

# Aspetti dell'astronomia egizia, cinese e dogon

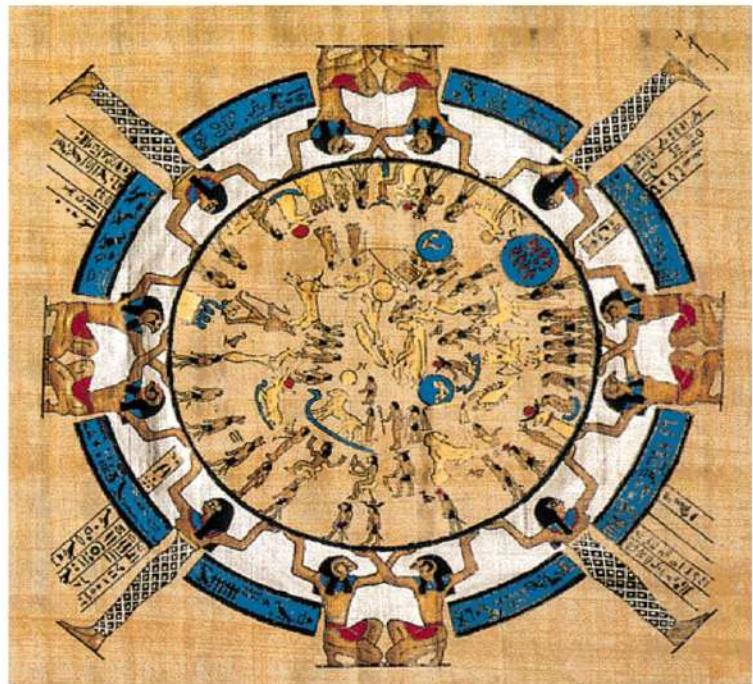
## Appunti schematici

### Mahougnon Sinsin





# L'Astronomia Egizia



## Alcune scoperte e realizzazioni

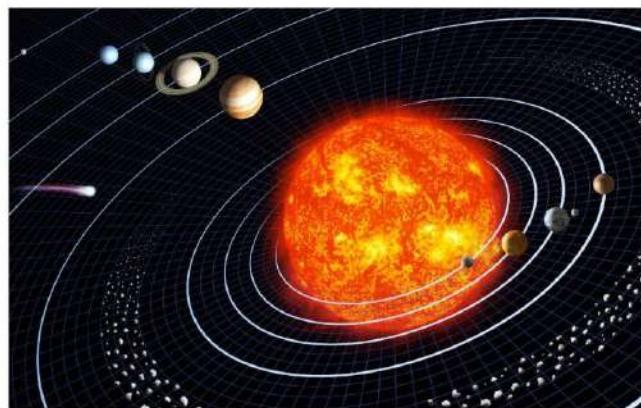
- Concezione dell'infinità dello spazio (**ḥrt pt**)
- L'immensità del cosmo
- La concezione sferica e il moto della terra
- La velocità estrema del percorso della luce solare
- Il calendario (365 giorni, con i cinque giorni epagomeni)
- Le tavole stellari
- Le comete (Aristotele vanta i meriti della scienza egizia sulle comete)

### Lo zodiaco e le costellazioni

- La previsione matematica degli eclissi
- Gli orologi lunari e solari
- L'orientamento astronomico delle piramidi
- Registrazioni delle osservazioni astronomiche



# L'osservazione dei pianeti



- Sebek = Mercure

Signes (Vierge,  
Balance, Scorpion,  
Sagittaire, etc.)

## Lecture :

La planète Mercure est entrée dans la Vierge le premier jour du premier mois de l'année.

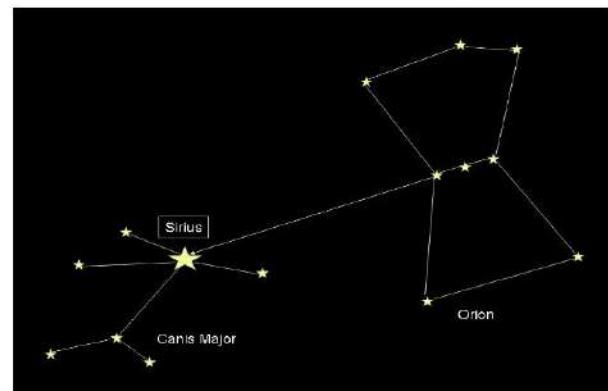
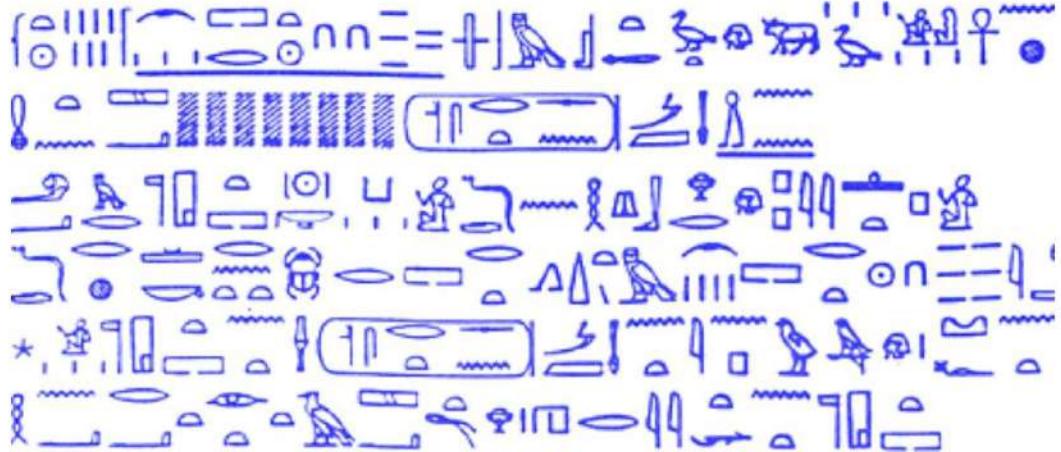
--- dans la Balance le neuvième jour du deuxième mois.

--- dans le Scorpion le vingt-neuvième jour du même mois.

— etc.

