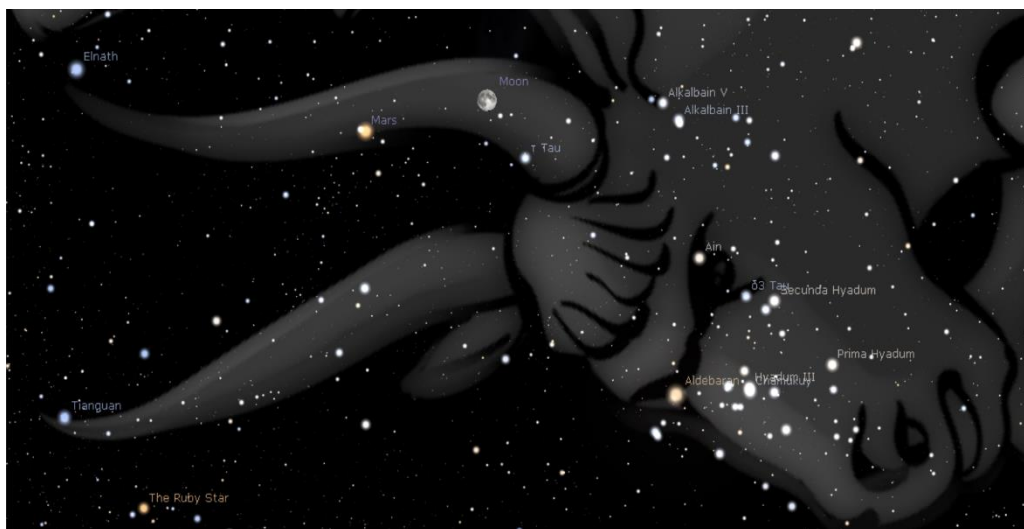


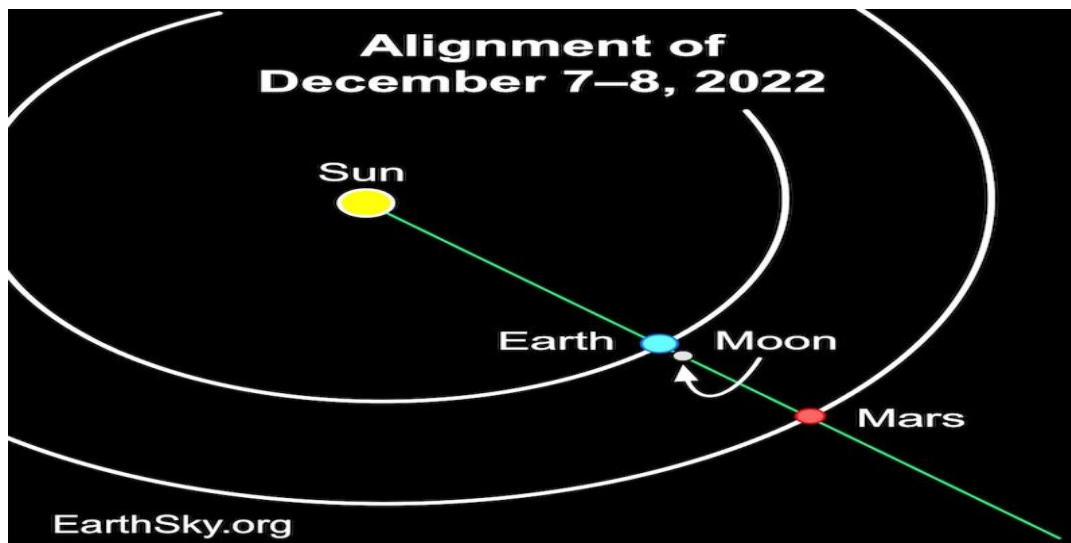
# Full Moon occults Mars in Taurus

## December 7/8



Overnight on December 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, the Full Moon will occult Mars, meaning it will pass directly in front of Mars, in the horns of the Bull. This will be visible over much of North America and Europe. It will just miss us here in New York City and parts south. In the USA, the occultation begins Dec. 7th around 6:30 p.m. local time on the west coast and 10:30 p.m. local time on the northeast coast. For detailed city-by-city observing times, visit [ShadowandSubstance.com](https://www.shadowandsubstance.com) and scroll down. Europeans can find the same information [here](#). (from Spaceweather.com)

