NEW FLARE & SOLAR SENSITIVITY

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At 8:45 PM EDT August 5, 2012 an M-class solar flare erupted from a new region just now rotating into view. A second and larger M1.6-class solar flare peaked at 12:38 PM EDT of August 5, 2012. It was the sharpest spike in days and may be the harbinger of more to follow. Although we all look for these larger flares, even the quiet Sun has enough variation to get our attention and keep us busy. Here are some thoughts.

Even though we are in a time of potentially intense solar flares, the Sun has been relatively quiet these last days. Large solar flares draw attention to our connection with the Sun, and it is tempting to fall into thinking that when the Sun is quiet we are somehow less connected, but this does not seem to be the case. Because intense solar activity so obviously affects Earth, it is easy to assume that the Sun is the cause and we just a victim of its activity. It is more subtle than that.

This would be like saying that when our heart palpitates (and we are affected by it), the heart is the subject and we the object. While this is true in one sense, our body and our heart are so much closer to each other than that. In fact they are one being. It is the same with the Sun and the effect of solar activity on us. The quiet Sun is quiet like a heartbeat is quiet, meaning it is still there and controlling the show. We are more intimately connected with solar activity than most of us are aware of.

We may be more aware of the Sun acting on us (an in us) at the times of intense solar flares, but we are joined at the hip, so to speak, with the Sun all of the time. When it so much as murmurs, we hear, and its tiniest variation is felt by us, whether or not we are aware of it or not. Again, as in so many things, it seems that our awareness is the limiting factor, and not experience itself. But I have pointed out the need to develop awareness many times in these blogs.

Even when the Sun is quiet, as at times of solar minimum, there is still activity. Although there may be no flares or sunspots for days at a time, there is plenty of fluctuation and we here on Earth move with it. I mean the whole Sun is always shining and, like our heart, it can beat fast or slow. It keeps us alive.

An important distinction to grasp is that intense solar flares bring change in quantum leaps, strong change. We have talked about this. But even the quiet Sun varies enough for us to notice it internally, if we will listen. It is our inner mental heartbeat. And there is another factor to consider.

Any solar activity is only perceived by the contrast it makes against the normal low-level solar

flux. Even low solar activity, as long as it contrasts with what we could call quiet Sun activity, is enough to stimulate us. In other words, aside from the sheer amount of change a solar flare may bring, the fact that even a weak flare oscillates or varies at all from normal is enough to get our internal attention. We feel it. It is not just the intensity of the solar flare, but the change between calm and intense that we monitor, the variation. The hallmark of solar activity is variation.

The large eruptions, like X-class solar flares and their CME events, get a lot of attention because they are such powerful events. Of course these most intense flares mark the influx of intense change, but this does not mean the less powerful M-class and C-class solar flares don't affect us. They do, although perhaps in a slightly different way. The sheer size of the flare is not the only consideration.

Even the smaller flares show marked variation compared to the sunshine that streams to us each day from the quiet Sun. The variation from the normal Sun, even from the relatively weak C-class flares, is enough for us to sit up and take notice. The up-and-down variation of any solar activity change can get our attention, just like the newer kind of ambulance sirens now rapidly vary up and down rather than with a slow rise and fall as the older sirens did. We can sense variation changes and become aware of it.

In other words, solar flares can affect us by their sheer size, but also just by the fact that they rise above the normal flow of solar information and manage to get our attention. We can see and judge change by variation of any kind. And we all know what a flat line means.

When the activity on the Sun is very low and takes an upturn, we feel it. When activity is very high and takes an upturn, we also feel that. It is the variation and the sensing of a change (and not just the how great the magnitude of change) that is important.

We are used to looking outside when solar flares are announced, perhaps for effects on Earth, like radio blackouts, and the like. We follow these solar changes, even the very weak ones. They represent our inner life and should not be viewed as just external events. Here is a link to a graph of solar flare activity, so that you can even see very minor fluctuations. Watch it for a day or so and see if you find, as I did, that my inner mind and activity are a reflection of the graph.

It is not that solar flares caused this, but more like that solar activity is identical to my own inner activity, and has probably always been that way. Our inner life and that of the Sun are the same.

http://www.tesis.lebedev.ru/en/sun_flares.html