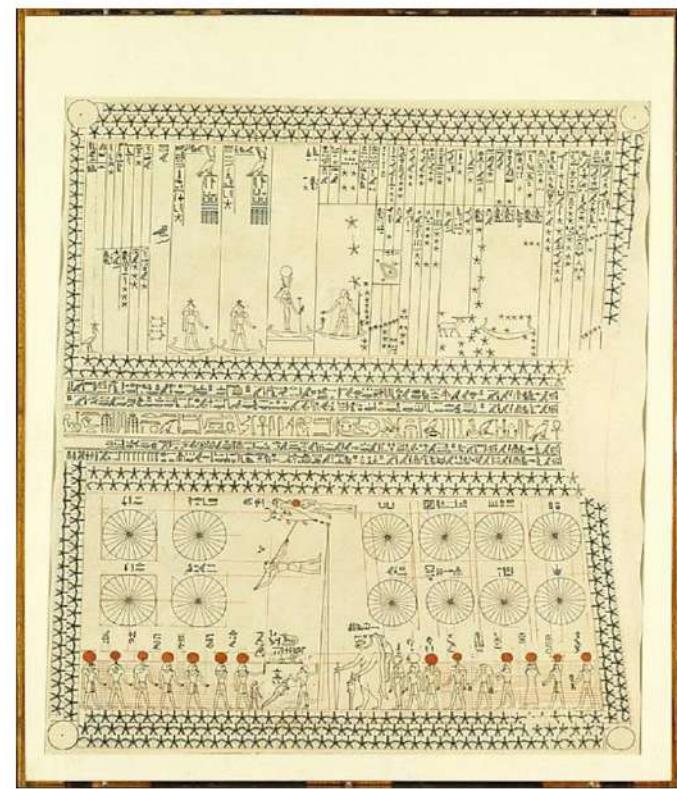
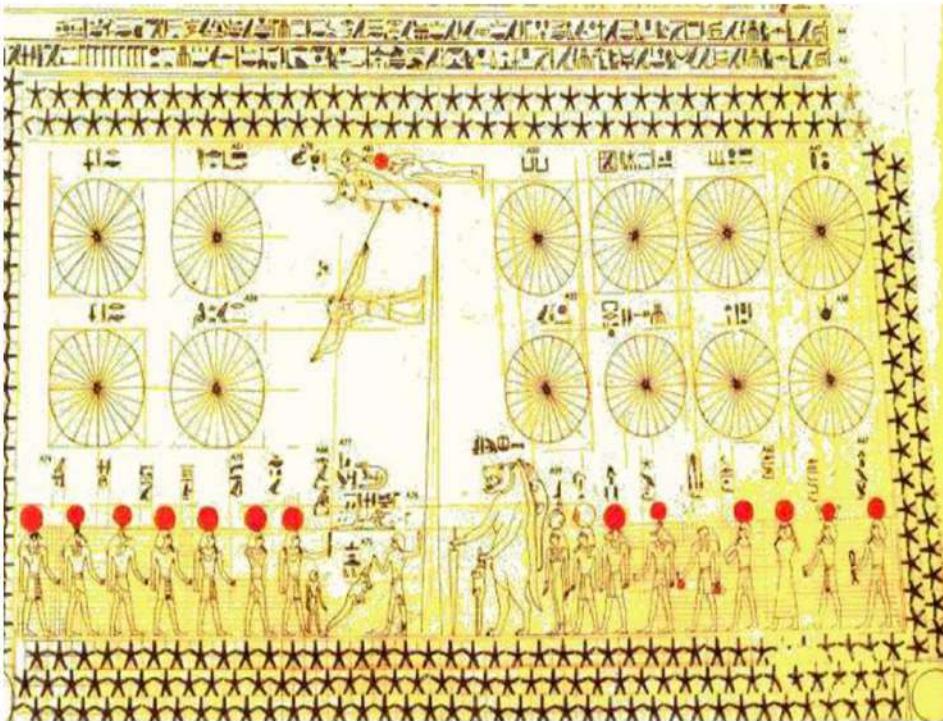
Tablette de plâtre, découverte par Brugsch,  
datant du 1er siècle où se trouvent consignées  
des observations relatives aux positions des cinq planètes  
visibles à l'oeil nu, pour une durée de vingt-huit ans...

## Le plus ancien écrit relatif au lever héliaque de l'étoile Sirius. Temple de el-Lahoun (ca 1800 a.C.)



« Année 7 [du règne de Sésostris ?], [Mois] III [de la Saison] Peret, Jour 25 ...  
Le Prince en charge du Temple Nebkaurê dit au Prêtre lecteur en Chef Pepyhotep :  
« Tu devrais savoir que la réapparition (i.e., le lever héliaque) de Sothis se produira  
le [Mois] IV [de la Saison] Peret, Jour 16 ... Tu devrais en informer (?) les prêtres  
non-initiés du Temple de la cité nommée « Puissant est Sésostris le Justifié » et [du  
Temple] d'Anubis et [de celui] du dieu-crocodile ... Et fais en sorte que cette lettre  
figure sur la tablette des annonces du temple. » (Clagett, 1995, pages 321-324).



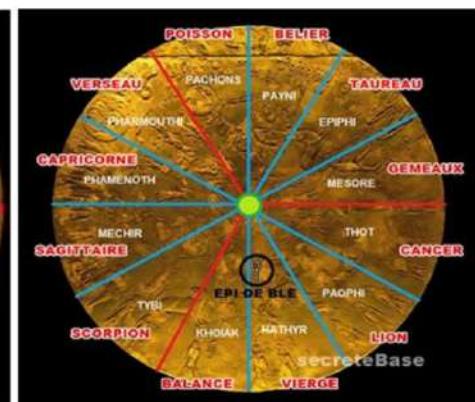


Astronomical Ceiling, Tomb of Senenmut, Thebes, Upper Egypt -  
Dynasty 18, Joint reign of Hatshepsut and Thutmose III, ca. 1479–1458 B.C.

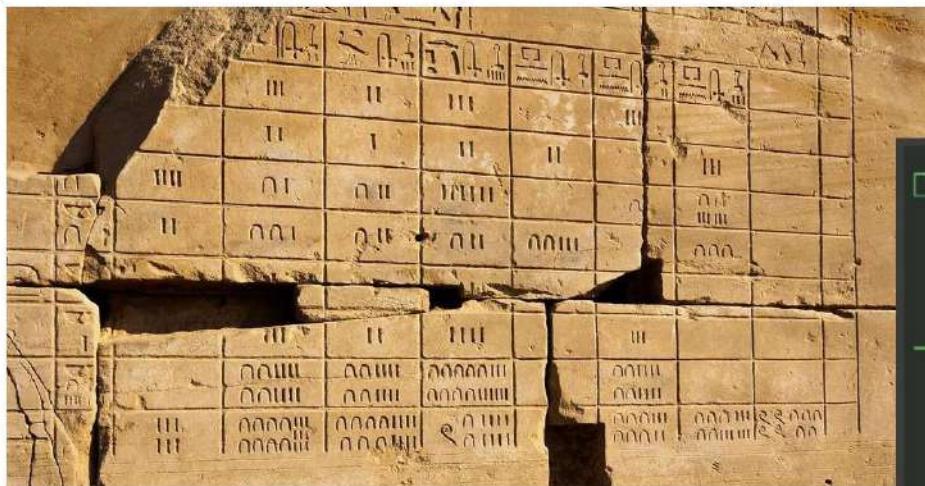
   
Kheper-Ankhu



## Lo zodiaco di Denderah



Khepert-Ankhui



Khepert-Ankhui

JUIN	JUIL	AOÛT	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DÉC	JANV	FÉV	MARS	AVRIL	MAI	JUIN
AKHET INONDATION					PERET GERMINATION					SHEMOU CHALEUR		
That	Phaophi	Athy	Kholak	Tiby	Mekhir	Phanouth	Pharmouti	Pakhons	Payni	Epiphi	Nesore	
( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )	

