

**La Lande** identified the figure with the Egyptian **Khem**, and with **Mithras** of Persia, Herodotus having asserted that Perseus, through his and Andromeda's son Perses, gave name to that country and her people, who previously were the Chephenes, as descended from Chepheus, the son of Belus, identified by some with the Cepheus of the sky. The kings of Cappadocia and of Pontus, similarly descended, represented the Hero on their coins.

**Cacodaemon** was the astrologers' name for this constellation, with special reference to **Algol** as marking the demon's head; while **Schickard**, **Novidius**, and the biblical school generally said that it was **David with the head of Goliath**; but others of the same kind made of it the **Apostle Paul with his Sword and Book**. Mrs. Jameson thought that the legend of Perseus and Cetus was the foundation of that of Saint George and the Dragon, one version making this saint to have been born at Lydda, only nine miles from Joppa, the scene of Perseus' exploit.

The constellation is  $28^\circ$  in length,—one of the most extended in the heavens,—stretching from the upraised hand of Cassiopeia nearly to the Pleiades, and well justifying the epithet *περιμήκετος*, "very tall," applied to it by Aratos. It offers a field of especial interest to possessors of small telescopes, while even an opera-glass reveals much that is worthy of observation. Argelander gives a list of 81 naked-eye stars, and Heis 136.

The former has suggested that within its boundaries may lie the possible central point of the universe, which Mädler located in the Pleiades and Maxwell Hall in Pisces,—all probably unwarranted conclusions.

$\delta$ ,  $\psi$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\eta$ , and others on the figure's right side, form a slight curve, open towards the northeast, that has been called the **Segment of Perseus**.

$\alpha$ , 2.1, brilliant lilac and ashy.

**Algenib**, with the early variations of **Algeneb**, **Elgenab**, **Genib**, **Chenib**, and **Alchemb**, is from **Al Janb**, the Side, its present position on the maps; Chrysococca similarly called it *Πλευρά Περσάου*.

Another name, **Marfak** or **Mirfak**, the Elbow, sometimes written **Mirzao**, comes from the Arabians' **Marfak al Thurayya**, thus qualified as being next to the Pleiades to distinguish it from the other elbow. But this may indicate a different representation of Perseus in their day,—a suspicion strengthened by the nomenclature of others of his stars, especially of  $\xi$  and  $\phi$ .

Assemani alluded to a title on the Borgian globe,—**Mughammid**, or **Muhammir**, **al Thurayya**, the Concealer of the Pleiades,—which, from its location, may be for this star.

With  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$ , and others it was the Chinese **Tien Yuen**, the Heavenly Enclosure.

Algenib never sets in the latitude of New York City, but just touches the horizon at its lower culmination. Its spectrum is of Secchi's second, or Solar, type, and the Potsdam observations indicate that the star is approaching our system at the rate of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles a second.

the Gorgon's head, a ghastly sight,  
Deformed and dreadful, and a sign of woe.

Bryant's translation of the *Iliad*.

$\beta$ , Spectroscopic binary and variable, 2.3 to 3.5, white.

**Algol**, the **Demon**, the **Demon Star**, and the **Blinking Demon**, from the Arabians' **Rā's al Ghūl**, the Demon's Head, is said to have been thus called from its rapid and wonderful variations; but I find no evidence of this, and that people probably took the title from Ptolemy. Al Ghūl literally signifies a Mischief-maker, and the name still appears in the Ghoul of the *Arabian Nights* and of our day. It degenerated into the **Alove** often used some centuries ago for this star.

Ptolemy catalogued it as τῶν ἐν γοργονίῳ ὁ λαμπρός, "the bright one of those in the Gorgon's head," which Al Tizini followed in his **Nā'ir**, for, with  $\pi$ ,  $\rho$ , and  $\omega$ , it made up that well-known group, itself being the **Gorgonea prima**; the Γοργόνιον of Chrysococca, **Gorgoneum Caput** of Vitruvius, **Caput Gorgonis** of Hyginus, and the **Gorgonis Ora** of Manilius.

With astronomical writers of three centuries ago Algol was **Caput Larvæ**, the Spectre's Head.

Hipparchos and Pliny made a separate constellation of the Gorgon stars as the **Head of Medusa**, this descending almost to our own day, although always connected with Perseus.

The Hebrews knew Algol as **Rōsh ha Sātān**, Satan's Head, Chilmead's **Rosch hassatan**, the **Divels head**; but also as **Lilith**, Adam's legendary first wife,<sup>1</sup> the nocturnal vampyre from the lower world that reappeared in the demonology of the Middle Ages as the witch Lilis, one of the characters in Goethe's *Walpurgis Nacht*.

The Chinese gave it the gruesome title **Tseih She**, the Piled-up Corpses.

<sup>1</sup> We are indebted to the Talmudists for this story, which probably originated in Babylonia; and they added that, after Adam had separated from Lilith and their demon children, Eve was created for him. Our Authorized Version renders the original word, in *Isaiah* xxxiv, 14, by "screech owl"; the Revised Version, by "night-monster"; Cheyne adopts the Hebrew Lilith in the *Psychrome Bible*; and *Luther's Bible* had Kobold, but this corresponded to the Scottish Brownie and the English "Robin Goodfellow,"—Shakespeare's "Puck." Saint Jerome's *Vulgate* translated it "Lamia," the Greek and Roman title for the fabled woman, beautiful above, but a serpent below, that Keats reproduced in his *Lamia*.