Occultations of planets by the Moon are not rare, however this is unique in that it is a Full Moon, which means it is happening when the Sun, in Scorpio, is opposite Mars and Moon. Mars is now exceptionally bright in the night sky, two times brighter than the brightest star, Sirius, so that even in the light of the Full Moon one will be able to see the bright reddish Mars disappear behind the Moon with the naked eye. The current brightness of Mars is because it is now retrograde in the heavens, meaning it is approaching closer to the Earth, which happens every two years. In fact, it was nearest to the Earth on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Here is the heliocentric image from Earth Sky News:



So, for those who enjoy viewing the night sky, this could be a special viewing event, naked eye or with binoculars or a simple telescope. Even if you are not in the region of the occultation, you can view Mars and the Full Moon. As Mars is opposite the Sun now, one can see Mars rising in the east as the Sun in Scorpion sets in the west and then Mars setting in the west as the Sun rises in Scorpion at dawn. So, Mars' bright red shining accompanies us through the night. In the following images are the path of the occultation viewing. For more on this event with time zone viewings and a video: <https://www.shadowandsubstance.com/>

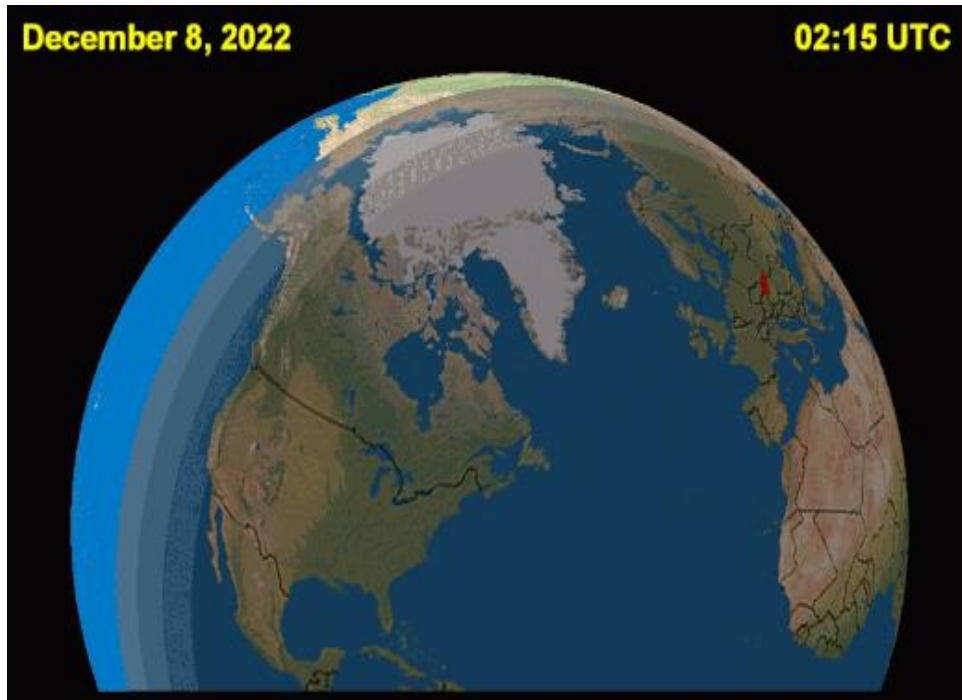


Image from Spaceweather.com

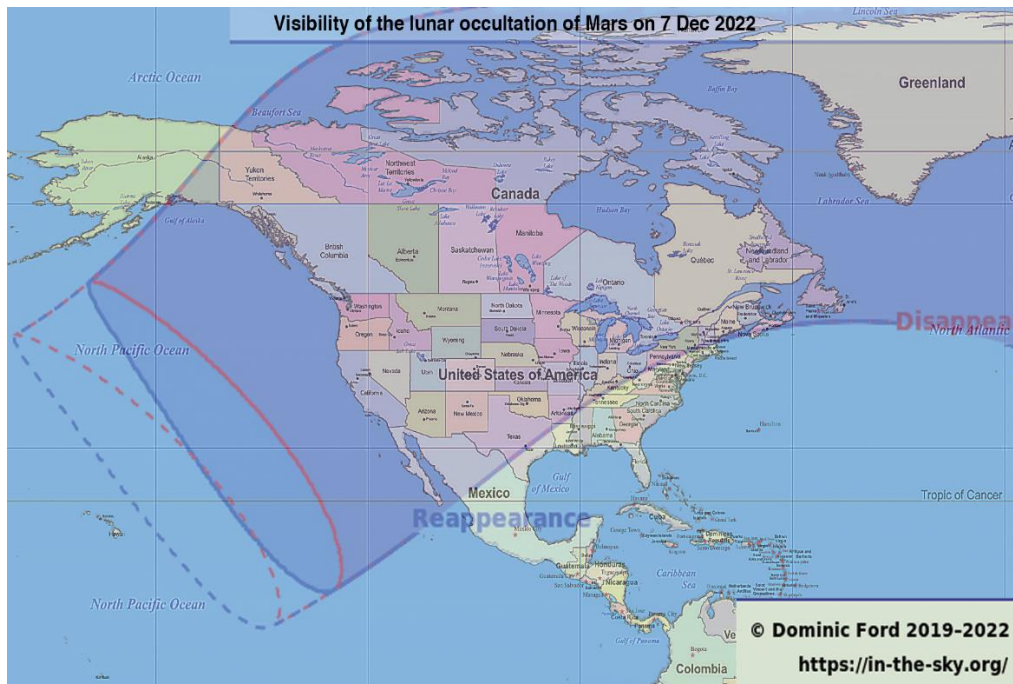


Image from shadowandsubstance.com

**How might we begin to understand this event out of astrosophy?** First, we should consider that we are in the time of Advent. For most of every Advent season in our age, the Sun is passing through the stars of the Scorpion. It enters the constellation of Scorpion on November 23<sup>rd</sup> passing through it until December 18<sup>th</sup>, which this year is the last Sunday of Advent. It then steps into the arrow and bow of the Archer for the last week of Advent, and passes through the stars of the Archer for the Holy Nights. This is a significant imagination to carry during Advent, which I will develop in a subsequent article also in relation to Ophiucus. But for now, just to point out, that in Scorpion we have the memory of the Fall of the human being and the lower astral nature which can be transformed into Spirit Self. For those interested, my Advent article from 2021 on the website under Current Articles, goes into this time of Advent in relation to Scorpion and the challenges of Advent in meeting the lower self. We often think of Advent as a time of blessing and lights, but in reality it is a time of meeting the darkness in ourselves. So, during this season we are called annually, in the cycle of the year, to encounter the scorpion in us, the untransformed lower astral nature, the “death” perspective of our own underworld. We are also called to take up the task of transformation in order to ever and again prepare ourselves for the birth of the spirit child, the Sun child within. This is the challenge of the Sun passing through Scorpion every Advent season. But this year we have Venus and Mercury joining the Sun in Scorpion and all coming into opposition to retrograde Mars