## Il calendario egizio (Karnak)

17	27A	27C	28C	29A	29B	29C	30A	30B	30C	31A	31B	31C	32A	32B	32C	33A	33B	33C	34A	34B	34C	35A	35B	35C	36A	36B	36C	37A	37B	37C
18	28A	28C	29A	29B	29C	30A	30B	30C	31A	31B	31C	32A	32B	32C	33A	33B	33C	34A	34B	34C	35A	35B	35C	36A	36B	36C	37A	37B	37C	
19	29A	29C	30A	30B	30C	31A	31B	31C	32A	32B	32C	33A	33B	33C	34A	34B	34C	35A	35B	35C	36A	36B	36C	37A	37B	37C	38A	38C	38B	
20	30A	30C	31A	31B	31C	32A	32B	32C	33A	33B	33C	34A	34B	34C	35A	35B	35C	36A	36B	36C	37A	37B	37C	38A	38C	38B	39A	39C	39B	
21	31A	31C	32A	32B	32C	33A	33B	33C	34A	34B	34C	35A	35B	35C	36A	36B	36C	37A	37B	37C	38A	38B	38C	39A	39C	39B	40A	40C	40B	
22	32A	32C	33A	33B	33C	34A	34B	34C	35A	35B	35C	36A	36B	36C	37A	37B	37C	38A	38B	38C	39A	39B	39C	40A	40B	40C	41A	41C	41B	
23	33A	33C	34A	34B	34C	35A	35B	35C	36A	36B	36C	37A	37B	37C	38A	38B	38C	39A	39B	39C	40A	40B	40C	41A	41B	41C	42A	42C	42B	
24	34A	34C	35A	35B	35C	36A	36B	36C	37A	37B	37C	38A	38B	38C	39A	39B	39C	40A	40B	40C	41A	41B	41C	42A	42B	42C	43A	43C	43B	
25	35A	35C	36A	36B	36C	37A	37B	37C	38A	38B	38C	39A	39B	39C	40A	40B	40C	41A	41B	41C	42A	42B	42C	43A	43B	43C	44A	44C	44B	
26	36A	36C	37A	37B	37C	38A	38B	38C	39A	39B	39C	40A	40B	40C	41A	41B	41C	42A	42B	42C	43A	43B	43C	44A	44B	44C	45A	45C	45B	
27	37A	37C	38A	38B	38C	39A	39B	39C	40A	40B	40C	41A	41B	41C	42A	42B	42C	43A	43B	43C	44A	44B	44C	45A	45B	45C	46A	46C	46B	
28	38A	38C	39A	39B	39C	40A	40B	40C	41A	41B	41C	42A	42B	42C	43A	43B	43C	44A	44B	44C	45A	45B	45C	46A	46B	46C	47A	47C	47B	
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32	42A	42C	43A	43B	43C	44A	44B	44C	45A	45B	45C	46A	46B	46C	47A	47B	47C	48A	48B	48C	49A	49B	49C	50A	50B	50C	51A	51C	51B	
33	43A	43C	44A	44B	44C	45A	45B	45C	46A	46B	46C	47A	47B	47C	48A	48B	48C	49A	49B	49C	50A	50B	50C	51A	51B	51C	52A	52C	52B	
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38	48A	48C	49A	49B	49C	50A	50B	50C	51A	51B	51C	52A	52B	52C	53A	53B	53C	54A	54B	54C	55A	55B	55C	56A	56B	56C	57A	57C	57B	
39	49A	49C	50A	50B	50C	51A	51B	51C	52A	52B	52C	53A	53B	53C	54A	54B	54C	55A	55B	55C	56A	56B	56C	57A	57B	57C	58A	58C	58B	
40	50A	50C	51A	51B	51C	52A	52B	52C	53A	53B	53C	54A	54B	54C	55A	55B	55C	56A	56B	56C	57A	57B	57C	58A	58B	58C	59A	59C	59B	
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43	53A	53C	54A	54B	54C	55A	55B	55C	56A	56B	56C	57A	57B	57C	58A	58B	58C	59A	59B	59C	60A	60B	60C	61A	61B	61C	62A	62C	62B	
44	54A	54C	55A	55B	55C	56A	56B	56C	57A	57B	57C	58A	58B	58C	59A	59B	59C	60A	60B	60C	61A	61B	61C	62A	62B	62C	63A	63C	63B	
45	55A	55C	56A	56B	56C	57A	57B	57C	58A	58B	58C	59A	59B	59C	60A	60B	60C	61A	61B	61C	62A	62B	62C	63A	63B	63C	64A	64C	64B	
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47	57A	57C	58A	58B	58C	59A	59B	59C	60A	60B	60C	61A	61B	61C	62A	62B	62C	63A	63B	63C	64A	64B	64C	65A	65B	65C	66A	66C	66B	
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50	60A	60C	61A	61B	61C	62A	62B	62C	63A	63B	63C	64A	64B	64C	65A	65B	65C	66A	66B	66C	67A	67B	67C	68A	68B	68C	69A	69C	69B	
51	61A	61C	62A	62B	62C	63A	63B	63C	64A	64B	64C	65A	65B	65C	66A	66B	66C	67A	67B	67C	68A	68B	68C	69A	69B	69C	70A	70C	70B	
52	62A	62C	63A	63B	63C	64A	64B	64C	65A	65B	65C	66A	66B	66C	67A	67B	67C	68A	68B	68C	69A	69B	69C	70A	70B	70C	71A	71C	71B	
53	63A	63C	64A	64B	64C	65A	65B	65C	66A	66B	66C	67A	67B	67C	68A	68B	68C	69A	69B	69C	70A	70B	70C	71A	71B	71C	72A	72C	72B	
54	64A	64C	65A	65B	65C	66A	66B	66C	67A	67B	67C	68A	68B	68C	69A	69B	69C	70A	70B	70C	71A	71B	71C	72A	72B	72C	73A	73C	73B	
55	65A	65C	66A	66B	66C	67A	67B	67C	68A	68B	68C	69A	69B	69C	70A	70B	70C	71A	71B	71C	72A	72B	72C	73A	73B	73C	74A	74C	74B	
56	66A	66C	67A	67B	67C	68A	68B	68C	69A	69B	69C	70A	70B	70C	71A	71B	71C	72A	72B	72C	73A	73B	73C	74A	74B	74C	75A	75C	75B	
57	67A	67C	68A	68B	68C	69A	69B	69C	70A	70B	70C	71A	71B	71C	72A	72B	72C	73A	73B	73C	74A	74B	74C	75A	75B	75C	76A	76C	76B	
58	68A	68C	69A	69B	69C	70A	70B	70C	71A	71B	71C	72A	72B	72C	73A	73B	73C	74A	74B	74C	75A	75B	75C	76A	76B	76C	77A	77C	77B	
59	69A	69C	70A	70B	70C	71A	71B	71C	72A	72B	72C	73A	73B	73C	74A	74B	74C	75A	75B	75C	76A	76B	76C	77A	77B	77C	78A	78C	78B	
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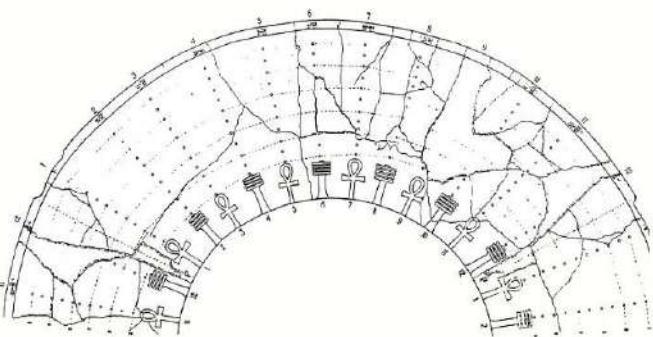
### FORMULES D'OFFRANDES

Désignation des étoiles

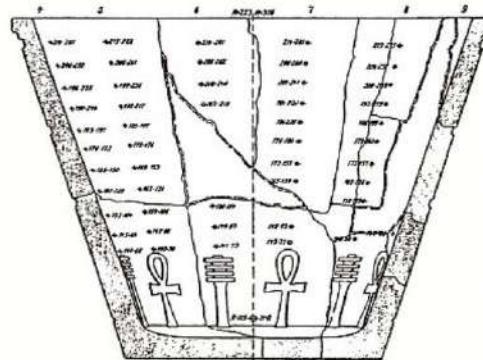
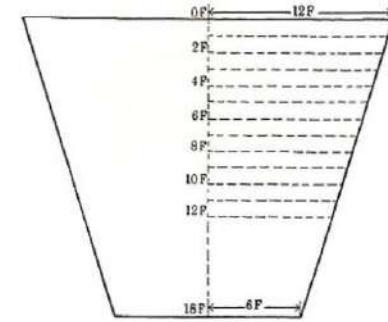
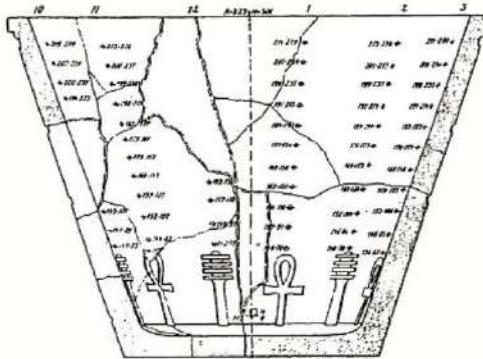
### Horloge décanale et table stellaire de Mesheh (IX Dinastie)

