



Evening sky in DECEMBER 2012

The Great Square in Pegasus is prominent in the northwest while the Southern Cross and Pointers are now low down on the southern horizon. To the southeast we find the mythological ship Argo, which consists of three constellations, Carina (Keel), Vela (Sails) and Puppis (Stern). The bright star in the Keel is Canopus, the second brightest star in the night sky. In isiXhosa it is called *u-Canzibe* and in Zulu, *inKwenkwezi*. The two other bright stars almost overhead are Fomalhaut in Piscis Austrinus (Southern Fish) and Achernar in Eridanus (River). Follow the meandering river to the bright star Rigel in the ankle of Orion, the Hunter. A line drawn towards the east through the three stars in Orion's Belt guides you to Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, lower down and southeast of the Hunter. Follow the line in the opposite direction to find Taurus, the Bull, with a cluster of stars, the Pleiades (Seven Sisters) on its shoulder. The fiery right eye of the Bull is Aldebaran, a red giant star. Planet Jupiter is in Taurus and planet Mars sets with Sagittarius in the west.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 15 Dec until 29 Dec.