



☼ * * • Symbols For Stars In Order Of Brightness

Jupiter still prominent

by James Stokley

Shining brightly in the south, Jupiter is the only planet prominent in the April evening.

You'll see it in Leo, the lion, as shown on our maps. These depict the sky as it looks about 10 p.m., local time, at the first of the month. It will look the same an hour earlier on the 15th and two hours earlier on the 30th.

Jupiter is close to Regulus. This star ranks as first magnitude (which means that it's one of the brightest in the sky) but Jupiter is about 20 times as bright.

Six more first magnitude stars are shown on the map of the southern sky. In the southeast, below and left of Leo, stands Virgo, the virgin. Spica is the bright star.

To the right of Leo you can see the faint figure of Cancer, the crab. Farther right are Gemini, the twins, with bright Pollux. Below Cancer is Procyon, in Canis Minor, the lesser dog. The great dog, Canis Major, is lower still, with Sirius. To the right of that group, near

the horizon, is Orion, the warrior, with first magnitude Betelgeuse.

Toward the east, above the left-hand end of Virgo, is Bootes, the herdsman, with brilliant Arcturus.

Ursa Major, the great bear, stands high in the north, with the Big Dipper, now inverted. The lesser bear, Ursa Minor, is lower, with the pole star, Polaris. The two pointers, in the Big Dipper's bowl, show the direction of Polaris.

It's in the northwest that you find Capella, in Auriga, the charioteer. Lower, and to the left, is Taurus, the bull, where Aldebaran shines. It is somewhat dimmed, however, by its low altitude, which causes increased atmospheric absorption of its light.

Mars, quite faint because it is now far away, remains in the western sky for more than an hour after sundown. It is very low and sets before the sky is entirely dark, which makes it difficult to see.

And during the night of April 12 an interesting event occurs, when the moon passes through the earth's shadow—producing a total lunar eclipse.

The moon will be full, as it must be when eclipsed. Opposite the sun, its entire illuminated hemisphere is turned toward us, and only then can it enter our planet's shadow.

The eclipse will be visible from most of the U.S. east of the Mississippi, except New England.

CELESTIAL TIMETABLE FOR APRIL

April	E.S.T.	
1	6:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,000 miles
4	9:00 p.m.	Saturn behind sun
5	10:28 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
6	1:20 a.m.	Algol (variable star in Perseus) at minimum brightness
8	10:00 p.m.	Moon passes north of Jupiter
	10:10 p.m.	Algol at minimum
12	11:52 p.m.	Full moon; total eclipse of moon
14	2:00 a.m.	Moon nearest, distance 223,000 miles
19	2:35 p.m.	Moon in last quarter
23	7:00 a.m.	Venus passes north of Saturn
24	6:00 p.m.	Mercury behind sun
25	9:00 p.m.	Moon passes north of Saturn
26	3:00 a.m.	Algol at minimum
27	10:22 a.m.	New moon
E.D.T.		
28	9:00 p.m.	Moon passes north of Mars
29	12:50 a.m.	Algol at minimum
	5:00 a.m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,500 miles



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