

## Find the Two Innermost Planets Together at Dawn

Shortly before sunrise on the morning of **Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>**, you will have an opportunity to observe the two innermost planets, Mercury and Venus, together and low in the southeast in the direction of the constellation Libra, the Scales. Venus will be lower than Mercury, much brighter (at magnitude -3.9), and easier to observe.

Shining at a magnitude of 2.5 (some 200 times fainter than Venus) and only  $5^{\circ}$  above the horizon, Mercury will be challenging to observe. Finding a location with a view low to the E-SE, and using binoculars will improve your chances of spotting it. The 2 planets are separated by 1.4 degrees.

On these November evenings, speedy Mercury is positioned 68 million miles away (6 light minutes), while brilliant Venus is some 155 million miles away (14 light minutes).

