Burning of Fire, which may be a reference to the hot season of the year when the sun is near it.

The Sogdians and Khorasmians had a similar conception of it, as shown in their titles Widhu and Widhayu, the Burning One; but the Persians called it Avdem, the One in the Tail. Hewitt writes of it as, in India, the Star of the Goddess Bahu, the Creating Mother.

With  $\theta$ , it was the Coptic **Asphulia**, perhaps the Tail; but Kircher had a similar \* $A\sigma\pio\lambda\iota a$ , in Virgo, as from Coptic Egypt.

Denebola was of unlucky influence in astrology, portending misfortune and disgrace, and thus opposed to Regulus in character as in position in the figure.

Its spectrum is Sirian, and it is approaching our system at the rate of about twelve miles a second. It comes to the meridian on the 3d of May, and, with Arcturus and Spica, forms a large equilateral triangle, as also another similar with Arcturus and Cor Caroli, these, united at their bases, constituting the celebrated **Diamond of Virgo**.

Several small stars, some telescopic, in its immediate vicinity, are the Companions of Denebola.

γ, Double and perhaps binary, 2.2 and 3.5, bright orange and greenish yellow.

Smyth wrote of this that it

has been improperly called Algieba, from Al jeb-bah, the forehead; for no representation of the Lion, which I have examined, will justify that position,—

a well-founded criticism, although as, after Regulus, it is the brightest member of the *manzil* Al Jabbah, it may have taken the latter's title. The star, however, is on the Lion's mane, the Latin word for which, **Juba**, distinctly appeared for  $\gamma$  with Bayer, Riccioli, and Flamsteed. Hence it is not at all unlikely that **Algieba**,— also written **Algeiba**,— is from the Latin, **Arabicized either** by error in transcription or by design.

Sir William Herschel discovered its duplicity in 1782, and Kitchiner asserted that this and a Lyrae are the only stars upon which he ventured to use his high telescopic power of 6450. In 1784 he saw both components of  $\gamma$  white, and in 1803 he announced their binary (?) character. They now are 3".7 apart, at a position angle of 114°; and according to Doberck have a period of revolution of about 402.62 years, although this is very uncertain, for "since the first reliable measures of distance the change to this time is only 12°."

 $\gamma$  is in approach toward us at the rate of about twenty-four miles a second, the greatest velocity toward our system of any star noted by the Potsdam observers, yet only half that of  $\zeta$  Herculis as determined at Poulkowa. Its spectrum is Solar.

8, Coarsely triple, 2.7, 13, and 9, pale yellow, blue, and violet.

**Zosma** and **Zozma** are from  $\zeta \tilde{\omega} \sigma \mu a$ , an occasional form of  $\zeta \tilde{\omega} \mu a$ , the Girdle. found in the *Persian Tables*; but its propriety as a stellar title is doubtful. for the star is on the Lion's rump, near the tail.

Ulug Beg very correctly termed it Al Thahr al Asad, the Lion's Back, which has become Duhr and Dhur of modern catalogues.

With  $\theta$ , on the hind quarter, it constituted the 9th manzil, Al Zubrah, the Mane, and itself bears this name as Zubra,—strange titles for star and station so far away from that feature of the animal.  $\delta$  and  $\theta$  also were Al Kāhil al Asad, the Space between the Shoulders of the Lion; and Al Harātān, sometimes transcribed Chortan, and translated the Two Little Ribs, or the two Khurt, or Holes, penetrating into the interior of the Lion; but all these seem as inapplicable as are the other titles.

In India they marked the corresponding *nakshatra*, **Pūrva Phalgunī**,  $\delta$  being the junction star between the two Phalgunī asterisms.

On the Euphrates they were **Kakkab Kua**, the constellation of the god Kua, the Oracle; and in Egypt, according to Hewitt, **Mes-su**, the Heart of Su. In Sogdiana they were **Wadha**, the Wise; in Khorasmia, **Armagh**, the Great; and with the Copts **Pikhōrion**, the Shoulder.

In China d was Shang Seang, the Higher Minister of State.

Its spectrum is Sirian, and the star is approaching our system at the rate of about nine miles a second.

Flamsteed observed it and 6 Virginis on the 13th of December, 1690, with the object which nearly a century later proved to be the planet Uranus. He made record of the observation, but without any thought of having seen a hitherto unknown member of our system.

## ε, 3.3, yellow.

The Arabians designated this as **Al Rās al Asad al Janūbiyyah**, the Southern Star in the Lion's Head; but by us it is practically unnamed, although the *Century Cyclopedia* says "rather rarely **Algenubi.**" With  $\mu$ , it was **Al Ashfār**, the Eyebrows, near to which they lie.

It marked the 14th ecliptic constellation of Babylonia, Rishu A., the Head of the Lion.