



*Universe*

**as it  
is**

*Depicting its  
origin and  
existence.*

*G. Hickson*



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## ASTRONOMY INDICTED. IS THE PRESENT SYSTEM WRONG?

### A REVOLUTIONARY BOOK.

"Kings Dethroned," by Gerrard Hickson.  
(The Hicksonia Publishing Co., 10s. 6d. nett.)

For daring and original thinking, this book  
is probably unequalled.

The modern science of Astronomy is  
founded upon the idea of Copernicus—that  
the earth and other planets of the Solar  
system revolve round the sun. Probably  
we all remember that teaching at school, as  
well as many other celestial facts which still  
remain in our memories, such as the distance  
of the sun—93 to 95 million miles—that the  
moon is about 240,000 miles away, and that  
the distance of some of the fixed stars is almost  
incomprehensible.

Regarding the last statement, I read in  
last week's "*New Leader*" an article by Sir  
Richard Gregory, D.Sc., F.R.A.S., in which  
he states: "To reach the limits in different  
directions of the stellar system to which our  
sun belongs, would take from three thousand  
to thirty thousand years, travelling at the  
rate of 186,000 miles a second, which is the  
velocity with which light travels."

Now comes Mr. Gerrard Hickson with a  
book which is thought-compelling, and which  
should cause more than a flutter in the  
astronomical dovecot.

The author argues that the basis of modern  
astronomy is wrong, that Copernicus was in  
error, and that the method adopted in  
measuring the distance of the celestial bodies  
by triangulation is at fault.

Mr. Hickson claims to have measured various  
stellar distances, and his results are given in  
the book. He finds that the real distance of  
the sun from the earth is between 10,000 and  
13,000 miles, that the distance of Mars is about  
15,000 instead of the 35,000,000 miles we have  
hitherto been taught.

One other example may be given of the  
contrast between orthodox astronomy and  
Mr. Hickson's theories.

In the Belt of Orion is a star named  
"Betelgeuse." The distance of this star,  
according to the astronomers, is 180 light  
years—that is, 180 times 6,000,000,000,000  
miles—or one thousand and eighty billions  
of miles from the earth. The estimated  
diameter of the star is two hundred and sixty  
million miles.

According to Mr. Gerrard Hickson the  
star "Betelgeuse" in question is less than  
20,000 miles away, and its diameter is not  
two hundred and sixty million miles—but  
twenty-five feet!

Again, Mr. Hickson asserts that no star is  
at any time further than twenty thousand  
miles. The readers may compare this with  
my quotation from Sir Richard Gregory above,  
and then take their choice as to which they  
will believe.

Enough has been written to show that the  
author of "Kings Dethroned" is in conflict  
with accepted theories of modern astronomy.  
But because he challenges the orthodox it  
must not be said that he is wrong—nor yet  
that he is right.

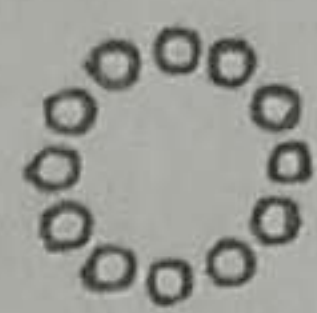
The only thing to do to settle the questions  
involved is to follow the example of Galileo,  
when his theory of the equal velocity of falling  
bodies, irrespective of weight, was disputed—  
and that is to test it experimentally.

The assertions of Gerrard Hickson cannot  
be ignored by the astronomical societies, and  
judging by the book before us, we are on the  
eve of a revolution in astronomical ideas.  
If the book is wrong it should be refuted.

ALEC PETERSHAM.



# THE UNIVERSE AS IT IS.



BY

*the author of*

“KINGS DETHRONED.”

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Middlesex.

*January 4th, 1934.*



## PREFACE.

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FOR more than five thousand years it was commonly believed that the earth was the centre of the universe.

This belief remained unchallenged until, in the time of Henry VIII, a German doctor named Copernicus conceived an entirely new theory.

Copernicus shewed that if the sun were standing still and the earth rotating and moving round it, the appearance (as seen from the earth) would be the same as if the earth were standing still while the sun moved round it daily.

So far as the eye could see, one alternative seemed as good as the other.

