

Spectroscopic observations by Vogel in 1890 show that Spica is in revolution with a speed of at least fifty-six miles a second in an orbit of three millions of miles' radius, around the common centre of gravity of itself and an obscure companion in a period of about four days. It is, however, never eclipsed by the latter, as is the case with the star Algol. Its spectrum is Sirian; and the system is approaching us at the rate of 9.2 miles a second. Gould thinks that it shows fluctuations in brilliancy.

It is one of the lunar stars much utilized in navigation, and lies but 2° south of the ecliptic, and 10° south of the celestial equator, coming to the meridian on the 28th of May.

With Denebola, Arcturus, and Cor Caroli it forms the **Diamond of Virgo**, 50° in extent north and south.

β , 3.9, pale yellow.

Zavijava, a universal name in modern catalogues, is first found with Piazzi, but is **Zarijan** in the *Standard Dictionary*. It is from **Al Zāwiah**, the Angle, or Corner, *i. e.* Kennel, of the Arab Dogs,—although γ exactly marks this Corner and should bear the title.

The stars β , η , γ , δ , ϵ , outlining this Kennel, formed the 11th *manzil*, **Al 'Awwā'**, the Barker, which was considered of good omen; while Firuzabadi included it with the preceding moon station **Al Šarfah**,— β Leonis,—in the group **Al Nahrān**, the Two Rivers, as their rising was in the season of heavy rains. Other indigenous titles were **Al Bard**, the Cold, which it was said to produce; and **Warak al Asad**, the Lion's Haunches.

β marked the 18th ecliptic constellation of Babylonia, **Shēpu-arkū sha-A**, the Hind Leg of the Lion, for this country also seems to have had one of these creatures here. With η , it perhaps was **Ninsar**, the Lady of Heaven, probably a reference to Istar; and **Urra-gal**, the God of the Great City; and one of the seven pairs of stars famous in that astronomy. As a Euphratean lunar asterism it bore the same title **Ninsar**, but this included all the components of the Arabs' Kennel Corner.

These also were the Persian **Mashaha**, the Sogdian **Fastashat**, the Khosrasmian **Afsasat**, and the Coptic **Abukia**, all of the Arabic signification.

In China it was **Yew Chi Fa**, the Right-hand Maintainer of Law.

β is 13° south of Denebola in Leo, culminating with it on the 3d of May.

γ , Binary and slightly variable, 3 and 3.2, white.

The Latins called this **Porrima**, or **Antevorta**, sometimes **Postvorta**, names of two ancient goddesses of prophecy, sisters and assistants of Car-