

**Equinox**  
Susan Notar  
(Original Version)

At the Mayan temple el Castillo at Chichen Itza, Mexico, dusk before spring and fall equinox, shadows cast by the setting sun form a serpent—Kulkulkan—a god in the Mayan cosmos, down the steps of the temple.

The equinox draws near  
our serpiente can almost taste  
the light's sleepy rays before the horizon  
hides them in its pocket.  
O light lick el Castillo tonight

We agreed once to meet  
on a different continent every equinox

O Kulkulkan unfurl  
each inch of your emerald ebony cerulean coils  
bless our avocado maïs cacao  
lick el Castillo tonight

We agreed once to meet  
on a different continent every equinox  
and kiss in starlight

O serpiente  
el Castillo rises above the jungle  
each step a day of the year  
we would climb if we could  
feel the smooth cool stone  
on our calloused hot feet  
if we could but only priests may

We agreed once to meet  
on a different continent  
every equinox and kiss  
in starlight  
but you were  
gone.

O

**Equinox**  
Susan Notar  
(Re(En)Visioned)

At the Mayan Temple El Castillo at Chichen Itza, Mexico, at dusk before spring and fall equinox, shadows cast by the setting sun form a serpent—Kulkulkan—a god in the Mayan cosmos, down the steps of the temple.

The equinox draws near  
    serpiente can almost taste  
        light's sleepy rays before horizon  
            hides them in its   O light lick el tonight

We agreed once meet  
    on a different every equinox

O Kulkulkan  
    each inch of your ebony cerulean coils  
        bless cacao avocado maïs  
            lick Castillo tonight

We agreed to meet  
    on a continent every equinox  
        and in starlight

O serpiente Castillo rises above  
    each step a day the year we would  
        feel the smooth cool

On our calloused hot  
    if we could but priests may

We agreed to meet  
    on a continent  
        every equinox and in starlight  
            but you gone

O

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**Susan Notar's** work has appeared in a number of publications including *American Literary*, *Penumbra*, *Joys of the Table*, *An Anthology of Culinary Verse*, *What Lies Beyond the Frame*,

*Poems from the Bridgewater International Poetry Competition (named after a line in one of her poems, "Hands with Grapes).* Three of her poems were recently chosen to appear in an anthology of poetry by Arlington, Virginia, poets. She is a member of the Poetry Society of Virginia and the Arlington Writer's Group. She works at the U.S. State Department on the Middle East.