

THE SUN ENTERS CONSTELLATION VIRGO

On September 16, 2016, the Sun exits the constellation Leo in the Zodiac and enters the constellation Virgo (the Maiden), where it will remain until it enters the constellation Libra (the Scales) on October 30.

The word "constellation" most likely comes from the late Latin term *constellatio*, which can be translated as "set of stars", and came into use in English during the 14th century. A more modern astronomical sense of the term is as a recognisable pattern of stars whose appearance is associated with mythological characters or creatures, or associated earthbound animals or objects. It also recognises 88 named groups of stars in the shape of stellar-patterns.

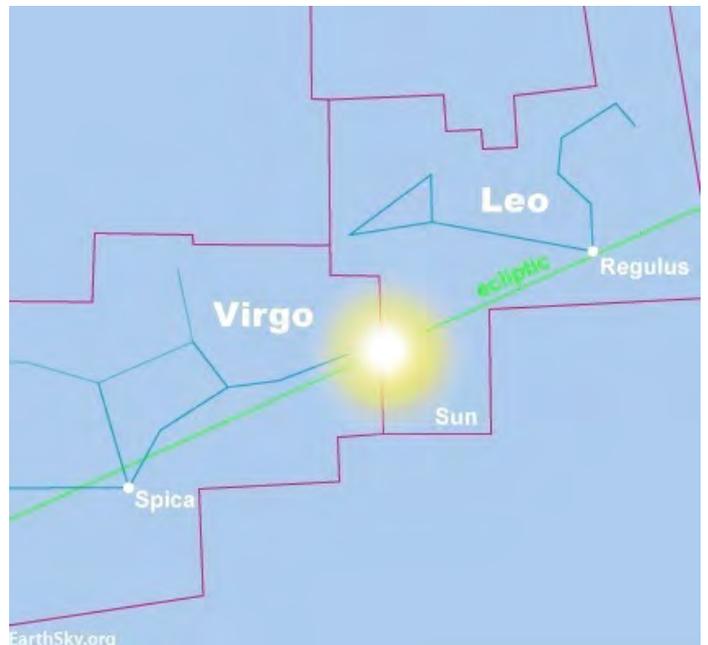
The Zodiac is the ring of constellations that the Sun seems to pass through each year as the Earth orbits around it. **Astrologically there are 12 zodiacal constellations, one for each month, all 30 degrees wide.** The astrology year starts with the constellation Aries (the ram) in the month of March and ends with Pisces (the fishes) in February.

The Zodiac system was developed in Babylonia, some 2,500 years ago, during the "Age of Aries" as defined by the then position of the Sun at the March equinox.

Unfortunately, the position of the sun doesn't return to the same position in the constellation at the time of equinox each year. Precession (retrograde movement) shifts the point of equinox about one degree backwards (west) along the ecliptic in 71.6 years, or 1/12th through the zodiac cycle in about 2,160 years. Thus, in the year 730 B.C. the September equinox Sun passed out of the constellation Libra and into the constellation Virgo, and will cross over into the constellation Leo in the year 2439. These dates are based upon the official constellation boundaries as defined by the Astronomical Union in the 1930s, where the constellations vary in width from 10 to 50 degrees. Thus there are various methods of calculating the length of an astrological age. In our day and age, the sun annually passes in front of the constellation Virgo from about September 16 until October 30

An astrological age is a time period in astrologic theology which astrologers claim parallels major changes in the development of Earth's inhabitants, particularly relating to culture, society, and politics. The Age of Aquarius follows the Age of Pisces and with the modern definition of the 88 official constellations, **the transit from Pisces to Aquarius will take place around AD 2500.** Many astrologers dispute this approach because of the varying sizes and overlap between the zodiacal constellations, **and to them we are already in the Age of Aquarius.** According to astrological mysticism, there will now be harmony and understanding in the world and a turning point towards higher human consciousness.

AK with EarthSky and Wikipedia Notes



If you could see the constellations during daytime on September 16, you'd find it on the border between Virgo and Leo.

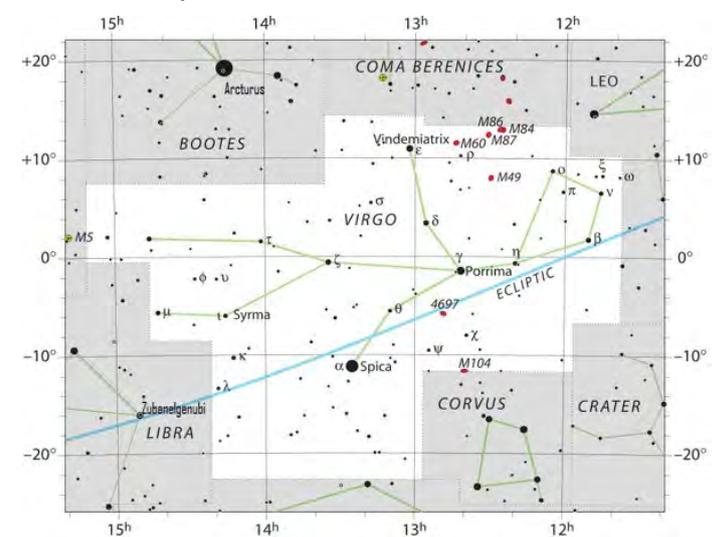
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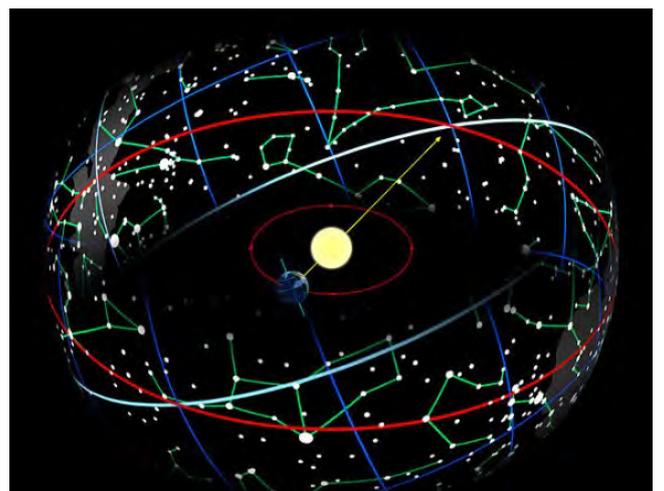
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The constellation Virgo, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



The Earth in its orbit around the Sun causes the Sun to appear on the celestial sphere moving over the ecliptic (red), which is tilted on the equator (white)