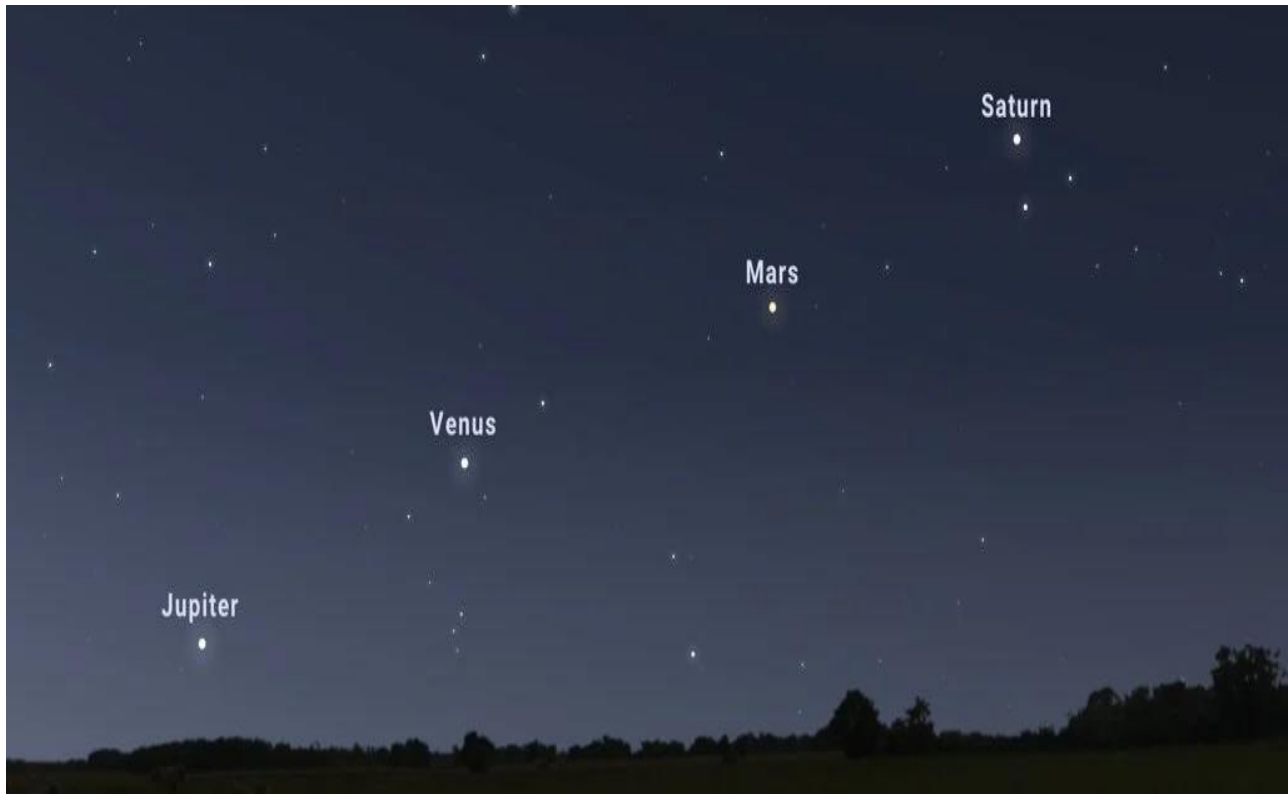


EASTER PRE-DAWN SKY A Tableau of Human Evolution



A first necessary step in the path of astrosophy is the cultivation of wonder when contemplating or viewing the starry heavens. I would even describe the feeling as “holy awe” when gazing at the heavens. Truly they are a glimpse of Sophia if we can lift the veil to meet Her. Though She is silent, through our development of spiritual cognition She is awakened to new life in us. This new life can begin with Imagination through which an outer image can become a living picture of divine being. When we look at the stars we are of course seeing images, or as Steiner called them, wrought work, but of course our spiritual task is to see behind the images to the reality of their being. Truly the planets and stars are images for us of being. In one sense because the stars are so “out there” it is perhaps more difficult to find a relationship to them. Yet on the other hand because they are “out there” our sensory binding of them is weakened and they approach, by their very “distance”, more closely to the realm of thought. If we can then lift that thought out of the abstraction and of course the mechanistic image of the cosmos, it can perhaps more easily become a picture, even an experience, of being. These are my thoughts when I consider the pre-dawn sky on Easter morning and the days following. If you have an unobstructed eastern view and can rise before dawn, I encourage you to take into your feeling heart and thinking the gift of the starry view in the morning sky before the start of the new Sun Day and the new Year of Easter.

