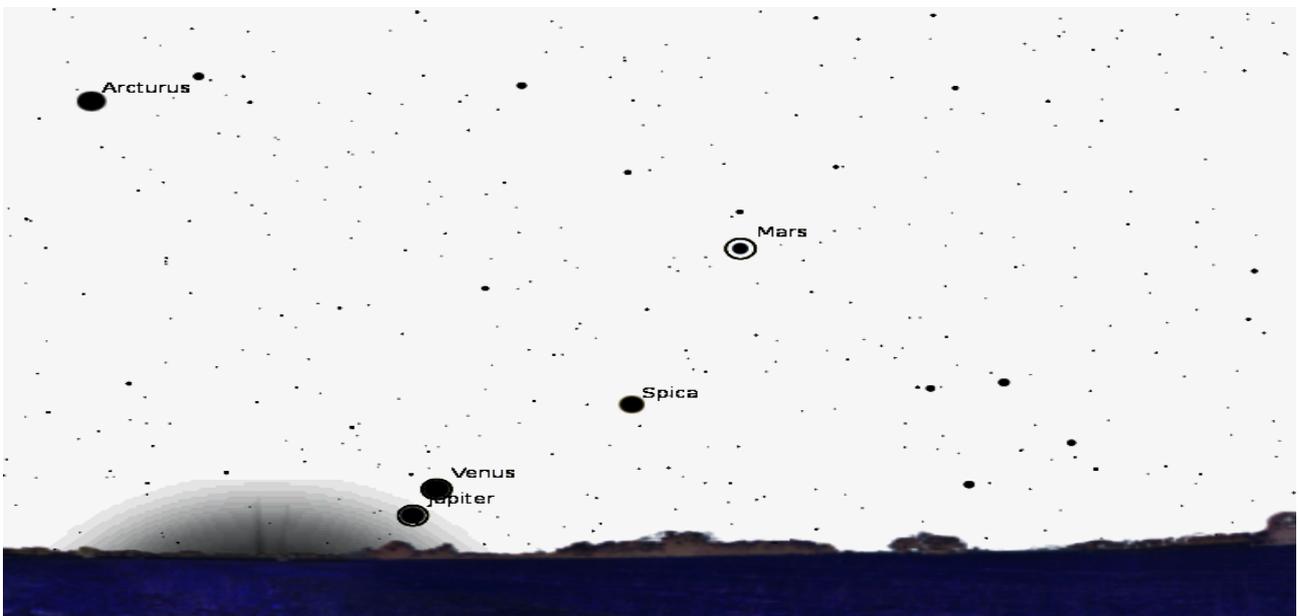


Astronomy in the Two Dales

November

Once upon a time , we celebrated this month by burning the effigies of traitors , now we grow moustaches , how times change. As I write this we are yet to find out who will be the victor in the U.S elections , a hag or an old fart , either way an ill wind will be blowing our way across the atlantic.

This is the time of year for meteor showers , and this month we have two , the Taurids , on the 4th and 5th of the month , giving 5-10 meteors an hour and the Leonids on the 16th and 17th , however the full moon on the 14th , which is also a super moon will block out all but the biggest and brightest meteors . The Leonids do produce up to 15 meteors an hour , and as long as you are in a dark place wrapped up against the cold , there is always the chance to see something spectacular.



The planets are putting on a display for us during November , but this occurs in the early morning in the south eastern sky. Just before dawn , about 6.30 a.m , Mars , Venus and Jupiter can be seen , and on the 13th Venus and Jupiter will be conjunct , closer than one degree apart . This is a great opportunity for observation and can be seen through binoculars . BEWARE , the sun rises 45 minutes after the planets at 7.15 a.m .

Every time there is an election in the U.S.A (Umerliferious States Of Ambivalence) NASA gets worried , will their funding be cut? Well , as NASA has a habit of blowing stuff up , killing it's own astronauts or lying about their success , I for one am not surprised that they are always being squeezed for cash. However , a recent proposal for the construction of a deep space telescope that would dwarf anything seen before could be in jeopardy . The mirror would be 100 metres across with the whole modular assembly being 400 metres in length , this structure would be in orbit around the Earth and allow us to see , well , everything . The Hubble orbiting telescope has a 2.4 metre diametre mirror and that can see objects 10 ,000,000,000 light years away , so this 100 metre mirrored monster should be able to read the label on Satans under wear.

This project is many years away from completion , but the will needs to exist now to fund and plan for such ventures. This is not an easy thing to propose , when people are starving and war`s rage , but it could all be done , it is a choice between Love and Fear.

“The eyes of fear want you to put bigger locks on your doors, buy guns, close yourself off. The eyes of love instead see all of us as one. Here's what we can do to change the world, right now, to a better ride. Take all that money we spend on weapons and defenses each year and instead spend it feeding and clothing and educating the poor of the world, which it would pay for many times over, not one human being excluded, and we could explore space, together, both inner and outer, forever, in peace.” B.H.

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