

outliers of Canis Major, near to the Ship,—Noah's Ark,—and so was regarded as the attendant Dove.

Smyth wrote of its modern formation, and of its nomenclature in Arab astronomy :

Royer cut away a portion of Canis Major, and constructed Columba Noachi therewith in 1679. The part thus usurped was called Muliphein, from *al-muhlifain*, the two stars sworn by, because they were often mistaken for Soheil, or Canopus, before which they rise: these two stars are now α and β Columbae. Muliphein is recognized as comprehending the two stars called *Ḥaḍḍ ar*, ground, and *al-wezn*, weight.

Reference already has been made to Al Muhlifain at the stars γ , ζ , and λ Argus, δ Canis Majoris, and α Centauri.

α , 2.5.

Phaet, **Phact**, and **Phad** are all modern names for this, perhaps of uncertain derivation, but said to be from the Ḥaḍar already noted under the constellation.

The Chinese call it **Chang Jin**, the Old Folks.

Although inconspicuous, Lockyer thinks that it was of importance in Egyptian temple worship, and observed from Edfu and Philae as far back as 6400 B. C.; but that it was succeeded by Sirius about 3000 B. C., as α Ursae Majoris was by γ Draconis in the north. And he has found three temples at Medinet Habu, adjacent to each other, yet differently oriented, apparently toward α , 2525, 1250, and 900 years before our era: all these to the god Amen. He thinks that as many as twelve different temples were oriented to this star; but the selection of so faint an object for so important a purpose would seem doubtful.

Phaet is 33° south of ϵ Orionis, the central star in the Belt, and culminates on the 26th of January.

β , 2.9.

Wezn, or **Wazn**, is from **Al Wazn**, Weight.

With α it was among the disputed **Al Muhlifain**; and Al Tizini additionally called both stars **Al Aghribah**, the Ravens, a title that Hyde assigned to a group in Canis Major.

Chilmead's *Treatise* has this brief description of Columba :

11 Starres: of which there are two in the backe of it of the second magnitude, which they call the Good messengers, or bringers of good newes: and