

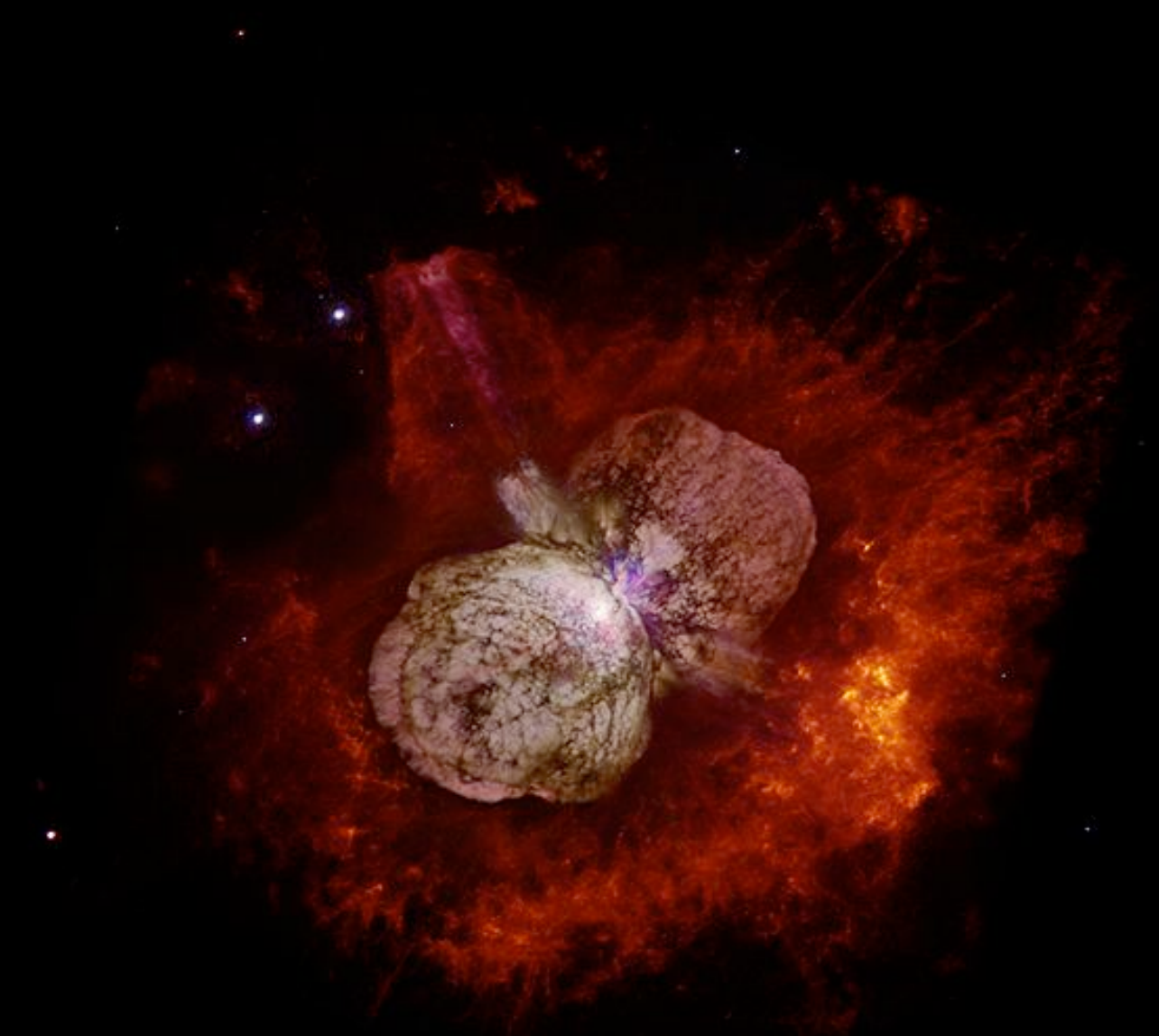
# $\eta$ -Car fact sheet

$D \sim 2.3 \text{ kpc}$

2 (or more) star system (Iping+, 2005)

