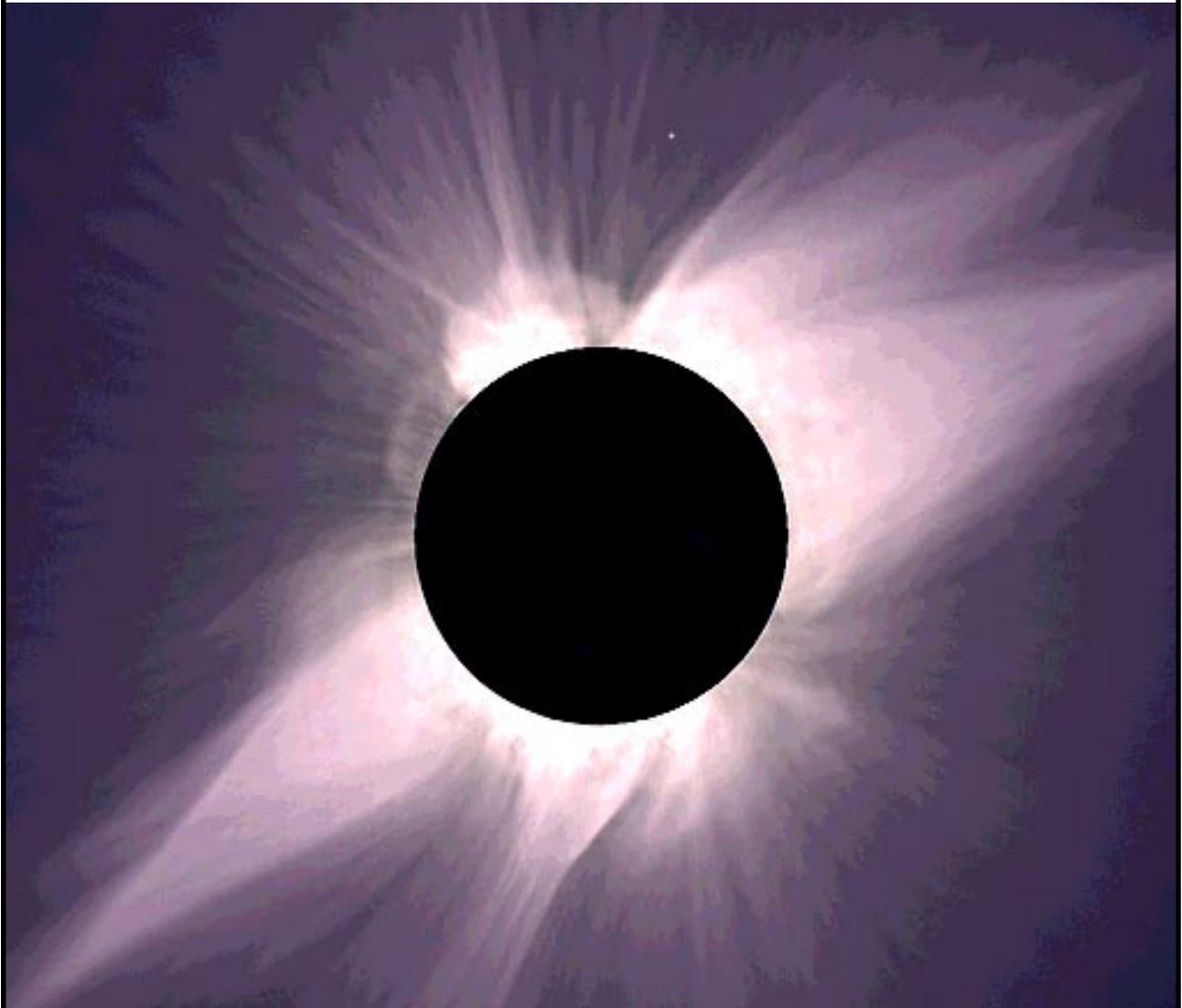


The picture on the cover is a real one. It was taken on July 11th 1991, on the Big Island of Hawaii around 7h 30m a.m. local time, on the top of Mauna Kea mountain. The solar eclipse observer stands on top of the biggest telescope in the world, the Keck telescope. On that day almost all the island was covered with clouds. On the very top of the mountain, the sky was clouds free.



The picture of the total eclipse of the Sun, taken from Baja California Mexico, on July 11th 1991 around local noon. The solar corona is big, and shaped symmetrically with long coronal streams. Between coronal streams, clearly visible, around half the diameter from the dark disk of the Moon, above the Moon, the star DELTA GEMINORUM also called "WASAT" (translation from Arabic "the middle") shines through. Almost exactly the same was visible from Hawaii Island shortly after the local sunrise (the star was just a bit closer to the Moon than in Mexico).

I call WASAT "the guide star", since this star was the starting point of my story ...