

JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

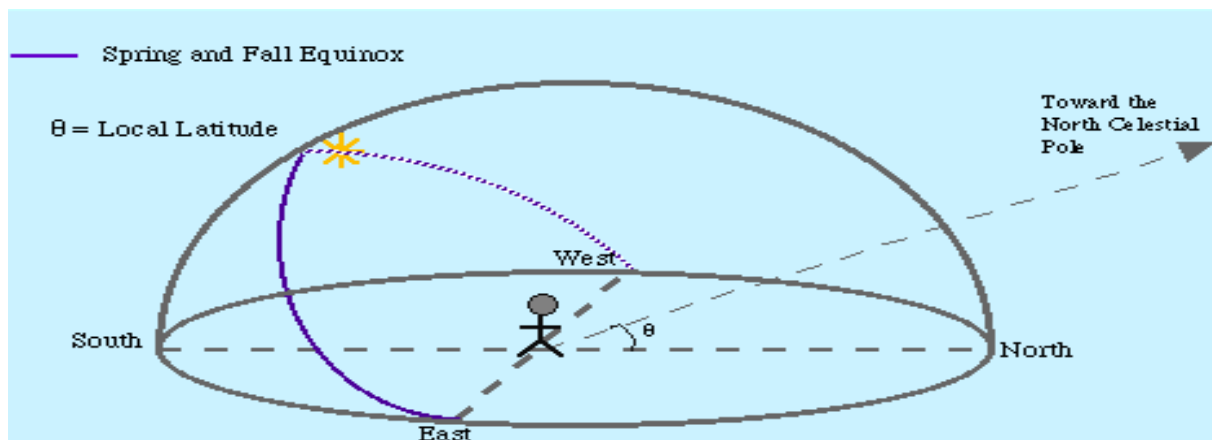
MONDAY – 3/19/2007

Spring starts at the vernal equinox, which will be March 21, 2007.

HOW DID THE TERM “*SPRING EQUINOX*” ORIGINATE?

Definition: The day on which the length of daylight equals the length of darkness as the days are lengthening in the Spring.

Astronomy: The moment when the sun reaches one of two intersections between the ecliptic and the celestial equator.



Online Etymology: 1391, from Old French *equinox*, from Middle Latin *equinoxium* "equality of night (and day)," from Latin *æquinoctium*, from *æquus* "equal" + *nox* (gen. *noctis*) "night."

The 365-day/leap year Gregorian calendar, a modification of the Julian calendar, was decreed by Pope Gregory XIII on 24-Feb-1582. Under the new system, the date of the vernal equinox became 21-Mar-1582 AD, and the year 1582 was shortened by ten days.

Conventional Wisdom: Spring Equinox = 12 hours of light & dark

Moment of Zen: Spring equinox is a mid-point and a beginning