The symbolism asks whether anything artificial has accumulated around that light.
Healthy Leo energy is not simply “Look at me.”
At its best it says:
“This is what I was given to create. Let me share it.”
The eclipse may therefore symbolize the removal of performance so that genuine creativity can emerge.

Leo and Aquarius: The Individual and the Community

The August 12 eclipse belongs to a developing **Leo-Aquarius eclipse sequence** extending from 2026 into 2028. Astrologers commonly associate this axis with the relationship between individual expression and collective participation.
Leo asks:
What is uniquely mine to express?
Aquarius asks:

How does that uniqueness serve the larger group?
Leo says:
Find your light.
Aquarius responds:
Now do something useful with it.
The healthiest expression of this axis does not require choosing individuality or community. It asks us to integrate them.

August 28: Lunar Eclipse at 4°54′ Pisces

The second eclipse changes the symbolic language dramatically.
The August 28 Full Moon occurs at approximately **4°54′ Pisces**, opposite the Sun at approximately **4°54′ Virgo**. It belongs to the Virgo-Pisces eclipse sequence that began in 2024 and continues into early 2027.
The lunar eclipse is also closer to the **North Node**, traditionally associated in astrology with development, increase, unfamiliar territory, and movement toward something that must be learned rather than merely repeated.
Pisces traditionally symbolizes:

- Intuition
- Compassion
- Spirituality
- Dreams
- Imagination
- Mysticism
- Surrender
- Empathy
- Boundaries and their dissolution
- The unconscious
- Faith
- Art
- The invisible or intangible

Virgo, directly opposite Pisces, represents another side of the same problem:

- Practicality
- Order
- Discernment
- Work
- Routine
- Health
- Service
- Craft

- Analysis
- Detail
- Organization

Astrologically, this eclipse therefore activates the tension between **Virgo's need to organize reality and Pisces' need to experience what cannot always be organized**.

Virgo and Pisces: Order and Surrender

This axis asks a profound question:
How do we remain spiritually open without losing practical discernment?
Too much Virgo can become perfectionism, constant correction, excessive analysis, worry, or the belief that everything must be controlled before life can proceed.
Too much Pisces can become confusion, avoidance, unrealistic idealization, blurred boundaries, or escaping reality instead of engaging with it.
Integrated together, however, these signs create something beautiful.
Pisces dreams.
Virgo builds a container for the dream.
Pisces feels compassion.
Virgo asks how compassion can become practical service.
Pisces receives inspiration.
Virgo develops the skill necessary to express it.
Pisces experiences the sacred.
Virgo tends the altar.
This makes the August 28 eclipse especially interesting for spiritual work.
The question is not whether we should choose the mystical or the practical.
The question is:
Can our spiritual ideals survive contact with everyday life?

The Hidden Beauty of the Two-Eclipse Sequence

Here is where the combined interpretation becomes especially compelling.
The August 12 eclipse occurs in **Leo**, a sign associated with individual light.
The August 28 eclipse occurs in **Pisces**, a sign associated with dissolving the boundaries of the individual self.
So the eclipse season begins by asking:
What is authentically mine?
And ends by asking:
What connects me to everything beyond myself?
That gives August a fascinating symbolic progression:

August 12 — Leo

Find the genuine heart beneath performance.

August 28 — Pisces

Allow that heart to become compassionate, intuitive, and spiritually connected.
Or, expressed another way:
First discover your light.
Then remember that the light was never yours alone.

South Node to North Node: Release and Receive

There is another notable symbolic movement.
The Leo solar eclipse is closer to the **South Node**.
The Pisces lunar eclipse is closer to the **North Node**.
In nodal astrology, this creates an elegant progression.
The South Node asks:
What are you ready to stop carrying?
The North Node asks:
What are you becoming capable of receiving?
The first eclipse can therefore be approached as an act of simplification.
The second can be approached as an act of opening.
Release.
Then listen.
Clear.
Then receive.
Empty.
Then discover what wants to fill the newly created space.

