

δ , 3.6, pale yellow.

Megrez is from **Al Maghrez**, the Root of the Tail.

In China it was **Kwan**, and **Tien Kuen**, Heavenly Authority.

With the Hindus it may have been **Atri**, one of their Seven Rishis, and the *Vishnu-Dharma* said that it ruled the other stars of the Bear.

It is 10° distant from α ; $4\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ from γ ; $5\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ from ϵ ; and 32° from the pole, directly opposite β Cassiopeiae, and almost on the equinoctial colure. α , β , γ , and δ form the bowl of the Dipper, the body of the Bear, and the frames of the Bier, Plough, and Wain, but occupy a space of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole constellation. Within this square Heis shows eight stars.

Megrez is thought to be slightly variable, and to have decreased in lustre during the present century, on the very doubtful ground that it is much fainter than the succeeding ϵ . As to this Miss Clerke writes:

The immemorially observed constituents of the Plough preserve no fixed order of relative brilliancy, now one, now another of the septett having at sundry epochs assumed the primacy.

But this is uncertain, although we know that Ptolemy rated it at the 3d magnitude and Tycho at the 2d.

ϵ , 2.1.

Alioth, sometimes **Aliioth**, seems to have originated in the first edition of the *Alfonsine Tables*, and appeared with Chaucer in the *House of Fame* as **Aliot**; with Bayer, as **Aliath**, from Scaliger, and as **Risaliioth**; with Riccioli, as **Alabieth**, **Alaiioth**, **Alhiath**, and **Alhaiath**, all somewhat improbably derived, Scaliger said, from **Alyat**,¹ the Fat Tail of the Eastern sheep. But the later Alfonsine editions adopted **Aliare** and **Aliore** — Riccioli's **Alcore** — from the *Latin Almagest* of 1515, on Al Tizini's statement that the word was **Al Hawar**, the White of the Eye, or the White Poplar Tree, *i. e.* Intensely Bright; Hyde transcribing the original as **Al Haur**. Ulug Beg had **Al Haun**, but Ideler, rejecting this as not being an Arabic word, substituted **Al Jaun**, the Black Courser, as if belonging to the governor, Al Kā'id, the star η , and its comparative faintness gives some probability to this conjecture. Assemani, however, said that on the Cufic globe it is "**Alhut**," the Fish,—one of the many instances of blundering that Ideler attributed to him.

Bayer also assigned to it the **Micar**, **Mirach**, and **Mizar** that we give to

¹ The syllable Al, in this word Alyat, is not the Arabic definite article.