

Venus Transit on June 5-6, 2012

Earth Chakras & the 2012 Venus Transit

at Mt. Shasta, California

Saturday, June 2 – Wednesday, June 6, 2012
with co-founders of the Sophia Foundation
Robert Powell, PhD and Karen Rivers, M.A.
Featuring — observation of the Venus transit,
the new star wisdom of Astroosophy,
and the enlivening experience of Sacred Dance.

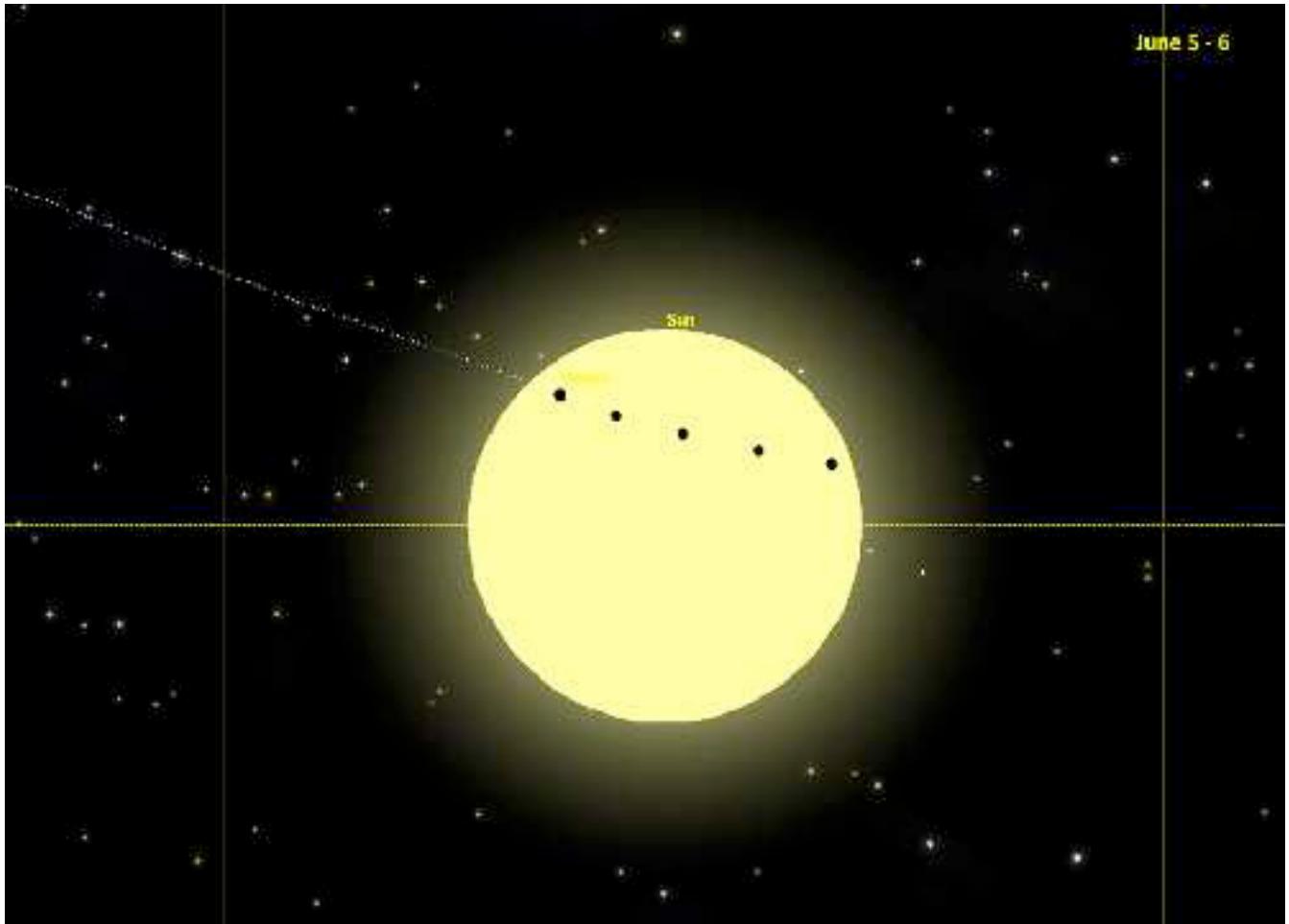
The location of this year's Sophia Foundation conference is the place of one of the earth's seven planetary chakras. As well as coming to a knowledge of the earth's seven chakras, corresponding to the seven visible planets, we shall explore this most potent region of Mt. Shasta, one of the most powerful upon the planet. The sacred importance of Mt. Shasta has long been known to the Native Americans, who thought it to be the center of creation. As well as focusing upon these earth mysteries, the goal of this gathering is to help participants find a living relationship to the starry heavens through evening star-gazing. We shall also work with sacred dance as a path of connecting with the star mysteries of Divine Sophia. **The culmination will be observation of the Venus transit, which starts around 3:30 pm on Tuesday, June 5 and lasts for about six hours.** (The Sun will set around 8:30 pm while Venus is still transiting.) We shall observe the transit through a specially prepared telescope, which will be set up by astronomer David Cooper. In the words of Rudolf Steiner: "Venus transits are very interesting because they take place only once every hundred years or so, and very significant things can be observed when Venus is passing in front of the Sun." Registration for the Sophia Foundation conference—www.sophiafoundation.org

