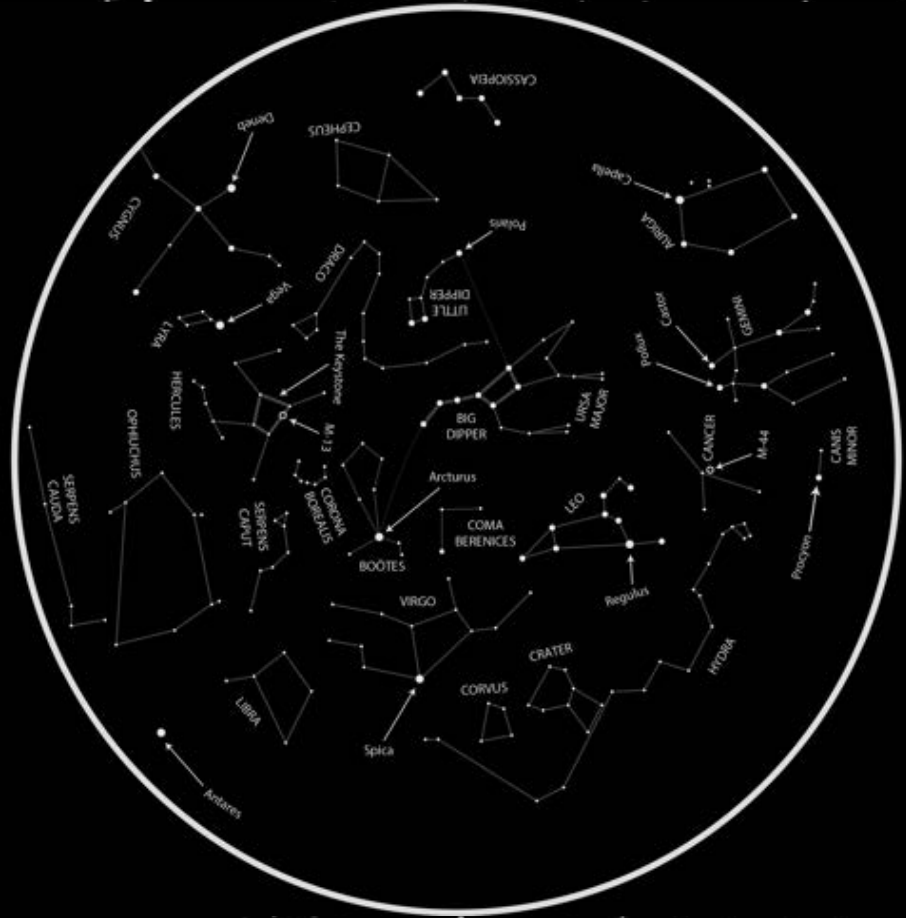


A person is silhouetted against a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the frame with a vibrant purple and pink hue. The person stands on a dark, rocky outcrop, looking up at the stars. The overall scene is a beautiful, serene depiction of the night sky.

# CONSTELLATIONS IN LITERATURE

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Homer in his two epics, the Iliad and the Odyssey, contains some stars and constellations, while he also describes the starry sky.



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. Lets see at some Homeric references to the constellations, stars, and planet Venus, as recorded in the Iliad and the Odyssey.

# HOMER'S ILIAD

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*In the Iliad, rhapsody S (481-488) describes the shield of Achilles, which was made by Hephaestus, at the request of Thetis, the mother of Achilles.*



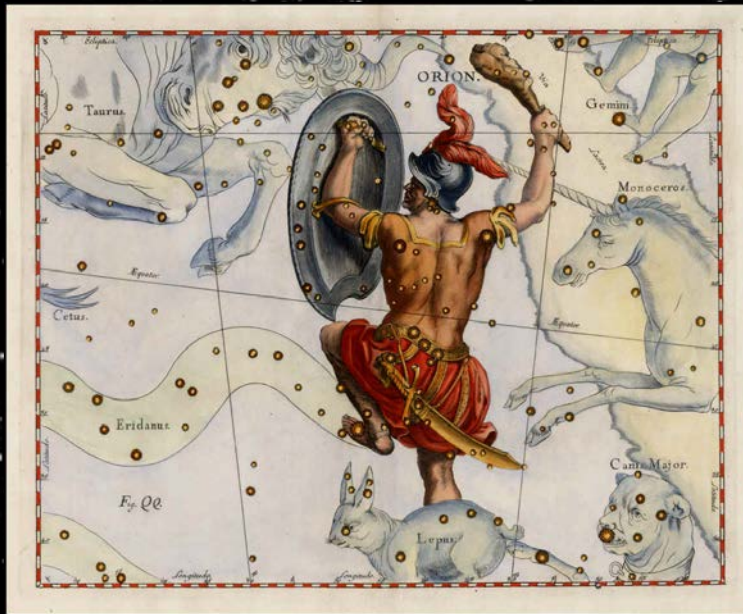
ACHILLES SHIELD

All the constellations were imprinted on the shield

## *Book 18 (481-488)*

*"Therein he wrought the earth, therein the heavens  
therein the sea, and the unwearied sun, and the moon at  
the full, [485] and therein all the constellations wherewith  
heaven is crowned—the Pleiades, and the Hyades and the  
mighty Orion, and the Bear, that men call also the Wain,  
that circleth ever in her place, and watcheth Orion, and  
alone hath no part in the baths of Ocean."*

## HOMER'S ILIAD BOOK 22 (25-30)



*"Him the old man Priam was first to behold with his eyes, as he sped all-gleaming over the plain, like to the star that cometh forth at harvest-time, and brightly do his rays shine amid the host of stars in the darkness of night, the star that men call by name the Dog of Orion. [30] Brightest of all is he, yet withal is he a sign of evil, and bringeth much fever upon wretched mortals.*

*But this time, you were lying-perfectly lying-and your hair was blown off by the wind. My hand was looking for you. Your eyes were talking to me. And I said and said again with passion: behold Sagittarius, behold Capricorn, Sirius, Orion, but now I saw only you.*

*Then a great miracle happened. All the stars were extinguished in one fell swoop and only you remained in the sky with me, in one day, by my side. I looked at you with delight, and said and repeated Your Name.*

*And You*

*You, sweet and gracious, in your hand, held my heart."*

# ODYSSEUS ELYTIS-MAYA

Poulia\* that's got seven children is traversing the heavens.

At some point she briefly stops at my humble home and takes a look.

Hello, how are you?

Is everything good?

Everything's good. How are the children?

What can I tell you,

up there they suffer from the cold wind and the desolation.

Is that why you're sad mistress,

why don't you bring them over here to me?

Thank you, but there's just too many of them, they're going to eat your entire crop.

Give me at least the smallest one  
the shining Maya

Take her then, and keep in mind that you're gonna be the lord of the sky.

She said, and before I got a chance to speak a word she pins her in my hair

The mountains all around are shimmering  
Fire comes out of my hands.

And Poulia that's got seven children  
goes away and waves goodbye to me.

This presentation was created by students taking part in the programme  
"Four Seasons in the Sky"