$M_{\text{tot}} = 100 M_{\text{sun}}$

$L = 4 \times 10^7 L_{\text{sun}}$



Sir John Herschel noticed it in the southern sky while conducting a survey from Cape Town, South Africa and described its 'sudden flashes and relapses'... this star is ... *'fitfully variable to an astonishing extent'* (Herschel 1847).

light echoes of  $\eta$ -Carinae

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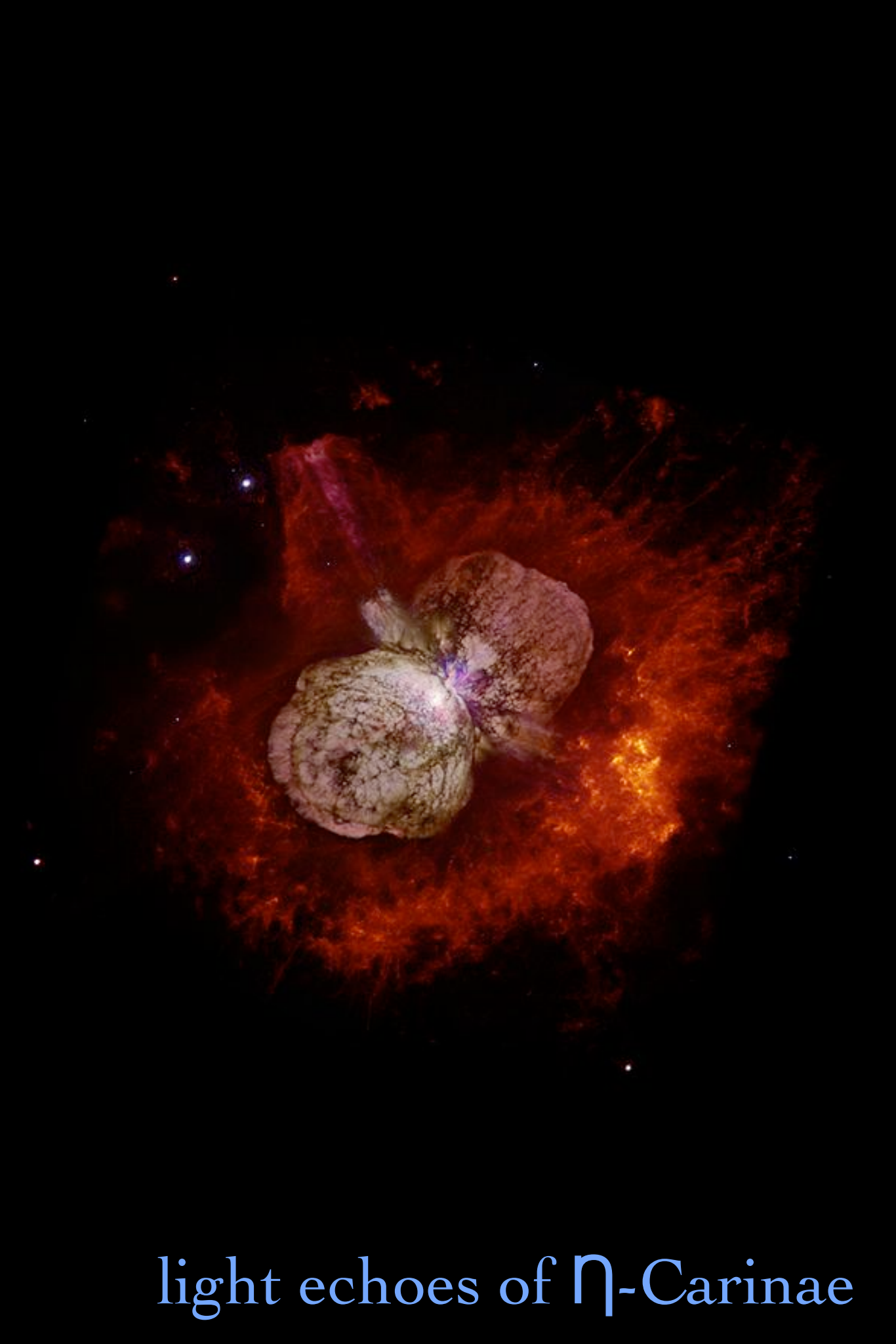
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Giant eruption 1837-1857 that made it the second brightest star in the sky



light echoes of  $\eta$ -Carinae