Star-Names and their Meanings

212

Proctor thought that it marked Draco's darted tongue in the earliest representations of the figure,—unless ι Herculis were such star; while Denning considers it the radiant point of the meteor stream seen about the 29th of May,—the **Draconids**.

 σ , 6.5, in the second coil northeast from δ , is **Alsafi**, corrupted from **Athāfi**, erroneously transcribed from the Arabic plural **Athāfiyy**, by which the nomads designated the tripods of their open-air kitchens; one of these being imagined in σ , τ , and v. Uthfiyyah is the singular form. It probably is one of the nearest stars to our system,—about thirteen light years away according to Brunowski's unconfirmed determination.

 ϕ , a 4th-magnitude double, was the Chinese **Shaou Pih**, the Minor Minister; and χ , of slightly greater brilliancy, was **Kwei She**.

$$\psi^1$$
 and ψ^2 , 4.3 and 5.2, pearly white and yellow.

Daiban, from **Al Dhībain** (the Arabs' title for ζ and η), has been given by some to this pair, and Lach thought that with χ it also was **Al Auhaķān**, which we similarly find for ζ and η .

In China it was **Niu She**, the Palace Governess, or a Literary Woman. The components of ψ^1 are about 30" apart, with a position angle of 15°.

$$\omega$$
, 4.9, and f , 5.1.

These dim stars, between ζ and the group ϕ , χ , and ψ , were **Al Aṭhfār al Dhīb**, the Hyaena's claws, stretched out to clutch the Camel's Foal. They thus appear with Ulug Beg and on the Dresden globe; but elsewhere occasionally were known as **Al 'Auhaķān**, a designation shared with ζ and η , and with ϕ and χ . They also sometimes were **Al Dhīli**, the Wolf.

There seems to be confusion, and some duplication, in the nomenclature of Draco's stars, but their many titles show the great attention paid to the constellation in early days.

. . . the flaming shoulders of the Foal of Heav'n.

Omar Khayyam's Rubdiydt.

Equuseus, the Soak,

that modern Latin critics would turn into **Eculeus**, lies half-way between the head of Pegasus and the Dolphin, marked by the trapezium of 4th- to 5th-magnitude stars,—a, β , γ , and δ ,—although Argelander catalogues nine others, and Heis twelve down to 6.7 magnitude. Thus "the flaming