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From today's featured article



Sirius A and B from the Hubble Space Telescope

Sirius, designated Alpha Canis Majoris, is the [brightest star](#) in the night sky with a visual [magnitude](#) of −1.46. It is a close [binary star system](#), consisting of Sirius A, a white [main-sequence](#) star, and a faint companion [white dwarf](#), Sirius B, which was originally a massive bluish star that became a [red giant](#) before shedding its outer layers and collapsing to a white dwarf. It is one of Earth's [near neighbors](#), at 2.6 parsecs (8.6 light-years). Sirius A is about twice as massive as the Sun and has an [absolute magnitude](#) of 1.42. It is 25 times more luminous than the Sun but has a lower luminosity than other bright stars. The system is 200 to 300 million years old. Sirius is known as the "Dog Star", due to its prominence in its [constellation](#), [Canis Major](#). The [rising](#) of Sirius marked the flooding of the Nile in [Ancient Egypt](#) and the "[dog days](#)" of summer for the [ancient Greeks](#), while to the Polynesians it was important for Pacific navigation.

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Did you know ...

- ... that [Ava Cherry](#) (*pictured*), [David Bowie](#)'s partner and muse, spent a year searching for him in Europe after he cancelled a tour of Japan on which she was to be a backup singer?
- ... that [Neil Warnock](#) left [Huddersfield Town](#) shortly after they gained promotion by winning the **1995 Football League Second Division play-off Final** because he said the club chairman had told him a "porky pie"?



Ava Cherry

In the news

- [Samia Suluhu](#)** (*pictured*) becomes the first female [president of Tanzania](#), following the death of [John Magufuli](#) at the age of 61.
- Mathematicians [Avi Wigderson](#) and [László Lovász](#) share the [Abel Prize](#) for their work in [complexity theory](#) and [graph theory](#).
- In [sailing](#), the [America's Cup](#) concludes with [Team New Zealand](#) beating Italy's [Luna Rossa Challenge](#).
- In the United States, [a series of mass shootings](#) at three [massage parlors](#) in [Atlanta](#) leaves eight dead, including six women of Asian descent.



Samia Suluhu

Ongoing: [COVID-19 pandemic](#) · [Myanmar protests](#)

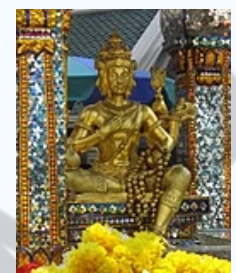
Recent deaths: [Ed Armbrister](#) · [Peter Lorimer](#) · [Clark M. Blatteis](#) · [Glynn Lunney](#) · [Picanyol](#) · [Rogers Lehew](#)

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On this day

March 21

- 1556 – Former Archbishop of Canterbury **Thomas Cranmer**, one of the founders of [Anglicanism](#), was burnt at the stake for [heresy](#) in [Oxford](#), England.
- 1861 – [Alexander H. Stephens](#), Vice President of the [Confederate States of America](#), gave [an extemporaneous speech](#) laying out the Confederacy's



Statue of Phra Phrom at the Erawan Shrine

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- ... that Turkish world-champion [para-archer Bahattin Hekimoğlu](#) did not leave his home for two years after breaking his neck and becoming paralyzed?
- ... that the melody of a song to [Venus](#) became the [tune](#) for the 17th-century hymn "[Auf meinen lieben Gott](#)" (in English "In God, My Faithful God") and others?
- ... that the philosopher [G. E. L. Owen](#) was described by [Martha Nussbaum](#) as "an alcoholic and an attempted womaniser"?
- ... that the [British Consulate of Hakodate](#) was prone to catching on fire?
- ... that physicist [Joseph Gelders](#) was kidnapped and beaten, probably by members of the [Ku Klux Klan](#), for his [civil rights](#) and [labor organizing](#) activities?
- ... that the signature fragrance of [Aedes de Venustas](#) perfumery is based on rhubarb and tomato leaf?

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rationale for [seceding from the United States](#).

- 1968 – War of Attrition: The [Battle of Karameh](#) took place between the [Israel Defense Forces](#) and allied troops of the [Palestine Liberation Organization](#) and the [Jordanian Armed Forces](#).
- 2006 – A man smashed the statue of [Phra Phrom](#) (*pictured*) at the [Erawan Shrine](#) in [Bangkok](#), Thailand, with a hammer, and was subsequently beaten to death by bystanders.

[John Law](#) (d. 1729) · [Al Williamson](#) (b. 1931) · [Marina Salve](#) (d. 2012)

More anniversaries: [March 20](#) · [March 21](#) · [March 22](#)

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Today's featured picture

The *[Vision of St. John on Patmos](#)* is a series of [frescoes](#) painted between 1520 and 1522 by the [Italian Renaissance](#) artist [Antonio da Correggio](#). Depicting a scene from the [Book of Revelation](#), it occupies the interior of the dome, and the surrounding [pendentives](#), of the Benedictine church of [San Giovanni Evangelista](#) in [Parma](#), Italy.

Painting credit: [Antonio da Correggio](#); photographed by [Livioandronico2013](#)



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- **Village pump** – For discussions about Wikipedia itself, including areas for technical issues and policies.

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