Since the days of Copernicus, his theory has become generally accepted, and a world of theories which seemed to support it have been added to it. Nevertheless it still remains no more than a theory, for it has never been established as a scientific truth.

Among those who favoured the theory was the Marquis de Laplace, who conceived what is known as the Nebular Hypothesis, which has always been considered a remarkable attempt to explain how the earth and planets came into existence.



The Nebular Hypothesis suggests that before the earth came into being the sun was alone in space, an immense mass of incandescent matter flaming and spinning like a gigantic catherine wheel. This mass cooled and contracted, leaving a ring of tenuous matter around it like a ring of smoke. In the course of time this ring of smoke-like matter formed itself into a solid ball, cooled, and so became one of the planets.

The sun contracted again, leaving another ring as before, which formed itself into a ball, cooled, and became another planet. And so the theory continues to suggest that all the planets were created in that way, until eventually the earth itself was made from matter which had once been part of the sun.

Such is considered the best idea up to date, but now this little book, "THE UNIVERSE AS IT IS," is offered as a new and more reasonable hypothesis. Not only does it explain the universe as we see it now, but it also shows how air and water were created, and how clouds, wind and rain came into being.



## THE UNIVERSE AS IT IS.

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OUT in the void, enshrouded in the all-pervading night, lay a vast expanse of terrain ; uncharted and unknown.

Not a blade of grass grew upon that arid waste, not a breath disturbed its stillness ; nor did the smallest sound relieve the awe-inspiring solitude.

Islands, peninsulars and continents as we know them now, did not exist, for there were no oceans to define their boundaries ; nothing was there but great table-lands, rugged mountain ranges, and tremendous fathomless chasms.

The cold was intense—though there was neither snow nor ice—neither was there water, nor air ; and the darkness was stygian—for even the firmament itself was void—there being neither sun nor moon nor stars nor planets nor movement.

All was still and silent as the grave, yet in the heart of that terrible terrain were all the forces of nature imprisoned, and upon that austere bosom lay all the elements of the universe ; for this earth was the mother of all.

★                      ★                      ★

Strewn about the surface of the earth were many iron-stone boulders, and one of these—far larger than the



rest—stood poised upon the brink of a tremendous abyss. For untold ages it had been balanced there, a monstrous meteoric rock shaped like a rough-hewn disk some thirty miles across its greatest diameter.

Far away in the distance—at a point now known as the north magnetic pole—immense quantities of similar iron-stone lay buried in the earth, and from this point a powerful unseen force was all the while being silently exerted, spreading like a magnetic tide in every direction.

From the opposite direction, similar forces spread till every boulder became the focus of converging streams from north and south, each magnetic current pulling as if to wrest the boulder from the other. Still all lay inert between opposing forces. Nothing moved ; and the fate of a world depended on that monster stone poised above the abyss.

Between the contesting electric streams the precariously balanced giant trembled. Sparks of fire darted from point to point upon its rugged surface. A thrill passed through this rock which had the quality of metal and it reeled, overbalanced—and then with awful crash—plunged into the cavernous depths.

Bounding from crag to crag with thundrous roar the mighty rock pursued his headlong course—the vortex of a





*The Earth.*



mass of flying sparks—and ricocheted out across the stygian gulf. Rotating, spinning there, the disk was equipoised between the magnetic pulls from the north pole and the south and was led forth, then—revolving ever faster—the new-born sun soared heavenward and westward into ethereal space.

