

We were usually under the tutelage of our house-helps. They told us that eclipses happened because we must have indulged in grave and punishable misdeeds and, therefore, God warned us of dire consequences through these unnatural phenomena. And we believed them.

eclipses happened because we must have indulged in grave and punishable misdeeds and, therefore, God warned us of dire consequences through these unnatural phenomena. And we believed them. That eclipse was a natural phenomenon and bore no wrath of god was not known to us then. We were forbidden from eating or drinking for at least a couple of hours during the eclipse. In some families food was not served or eaten for at least half a day. I thought we had come a long way since my early days. But then there were also some reports on superstitions centring on the eclipse. Thankfully, the enquiring minds of the modern human being defied this superstition and continued with the search for this extraordinary natural phenomenon. However, this eclipse brought to me two extra ordinary feelings that I'd like to share with my readers. These may seem ludicrous to the serious students of science but for me they are 'realities of perception' that I cannot ignore. For, after all, perceptions, often, are more profound than realities. The first of these feelings is the fact that even a tiny natural satellite as moon could muster such courage as to be able to block the mighty sun. I love the sun. It makes our lives so much brighter. It fills us with a celestial light, makes us cheerful. But the power of the little moon to come in sun's way really makes me proud as a tiny creature in this colossal universe.

The second is, what I observed during this eclipse re-established my faith in human being as extremely passionate lover of nature. The amount of organisation and subsequent enthusiasm that was observed during the eclipse deserves accolade.

On a different note, we did everything to bring the sun closer to us. Could we do the same also to get our fellow human beings as close? This would not even require the equipments we needed to get the eclipse up close and, needless to say, make our world a better place in which to live.