

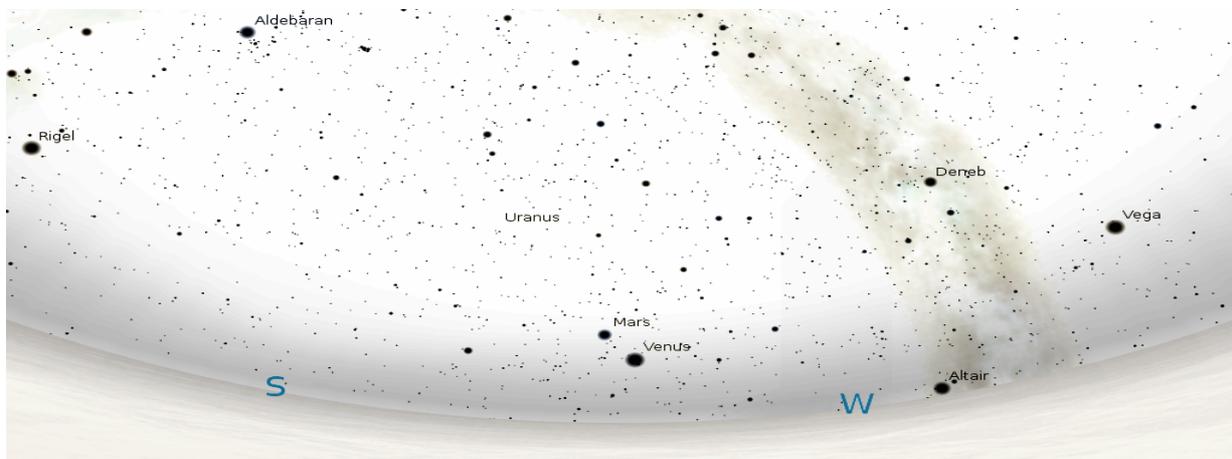
## Astronomy In The Two Dales

### January

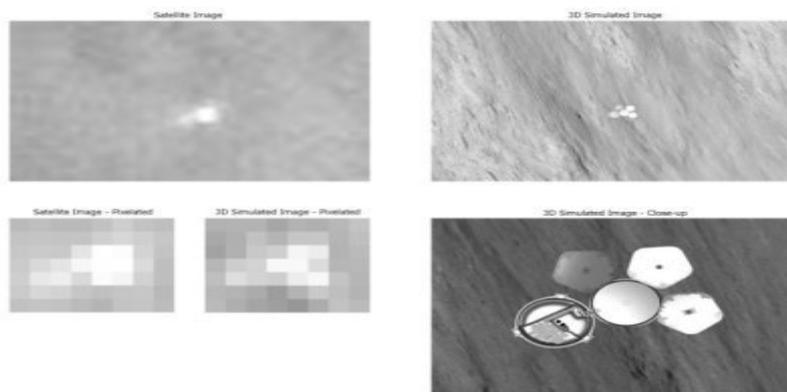
Welcome to 2017 , in numerology terms this year will see the following traits : Initiator of action, a pioneering spirit, inventive ideas, strong leadership skills, independent, drives to attain, individualistic style, executive abilities, extraordinary will and determination, courageous. Overly assertive or aggressive, dominating, impulsiveness, egotistic, boastfulness, wilfulness. Make of this what you will.

This month starts with the Quadrantid meteor shower , and with the moon setting just after midnight there is a good chance to see up to 40 meteors an hour , with the peak occurring at 2 am.

The full moon arrives on the 12<sup>th</sup> and this is also the best time to see the planet Venus as it is at it's furthest distance from the sun. Look west after sunset for the bright planet. Mars will also be setting close to Venus , look for the red/orange planet above and to the left of Venus.



Do you remember Beagle 2 ? the probe that landed on Mars in 2003 and disappeared ? Well it was found in 2014 , examinations of images taken by a Mars orbiting satellite indicate that the probe is on mars and that it did not crash. Recent re evaluation of images taken by satellite have shown that the probe did land and did deploy its solar panels , but for some unknown reason did not send a signal.



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There have been a host of suggestions as to the cause of the probes failure , from sabotage by NASA who did not want a cheap mission succeeding , to manufacturing errors or the possibility that someone switched the probe off after it landed ! , what ever the reason I am sure the explanation will be simple and have nothing to do with international scientific sabotage or aliens .