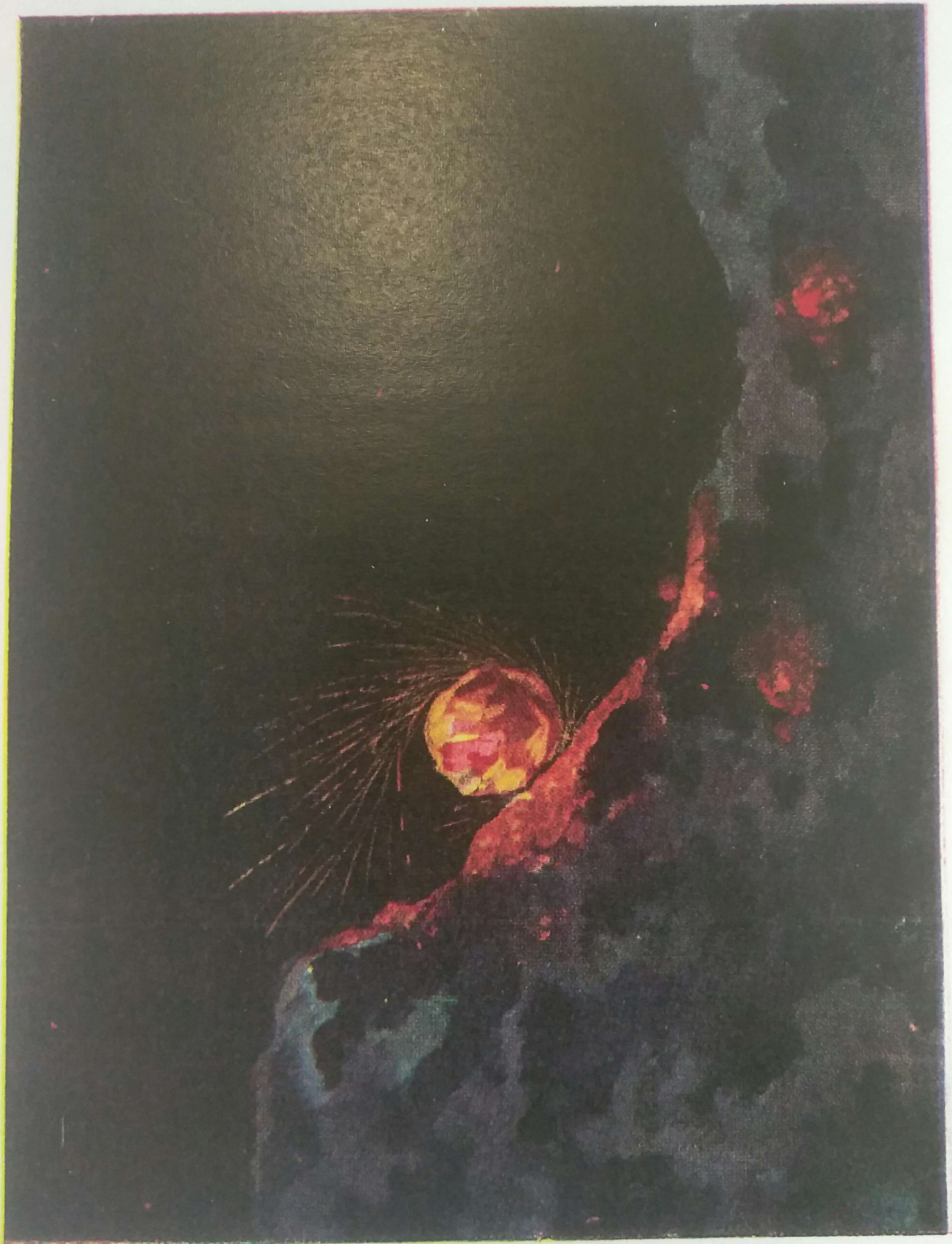
★                      ★                      ★

Then ensued a battle in the firmament the like of which has never since been seen, for as the sun was lifted into the heavens, a myriad lesser rocks were torn from earth by the same magnetic force, and these rushed up to meet him in stupendous crash. Perseus, Capella, the Pole Star, Sirius, Hercules, the Lion and the Ram, all were there in that titanic strife; contesting for their places in the universe.

And amid the deafening roar the earth was rudely shaken from its sleep of ages, riven by ten thousand lightning strokes; shocked by tremendous thunder. Electrified to life.

Then she herself joined in the fray with vast quakings and upheavals. From a thousand wounds she poured forth inflammable gases, and these—kindled by the flying sparks—became as many flaming torches. Mountains were rent





*Plunged into cavernous depths.*



asunder, torrents of boiling lava poured from the highest peaks, and the firmament was deluged with terrestrial eruptions and volcanic fire.

It was awful ; and yet—even among that cast-up chaotic mass were many ironstone boulders which now bear such names as Andromeda, Virgo and Aquilla, shapeless rocks torn from the very bowels of the earth to grace the heavens by night.

\* \* \*

Mightier than all the embryo stars the solar disk stormed onward to the west, rapidly revolving and glowing to an angry red until—still the centre of a fiery contest—he disappeared at the far horizon. And all through the night the earth quaked and belched forth molten matter amid the din of elemental battle, and the firmament was lurid ; until at last every boulder had found a place in the constellations.