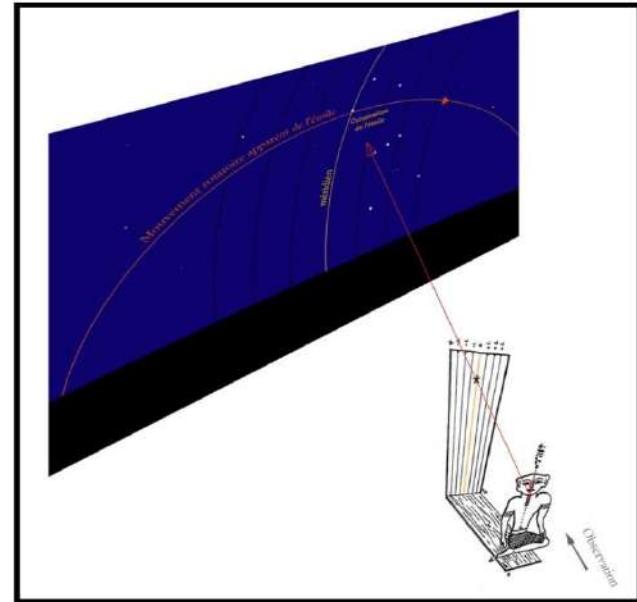
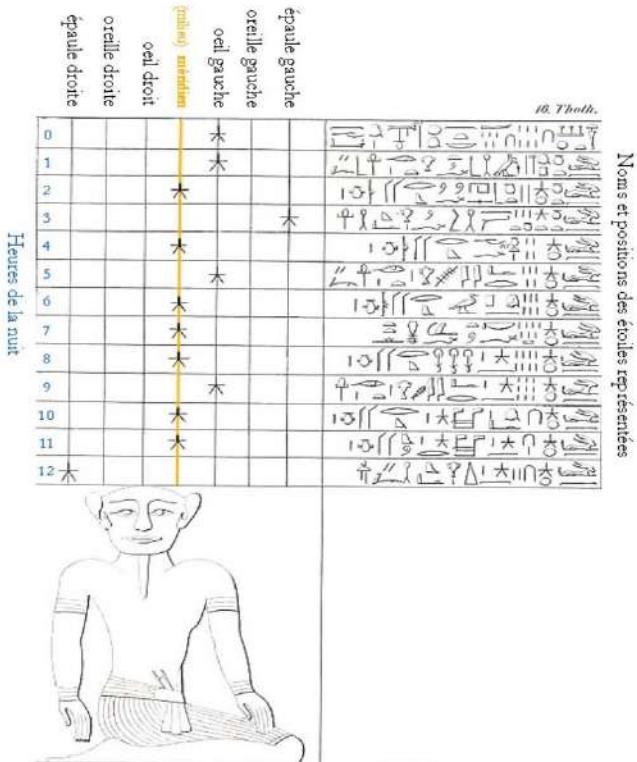


HEURES de la NUIT



**Une clepsydre égyptienne. Cette horloge à eau indiquait l'heure à l'aide des douze petits trous à l'intérieur.  
L'heure était calculée grâce au niveau de l'eau s'échappant par le bas (1400 a. C.)**

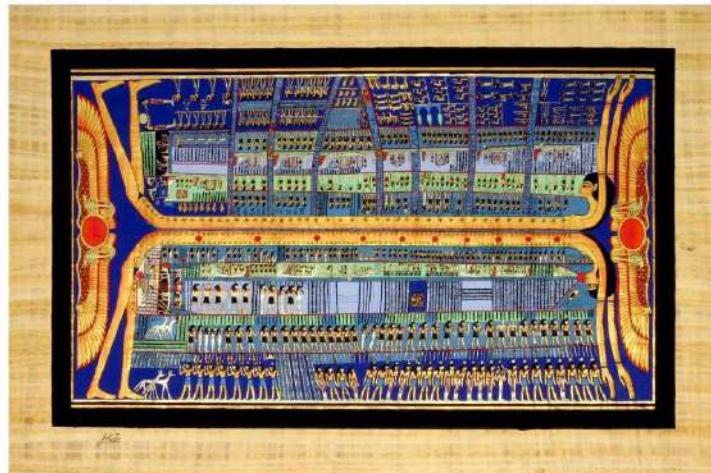
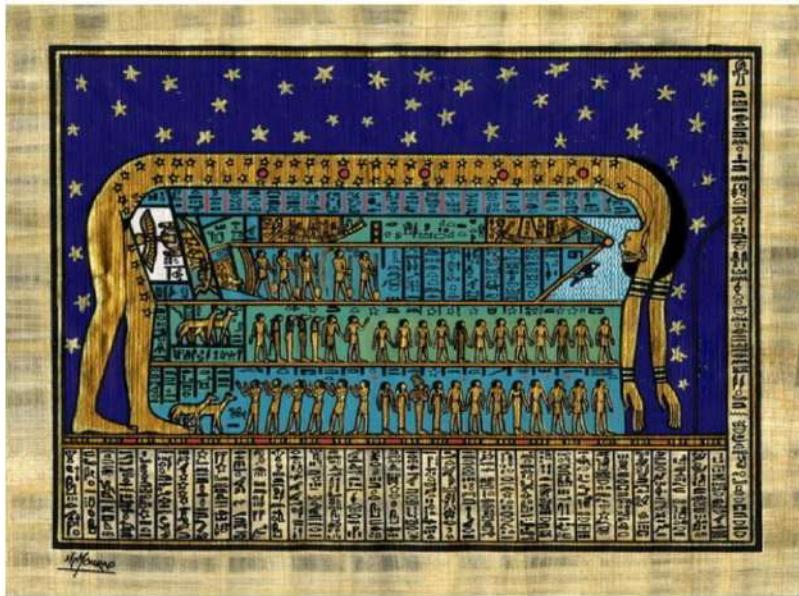




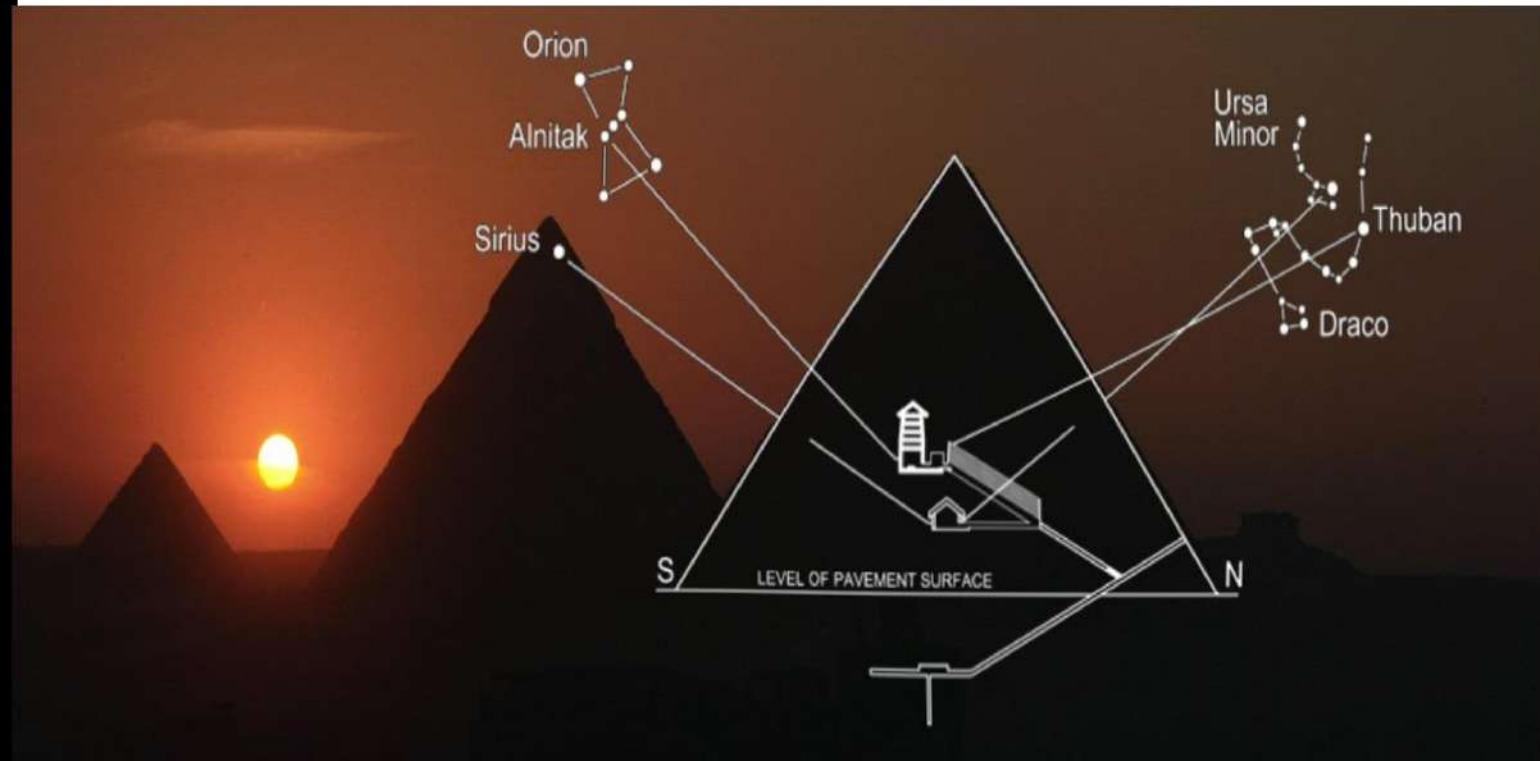
Fonctionnement d'un observatoire stellaire ramesside (le méridien est en orange)

