

## The Moon Glides Past Antares

During the early evening hours of **June 18-20**, the **waxing gibbous Moon** will appear to pass near **Antares** – the brightest star in the zodiac constellation Scorpius. The Moon is full on the night of June 21<sup>st</sup>.

As seen from Earth, Antares is the 15th brightest star in the night skies. It is a red supergiant star that is intrinsically 65,000 times more luminous than our Sun, and it's located some 550 light years away.

In sky lore, the star Antares represents the heart of the Scorpion. The name “Antares” comes from the Greek language, meaning “rival (ant) of Mars” (Ares is what the Greeks called the planet Mars, and Ares was their god of war). The name refers to the similar red hue displayed by both Mars and the star. They “rivalled” each other in their redness!