\* \* \*

In the morning a pearly grey glow spread along the eastern horizon, and there the disk again appeared ; blood-red. Higher and higher he rose, nearer and nearer he came, his ruddy face becoming gold, and then a brighter gold until he shone—a brilliant scintillating sphere in a sky of faultless blue—and there was light.





*Ricocheted out.*



It was day. The earth throbbed and rejoiced at the new warm radiance, and the light was so glorious that the stars could no longer be seen though they still raced with the sun in his meteoric flight.

Rapidly he approached the brink of the abyss where from time immemorial he had stood, and crossed the meridian a little to the northward of that place, glittering, ever revolving, and soaring to an altitude of nearly three thousand miles above the earth that gave him birth ; having in the space of only twenty-four hours described a complete circle round the magnetic pole. And that was the day of the first vernal equinox, the birthday of the world.

★                      ★                      ★

The face of the earth was illumined for more than five thousand miles in every direction, and the light had the quality of positive electricity that made the earth friable and supplied the spark of life.

A great heat moved with the sun as he pursued his course round the tropics, and as the afternoon advanced, the golden orb appeared to sink lower as he receded into the distance, until at sunset he was on the horizon. There he glowed a dusky red, and vanished in a haze that lay along the west like smoke over a field of battle.



As the saffron hue of the afterglow gave place to twilight a tiny pin-point of light appeared in the darkening sky.

For a little while it twinkled there alone in the immensity of space, but presently another point of light appeared, another, and still others ; until the whole dome of the heavens was studded with a myriad stars glittering like diamonds scattered upon a field of velvet by a generous hand.

The first bright gem was surely Regulus, the brightest jewel in the constellation of Leo ; and that brilliant star in the east was Arcturus in the Hunter. There to the south was Spica, the Virgin and the Crow ; overhead the Great Bear, to the north the Waggoner, the Dragon and the Lyre. There again is the Pole Star, which alone maintains his place in the heavens unchanged, and there—spread wide across the firmament and numberless as the desert sands—is the Milky Way ; meteoric dust of the stellar battle of yesterday.

All these glittering gems were suspended there by electric streams so intermingled as to be indeed a great magnetic field as wide as the earth itself, the north magnetic pole and the south holding the whole in place as the poles of a giant universal magnet. From north to south and from



east to west these countless stars held their positions in true relation to each other, perfectly balanced between the forces of attraction and repulsion so that they could not clash together, neither could they part, and so they had the appearance of being for ever fixed on a canopy of deepest blue moving round that star above the Pole in perfect unison.

★                      ★                      ★

Peace now reigned on earth, with only occasional flares in the distance where volcanoes were still in eruption, while in the placid heavens the Signs of the Zodiac passed in regular succession ; and there was order and symmetry in the universe.

Regulus had followed the sun down into the west and the Virgin had reached the zenith when there rose in the east a great sphere as large as the solar orb himself, though paler and less luminous. Seeming almost to float with balloon-like buoyancy upon the ether it moved up the firmament until at midnight it stood over the meridian ; a globe of liquid silver flooding the earth with soft refulgent light.

Strangely beautiful and tranquil was this moon amid the glitter of the stars, and more wonderful than them all, for this queen of night had no material existence. No solid





*The earth quaked.*



body was there whence came this silvery light, for the lunar orb was only a mirage, an image of the sun himself mirrored in the sky.

Passing in procession among the stars were Venus, Jupiter and Mars, all moons in miniature produced in the same manner as the lunar orb ; reflections of the major stars.