To go out before dawn on any Easter Sunday is always quite a special time to contemplate that original Easter when the women went to the tomb before dawn to find the stone removed and the first encounter by Mary Magdalene with the Risen One, whom she mistook for the gardener until He spoke her name. This Easter, out of this mood, we can now also look to the east and see, aligned one after the other ascending from the horizon, Jupiter near the horizon, then Venus, then Mars, then Saturn. A rare sight to behold. Jupiter may still be a bit in the new light of the coming sunrise so not as bright as it will be later in the week. Venus and Mars will be clearly visible and Saturn, though not so bright, also visible...all in the same line of an arc. (See image) Best viewing will be around April 20 when the Sun has moved further along. Then from April 24th to April 27th, the waning Moon, which rose as full Moon just hours before this Easter sunrise on holy Saturday, joins them, passing each of them before meeting the Sun as New Moon. Also, though not visible, remember that Jupiter is now conjunct Neptune (see my last article).

We have as the pre-dawn hours pass, a kind of procession rising above the horizon of Saturn at about 3:45 am, then Mars at about 4:15 am, Venus at 4:30 am, Jupiter at 5:00 am until the Easter Sun begins the new day rising at about 6:15 am. One by one, they present themselves to us, with the full tableau visible before the day light arrives. The beauty of the stars is that even though we all experience sunrise at different times based on our location as we turn eastward into the Sun, for all of us around the globe, this pre-sunrise experience of these planets is true for each of us no matter where we are.

This is a deeply moving planetary Imagination on this Easter morning. One should think of the visible planet itself as merely a pointer for earthly humanity, an indicator, telling us about that whole sphere of planetary being. So, in this picture, it is as if the cosmos is presenting us the story of our whole past and future spread out in this simple line up. It is a tableau of evolution, perhaps as a challenge or a question or a reminder to us from where we have come and to where we are going, precisely because of this Easter morning deed of the Christ. It is a bit like when we perhaps contemplate our biography...where we came from and where we hope to go...before a major life event or decision.

Saturn and Mars are our images of the past, from where we have come. Saturn reminds us of our very origins, the divine creation by the highest beings to initiate our human journey on Ancient Saturn. Saturn reminds us of the Father and the great plan for humanity born out of sacrifice and initiated out of love. Next is red Mars, that sphere which holds the memory of our descent. It contains the memory of Ancient Moon evolution, which is the story of our astral nature, the great rebellion of Lucifer and the battle with the Sun forces and our double nature culminating in the reunion of Ancient Moon and Sun. Mars also contains our further descent, during Earth evolution, deeply into matter through the renewed activity of Lucifer in our astral nature as remembered in the story of Genesis. The sphere of Mars is that sphere which holds the archetypes of the physical world. It is that sphere which facilitates our confrontation and handling of the material earthly, which also leads us to our separation from the Divine into individuation and freedom. As Mars humans we proclaim, "I am not that! I am Me!" This Mars aspect of our entire earthly evolution thus far can be seen to have gone well past its purpose into what we can see in a kind of hyper-materialism in our times.

Then we have next in our tableau those spheres that point to the future. Moving towards the horizon first we encounter Venus. In my last article I expanded on this relation of Mars to Venus. (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dcad692abb42404596a69ca/t/6259f2084e9b441be4f25821/1650061833007/4.3.22+Stars+of+Easter.pdf>) In Venus we find both the story of the redemption of Lucifer and the old mysteries as well as the foundation of the new Christian Mysteries. The

consequences of the Easter deed have brought the potential for humans to fulfill the Venus path of agape, or divine love and reunion with the Divine world of being. Venus is then followed by Jupiter just above the horizon pointing us to the distant future leading us to our next great stage of evolution, when Earth evolution will be completed and matter no longer a part of our story. This is the condition called in esotericism, Future Jupiter. It is the New Jerusalem described in the Apocalypse by John.

Then the Easter Sun rises and these stars fade from our sight but remain as resounding images in our soul, as a powerful contemplation of the profound transformation and birth of the new out of this Deed on this day, which is ever happening outside of space and time. We contemplate the Father deeds of sacrifice on ancient Saturn and our journey into separation and individuation in Mars, to our reunion with the Divine Will through love, in Venus, leading to the future New Jerusalem, in Jupiter. In this way, a simple string of four stars (planets) in the sky on Easter morning can open mighty vistas of our humanity, expanding us and inspiring us to strive towards the power of the true I AM, the Christ, in us that we might fulfill our cosmic goals.

Link to moving graphic of the morning sky: <https://vimeo.com/700011837>

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