

AS CLOSE AS COINCIDENCE

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Is it that,
When a solar flare happens,
I feel like writing,
Or is it,
When I write,
A solar flare happens?

And is there a difference?

Note: I can't tell you how many times I feel inspired and go to check a solar activity graph to find that there has just been a solar flare. Obviously the little poem is meant to be fun, but it is a good question how much of a dance all of this solar activity involves on our part.

Science studies have found that ants on a hot griddle act like a thermometer; the hotter the griddle, the faster they move, exactly.

I would never do that to ants, but I do wonder how close is our connection to the solar pulse? My own intuition is that we are closer than simple cause and effect, and that somehow we are joined at the hip to the Sun and its every solar heartbeat. The last two days have been very quiet on the Sun, but last Saturday/Sunday (August 18th-19th) was filled with flares. However, there is strong flare activity on the side of the Sun opposite to us just now.

If you want to monitor solar activity real-time, a self-refreshing solar graph of X-ray activity (flares) is here:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/today.html#xray>