in the Bull’s horns. Mercury was opposite Mars on November 28<sup>th</sup>; Venus was opposite Mars on December 1<sup>st</sup>, the same day Mars was closest to the Earth, while the Sun was conjunct the star Antares, the heart of the Scorpion; and now on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Sun is opposite Mars and the Moon. This has perhaps brought to many of us both real experiences of our inner challenges of soul in our thinking and feeling life, as well as hopefully the recognition of our potential to overcome and transform these inner obstacles.

Mars and the Full Moon tonight opposite the Sun in Scorpion can in many ways bring to our awareness a deeper consequence of our descent into matter. Just as a picture, we have the Moon, shining bright, fully reflecting the Sun, but also one can say that the Moon in its monthly cycle from new to full, has “filled” itself with cosmic substance streaming in from the periphery, and as it transitions into the waning phase, human beings are called to transform this substance, to spiritualize it, as a first step towards its eventual spiritualizing by the Sun. Mars joins this Full Moon bringing with it the fullness of what Mars has given to humanity. One could say that the physical planet of Mars is the pointer to us to the full sphere of the Mars beings so that we become fully conscious of Mars in our inner and outer experiences. Mars represents the completed first half of Earth evolution. Mars also carries the memory of the previous incarnation of the Earth as Ancient Moon, when the astral body was bestowed on the human being and during which Lucifer rebelled against the higher Sun beings, a pre-figuring of his activity during Earth evolution as described in the story in Genesis. Mars is the god of war. Mars represents that sphere which has given the human being the capacity to separate the self and to confront and master the external world of the senses. Mars is all about “ME!”, the centric I am. Taurus is also a constellation that is connected to our taking up of the material world, our descent into the weight of the Bull on the Earth. It carries the memory of the ancient Egyptian cultural age, the age of the pyramids, the heavy temples grounded on the Earth, yet with their tips oriented to the stars, just as the heavy earthy bull has horns tuning it into the stars. Yet Mars and Taurus are also both deeply associated with speech, with the Word. So, Mars carries the “sharp sword” of the word. In our current times, I think we have all experienced the complete separation of the word from truth in so much of what we hear today. The word as lie, as tool of manipulation. The full story of Mars is the story of the Word becoming Flesh, losing its divine origin, its connection to the logos. Yet, since the event of Christ’s incarnation and resurrection, the Earth has begun its new development towards spiritualization out of the new Sun ego in us. Thus, Mars is undergoing a transformation, but only through the conscious working of human beings to restore the logos to the word. This is the long process of the Flesh becoming Word, through the new I AM force of Christ in the world. For students of Rudolf Steiner, the

