



### Evening sky in APRIL 2013

The bright star visible high above the northern horizon is Regulus, the star at the heart of Leo, the constellation depicting a lion. To the northwest and somewhat lower are two bright stars, Castor and Pollux, in Gemini, the Twins. Between these two constellations we find Cancer, the Crab, with no bright stars. Explore Cancer with a pair of binoculars to see the Beehive Cluster, consisting of about 1000 gravitationally bound stars of which 30% are similar to our Sun. It is one of the nearest star clusters to our Solar System, 600 light years away. In September 2012 two planets orbiting separate stars were discovered in the Beehive Cluster: massive gas giants that, unlike planet Jupiter, orbit very close to their parent stars.

Planet Jupiter can be seen in Taurus, the Bull and on April 14 it is close to the crescent Moon as they set in the west. Planet Saturn is in Libra, the Scales.

The Moon is in the evening sky from April 12 until April 28. On April 25 the Moon moves into the outer region of the shadow of the Earth (penumbra), resulting in a slight darkening of the Moon, starting at 20:02 and ending just after midnight (a penumbral eclipse).