

STGZ325

08/14 - 08/20

SCORPIO'S OCCULT MOON

HI OCCULTISTS, I'M TRACE.

HEY DOWN FRONT!

EVERYONE CAN RELATE TO GETTING OUR VIEW BLOCKED, AND THIS HAPPENS IN THE SKY TOO. IT'S CALLED AN OCCULTATION AND THERE'S ONE NEXT WEEK!

FIRST YOU HAVE TO FIND ANTARES. HIT THE DARKNESS AT 10:30 PM BETWEEN MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY AND LOOK SOUTHWEST FOR A BRIGHT ORANGE DOT. IT LOOKS VERY MARS-LIKE, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY ANTARES, THE HEART OF SCORPIO THE SCORPION.

ANTARES IS A RED SUPERGIANT EIGHTEEN TIMES LARGER THAN OUR SUN ABOUT 500 LIGHTYEARS AWAY. BUT NEXT THURSDAY THE 24TH, IT'LL BE BLOCKED BY THE MOON!

ASTRONOMERS USE THIS TO LEARN ABOUT THE TWO BODIES. LEARNING ABOUT THE SURFACE OF THE MOON AT THE SPOT THE STAR PASSES, OR LEARNING ABOUT FEATURES OF THE STAR WHEN IT'S PARTIALLY OCCULTED.

BECAUSE THE MOON IS SO CLOSE, IT CAN OCCULT STARS, PLANETS, EVEN THE SUN – BUT WE CALL THAT AN ECLIPSE. SPEAKING OF, MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A RING OF FIRE ECLIPSE IN OCTOBER, AND KEEP LOOKIN' UP!