

The symbol of the sign,  $\uparrow$ , shows the arrow with part of the bow.

Sagittarius contains 54 naked-eye stars according to Argelander, and 90 according to Heis, although none is above the 2d magnitude.

The sun passes through the constellation from the 16th of December to the 18th of January, reaching the winter solstice<sup>1</sup> near the stars  $\mu$  on the 21st of December, but then of course in the sign Capricorn.

A noticeable feature in the heavens lies within the boundaries of Sagittarius, an almost circular black void near the stars  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$ , showing but one faint telescopic star; and to the east of this empty spot is another of narrow crescent form.

An extraordinarily brilliant *nova* is said to have appeared low down in the constellation in 1011 or 1012, visible for three months. This was recorded in the Chinese annals of Ma Touan Lin.

$\alpha$ , 4.

This is **Rukbat**, but variously written **Rucba**, **Rucbah**, **Rukbah**, and **Rucbar**, from Ulug Beg's **Rukbat al Rāmi**, the Archer's Knee; in some early books it is **Al Rāmi**, the Archer himself. The *Standard Dictionary* has **Ruchbar** or **Ranich**.

The Euphratean **Nibat Anu**, already alluded to, may be for this, or for some other of the chief components of the constellation; perhaps for  $\epsilon$  if, in early days, that star was comparatively as bright as now.

$\beta^1$ , Double, 3.8 and 8, and  $\beta^2$ , 4.4.

**Arkab** and **Urkab** are from **Al 'Urḳūb**, translated by Ideler as the Tendon uniting the calf of the leg to the heel, and this coincides with their location in the figure on modern maps, as well as with their Euphratean title **Ur-nergub**, the Sole of the Left Foot; but Al Sufi and the engraver of the Borgian globe assigned these stars to the rear of the horse's body.

Kazwini knew  $\alpha$  and the two *betas* as **Al Šuradain**, the two Surad, desert birds differently described,—by some as “larger than sparrows” and variegated black and white (magpies?); by others as yellow and larger than doves.

$\gamma$ , 3.1, yellow.

**Al Naql**, the Point, is Al Tizini's word designating this as marking the head of the Arrow; but Hyde cited **Zujj al Nushshābah** of similar meaning.

<sup>1</sup> The solstices are first mentioned by Hesiod in three different passages of his *Works and Days*.