

秋分

Qiu Fen

Qiu Fen: 16th Solar Term
'Autumn Begins'
September 23, 2013
Sun = 180°

Qiu Fen occurs this year on September 23 and is known as '**Autumn Begins**'. It is the sixteenth of the 24 Solar Terms which divide the year into 24 'terms' or seasonal markers. Based on the 360° passage of the Earth around the Sun, each term is 15° which translates into 15 days per term.

Qiu Fen marks a time of equality of day and night but is differentiated from the spring equinox (chun fen - 春分) by directionality: we are now moving from decreasing light into further increasing darkness; from shao yin (小陰) to tai yin (太陰). Rejoice and give gratitude for your harvest as you prepare for cultivation during the sacred silence of winter.