

Venus Passes Over the Bright Star Antares

On the night of **October 25th**, the planet Venus passes over the bright star Antares, along the “ecliptic” in the constellation Scorpius, the Scorpion.

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 Antares refers to the similar red hue displayed by both Mars and the star. They “rivaled” each other in their redness!

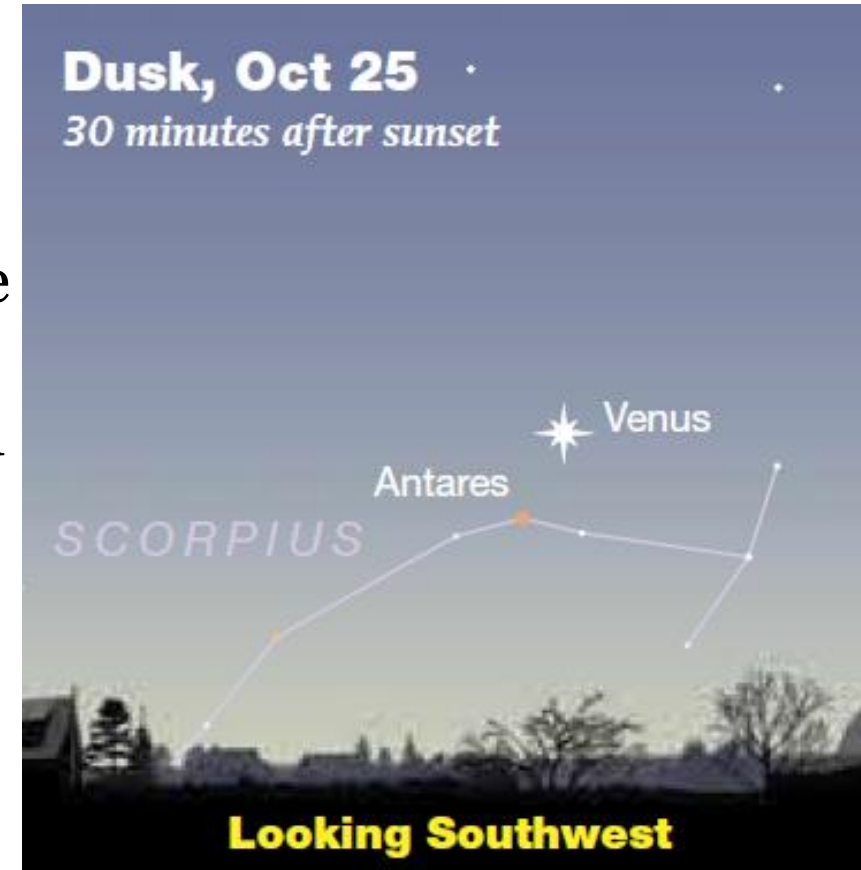


Illustration courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)