



DR. LOWDOG

## DOGES IN SPACE



*The Dog as Constellation*



### Some "Sirius" Facts:

Sirius is the brightest star in the night sky. With a visual apparent magnitude of  $-1.46$ , it is almost twice as bright as Canopus, the next brightest star.

Distance to Earth: 8.611 light years  
Mass:  $4.018E30$  kg (2.02 Solar mass)  
Radius: 1,190,000 km (1.711 R)  
Surface temperature: 9,940 K  
Magnitude:  $-1.46$   
Constellation: Canis Major

There are dogs in space suits, dogs on rockets, dogs communing with extraterrestrials, and we are sending Doge to the moon. What are these images bubbling out of our collective psyches? Why are we projecting dogs into space? We need to take space dogs seriously. They run deep in the human imagination and are poking their heads out now through Dogecoin. Space dogs have a history in both the culture of ancient astrology and modern space program.

Long before Scooby and Scrappy Doo, star gazers drew two dogs in the sky, one big and one small. The asterisms Canis Major and Canis Minor, the greater dog and lesser dog, are included in Ptolemy's 48 constellations. He compiled the set using ancient Greek, Egyptian and Babylonian sources from the libraries of Alexandria in the second century AD. They are the dogs of Orion and appear to the left of the hunter on opposite sides of the Milky Way.

Canis Major runs at the heels of Orion chasing the rabbit Lepus. The dog's head points toward Orion. At the tip of the nose shines the brightest star in the sky. This is the Dog Star, Sirius. The name, which first appeared in Hesiod, is derived from *seirios*, meaning intensely vibrating, sparkling or scorching. Think "Doge Intensifies." That's Sirius.

The rising of the sun beneath Sirius during the summer solstice coincided with the flooding of the Nile so Egyptians revered the star. Its hieroglyph, a dog, often appears on the monuments and temple walls throughout the Nile country. The term "dog days of summer" comes from this relationship between Sirius and hot summer sun.

The mythological association of the star Sirius with the dog is a cross-cultural phenomena. Chinese astronomers knew Sirius as *Tianlang*, 'celestial wolf,' or simply *Lang*, 'wolf'; it was said to symbolize invasion and plunder. In India, Sirius has been referred to as *Svana*, the dog of Prince Yudhistira.

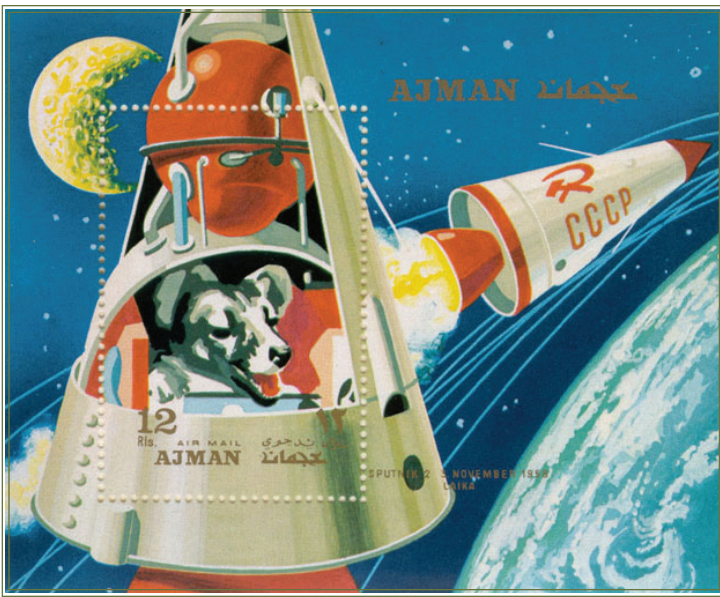
In actuality, Sirius is a binary star system consisting of the brighter Sirius A orbited by the dimmer white dwarf Sirius B. The period of this cycle is approximately 50 years and gives the Sirius A system a helical path. The Dogon people of central Mali revere the star and have knowledge of its helical path. The ancient Egyptians had this same knowledge. The Dogon, seriously?

Orion has another dog, Canis Minor, the lesser dog. The smaller dog runs on the other side of the Milky Way as the greater dog. The little dog is a little less serious. Rather than chase rabbits this dog rides on top of a unicorn, Monoceros. Now that's silly. The medieval Arabic astronomers maintained the depiction of Canis Minor (*al-Kalb al-Asghar* in Arabic) as a dog. The constellation is made of two primary stars, Procyon in the belly of the little dog and Gomeisa at the head. The Arab names of these two stars translate to "Syrian Sirius" and "bleary eyed Sirius" respectively.

### *So what have we learned thus far?*

- space dogs are serious and silly
- space dogs come in pair
- space dogs are intense and move around a lot
- humans like space dogs

Now we turn our gaze from ancient astrology to the modern space program. In the fifties and



**Russian Space Doge : Laika (Лайка, “Barker”)**



**Watch out, world!  
We’re sending DOGECOIN into space!**

sixties the Soviet Union undertook a project of launching dogs into space to test the feasibility of human space flight. In total, the USSR sent a total of 57 dogs into both orbital and sub-orbital space flight. It was this scientific project that generates much of the visual iconography of the modern space dog and another manifestation of humans projecting dogs into space.

Perhaps the most famous Soviet space dog was Laika (Лайка, “Barker”) who was the first animal to orbit the earth. Laika orbited the earth aboard Sputnik 2 on November 3, 1957. While this was a solo mission, most dogs were sent up into space in pairs.

#### ***Doge Pairs in Space:***

- **Dezik (Дезик) and Tsygan (Цыган, “Gypsy”) 1951**, 110 km altitude and safe landing
- **Lisa (Лиса, “Fox”) and Ryzhik (Рыжик, “Ginger”) 1954**, 100 km altitude and safe landing
- **Smelaya (Смелая, “Courageous”) and Malyshka (Малышка, “Babe”) 1954**, such flight
- **Albina (Альбина) and Tsyganka (Цыганка, “Gypsy girl”) 1960**, survived failed launch
- **Damka (Дамка, “Queen of checkers”) and Krasavka (Красавка, “Little Beauty”) 1960**, survived failed launch
- **Bars (Барс, “Snow leopard”) and Lisichka (Лисичка, “Little Fox”) 1960**, tragic launch
- **Pchyolka (Пчёлка, “Little Bee”) and Mushka (Мушка, “Little Fly”) 1960**, 1 day orbit, tragic re-entry
- **Veterok (Ветерок, “Light Breeze”) and Ugolyok (Уголёк, “Coal”) 1966**, 22 day orbit and safe landing

On two occasions the Soviets sent a pair a dogs into space accompanied by a rabbit. Canine cosmonauts Otvazhnaya (Отважная, “Brave One”) and Snezhinka (Снежинка, “Snowflake”) made a flight on July 2nd 1959 along with a rabbit named Marfusha (Марфуша, “Little Martha”).

On August 19 1960 space dogs Belka (Белка,

“Squirrel”), Strelka (Стрелка, “Arrow”) and an unnamed rabbit spent a day in space aboard Korabl-Sputnik-2 (Sputnik 5) before safely returning to Earth.

#### ***What else did we learn?***

- humans love space dogs
- space dogs are heros
- space dogs come in pairs
- space dogs like rabbits

But seriously, what does this mean for Dogecoin? Taking Doge to the moon is both a mythological and technological project. It is scientific poetry. While dog is fundamentally a terrestrial creature they have loftier aspirations. They look skyward as we. Dog will not only join us in our space missions, they will lead the way. Dogecoin is going to the moon on an epic scale.

#### **Tip Dr. Low Dog:**

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