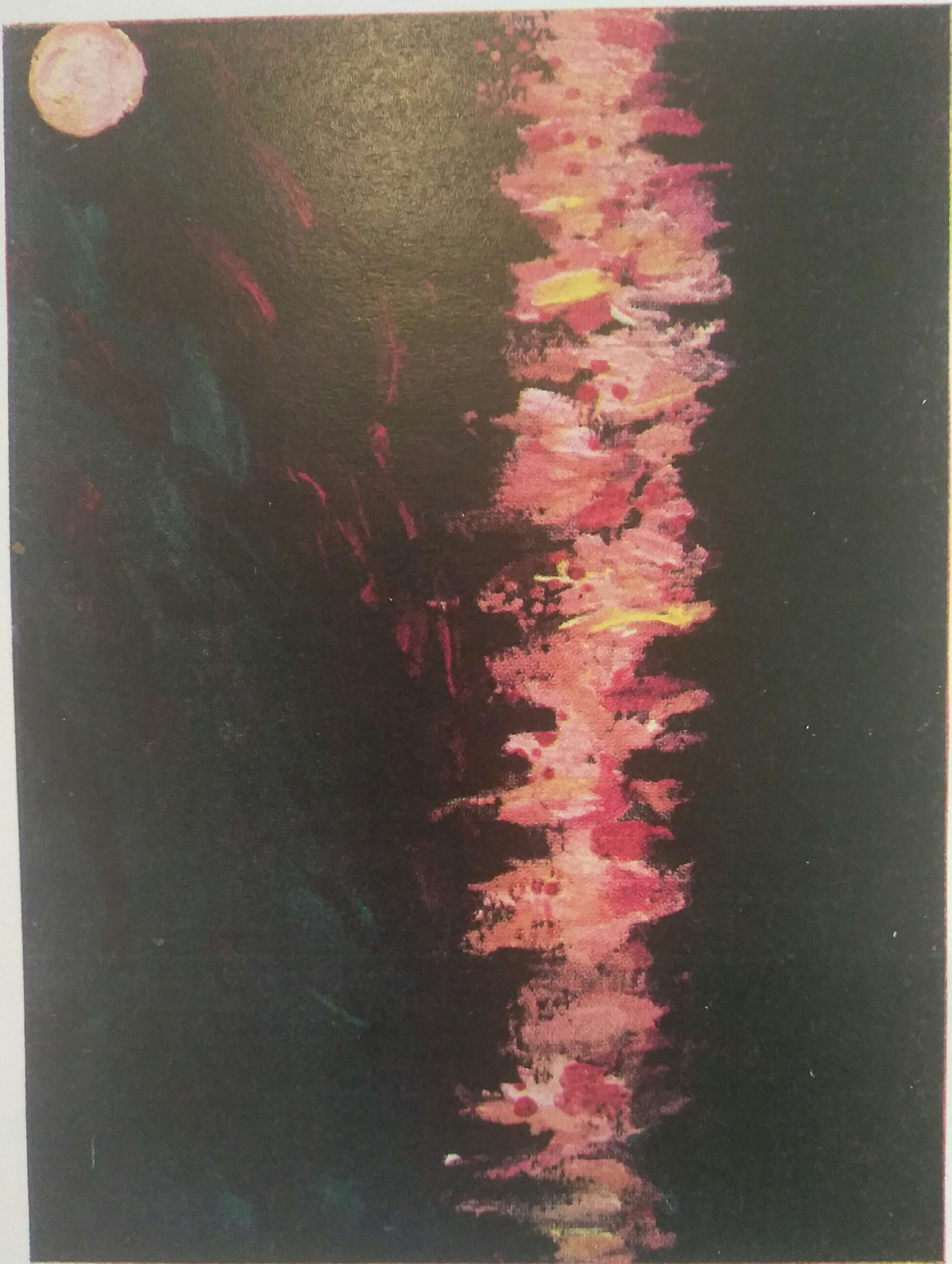
Most curious of all the planets was Saturn, which resembled a little moon surrounded by a wheel of light, the image of a rotating double-star. And all things in the firmament circled round the pole from east to west obedient to a common law.

\* \* \*

The radiant heat of yesterday had set free gases which through all past ages had been petrified in earth, and raised them to the stratosphere. Hydrogen, the lightest of them all, ascended to the great heights to meet the cold magnetic zone that lay outstretched miles above the surface of terrain. During the night this frigid zone pressed down and touched the rising gas, and at the contact the hydrogen condensed and returned to earth in the form of moisture ; dew.

In the morning the sun again came up in the east, and at his touch the dew-drops were transformed to mist. The





*Molten matter.*



mist co-mingling with oxygen spread over the face of the earth in the form of atmosphere, and there was air.

Day after day the sun generated heat wherever he shone upon earth and raised the gases to the heavens ; and night after night the magnetic zone pressed down and converted them into vapour, until a day came when the increasing vapours hid the golden orb ; and that day was cool and inauspicious. Neither could the stars be seen that night through the vapours which seemed to fill all space, and as the mists increased, the sunless days grew colder.

