

ε, Double, 3.4 and 9.5, brilliant white and cerulean blue.

**Mebuta** is from **Al Mabsūtāt**, the Outstretched, from its marking the extended paw of the early Arabic Lion, but now it is on the hem of Castor's tunic. Burritt had it **Melucta** in his *Geography*, and **Mebusta** in his *Atlas*; Professor Young, following English globes, has **Meboula**; and elsewhere we find **Menita**, **Mesoula**, and **Mibwala**.

ε, δ, λ, and others near by, were the Chinese **Tung Tsing**.

ζ, Variable, 3.7 to 4.5, pale topaz.

**Mekbuda** is from **Al Maḵbūdāh**, Contracted, the Arabic designation for the drawn-in paw of the ancient Asad; but some, with less probability, derive it from **Al Mutakabbidah**, a Culminating Star.

Its variations, discovered by J. F. Julius Schmidt at Athens in 1847, have a period of about ten days, but Chandler says that definitive investigations are not completed. Lockyer thinks it also a spectroscopic binary.

η, Binary and variable, 3.2 to 3.7, and 9.

**Propus** is from the *Πρόπους* of Hipparchos and Ptolemy, indicating its position in front of Castor's left foot, and is its universal title, with the equivalent **Præpes**. Riccioli wrote it *Πρόπος*, and Flamsteed gave both *Πρόπους* and **Propus**; but Tycho had applied this last to the star Fl. 1 among the *extras* of Gemini. This position of η similarly made it the **Pish Pai** of the Persians.

Bassus and Hyginus said **Tropus**, Turn, referring to the apparent turning-point of the sun's course at the summer solstice, which now is more precisely marked by the star γ just eastward from η; and Flamsteed also had *Τρόπος*.

Flammarion's assertion that Hipparchos knew η as a distinct constellation, **Propus**, does not seem well founded.

**Tejat prior** is from **Al Taḥyī**, an anatomical term of Arabia by which it was known in early days; a name also applied to stars in the head of Orion. The Arabs included it with γ and μ in their **Nuḥātai**; the Chinese knew it as **Yuē**, a Battle-ax; and in Babylonia it marked the 8th ecliptic constellation, **Maru-sha-pu-u-mash-mashu**, the Front of the Mouth of the Twins.

It portended lives of eminence to all born under its influence.

The variability of η was discovered by Schmidt in 1865, and its period is now considered as 229–231 days; in 1881 Burnham found it double, the components 1".08 apart, and likely to prove an interesting binary system.