

ARATUS—"Phenomena," (6)

by C. L. Prince, F. R. A. S., (Lewes. 1825.)

プリンス散文譯——アラートの天象詩

Nor shall the Claws, although faintly shining, pass along unnoticed, since the bright constellation of Bootes rises suddenly; illumined by Arcturus. Now the Water-Serpent, but not Argo, will ascend on high with many stars dispersed, around, but without its tail; the Claws come ever near the Snake-holder and further on comes his right leg, even to the knee, but always kneeling and leaning towards the Lyre.

We may often see upon the same night among the constellations an unknown one set and then rise upon the opposite side. His leg alone appears associated with both the Claws; but his head is turned away from all other stars and awaits the rising of the Scorpion and the Archer; these bear him on; the Scorpion bring other stars.

The Archer at once brings forward his left hand and head and this trio is borne along with them half the Crown and the tip of the Centaur's tail. Then the Horse dips his head below the horizon and the Bird (Swan) withdraws the front feathers of its tail. The head of Andromeda also sets, while the turbid South wind brings towards her the vast Whale, and at the same time Cepheus from the North is pressing forward his mighty hand. The Whale, however, turned upon its back, sets as well as Cepheus in respect to his head, hand and shoulders. The winding River sets below the vast flowing ocean, as the Scorpion rises, whose appearance frightens the great Orion.

Diana pardon me! There is an ancient tale in circulation that great Orion seized upon her skirt when in Chio and that he slew with his strong club all the wild beasts. His following the huntsman's sport was pleasing to Oenopides, but Diana sending forth another wild beast from the island breaking up the hills on either side, the Scorpion, far excelling him in strength, both struck and killed Orion for thus insulting Diana wherefore they say that the Scorpion, rising from below, Orion fled to a long distance; at which time whatever remains both of Andromeda and the Whale are much disturbed and flee away together. At this time Cepheus and his girdle touch the earth and it is clear that of all the stars in his head touching the horizon, none are left, for this the Bears forbid as regards the feet, knees and loins, but Cassiopeia presses for wards after her daughter's form. Oh, miserable Cassiopeia! Her feet and her chair, upwards to her hands, appear not very seemly, but she lies with her head like a diver, and with separated knees, for she cannot remain without the great disasters which befell Doris and Panope. Thus she proceeds to her setting, others from below skirt the sky; the constituents of the Crown; the Serpent's tail; the head and body of the Centaur heralds the beast which the Centaur holds in his right hand.

But these await the Bow, just rising, and the fore-feet of the gigantic Horse. When the Bow rises, rises also the folds of the Serpent and the body of the Snake-holder. The Scorpion rising disquiets them and announces the Snake-holder's hand, the first glimpse of this constellation. Then the Kneeler rises, his head over downwards, while other stars of his come forth from below the horizon, also his limbs, girdle, breast and shoulders, together with his right hand; but his head and his left hand rise beneath the Bow; the Archer himself also rises and with him the the Lyre of Hermes. Cepheus also creeps up above the horizon as far as his breast. Then all the glittering stars of the great Dog set as well as the bulk of Orion; also the several portions of the quick-moving Hare. But neither the Charioteer's Kid nor the Goat's Star set with the same, which still shine in his mighty hand, and are distinguished from his other limbs by bringing on storms at Sunrise. The head, left hand and loins, the Goat rising, sends below; while the lower limbs set beneath the Archer. No longer does Perseus stay, nor the starry group on the high stern of Argo; but sets except his right knee and foot. Argo to the slanting of her stern sets, while the Goat rises. Then also the lesser Dog sets, but others rise, as the Swan, Eagle, the stars of the feathered arrow and the Southern Altar's sacred resting place. As soon as ever the Water-bearer rises, and shows again his head and feet, the Horse rises and Night shows forth the stars from the Centaur's tail.

She cannot however show forth his head, broad shoulders or breast; the glittering Water-Snake has submerged the fold of its neck, even to its brow, but much of its hinder parts remain visible; nevertheless it and the Centaur assemble together when the Fishes rise, while under them rises that other Fish which has been lying under the less conspicuous Goat, not altogether clearly aloft. By degrees another sign appears, viz., the wearied hands, knees, and shoulders, to the half of Andromeda, so these parts are above while the remainder still cling to the horizon.

When the Fishes first present themselves they show up her right hand and when the Ram rises he brings up the left. Also at this time you may observe the Altar from the west; elsewhere Perseus rises, as far as his head and shoulders, but as to his belt it is not very clear whether it shines beneath the Ram or the Bull as they are all so mingled. Upon the rising of the Bull the Charioteer comes forward closely, but not entirely associated with him, but the Twins wholly proclaim him. The Kids, the sole of the left foot and the Goat rise simultaneously with the Bull when also the back and tail of the great Whale rise above the horizon.

With the first appearance of these signs Arctophylax sets, while four signs lead him on, with the exception of the left hand, which is placed beneath the great Bear. The feet of the Serpent-holder, even as far as the knees, are in the sign of the Twins, who may be observed rising on the other side. Then no more of the Whale is to be seen on either side, for you have already seen his entirety.

When the sea is calm the sailor may perceive the first winding of the River, waiting for Orion himself, expecting some indication from him of the condition of the night and the prospects of navigation, for everywhere the gods vouchsafe to mortals the knowledge of things of this kind.