deed of the Buddha in the healing process of Mars can be considered, which brought to the unruly, aggressive Mars sphere a step towards redemption and transformation. Rudolf Steiner speaks about how without this deed of Buddha, humans descending to incarnation through the Mars sphere would have been permeated with materialism and aggression. This cosmic deed of Buddha can be an inner practice of the human being as the eight-fold path which develops the Mars chakra. Mars as well as Taurus also carry a future picture of the incarnation of the next Matreya Buddha who will bring to humanity the full power of the creative Word as a force of goodness, as a moral force. There are heliocentric indications also of this event. So, as I contemplate this astronomical beauty in the night sky of the bright Full Moon passing before the bright Mars in the horns of the Bull tonight, there are many images and thoughts to accompany it, which I think can be quite inspiring. They help us all to consider Mars in us, our own egocentrism, our own rebellious tendencies against the higher, our own over-attachments to the sensory/material. It can bring thoughts of Mars in our world today which has not taken up the spirit but continues into the descent of materialism and war. Ego against ego! Yet it can inspire us to transforming will in ourselves through the Sun power of Christ in us. The planets Venus and Mercury which have been with the Sun in Scorpio these weeks, (Mercury left Scorpio on Dec. 5 and Venus will leave Scorpio Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>) can be true tools of transformation in us, if we take up a spiritual path. They can help us to bring healing to the astral and etheric nature in us, into our thinking and feeling life. In thinking of Scorpio, we have many Greek stories of this realm of Pluto and those who tried but could not overcome it. Yet in Christ, we have He who descended into Hell, the realm of death/scorpio and transformed it, even to the physical body. So, this deed is not only an archetypal new picture, but an actual helping presence in our lives if we but seek it. Ask and it shall be given to you.

Rudolf Steiner gave to the Christian Community specific gospel readings for the various festival times. For the first three Sundays of Advent, as the Sun is passing through Scorpio, we have the reading of Luke 21, with its powerful apocalyptic images of fear, destruction, and “a grievous destiny” coming upon humanity. They are powerful images of the consequences of human separation. But it also contains a culminating picture of the Son of Man appearing in the life sphere to “seeing souls”. The fourth Sunday of Advent before Christmas, when the Sun steps into the arrow of the bow of the Archer, the aiming human, the gospel reading brings the picture of the annunciation to Mary by Gabriel of the One who is to be born as world savior, the announcement of the birth of the pure Nathan Jesus child. This is the child who was protected from the consequence of the Luciferic Fall and thus was never affected by the incarnation into matter and the corruption of the astral nature. So, in these readings we take a journey from great travail, fear and destruction to the picture of the pure Mary soul visited by the Angel to proclaim her as Mother of the holy Child. Here we can see the passing of the Sun through Scorpio into the bow of the Archer. In the Archer we have the whole question of the I AM, the true nature of the human being. In Scorpio, one could say we have both the fallen soul nature, the slain Sophia, so to speak, as well as the potential through the Christ now in us, of soul transformation, of becoming the “Mary” for the birth of the Christ child in us. Here we touch upon the deep mysteries of Scorpio and its relation to the fallen soul nature through Lucifer but also the transformation which develops Spirit Self or Manas, and the Holy Spirit. In fact, one could make a deeper study of Scorpio in relation to the evolution of Manas and of Lucifer and the Divine Sophia. I will continue with a following article about Scorpio which includes the constellation of Ophiuchus.

Sending you all my deepest Advent hopes for renewal.

Jonathan Hilton  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Astrosophy.com