

## A Waxing Crescent Moon Visits Venus & the Pleiades

On the evenings of **April 18 & 19**, the waxing, crescent Moon, moving through the zodiac constellation Taurus, will appear to pass our neighboring planet Venus. On these nights, Venus is some 139 million miles, or 12 light minutes, behind the Moon.

As the Moon moves eastward along the ecliptic, it will overtake the hot, young stars of the Pleiades star cluster – known to many as the “seven sisters”. That lovely star cluster shows up nicely in a pair of binoculars, and it is some 440 light years behind the Moon.

Lastly, notice the bright orange color of the giant star Aldebaran – the “fiery eye of the bull”. It is the 14<sup>th</sup> brightest star in our night sky, and it is located some 65 light years behind our Moon.

