

Capricorn is, after Cancer, the most inconspicuous in the zodiac, and chiefly noticeable for the duplicity of its *lucida*.

Argelander charted 45 naked-eye stars within its borders; and Heis 63.

α^1 , Double, 3.2 and 4.2, yellow.

α^2 , Triple, 3, 11.5, and 11.5, pale yellow, ash, and lilac.

These are the **Prima** and **Secunda Giedi**, or plain **Algedi**, from the Arabian constellation title Al Jady.

Other titles, **Dabih** and the degenerated **Dschäbbe** and **Dshabeh**, applied to them, but more commonly to β , have been traced by some to Al Jabbah, the Forehead, although the stars are nearer the tip of the horn; but the names undoubtedly come from **Al Sa'd al Dhābih**, the Lucky One of the Slaughterers, the title of the 20th *manzil* (of which these *alphas* and β were the determinant point), manifestly referring to the sacrifice celebrated by the heathen Arabs at the heliacal rising of Capricorn. And of similar signification was the Euphratean **Shak-shadi** and the Coptic **Eupentōs**, or **Opentus**, for the same lunar asterism of those peoples.

Brown thinks that α , then seen only as a single star, with β and ν was known by the Akkadians as **Uz**, the Goat; and as **Ensu** in the astronomy of their descendants; while Epping is authority for the statement that this, or perhaps β , marked the 26th ecliptic asterism of the Babylonians, **Qarnu Shahū**, the Horn of the Goat. Brown also says that α represented the 8th antediluvian king Amar Sin,— 'Αμέμφινος.

In Hipparchos' time the two *alphas* were but 4' apart, and it was not till towards Bayer's day that they had drifted sufficiently away from each other to be readily separated by the naked eye. Their distance in 1880 was $6\frac{1}{4}'$, and this is increasing by 7" in every hundred years.

They culminate on the 9th of September.

Smyth described a minute blue companion of α^2 which he caught "in little evanescent flashes, so transient as again to recall Burns's snow-flakes on a stream"; and mentioned Sir John Herschel's suggestion that this might shine by reflected light. Alvan G. Clark doubled this in 1862, the distance being 1".2, and the position angle 239°.

β^1 , and β^2 , 2.5 and 6, each double, orange yellow and sky blue.

Dabih Major and **Dabih Minor** are the names of this so-called double, but telescopically multiple, star, taken from the title of the *manzil* of which, with α , it formed part.