

the Euphrates originally being Pura or Purat, the Water, as the Nile was, and even now is, Ioma or Iauma, the Sea; that they resemble each other as long and winding streams with two great branches; that each is connected with a Paradise — Eden and Heaven; that the adjoining constellations seem to be Euphratean in origin; and that each is in some way associated with the Nile, and each with the overthrow of the sun-god.

There is much in the Euphratean records alluding to a stellar stream that may be our Eridanus,—possibly the Milky Way, another sky river; yet it is to the former that the passage translated by Fox Talbot possibly refers :

Like the stars of heaven he shall shine; like the River of Night he shall flow;

and its title has been derived from the Akkadian Aria-dan, the Strong River. George Smith thinks that the heavenly Eridanus may have been the Euphratean **Erib-me-gali**.

Its hither termination at the star Rigel gave it the title **River of Orion**, used by Hipparchos, Proclus, and others; and Landseer wrote :

the stars now constellated as Erydanus were originally known in different countries by the names of **Nile**, **Nereus**, and **Ocean**, or **Neptune**.

Riccioli cited for it **Vardi**, and a Moorish title, according to Bayer, was **Guad**,—the 1720 edition of the *Uranometria* has **Guagi**,—all these from the Arabic *wādi*, and reminding us of the Wādi al Kabir, the Great River, the Spaniards' Guadalquivir; but the common designation among the Arabians was **Al Nahr**, the River, transcribed **Nar** and **Nahar**,—Chilmead's **Alvahar**; this Semitic word, occasionally written Nahal, also having been adduced as a derivation of the word Nile.

Assemani quoted **Al Kaff Algeria** from the Borgian globe for stars in the bend of the stream; but Ideler claimed these for Al Kaff al Jidmah of Cetus.

Caesius thought our Eridanus the sky representative of the **Jordan**, or of the **Red Sea**, which the Israelites passed over as on dry land.

Old illuminated manuscripts added a venerable river-god lying on the surface of the stream, with urn, aquatic plants, and rows of stars; for all of which the *Hyginus* of 1488 substitutes the figure of a nude woman, with stars lining the lower bank. Bayer's illustration is quite artistic, with reeds and sedge on the margins. The monster Cetus often is depicted with his fore paws, or flippers, in the River.

α , 0.4, white.

Achernar is from **Al Āḥir al Nahr**, the End of the River, nearly its present position in the constellation, about 32° from the south pole; but the

title was first given to the star now lettered θ , the farthest in the Stream known by Arabian astronomers. For α Bayer had **Acharnar** *pro* **Achar-nahar** *vel* **Acharnarim**, and **Enar**; Caesius, **Acarnar**; Riccioli, **Acarnaharim** and **Acharnaar**; Scaliger, **Acharnarin**; Schickard, **Achironnahri**; while **Achenar** and **Archarnar** are still occasionally used.

This star is supposed to be one of Dante's **Tre Facelle**, notwithstanding its invisibility from Italy.

Chinese astronomers knew it as **Shwuy Wei**.

Ptolemy did not mention it, although he could have seen it from the latitude of Alexandria, $31^{\circ} 11'$,—a fact, among others, which argues that his catalogue was not based upon original observations, but drawn from the now lost catalogue of Hipparchos, compiled at Rhodes, more than 5° further north, from which place Achernar was not visible.

It culminates on the 4th of December, due south of Baten Kaitos.

β , 2.9, topaz yellow.

Cursa, 3° to the northwest of Rigel in Orion, is the principal star in this constellation, seen from the latitude of New York City.

The word is from **Al Kursiyy al Jauzah**, the Chair, or Footstool, of the Central One, *i. e.* Orion, formed by β , λ , and ψ Eridani with τ Orionis, and regarded as the support of his left foot; but in the earlier astronomy of the nomads it was one of **Al Udhā al Na'ām**, the Ostrich's Nest, that some extended to α^1 and α^2 .

The *Century Cyclopedia* gives **Dhalim** as an alternative title, undoubtedly from **Al Ṭhalim**, the Ostrich; but, although used for β by several writers, this better belongs to θ .

The Chinese called β **Yuh Tsing**, the Golden Well.

γ^1 , 3, yellow.

Zaurac and **Zaurak** are from the Arabic **Al Nā'ir al Zaurak**, the Bright Star of the Boat; but Ideler applied this early designation to the star that now is α of our Phoenix.

With δ , ϵ , η , and others near, it made up the Chinese **Tien Yuen**, the Heavenly Park.

η , 3.7, pale yellow.

Azha is supposed to have been the **Azhā** of Al Sufi, and the equivalent **Ashiyane** of the Persians, and was known by Kazwini as **Al Udhiyy**, being