

A Planetary Conjunction of Venus and Saturn

On the nights of **January 16-19**, the planets Venus and Saturn will appear to pass each other in the constellation Aquarius, the Water Carrier. Saturn is descending lower each night toward the western horizon – departing our evening skies in March and returning to our evening skies in late September. Meanwhile, Venus, our bright “evening star”, is ascending in our evening skies.

On Jan. 16th, Saturn is above Venus, and, by Jan. 18th, Venus is above Saturn! The two planets will pass each other and trade positions on Jan. 17th, when they appear side by side. All this occurs along the “ecliptic” (the path across the sky that the Sun, Moon, and planets appear to follow). Solar system conjunctions and juxtapositions usually occur along the ecliptic, including eclipses.

So, go out and enjoy this planetary dance during the early evening hours on these cold January nights!