Horloge stellaire qui donne la position des étoiles pendant la nuit. Tombeau de Ramsès VI (1145-1137 a. C.)

   
Kheper-Ankhu 

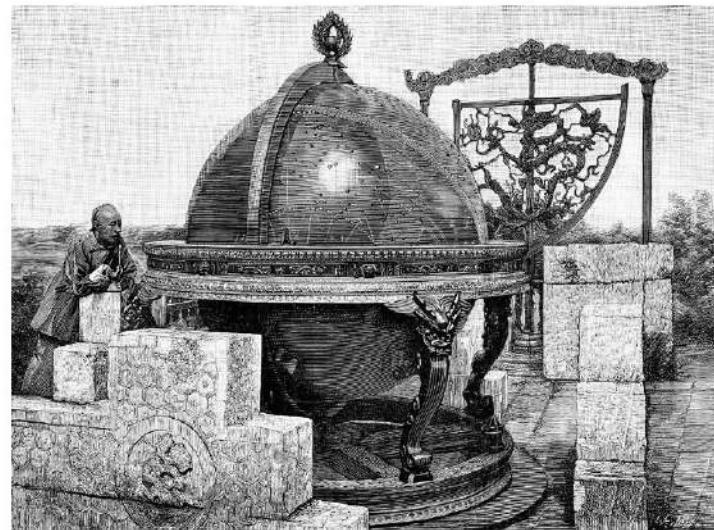


La volta celeste



Orientamento astronomico della Grande Piramide di Kefru

# L'astronomia cinese

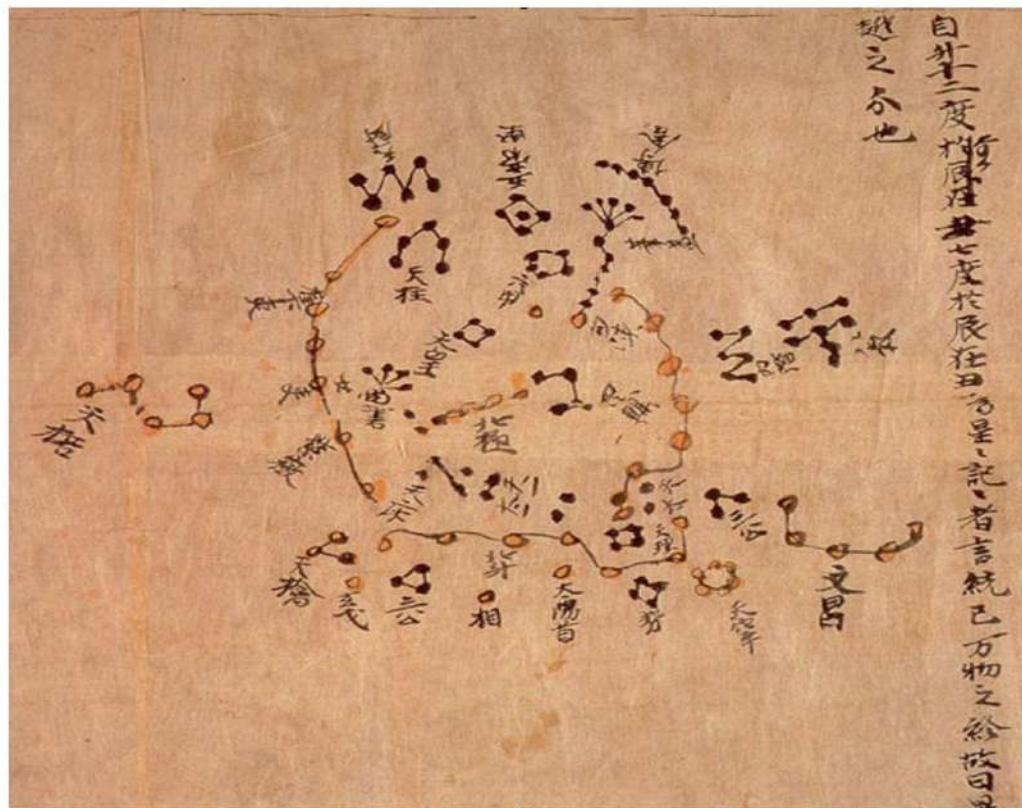


## Alcune scoperte e realizzazioni:

- Il calcolo della durata dell'anno — 365 giorni — (quasi contemporaneamente agli egizi).
- Calendari lunisolari
- Primo calendario cinese: quello dell'imperatore imperatore Huang Di (forse nel 2637 a.C. o nel 2697 a.C.).
- Descrizione delle macchie solari (1000 a.C.)
- Concezione sferica della terra e del cielo (Shen Dao, IV sec. a.C.)
- Descrizione delle comete (360 a.C.)
- Dal 484 a.C., uso del calendario solare con una durata di 365  $\frac{1}{4}$  giorni.
- Scoperta della non uniformità del moto lunare e della causa degli eclissi (durante la dinastia Han, 206 a.C. — 220 d.C.).
- Costruzione di osservatori
- Costruzione di globi celesti (Luo Xianhong e Gen Shuochang).
- scoperta della precessione degli equinozi e distinzione tra l'anno tropico e quello siderale. (VI sec. d.C.)
- Cartografia del cielo (Chen Zhou, tra 220 — 280 d.C.) → 238 piccole costellazioni per un totale di 1464 stelle.

**Invenzione della bussola**



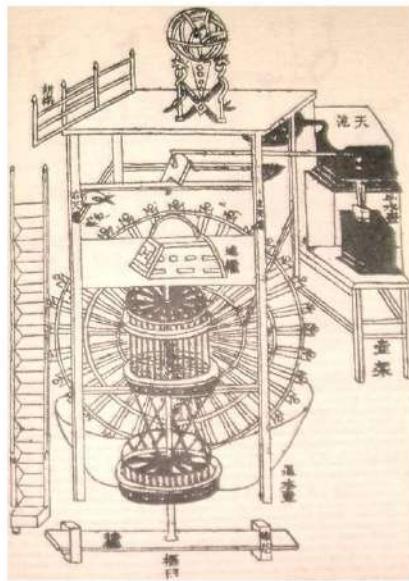


Dunhuang, una mappastellare del VI secolo



## Sfera armillare nel cortile dell'antico osservatorio di Pechino

Replica a grandezza naturale di una sfera prodotta durante il regno dell'imperatore Zhengtong (1439)