The movement of Venus before the face of the Sun occurs in pairs eight years apart with over a hundred years between the pairs. Venus orbits the Sun every 225 days. From the Earth's point of view, Venus usually conjoins with the position of the Sun above or below the disc of the Sun. In December 1874 and December 1882, Venus transited across the Sun, and then again in June 2004. The second of the pair will occur on June 5/6, 2012. Venus transits of the Sun will not recur again until December 2117 and December 2125, in another pair eight years apart.

A 4-minute video about Venus transits can be seen by following this link:
<http://www.transitofvenus.org/education/video-new-media/325-trailer> — see also: <http://transitofvenus.nl/wp/>

Conjunctions of two heavenly bodies are said to occur when they have the same ecliptic longitude in the zodiac. See Robert Powell, *History of the Zodiac*, and also *The Astrological Revolution* (co-author: Kevin Dann) as to how longitudes in the zodiacal constellations are defined (zodiacal constellations extend 8° north and 8° south of the ecliptic). In other words, the ecliptic, which delineates the apparent path of the Sun against the background of the starry heavens, runs through the center of the 16°-band of the zodiacal constellations. Venus conjunctions with the Sun may be inferior, with Venus located between the Earth and the Sun, or superior, with Venus placed on the other side of the Sun—usually above or below the actual disc of the Sun. A Venus transit is a rare kind of inferior conjunction, when instead of being above or below the Sun's disc, Venus passes across the face of the Sun, as will take place on June 5 or June 6, 2012, depending upon the earthly location from which one views the Venus transit. On June 5 at 6:32 PM in California, when Venus reaches the midpoint of its transit, the zodiacal longitude of both the Sun and Venus will be 20°50' Taurus in the sidereal zodiac (sidereal meaning "of the stars")—that is, 21° in the constellation of the Bull.

The horizontal line is the ecliptic along which the Sun moves from right (west) to left (east), and the dotted line (upper left quadrant) inclined at approximately 45° to the ecliptic indicates the path of Venus moving retrograde from left (east) to right (west) leading diagonally downward toward the ecliptic to its transit across the Sun—the individual dotted points on the upper part of the Sun show the passage of Venus (moving from left to right) across the face of the Sun at approximately 1½-hour intervals (image: courtesy of Adam Gainsburg, “The Synodic and Astrophysical Transit of Venus”— http://reports.districtzodiac.com/2012_adam_gainsburg/)



Nick Anthony Fiorenza (<http://www.lunarplanner.com/HCpages/Venus2012.html>) shows—see star map below—the exact location of the Venus transit at 21° Taurus in the region of the horns of the Bull, between the bright star Aldebaran (15° Taurus), marking the Bull's eye, and the two stars marking the tips of the horns of the Bull: El Nath (28° Taurus) and Al Hecka (30° Taurus). From the star map it can be seen that the Venus transit occurs at the midpoint of the retrograde movement of Venus. The retrograde movement begins more or less exactly when the Sun enters the sign of Taurus (Sun at 0° Taurus), which in 2012 is at 1:22 AM Pacific Time on May 15. Then Venus is 29° ahead of the Sun in the zodiac, at 29° Taurus, just one degree past El Nath. As the apparent path of the Sun through the zodiac is seen to move counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere, the Sun's movement proceeds from right (west) to left (east) against the background of the stars. This is also the case for the Moon and the planets, except when a planet is moving retrograde, in which case its zodiacal

longitude is decreasing and, correspondingly, it is moving from left (east) to right (west). Prior to moving retrograde, while on its direct path through the zodiac from west to east, Venus passes just one degree beneath El Nath on May 7, becoming stationary on May 15 and then starts to move retrograde. On its retrograde path moving from east to west, it becomes increasingly difficult to see Venus with the naked eye. Venus passes back $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ beneath El Nath (28° Taurus) on May 23 on its way toward the transit on June 5/6 at 21° Taurus. After the transit Venus continues to move retrograde in Taurus until June 27, when it becomes stationary at $12\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Taurus in the region of the beautiful star cluster of the Hyades (the “five sisters”—half-sisters of the Pleiades), before recommencing its direct movement through the zodiac. By this time Venus is seen as morning star rising in the eastern sky ahead of the Sun. The degrees of Venus, the Sun, etc., in the zodiac can be read from the *Journal for Star Wisdom 2012*, with commentaries on the astronomical events by Claudia McLaren Lainson.