Eventually the frigid zone was so depressed that the terrestrial vapours became frozen to its under-surface, and there they lay in a wide-spread film of stratus cloud suspended between earth and heaven ; still intercepting the rays of the sun though the atmosphere on earth was clear and quite transparent.

The day continued dull and grey till the afternoon was well advanced, and then a nimbus cloud came over the south-western horizon. As it came nearer it grew to great dimensions, and advancing thus it drove the air before it and the air responded to the rustle of wind.





*The first sunrise.*



The nimbus cloud was followed by others and as they increased in volume so also did the wind increase until it blew steadily from the tropics toward the frozen north. As the warm nimbus vapours gathered overhead, the rising wind carried them upwards till they impinged upon the cold stratus, and then the whole condensed and fell to earth in blessed drops of rain.

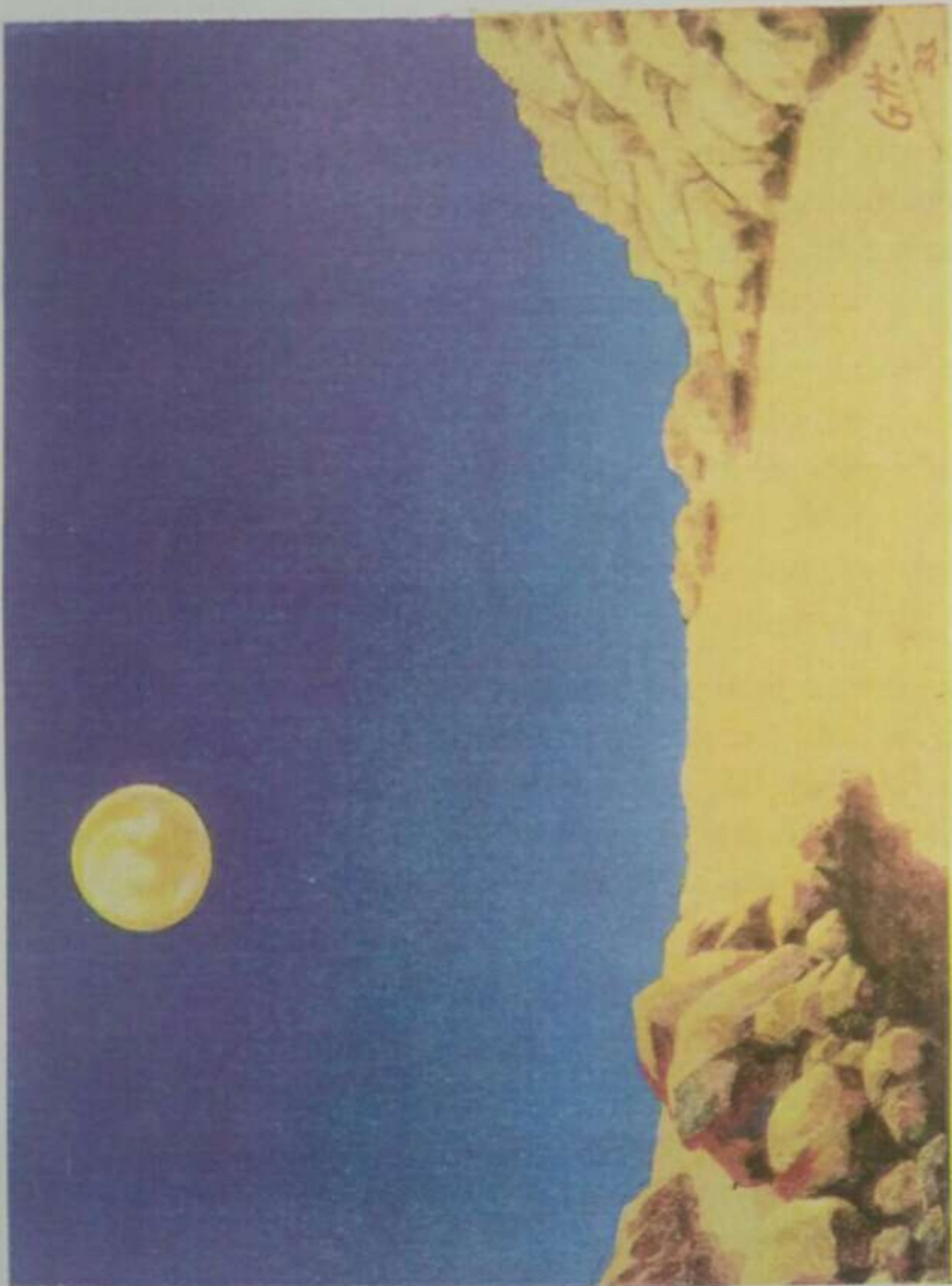
The earth was refreshed, the air renewed, and streams ran down the hill-sides and leaped in cascades to the abyss. The clouds were rent asunder and the sun shone brilliant in their midst. In the meanwhile, though the sun shone brightly the rain had not entirely ceased, when together they produced a glorious rainbow, a multi-coloured arch that spanned the hemisphere from one horizon to the other and reproduced its image in a thousand aqueous pools.