New Moon to Full Moon: What Was Hidden Becomes Visible

The physical lunar cycle reinforces the same symbolism.
August 12 is a **New Moon**.
The Moon is invisible because its illuminated hemisphere faces away from Earth.
August 28 is a **Full Moon**.
Its illuminated hemisphere faces Earth completely.
Symbolically, New Moons have long been associated with beginnings, seeds, intentions, and developments that have not yet become visible.
Full Moons are traditionally associated with culmination, revelation, illumination, and emotional awareness.
The eclipse sequence therefore moves from darkness into fullness:

August 12: Something begins where we cannot yet see it.
August 28: Something becomes impossible to ignore.
Because the Full Moon itself is then partially swallowed by Earth's shadow, the symbolism becomes even richer:
Revelation does not necessarily mean that everything becomes simple.
Sometimes we finally see enough to understand how much remains mysterious.

Who May Feel the Eclipses Most Strongly in Astrology?

Astrological traditions generally consider eclipses more personally significant when they closely contact planets or angles in a natal chart.
The August 12 eclipse occurs near **20° Leo**. Cafe Astrology highlights approximately **15°–25° of the Fixed signs**:

- Taurus
- Leo
- Scorpio
- Aquarius

as particularly sensitive degrees for this eclipse.
The August 28 lunar eclipse occurs near **4°54' Pisces**, making approximately **0°–10° of the Mutable signs** especially relevant:

- Gemini
- Virgo
- Sagittarius
- Pisces

This does **not** mean that everyone belonging to those Sun signs should expect dramatic events. In serious natal astrology, the entire birth chart matters—especially the houses occupied by the eclipse degrees and any close contacts to natal planets, the Ascendant, Midheaven, Nodes, or other important points.

A Spiritual Practice for the August Eclipse Season

Those who approach eclipses spiritually may wish to treat the sixteen days between them as a period of observation rather than forcing dramatic action.

Before August 12

Consider writing:
What am I performing that is no longer authentic?
Then ask:

- Where do I depend too heavily upon approval?
- What would I create if nobody applauded?
- What part of me wants permission to exist?

- Where has pride prevented reconciliation?
- Am I leading, or merely trying to control?
- What brings genuine joy rather than temporary recognition?

Between the Eclipses

Pay attention.
Notice:

- Repeated dreams
- Unexpected memories
- Emotional patterns
- Conversations that keep returning
- People reappearing
- Creative impulses
- Sudden clarity
- Situations that feel strangely complete
- Things becoming harder to pretend not to know

There is no requirement to treat every coincidence as a supernatural message.
Simply becoming unusually attentive can itself be a valuable spiritual exercise.

Around August 28

Shift the questions toward Pisces and Virgo:

- What can no longer be solved through control alone?
- Where do I need stronger boundaries?
- Where have my boundaries become walls?
- What does compassion require in practical terms?
- What dream deserves disciplined effort?
- What routine supports my spiritual well-being?
- What am I trying to perfect that instead needs to be accepted?
- What am I calling “surrender” that is actually avoidance?
- What am I calling “realistic” that is actually fear?

The Pisces-Virgo axis asks for both faith and discernment.
Neither should eliminate the other.

Eclipse Safety: Two Completely Different Rules

Because August contains both a solar and lunar eclipse, it is especially important not to confuse the viewing rules.

August 12 Solar Eclipse

Proper solar eye protection is required during every partial phase.
Use certified eclipse glasses or solar viewers. Ordinary sunglasses are not sufficient.
Cameras, binoculars, and telescopes require proper solar filters mounted over the **front of the instrument**.
Only observers experiencing true totality may look without solar filters, and only during the brief interval when the Sun's bright photosphere is completely hidden.
The filter must be replaced immediately as totality ends.

August 28 Lunar Eclipse

No eye protection is required.
The Moon may be safely viewed directly, through binoculars, or with a telescope throughout the entire eclipse.
Remember the easiest rule:
Solar eclipse: protect your eyes.
Lunar eclipse: simply look up.

