

## Heavenly Bodies and The Dog Days of Summer

*by Marilyn Reeves*

I awoke last night to lacy patterns of light and shadow dancing on my bedroom wall. The moon and a summer breeze were at play with the branches of an evergreen tree outside my window.

There has been a three-way love affair going on between the sun, the moon and the earth since the beginning of time; and as children of the earth, we feel the passion. How many songs of love have been written about the moon? Like the tides, we are irresistibly drawn to its magnetism.

There are other heavenly bodies that affect our lives. In the summer Sirius, the dog star, shines so brightly that the ancient Romans believed its heat created the period of hot and sultry weather known as the “dog days of summer”.

I used to think the “dog days” were so called because we go around feeling like some poor bedraggled, over-heated dog looking for a nice, cool spot in the shade – which isn’t too far off, if you think about it.

But the days are already getting shorter and the night breezes cooler, which tells me that the worst of the summer heat is almost over.

While I love seeing the green growing things of summer, the hot weather saps my energy. So I’m starting to look forward to the cool, crisp days of autumn and to taking long walks while the trees are exchanging their green dresses for more colorful fall clothing.

And as the heat of summer surrenders to the cooling breezes of fall, I love hearing that distant call of the wild as it comes closer and closer – a cacophony of clamor and chatter – as the wild geese begin circling overhead calling to one another. Round and round they go – countless numbers of them in an amazing display of formation and cooperation! I throw open my door and stand outside to watch them – my heart soaring with them – as they perform their magnificent dance in the sky.