

γ , 2.7, is **Sadr**,—incorrectly **Sudr**,—from **Al Sadr al Dajājah**, the Hen's Breast, and one of the **Fawāris** of the Arabs.

Reeves said that in China it was **Tien Tsin**, the name of a city; but this generally was given to the group of four stars, α , β , γ , and δ .

γ is in the midst of beautiful streams of small stars, itself being involved in a diffused nebulosity extending to α ; while the space from it to β perhaps is richer than any of similar extent in the heavens. Espin asserts that around γ and the horns of Taurus seem to centre the stars showing spectra of the fourth type. Its own spectrum is Solar. According to observations at Potsdam, it is in motion toward us at the rate of about four miles a second.

ϵ , 2.6, yellow,

on the right wing, is **Gienah**, from the Arabic **Al Janāh**, the Wing.

Between α , γ , and this star is the **Northern Coal-sack**, an almost vacant space in the Milky Way; another, still more noticeable and celebrated, coincidently being located in the Southern Cross.

6° to the northeast from ϵ is 61 Cygni, with a parallax of $0''.5$, and thus, so far as we now know, the nearest star to us in the northern heavens, with the exception of La Lande 21185 Ursae Majoris. If the distance from the earth to the sun be considered as one inch, that to this star would be about seven and one half miles. It also is remarkable for its great proper motion toward the star σ ,— $5''.16$ annually,—near to which it probably will be in 15,000 years. 4000 years ago it was near ϵ .

It is a double 6th-magnitude, and may be binary, the components $20''$ apart, with a position angle of 121° in 1890. It was the first star successfully observed for parallax,—by Bessel between the years 1837 and 1840.

ζ and ρ , with two other adjacent small stars, were the Chinese **Chay Foo**, a Storehouse for Carts.

π^1 , 4.8,

is **Azelfafage**, possibly a corrupted form of **Adelfalferes**, from **Al Thīlf al Faras**, the Horse's Foot or Track; and, to quote Ideler,

It follows either that the foot of Pegasus [now marked by π Pegasi] extended to this star, or that in this region was supposed to be located the feet of the Stallion which, as we shall see farther on, some Arab astronomer introduced between Pegasus and the Swan.

Or the title may be, as seems more probable, from **Al 'Azal al Dajājah**, the Tail of the Hen, which it exactly marks. It is sometimes **Azelfafge**; but

Bayer, with whom the word apparently first occurs, had "**Azelfage** id est **Tarcuta**." ¹

π^1 , with about twenty other stars in Cygnus, Andromeda, and Lacerta, was comprised in the early Chinese **Tang Shay**, the Dragon.

P, or Fl. 34, a 5th-magnitude, located at the base of the Swan's neck, is one of the few so-called gaseous stars having bright lines in their spectra. It was discovered by Janson, as a *nova* of the 2d magnitude, on the 18th of August, 1600; was numbered 27 in Tycho's catalogue, with the designation of *nova anni 1600 in pectore Cygni*; and Kepler thought it worthy of a monograph in 1606. Christian Huygens, the Dutch astronomer of the 17th century, called it the **Revenante of the Swan**, from its extraordinary light changes; but these now seem to have ceased.

ω^3 , Double, $5\frac{1}{2}$ and 10, pale red,

is **Ruchba** from **Al Rukbah al Dajājah**, the Hen's Knee; but the three stars ω now mark the tertiaries of the left wing.

The components of ω^3 are $56''.3$ apart, at a position angle of $86^\circ.3$; and other minute stars are in the same field.

*

. . . the Delphienus heit
Up in the aire.

King James I, in *Ane schort Poeme of Tyme*.

Delphinus, the Dolphin,

is **Dauphin** in France, **Delfino** in Italy, and **Delphin** in Germany: all from the Greek $\Deltaελφίς$ and $\Deltaελφίν$, transcribed by the Latins as **Delphis** and **Delphin**. This last continued current through the 17th century, and in our day was resumed by Proctor for his reformed list. Chaucer, in the *Hous of Fame*, had **Delphyn**, and later than he it was **Dolphyna**.

It now is one of the smallest constellations, but originally may have included the stars that Hipparchos set off to form the new Equuleus; and in all astronomical literature has borne its present title and shape, with many and varied stories attached, for its namesake was always regarded as the most remarkable of marine creatures.

¹ What is this last? It seems to have escaped comment by all of the authorities.