Khepert-Ankhu

Modellino in legno di un orologio costruito nel 1094 dall'astronomo Su Song



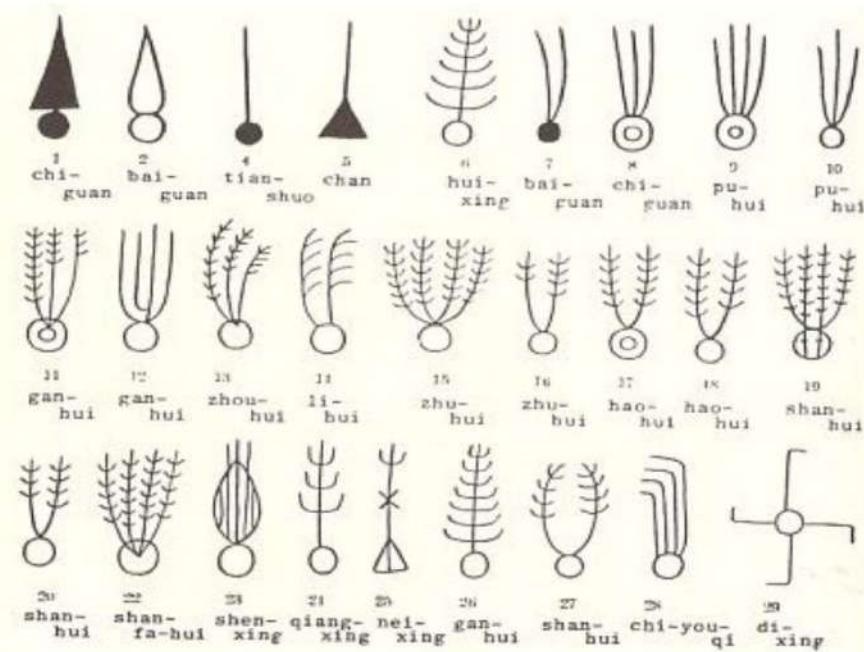
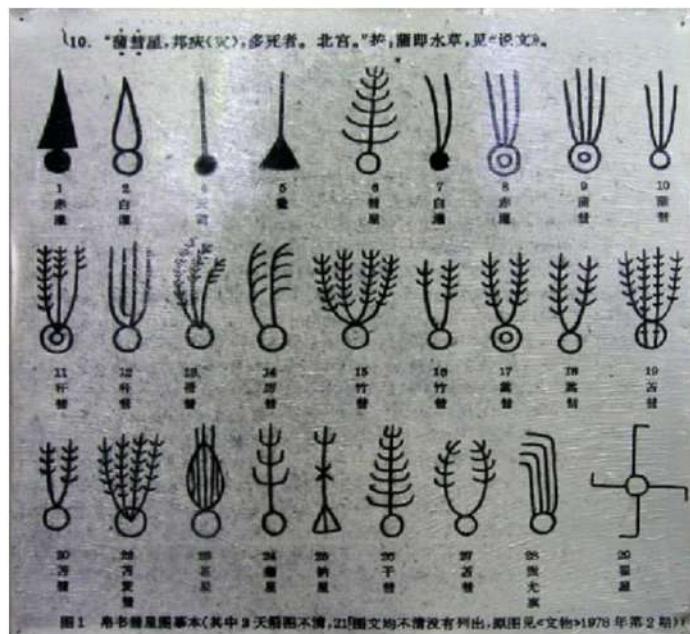
Mappa celeste disegnata nel 1092 dall'astronomo cinese Su Song (1020-1101): contiene 1350 stelle



Kheper-Ankh



L'opera astronomica *Tianyuan Fawai*, in una ristampa, ampliata, del 1633, che riprende quella pubblicata nel 1461. In essa sono raccolte molte osservazioni celesti eseguite durante le dinastie Tang (618-907) e Song (960-1279).



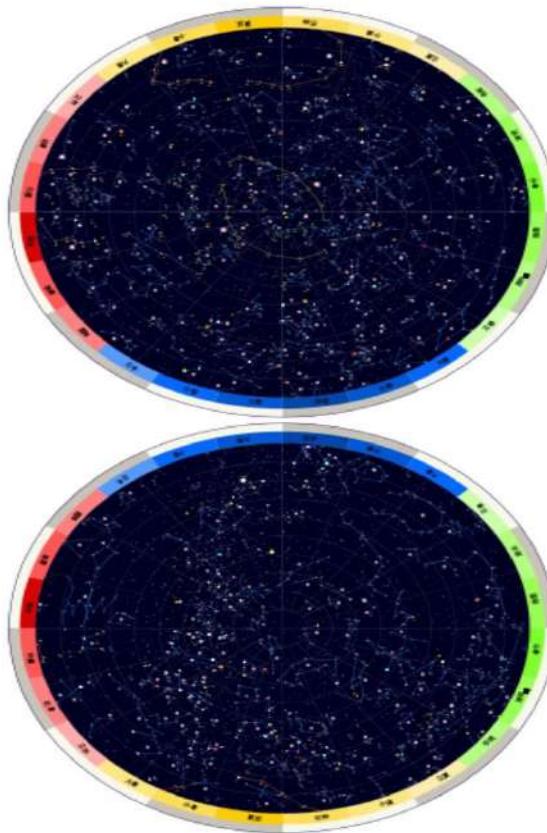
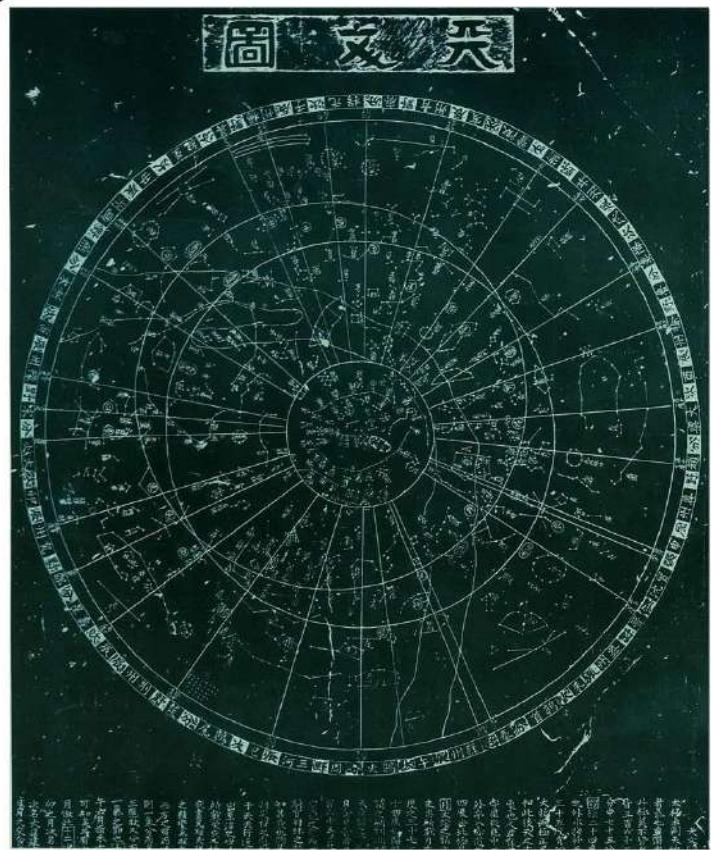
Registrazioni di comete

Kheper-Ankhu



Globo celeste della dinastia Qing

 Kheper-Ankhu 



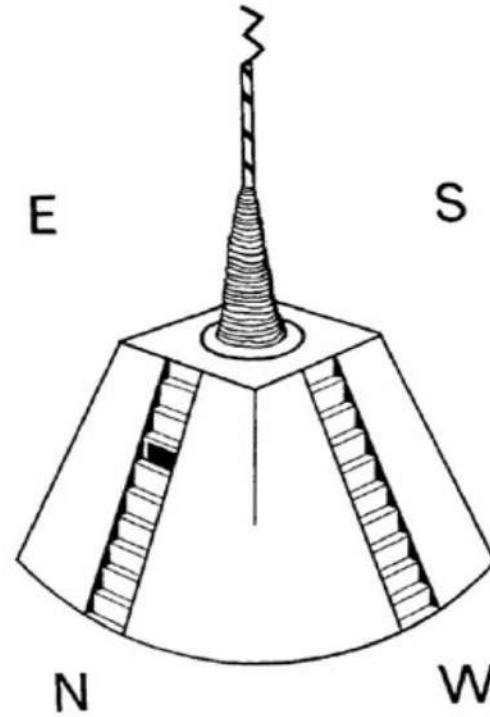
Riproduzione della carta celeste di Suzhou (XIII secolo). Le costellazioni

