



Evening sky in November 2018

As Scorpius (scorpion) makes a final appearance low on the western horizon, shift your gaze towards the east to welcome back the constellation Orion (hunter) reappearing in our evening skies. In Greek mythology, the mighty hunter Orion bragged that he could kill all animals. Gaia, the goddess of Earth was not impressed, so she sent the wily Scorpius to deal with Orion and in the ensuing battle Orion was defeated. Both Orion and Scorpius are honoured as constellations in the night sky, but at opposite sides of our celestial sphere – forever chasing each other.

Towards the north, search for the Great Square of stars belonging to Pegasus (winged horse). Under ideal conditions, one of our neighbouring galaxies, Andromeda, can be seen just to the right of and below the Great Square - in the horse's back

leg. November is also the ideal time to observe all three naked-eye galaxies, including the Small and Large Magellanic Clouds near the south celestial pole.

Mercury is bright enough to be observed just after sunset for most of the month. Saturn sets with Scorpius, a few hours after sunset and Mars sets just after midnight. The moon can be seen in the evening sky from the 9th to the 26th November, with full moon on the 23 November.