

**THE ESSENCE OF
ASTRONOMY: THINGS EVERY
ONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS**

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The Essence of Astronomy: Things Every One Should Know About the Sun, Moon, and Stars by
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THE PLEIADES

A long exposure photograph showing the wonderful nebulae enveloping this whole group. Viewed with the eye these stars here shown drowned in foggy light shine clear and brilliant. From a photograph taken at the Yerkes Observatory.

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Edward W. Price

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To
MY "ASTRONOMICAL WIDOW"

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PREFACE

THIS small volume is not offered to the public as an original treatise upon its subject. It is merely a *brief* compilation of the facts of Astronomy, as presented by the acknowledged authorities, together with some slight reference to various theories not yet substantiated.

All technical terms, and all mathematics, except certain simple figures necessary for description and comparison, have been omitted, and no signs or symbols have been used except those to be found in the ordinary almanacs. These last do not appear in the text, but are given on a separate page in the back part of the volume. In spite of these omissions, it is hoped that this compilation may have some value as a *concise* reference book for the general reader or for schools. With a view toward simplicity, the writer has given no *exact* figures such as would be necessary in an advanced textbook, but has stated all numerical values in the closest *approximate* terms.

There has been added—what the compiler has never happened to see before—a tabulated chronology of the main events in the history of Astronomy, and also a chapter very briefly describing the various instruments now used in the great observatories.

In the bibliography at the end of the volume, are listed the titles of all the books used for reference in checking the descriptions, figures, and statements given. To the authors of all of these books, the writer is much indebted. Following each title is a short note, endeavoring to present an idea of the scope of that volume. If, upon reaching this bibliography, the reader is enough interested in the greatest and most ancient of sciences to turn to some of these real books upon the subject, the main purpose of these pages will have been accomplished.

It will be noticed that the greater part of the volume is devoted to the Solar System, and that to the Universe as a whole is given but scant space. It is about the Solar System that the astronomical *facts* swarm thickest, while, though a marvelous amount is really known about the vast stellar hordes, it is often difficult to sepa-