the definition of a Porch-way; but later on its prominent stars were **Wang Liang,** a celebrated charioteer of the Tsin Kingdom about 470 B. C.

As a stellar figure in Egypt Renouf identified it with the **Leg,** thus mentioned in the *Book of the Dead*, the Bible of Egypt, that most ancient ritual, 4000 years old or more:

> Hail, leg of the northern sky in the large visible basin.

And in some constellated form its stars unquestionably were well known on the Euphrates with the rest of the Royal Family, and shown there on seals.

The earthly Cassiopeia ought to have been black, and is so described by Milton in his verses of *Il Penseroso* on

> That starr'd Ethiop Queen that strove
> To set her beauty's praise above
> The Sea-nymphs;

while Landseer with the same idea called her **Cushiopeia,** the Queen of Cush, or Kush, but the *Leyden Manuscript* makes her of fair complexion, lightly clad, upright and unbound in a very uncomfortable chair; and such is the general representation. But in the 17th-century reconstruction of sky figures in the interests of religion, our Cassiopeia became **Mary Magdalene;** or **Deborah** sitting in judgment under her palm tree in Mount Ephraim; or **Bathsheba,** the mother of Solomon, worthy to sit on the royal throne.

The astrologers said that it partook of the nature of Saturn and Venus.

Professor Young gives the word *Bagdei* as a help to memorizing the order of the chief components from their letters $\beta, \alpha, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \iota$; the last being the uppermost when the figure is on the horizon, hanging head downwards.

Cassiopeia lies between Cepheus, Andromeda, and Perseus, Argelander cataloguing 68 stars here, but Heis, 126; and the constellation is rich in clusters.

α, Multiple and slightly variable, 2.2 to 2.8, pale rose.

Schedar is first found in the *Alfonsine Tables*, and was **Schedir** with Hevelius; **Shadar, Schedar, Shedar, Sheder, Seder, Shedis, Zedaron,** etc., elsewhere; and all supposed to be from **Al Sadr,** the Breast, which the star marks in the figure. Some, however, have asserted that they are from the Persian Shuter for the constellation.

Ulug Beg called it **Al Dhāt al Kursiyy** from the whole, which Riccioli changed to **Dath Elkarti.**

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Smyth said that it was known as **Lucida Cassiopea,**—a matter-of-fact statement, as the brightest star in any sky figure is the *lucida*.

Birt noticed its variability in 1831, which is now determined as in a period of about 79 days, although irregular.

It culminates on the 18th of November.

Burnham has discovered two additional faint companions, the nearest 17″.5 away: the companion first known, a smalt blue star, having been found by Sir William Herschel, in 1781, 63″ away.

α, *β*, *η*, and *κ* were the Chinese **Yŭh Lang,** or **Wang Leang.**

β. 2.4, white.

Caph, Chaph, or **Kaff,** on the upper right-hand corner of the chair, are from the Arabic title of the constellation; but Al Tizini designated the star as **Al Sanām al Nākah,** the Camel's Hump, referring to the contemporaneous Persian figure.

With *α* Andromedae and *γ* Pegasi, as the **Three Guides,** it marks the equinoctial colure, itself exceedingly close to that great circle; and, being located on the same side of the pole as is Polaris, it always affords an approximate indication of the latter's position with respect to that point. This same location, 32° from the pole, and very near to the prime meridian, has rendered it useful for marking sidereal time. When above Polaris and nearest the zenith the astronomical day begins at 0 hours, 0 minutes, and 0 seconds; when due west the sidereal time is 6 hours; when south and nearest the horizon, 12 hours, and when east, 18 hours; this celestial clock-hand thus moving on the heavenly dial contrary to the motion of the hands of our terrestrial clocks, and at but one half the speed.

Beta's parallax, 0″.16, indicates a distance of 20 light years.

Just north of it is an especially bright patch in the Milky Way.

> When first **Al Aaraf** knew her course to be
> Headlong thitherward o'er the starry sea.
> Edgar Allan Poe's *Al Aaraf.*

About 5° to the west-northwest of Caph, 1½° distant from *κ*, and forming a parallelogram with Caph, *γ* and *α*, appeared, in 1572, a famous *nova* visible in full daylight and brighter than Venus at perigee.

Poe's name for it is from the Arabians' Al Orf,—in the plural Al Arāf,—their temporary abode of spirits midway between Heaven and Hell, and so applicable to this temporary star. This object was known for two centuries

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