The rain ceased. The clouds rolled away to the far horizons, and the sun shone with all his accustomed splendour from an azure sky. Assuming the colour of rich carmine he tinted the clouds in roseate hues and set amid bars of purple and gold.

And as he dipped out of sight there appeared—high in the western sky—a slender crescent moon; a silvery jewel reflected there by the edge of the solar disk.

\* \* \*





*The first mid-day.*



Day after day the sun described a complete circumference of the pole, each circle becoming smaller as he approached a little nearer, until, after ninety days, he ran along the tropical line of Cancer. In the northern latitudes the temperature had increased every day as the solar orb came nearer, till the air shimmered with mid-summer heat when he completed his journey northward on this twenty-first of June.

While Spring had developed into Summer the moon had thrice passed through all its phases. Three times (with twenty-eight days between) the crescent had appeared just after the sun had set. Three times had the sun cast the first quarter, the half moon and the full ; and three times the moon had waned ; and so the passing of time was marked in days and divided into months.

Twenty times and more rain had showered down from the heavens and enlarged the liquid pools. Flowing streams now sparkled in the sunshine and still waters filled the hollows, while in many places the rugged contour of the earth had been modified by the influence of sun and rain.

\* \* \*

In the tropical belt the rays of the sun beat fiercely down and granite-like rock was reduced to sand, but away in the distant north the radiations from the disk had but little



power, and there the rain-drops were frozen as they fell, and fluttered to earth in whirling snow.

Though even in the most northern territory a vagrant current of warm air might sometimes penetrate and melt the snow, the water quickly froze again ; and so the arctic regions were buried for ever in impenetrable ice.

On the day of the summer solstice the sun began to retrace his way back toward the equator, pursuing his course daily round the pole in ever-widening circles for more than one hundred and eighty days until he reached his furthest south on the tropical line of Capricorn ; and that was mid-winter's day in the northern hemisphere.

At the winter solstice the solar orb ran along the line of Capricorn and then began to return toward the north. With unfailing regularity he performed his daily circuit until eventually he re-crossed the equator into the northern hemisphere three hundred and sixty-five days from the beginning ; and so completed the first solar year.

\* \* \*

Centuries have passed, and mighty oceans roll where once had been great gulfs. The waves of the Pacific and Atlantic beat eternally upon the shores of continents whose boundaries are defined by those tremendous waters. And



in those oceanic depths groups and chains of mountains lie buried—their highest peaks still above the surface in the West Indies, the East Indies and the South Sea Archipeligos.

The once inhospitable earth is now clothed in verdant green, and forests flourish in the one-time desolate wastes. Tumbling waters fill the clefts and canyons and splash onwards to the sea, while in the heavens balloon-like clouds in snow-white splendour sail across a sea of blue.

There is beauty in the panorama of the skies, music in the rustling wind ; and the world awaits but a touch of omnipotence to people it and make it paradise.



## BOOKS by GERRARD HICKSON.

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KINGS DETHRONED. Paper covers, 2s. 6d. ; cloth binding, 3s. 6d. ; cloth binding with photo of Author drawn by himself and autographed, 1st edition (very few left), 10s. 6d.

THE UNIVERSE AS IT IS. Illustrated from oil paintings by the Author. 1s. 0d. nett.

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