

In China it was **Shih**, a title borrowed from the *sieu* that it marked.

Brown thinks that, with γ and ζ , it was the Euphratean asterism **Lik-bar-ra**, the Hyaena,—perhaps **Ur-bar-ra**.

Among astrologers it portended danger to life from cuts, or stabs, and fire. It culminates on the 3d of November, and when on the meridian forms, with γ , the southern side of the Great Square, β and δ forming the northern, and all 15° to 18° apart.

Markab's spectrum is Sirian, and it is receding from us at the rate of three quarters of a mile a second.

It is one of the so-called lunar stars, much observed in navigation.

β , Irregularly variable, 2.2 to 2.7, deep yellow.

This is the **Scheat** of Tycho, the *Palermo Catalogue*, and modern lists generally, either from **Al Sā'id**, the Upper Part of the Arm, or, as Hyde suggested, from the early **Sa'id**, appearing in the subsequent three pairs of stars. Bayer had **Seat Alpheraz**; Chilmead, **Seat Alfaras**; Riccioli, **Scheat Alpheraz**; and Schickard, **Saidol-pharazi**.

Arabian astronomers knew it as **Mankib al Faras**, the Horse's Shoulder, mentioned by Ulug Beg and still occasionally seen as **Menkib**. Chilmead had **Almenkeb**.

The Great Square, of which β formed one corner, constituted the double asterism, the 24th and 25th *nakshatras*, **Pūrva**, Former, and **Uttara**, Latter, **Bhādra-padā**, Beautiful, Auspicious, or Happy Feet, sometimes also called **Proshtha-padā**, *Proshtha* meaning a Carp or Ox; but Professor Whitney translated it "Footstool Feet," and said that the authorities do not agree as to the figures by which they are represented, for by some the one, by others the other, is called a Couch or Bed, the alternate one, in either case, being pronounced a Bifaced Figure, or Twins. This Couch is a not inapt representation of the group if both asterisms are taken together, the four stars well marking the feet. Weber calls them **Pratishthana**, a Stand or Support, as Whitney wrote,

an evident allusion to the disposition of the four bright stars which compose it, like the four feet of a stand, table, bedstead, or the like;

the regents of these *nakshatras* being Aja Ekapāt, the One-footed Goat, and Ahi Budhya, the Bottom Snake, "two mythical figures, of obscure significance, from the Vedic Pantheon." The 24th *manzil*, formed by α and β , was **Al Fargh al Mukdim**, the Fore Spout, *i. e.* of the water-bucket,—Al

Birūnī's **Al Fargh al Awwal**, the First, or the Upper, Spout; and the 24th *sieu* was these same stars known as **Ying She**, or **Shih**, a House, anciently **Sal** and **Shat**; but it also comprised parts of Aquarius and Capricornus. They also were the Persian **Vaht**, the Sogdian and Khorasmian **Farshat Bath**, and the Coptic **Artulos**, all signifying something pertaining to Water; while in astrology β indicated danger to mankind from that element.

Within the area of this Square Argelander counted only about 30 naked-eye stars, but in the clearer sky of Athens Schmidt saw 102.

It was in the 24th *sieu* that the Chinese record a conjunction of the planets Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, on the 28th of February, 2449 B. C., according to Bailly's computations; but we sometimes see this statement made as to five planets, Venus being added, and as having taken place on the 29th of February, that year being bissextile. Smyth indefinitely mentions this conjunction as at some point between α Arietis and the Pleiades; Flammarion states that it was in Capricorn; and Steele alludes to it as of 2246 B. C., and between the tenth and eighteenth degrees of Pisces. At that date the signs and constellations were about coincident.

The variability of β was discovered by Schmidt in 1847, and Argelander found a period of forty-one days; but Schoenfeld thinks that irregular oscillations, in a period of thirty to fifty days, are more probable.

The spectrum of Scheat is of the third type of Secchi's classification, which includes the red and orange stars and most of the variables: " α Orionis, α Herculis, Antares, and σ Ceti (Mira) are good examples."

The star is receding from us about four miles a second.

γ , 3, white,

erroneously placed by Tycho in Pisces, marks the extreme tip of the Horse's wing, so that its name **Algenib** has been considered as derived from **Al Janāh**, the Wing, but it probably is from **Al Janb**, the Side. It has sometimes been written **Algemo**. Al Birūnī quoted it, with δ (α Andromedae), as **Al Fargh al Thānī**, the Second, or Lower, Spout, *i. e.* of the Bucket. This also is the title of the 25th *manzil*, but appears in Professor Whitney's list as **Al Fargh al Mu'hir**, the Rear Spout, and in Smyth's as **Al Fargu**.

Chrysococca called it $\Pi\eta\gamma\alpha\sigma\varsigma$ from the constellation.

Reeves said that it is the Chinese **Peih**, a Wall or Partition, thus taking the title of the 25th *sieu*, which it marked and, with δ , constituted. It lies at the junction of the *nakshatras* Bhādrapadā and Revatī; and, with δ , was included in the corresponding lunar station of several other nations.