

The Moon Glides Past Mars & Regulus

During the evening hours of May 31 – June 2, the **waxing crescent Moon** will appear to pass the planet Mars and then Regulus -- the brightest star in the zodiac constellation Leo. The Moon reaches first quarter phase on June 2nd.

As seen from Earth, Regulus is the 21st brightest star in the night sky. It is a hot blue-white star that is intrinsically 240 times more luminous than our Sun, and it's located some 78 light years away.

Regulus is positioned almost precisely on the ecliptic, the Sun's annual path around the celestial sphere. In fact, Regulus is closest to the ecliptic of the 100 brightest stars in the sky. Because of its position, Regulus is regularly occulted by the Moon and sometimes by the planets.

On these nights, Mars is 158 million miles away or 14 light minutes.