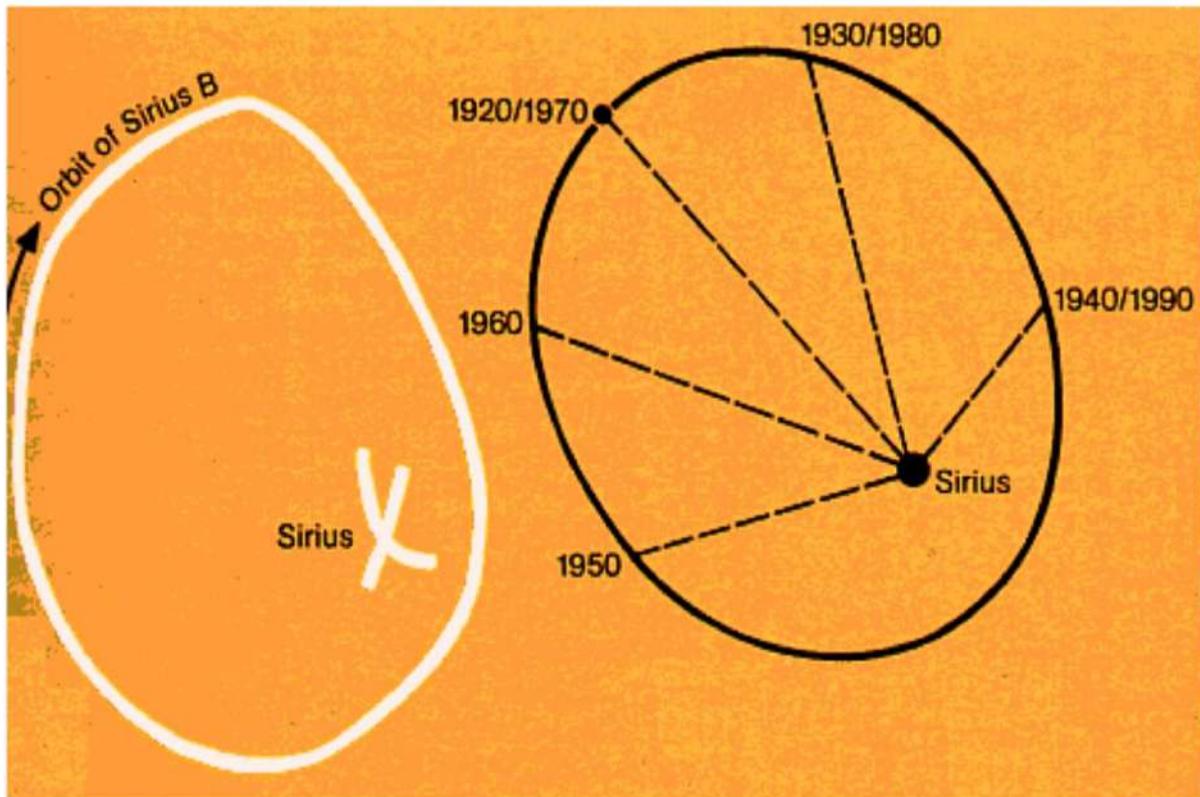


## L'astronomia dogon



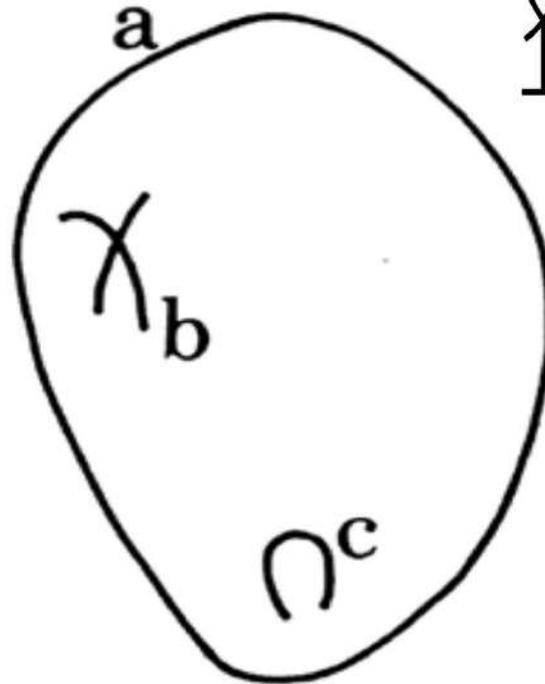
Dogon





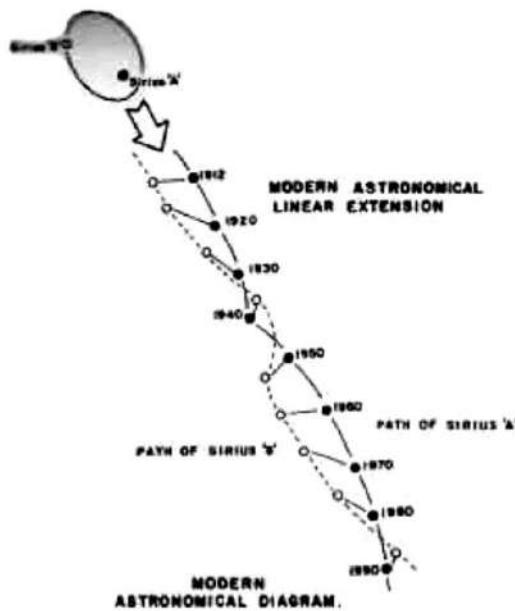
Sigi tolo (Sirius)





 Khepert-Ankhu

a- Orbita (uovo); b- Sirio; c- stella gemella di Sirio, Sirio B (po tolo)



*Figure 7.* The linear extension on the right is scientifically reliable, based on measurements of the rate of revolution of Sirius B around Sirius A. The linear extension on the left is *not* scientifically reliable. It is a presumed correlation, for there is no way in which the rate of revolution of Digitaria can be known certainly from the Dogon information. These linear extensions cannot, therefore, be considered to constitute hard evidence of a correlation. It is likely, though, that they do correlate because Digitaria is presumed to move at a rate which makes astronomical sense (for if the shape of the orbit and the distance match, the period should match)

## Cammino di Sirius A e Sirius B

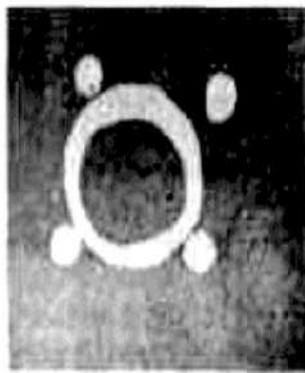
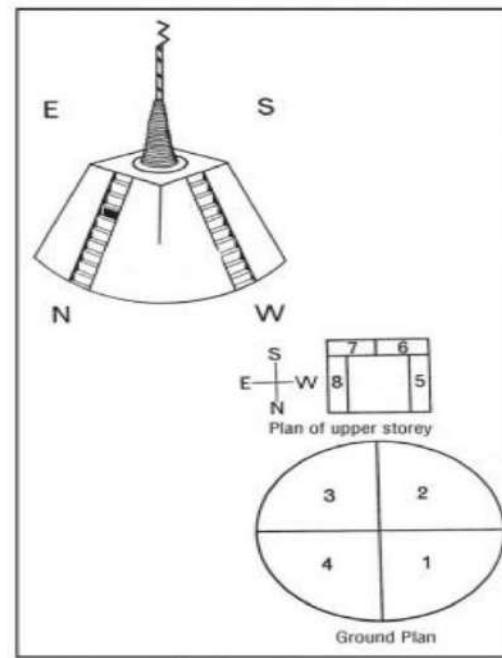
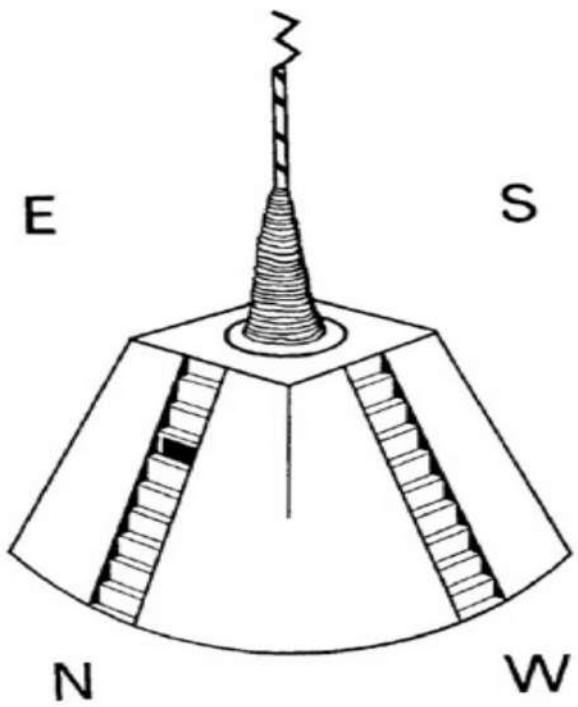