Tips for Photographing the Lunar Eclipse

The August 28 eclipse is much easier to photograph than the solar eclipse.
A tripod is highly recommended because the Moon will become considerably dimmer as it enters Earth's umbra.
Photographers may want to experiment with:

- Manual focus
- Different shutter speeds
- Different ISO settings
- Bracketing exposures
- Telephoto lenses
- Interval photography
- Time-lapse sequences

Because nearly the entire Moon enters the umbra, the brightness difference between the remaining uneclipsed portion and the shadowed region could become significant.
A series of photographs taken every few minutes can beautifully demonstrate the movement of Earth's curved shadow across the lunar surface.
That curved shadow is also a simple visual reminder that Earth itself is spherical—a fact observers recognized from lunar eclipses thousands of years before modern spaceflight.

Watching Earth's Shadow Move Across Another World

There is something uniquely profound about a lunar eclipse.
During the August 12 eclipse, observers stand **inside the Moon's shadow**.

Sixteen days later, we look upward and see **our own planet's shadow projected onto the Moon**.
Normally we cannot see Earth's shadow.
It stretches invisibly into space every night.
But during a lunar eclipse, another world passes through it.
For several hours we can literally watch the shadow of our planet moving across the lunar surface.
That realization alone can transform the event from a beautiful Moon into something much larger.
You are watching the geometry of worlds.

The Great Lesson of Eclipse Season: Light Is Not Destroyed

Both eclipses create darkness.
Yet neither destroys the source of light.
During the solar eclipse, the Sun continues shining normally behind the Moon.
During the lunar eclipse, the Moon still exists normally inside Earth's shadow.
Nothing has vanished.
Our perspective has changed.
This may be the most useful spiritual metaphor offered by eclipses.
Human beings naturally associate darkness with absence.
But sometimes darkness is not absence.
Sometimes something has simply moved between us and the light.
And sometimes that temporary interruption reveals something we could not otherwise see.
We cannot normally see the solar corona because the photosphere is too bright.
The Sun must be hidden before its delicate outer atmosphere becomes visible.
Likewise, an ordinary Full Moon does not display Earth's shadow.
The Moon must enter darkness before our planet's immense shadow becomes visible in the sky.
In both cases:
Something is concealed, and something else is revealed.

August 2026: A Month Between Two Shadows

The first shadow comes from the Moon.
The second comes from Earth.
On August 12, we stand beneath the Moon's shadow and watch the Sun disappear.
On August 28, we stand beneath the stars and watch our own shadow fall across the Moon.
One eclipse is brief and spectacular.
The other is slow and contemplative.
One belongs to daytime.

The other belongs to night.
One is a New Moon.
The other is a Full Moon.
One asks us, symbolically, to examine the light of the individual heart.
The other invites us into the mysterious waters of emotion, intuition, compassion, and surrender.
And between them lie sixteen days in which the Moon travels from New to Full and the story moves from **Leo to Pisces, from solar to lunar, from South Node to North Node, from release toward revelation**.
Whether we approach these events as astronomers, photographers, astrologers, spiritual seekers, or simply curious human beings, August 2026 offers us something extraordinary.
We can understand exactly why an eclipse happens and still be awed by it.
Science tells us where the shadows will fall.
Mathematics tells us when they will arrive.
Astronomy explains the celestial mechanics with extraordinary precision.
And still, when daylight disappears in the middle of the day—or when Earth's shadow slowly turns the Full Moon red—the experience can remind us how small we are within an enormous and intricately ordered universe.
Perhaps the two eclipses together offer a message worthy of reflection:
Not every darkness is an ending.
Not everything hidden has been lost.
Sometimes a shadow changes what we are able to see.
On August 12, look toward the Sun—**with proper protection**—and witness the shadow of another world passing over ours.
On August 28, look toward the Moon and witness the shadow of **our own world** passing over another.

And somewhere between those two shadows, perhaps we can learn something about our own relationship with light.