

seems to be the faint stars λ , ϕ ,¹ ϕ^2 Orionis. They are called *Andhakā*, 'blind,' in the *Śāntikalpa* of the *Atharvaveda*, probably because of their dimness.⁷⁰

4. *Ārdrā*, 'moist,' is the name of the brilliant star, α Orionis. But the names by which it is styled, in the plural as *Ārdrās* in the *Śāṅkhāyana Gṛhya Sūtra*⁷¹ and the *Nakṣatrakalpa*,⁷² and in the dual as *Bāhū*, in the *Taittiriya Brāhmaṇa*,⁷³ point to a constellation of two or more stars, and it may be noted⁷⁴ that the corresponding Chinese *Sieou* includes the seven brilliant stars composing the shoulders, the belt, and the knees of Orion.

5. *Punarvasū*, 'the two that give wealth again,' denotes the two stars, α and β Geminorum, on the heads of Castor and Pollux. The name is no doubt connected with the beneficent character of the *Aśvins*, who correspond to the *Dioscuri*.⁷⁵

6. *Tiṣya* or *Puṣya* includes the somewhat faint group in the body of the Crab, γ , δ , and θ Cancri. The singular is rather curious, as primarily one star would seem to have been meant, and none of the group is at all prominent.⁷⁶

7. *Āśreṣās* or *Āśleṣās*, which in some texts⁷⁷ is certainly to be read *Āśreṣās* or *Āśleṣās*, denotes δ , ϵ , η , ρ , σ , and perhaps also ζ , *Hydræ*. The word means 'embracer,' a name which admirably fits the constellation.

8. *Maghās*, the 'bounties,' are the *Sickle*, or α , η , γ , ζ , μ , ϵ Leonis. The variants *Anaghā*, the 'sinless one,' etc., clearly refer to the auspicious influence of the constellation.

9, 10. *Phalgunī*, *Phalgunyau*, *Phalgū*,⁷⁸ *Phalgunis*, *Phalgunyas*, is really a double constellation, divided into *Pūrve*, 'former,' and *Uttare*, 'latter.' The former is δ and θ Leonis, the latter β and ρ Leonis. According to Weber, the word denotes, like *Arjunī*, the variant of the *Rigveda*,⁷⁹ a 'bright-coloured' constellation.

⁷⁰ Whitney, *op. cit.*, 401. Cf. Tilak, 102 *et seq.*

⁷¹ i. 26.

⁷² 10.

⁷³ i. 5, 1.

⁷⁴ Whitney, *op. cit.*, 352, 401, n. 1.

⁷⁵ Oldenberg, *Religion des Veda*, 212; Macdonell, *Vedic Mythology*, p. 53.

⁷⁶ Whitney, *op. cit.*, 403, n. 1

⁷⁷ *Āśreṣās*, *Śāṅkhāyana Gṛhya Sūtra*, i. 26; *Śāntikalpa*; *Nakṣatrakalpa*; *Āśleṣās*, *Śāntikalpa*, 2; *Nakṣatrakalpa*, 4. 48.

⁷⁸ *Kauṣītaki Brāhmaṇa*, v. 1.

⁷⁹ x. 85, 13.