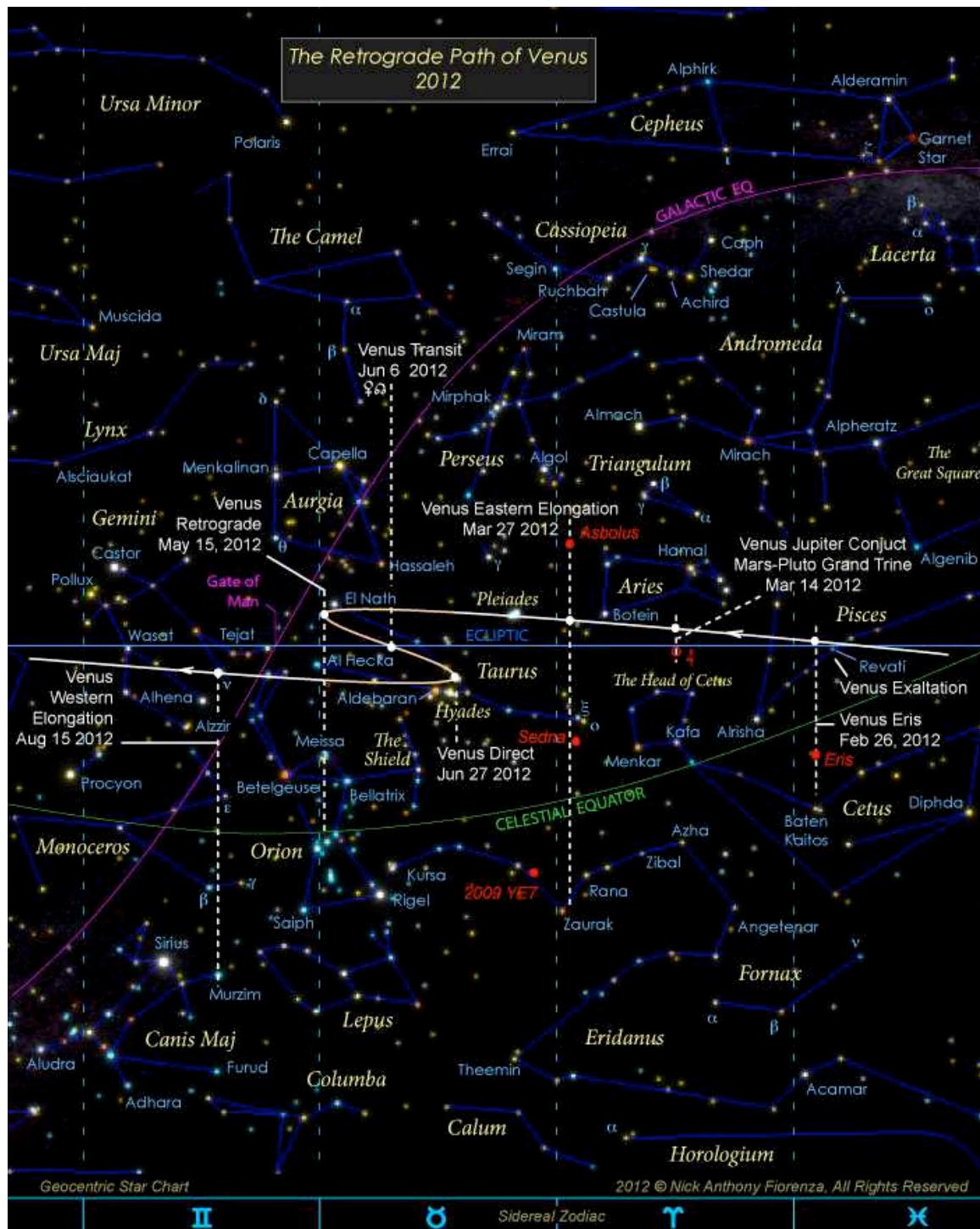
In the star map Nick Anthony Fiorenza has included many other interesting details about the movement of Venus both prior to and after the transit. Here with a summary of some of the significant Venus phenomena leading up to the transit:

On March 14 there was the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus at $14\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Aries, which is the location, in the middle of the constellation of the Ram, where the Sun was at the time of Christ’s sacrifice on Golgotha. It was beautiful to see how, prior to the conjunction, Venus was gradually drawing nearer to Jupiter each evening in the night sky—beneath (somewhat to the left) of the three stars marking the horns of the Ram. This was a very significant cosmic event. One could feel the quickening as Love (Venus) and Wisdom (Jupiter) drew close to their union at the place of sacrifice, to unite with the memory of the source of the New Creation—the outpouring of Divine Love. The conjunction of Venus and Jupiter—a mere three degrees apart in latitude—was an important prelude to the Venus transit on June 5/6. Following the conjunction, Venus is seen each evening gradually drawing further away from Jupiter, the distance between them amounting to 17° at the time of the transit.

(Although, through Venus’ retrograde movement, the two planets are again only four degrees apart in Taurus on June 27, when Venus becomes stationary prior to moving direct through the zodiac again—Venus at $12\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Taurus, and Jupiter at $8\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Taurus.)

On the evening of March 26 the waxing crescent of the Moon is close to (in conjunction with) Venus in Aries. The conjunction of the Moon and Venus is repeated on April 24, when Venus is at more or less the same location (21° Taurus), where it is at the transit. And on May 22 the Moon and Venus are again in conjunction, this time with the star El Nath at 28° Taurus. The maximum separation between Venus and the Sun prior to the transit occurs on March 27, when Venus, at the tail end of the Ram (28° Aries) is 46° ahead of the Sun (12° Pisces), remaining visible until late that evening. Then, on March 29, Venus enters Taurus, the sign where the transit takes place, and on the evenings of April 2 & 3, Venus is seen just south of the beautiful Pleiades star cluster at 5° Taurus (“the seven sisters”—most beautiful to view with binoculars).

From April 12-16 Venus passes to the north of the large V-shaped star cluster known as the Hyades, reaching conjunction with the bright star Aldebaran at 15° Taurus, marking the lower left tip of the V, on the evening of April 14, the day on which the Sun enters Aries. Venus as evening star attains its maximum (apparent) brightness—known as greatest brilliancy—on April 30 at 25° Taurus, not far from where (on June 5/6) the transit takes place.



While not directly related to Venus, there is a cosmic event that is an important precursor to the Venus transit on June 5/6—an annular eclipse of the Sun in conjunction with the Pleiades on May 20 (May 21 for local time in the Eastern Hemisphere). A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, thereby totally or partially obscuring the Earth's view of the Sun. An annular solar eclipse occurs when the Moon's apparent diameter is smaller than that of the Sun, causing the Sun to look like an annulus (ring), blocking most of the Sun's light. An annular eclipse appears as a partial eclipse over a region thousands of

miles wide. The annular solar eclipse on May 20 is in conjunction with the Pleiades. In other words, as seen from the Earth, the annular eclipse will take place against the background of the region of Taurus to which the Pleiades belong—the Pleiades lying about four degrees above the Sun's path (ecliptic). The annular phase will be visible from the Chinese coast, the south of Japan, and the western part of the United States. Tokyo will be on the central path. Its maximum will occur in the North Pacific, south of the Aleutian islands for 5 minutes and 46 seconds, and finish in the west of the USA. It will be the first central eclipse of the 21st century in the continental USA. In Sacramento, California, about 87% of the Sun will be obscured by the Moon, in San Francisco about 84%, and in Los Angeles about 78%. See the article on the Pleiades in the *Journal for Star Wisdom 2011* regarding the significance of the annular solar eclipse on May 20 in conjunction with the Pleiades. Briefly, the Pleiades can be thought of as a star-portal open to the in-streaming of freedom and love.

Just four days before the Venus transit, Venus and Mercury enter into conjunction on June 1 at 23° Taurus, which was the exact location in the constellation of the Bull of the previous Venus transit on June 8, 2004. This ecliptic degree, 23° Taurus, just two degrees from the location of the Venus transit on June 5/6, is also that of the longitude of the Sun at the event of the Ascension, which took place on May 24, AD 33.

This summary is intended as a helpful orientation, by way of preparation for the Mt. Shasta conference, leading up to the Venus transit, about which much more will be said at the conference itself. By following the course of Venus in the period leading up to the transit, and by paying attention to the “Venus phenomena” during this time, a resonance with Venus in preparation for the extraordinary event of the transit is established in advance. In fact, since the Maya paid such close attention to the movements and cycles of Venus, there are some who believe that the real significance of 2012—spiritually, cosmologically, astronomically—IS the Venus transit!