AG Carinae is a <u>luminous blue variable star</u> in the constellation <u>Carina</u>. It is one of the <u>most luminous stars</u> in the <u>Milky Way</u>, although its great distance from Earth (20,000 <u>light-years</u>) and intervening <u>interstellar dust</u> mean that the star is not usually visible to the naked eye; its <u>apparent brightness</u> varies erratically between magnitude 5.7 and 9.0.