

Stars Tales in the Arabian Sky

-How Stars Got Their Arabic Names In the Sky

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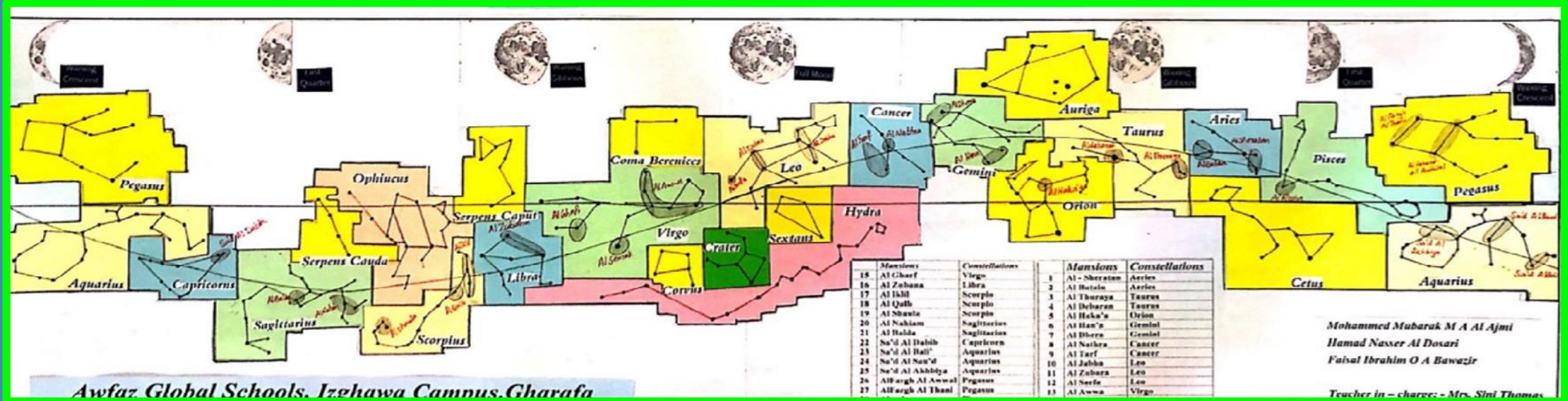
Arab Union for Astronomy & Space science- NOC- Qatar, IAU Associate



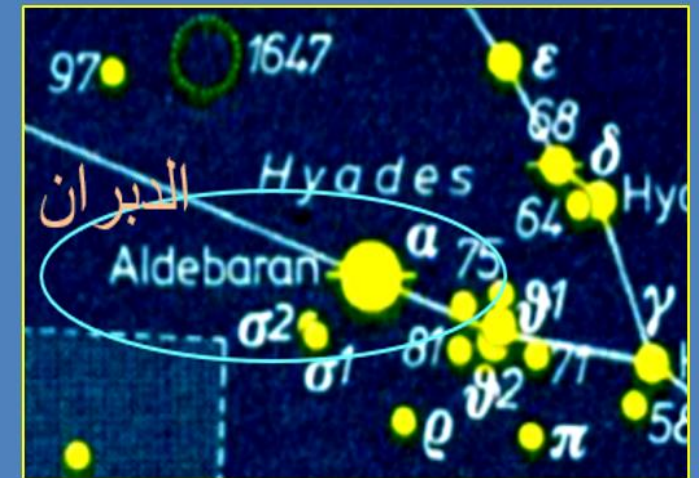
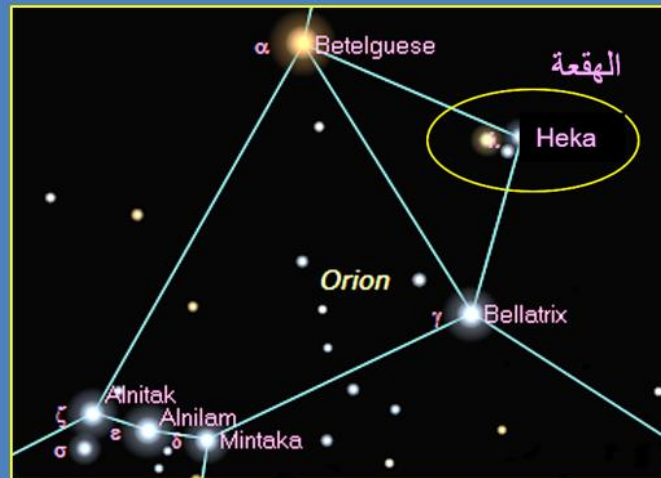
Looking at any sky chart, one can find many stars with Arabic names.
Two third of the stars in the modern sky chart have Arabic names.

Arabic- stars names were derived from four sources throughout 1000 years. These sources are:

1- Lunar Mansions



The Lunar Mansions are stars one or more where the moon is seen to reside every night. They are 28 mansions. **Heka, Hena, Aldebaran, Shaula**



2- Stars with Double Names

They are two stars close to each other, they are given the same name with a little difference such as saying northern & southern, or brighter & fainter, etc.

Examples: Farkadan (Two Brightest), Diban (Two Wolves), Nasran (Two Eagles), Kaffan (Two Palms = Mebsuta & Mekbuda).



3- Arabic Constellations

Arabs wrote their own star legends, some talking about the **Vega** the eagle who tries to hunt the baby camel at the same time with the two wolves (**Aldiban**). Another talks about The Gazelles' Leaps (**AlKaphza; Alaula, Tania, Talitha**) who fled away from the lion.



4- Stars of Translation & Transliteration

Arabs adopted Ptolemy's work. They drew the same figures and described their individual stars in a list. After translation from Arabic, new names such as Deneb, Alpheratz, Thuban, Kaus, Rasalgethi, Sadr, Deneb.. appeared in the chart.

