

## THE ECLIPSES

Whether or not the squire could fully comprehend the mechanisms of the heavenly bodies, he nevertheless delivers an amusing parody of a solar eclipse. Likening it to a comedy play in the village square, he envisions the Sun as the principal actor, vain and strutting, suddenly out-manuevered by the Moon, who blithely blots him out. A solar eclipse can only occur on the New Moon, when the Lady otherwise cannot be seen in the sky. Viewing from the Earth's surface her position in that critical moment is directly in front of the Sun.

A lunar eclipse is a much more leisurely affair, which can only occur in the evening hours and on a full moon. In this the Lady's relationship to the Earth is well established – parallel to the Kingdom of which Thorn is a subject – establishing together the times and cycles of Earth rhythms. But her phases suggest a roving eye toward her lover, and her Master must remind her from time to time of her place in his court and of their bond. As she gazes full in the direction of the Sun situated below the western horizon, the Earth intervenes to block his light and cast his own ruddy shadow upon her. Recognizing his signal she bows in graceful submission, and then they kiss.

The squire would have preferred something more violent and entertaining, but Thorn will brook no other interpretation. This one stands on its own.