

**John Mannone/
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spontaneous," he says. "Some open clusters—the Jewel Box, M 13—when I'm looking at them I'm poetically overwhelmed, but nothing has been put on paper at those times. Only after reflection, usually while driving, seemingly unrelated thoughts are linked, and a poem is born."

Facing audiences that have a limited knowledge of radio astronomy doesn't stop him. "When audiences are limited to those privy to the nuances of radio astronomy—it is like an inside poem, sort of like an inside joke. But I want to reach everybody—everybody may not understand everything, but I want people to get a lot out of my poems, as from my lectures."

"At the very least I want the reader to get an awe of the universe," Mannone says. "If you happen to know the physics to what I'm alluding to it's like an extra bonus."

While his journey into poetry was an unexpected one, it led him to discover a whole new aspect for his life.

Using what he calls "the telescope of literature," he paints a view of the universe with "a kaleidoscope of words, my poetry in praise of God." *

My Sol

O faithful Morning Star, giver of life, dispeller of darkness
You traverse the heavens in a path that is true
And the morning is not forsaken
But You give your gracious light afresh every morning.
Your countenance is of a King's
Golden rays of regal splendor adorn your captive orbs
Your crown of glory, its awesome expanse disclosed
As the Moon bows before you
Your subjects rejoice as sparkling gems
In the majesty of your tapestry of royal night
When you tabernacle among them.
Your warmth kindles a fiery passion in my soul
I now await for your return
O precious Son of Man.

—John C. Mannone, June 19, 2001

John Mannone has collected an impressive list of credentials:

- A former Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Cleveland State Community College, Cleveland, Tennessee (2000-2002)
- Visiting Professor at the Tamke-Allan Observatory (TAO), Rockwood, Tennessee, and has been on the Advisory Board for TAO since 2004
- On the Board of Directors of the Society for Amateur Radio Astronomers (SARA) (2004-2006)
- Periodically Adjunct Professor at local colleges and universities
- Nuclear Chemical Consultant for Duke, Cogema, Stone & Webster, Ltd. on Department of Energy (DOE) projects
- Frequently an invited speaker to amateur astronomy conferences (SARA, CLSCC Astronomy Colloquium), astronomy clubs (Orion, Oak Ridge, TN; Barnard Astronomical Society, Chattanooga, TN; Smokey Mountain Astronomical Society, Knoxville, TN; Catawba Valley Astronomy Club, Hickory, NC; science museums (American Museum of Science and Energy, Oak Ridge, TN), star parties and church groups (Mid Atlantic Star Party, local church star parties)

Shedding Light

Nuclear core, baryonic array
if not stable, will emit gamma rays
Inner charge caught, excited transition
brings less foreboding x-ray emission
Not just from atomistic discontents
but from hypernova burster events
Near deep pits in galaxies reported
hidden by black of space-time distorted.

Invisible voracious death machines
presence betrayed by energetic sheens
And whirling masses; terminal suns' screams
remnant shards sometimes jettisoned abeam
With funny parabolic ears we tune
the broadcasted shouts of their stellar dooms.

In the beginning, in the cool of space
a small gathering in some tiny place
Molecular clouds begin to compress
secrets of birth are hid in dust and gas
But incandescence is harbored within
heats the spinning cloud again and again.

Labor contractions in glowing gas dense
birth a fusing star on the Main Sequence
Their antics disclosed by colorful light
also their nature, temperament, and might.
In all the commotion, thermal irate
electrons abandon their ground estate
Regardless emotion, bound to return
and leave pulses of light in their sojourn.

Mirrors catch the optic stellar delight
unless behind thick dust, out of easy sight
But while cloaked, light cannot escape as yet
'til shroud is tempered ultraviolet.
The heated veil becoming transparent
can no longer hide the stars apparent

We scope them out and watch them grow
and others, while their life they throw
the dusty legacy of stars
that has become the very jars
that houses the soul of man today
with all our watchful eyes we pray
to learn our place among the stars.

—John C. Mannone, November 15, 2002

A poem about the birth, life, and death of stars and diagnostic benefit of probing with the entire electromagnetic spectrum. Presented at the SARA 2002 Regional Meeting in Harriman, Tennessee, November 16, 2002 in a talk entitled "Multiwavelength Imaging and Radio Astronomy." (Revised June 8, 2004 in the form of heroic couplets; last stanza in iambic tetameter. Shared in the June 10 talk, "Shedding Light," for the Catawba Valley Astronomy Club.)

Left: Of all the poetry I have written, this is one of my favorites. Only apparently is it about a solar eclipse; it is far more spiritual, with many allusions to Scriptures. It was presented in a community talk immediately following the June 21, 2001, solar eclipse around the summer solstice, viewed via satellite at the American Museum of Science and Energy, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The talk was entitled "Introduction to Solar Astronomy: The African Total Solar Eclipse."