

with γ and β Herculis, forming the **Nasaḥ Shāmiyy**, the Northern Boundary; while δ , α , and ϵ Serpentis, with δ , ϵ , ζ , and η Ophiuchi, were the **Nasaḥ Yamāniyy**, the Southern Boundary. The enclosed sheep were shown by the stars now in the **Club of Hercules**, guarded on the west by the **Shepherd and his Dog**, the stars α in Ophiuchus and Hercules.

To the Hebrews, as to most nations, this was a Serpent from the earliest times, and, Renan said, may have been the one referred to in the *Book of Job*, xxvi, 13; but Delitzsch, who renders the original words as the "Fugitive Dragon," and others with him, consider our Draco to be the constellation intended, as probably more ancient and widely known from its ever visible circumpolar position. The biblical school made it the serpent seducer of Eve, while in our day imaginative observers find another heavenly **Cross** in the stars of the head, one that belongs to Saint Andrew or Saint Patrick.

Serpens shared with Ophiuchus the Euphratean title of **Nu-tsir-da**, the Image of the Serpent; and is supposed to have been one of the representatives of divinity to the Ophites, the Hivites of Old Testament times.

The comparatively void space between ν and ϵ was the Chinese **Tien Shī Yuen**, the Enclosure of the Heavenly Market.

Argelander counts 51 stars within the constellation boundaries, and Heis 82. In its cluster N. G. C. 5904, 5 M., Bailey has discovered 85 variables.

α , 3, pale yellow.

Unuk¹ al Hay,—or **Unukalhai**,—is from '**Unḵ al Ḥayyah**, the Neck of the Snake, the later Arabic name for this star; the **Unḵ al Hay** of the *Standard Dictionary* is erroneous,—a type error perhaps for Unuk. It was also **Alioth**, **Alyah**, and **Alyat**, often considered as terms for the broad and fat tail of the Eastern sheep that may have been at some early day figured here in the Orientals' sky; but we know nothing of this, and these are not Arabic words, so that their origin in Al Ḥayyah of the constellation is more probable. Smyth somewhat indefinitely states that **Alangue** and **Ras Alangue** appear in the *Alfonsine Tables*, presumably for this star.

α may have been the *lucidus anguis* of Ovid and Vergil, as it certainly was the **Cor Serpentis** of astrology.

With λ it was known as **Shuh**, the title of certain territory in China; and Edkins rather unsatisfactorily writes:

The twenty-two stars in the Serpent are named after the states into which China was formerly divided.

¹ Although errors in the adoption of Arabic star-names into our popular lists are common, indeed almost universal, this **Unuk** is peculiarly wrong, for 'Unūḵ is the plural of 'Unḵ.

As their radiant point it has given name to the **Alpha Serpentids** of the 15th of February.

It is of Secchi's 2d type of spectra, and receding from us about 14 miles a second. It culminates on the 28th of July; and a 12th-magnitude blue companion is 58" distant.

β , Double, 3 and 9.2, both pale blue.

This was **Chow** with the Chinese, the title of one of their imperial dynasties; but it does not seem to have been named by any other nation. The components are 30".6 apart, at a position angle of 265°.

Near it is the radiant point of the **Beta Serpentids**, a minor stream of meteors visible from the 18th to the 20th of April.

γ , a 4th-magnitude, was **Ching**, and δ , **Tsin**, in Chinese lists.

This last, a white and bluish 4th- and 5th-magnitude double, was first noted as a binary by Sir William Herschel. The components are 3".6 apart, with a position angle at present of about 185°.

ϵ , of 3.7 magnitude, was **Fa**, the name of a certain territory in China.

ζ , a 4½-magnitude, and η were **Tung Hae**, the heavenly Eastern Sea of that country; the latter star being a golden-yellow 3.3-magnitude with a small, pale lilac companion.

θ , Binary and perhaps slightly variable, 4 and 4.5, pale yellow and gold yellow.

Alya, of the *Palermo Catalogue* and others (sometimes, but erroneously, **Alga**), probably is from the same source as the similar title of the *lucida*.

The Chinese knew it as **Sen**, one of their districts.

It is the terminal star in the Serpent; and lies southwest of Aquila, in a comparatively starless region between the two branches of the Milky Way. The components are 21" apart, at a position angle of 104°.

ξ , 3.7, on the lower part of the body, was **Nan Hae**, the Southern Sea; and ν , 5.3, on the back of the head, was **Cha Sze**, a Carriage-shop.

★

Sextans Uraniae

was formed by Hevelius to commemorate the **Sextant** so successfully used by him in stellar measurements at Dantzig from 1658 to 1679. The