Figure 9. Dogon drawing of Jupiter with its four main moons



Figure 10. Saturn with its ring. Dogon drawing

## Raffigurazione dei pianeti Jupiter e Saturno



 Kheper-Ankh 

Raffigurazione dogon del sistema del mondo

Figure 3. (Courtesy of Léon Séthien)

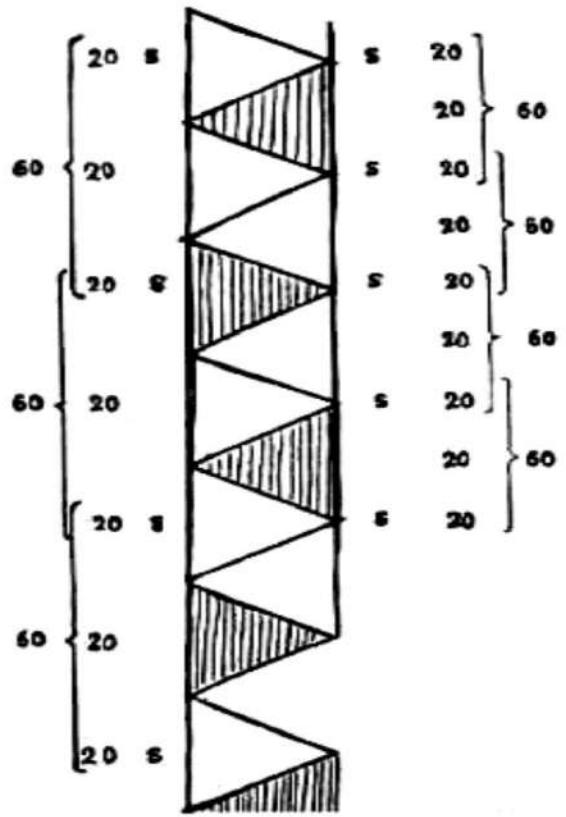


Figure ii. The calculation of the Sigui.

Strumento di calcolo del Sigui

(Ricorrenza ogni 60 anni dell'apparizione di Sirio tra due costellazioni)

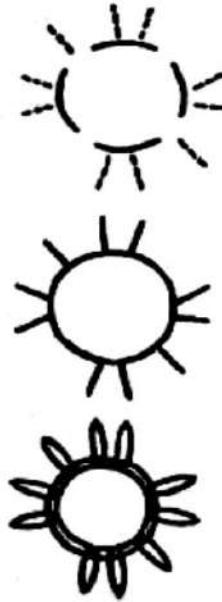
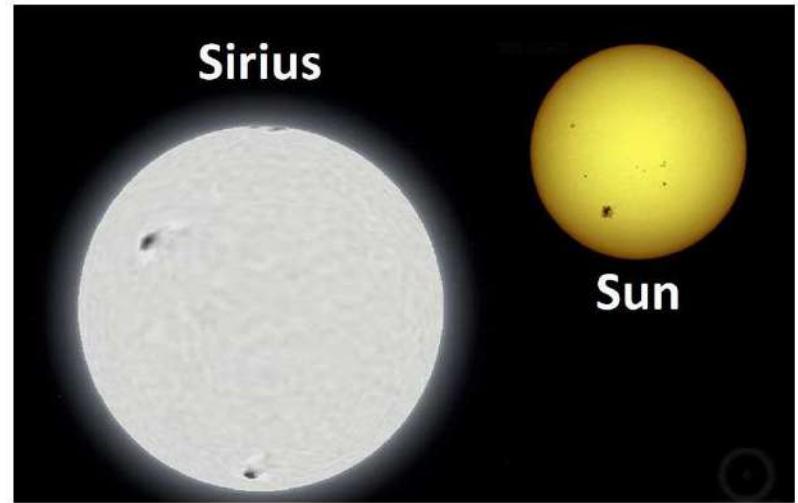
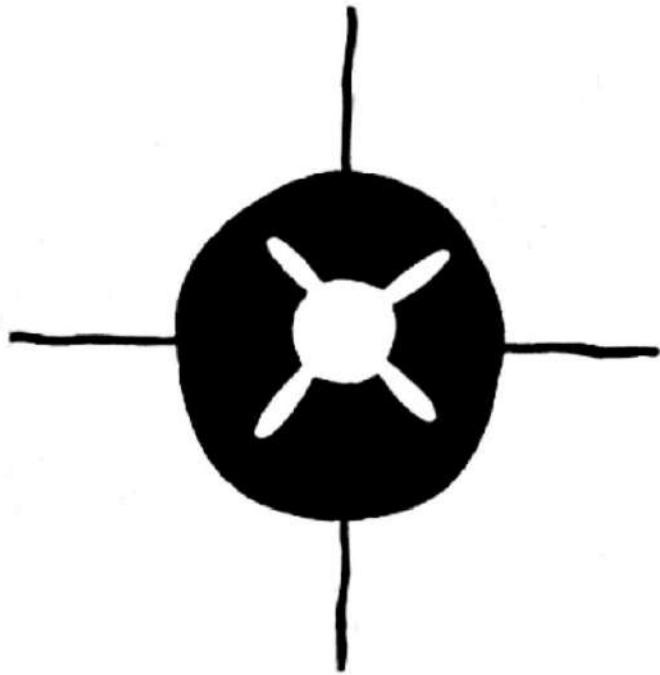


Figure 37. Three states of *is-pels-tolo* in the sky. Dagon drawing





*Figure 11. The helical rising of Sirius. Dogon drawing of Sirius and the sun joined together at this moment*

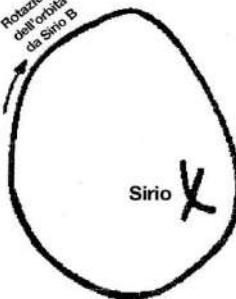
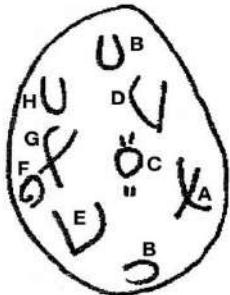
### Dogon Helical Rising of sun and Sirius



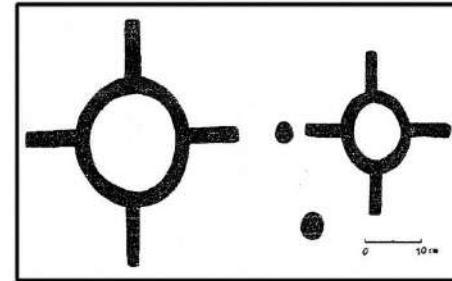
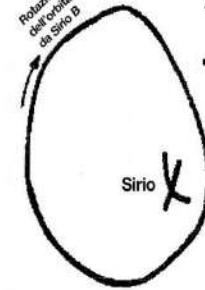
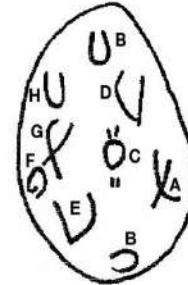
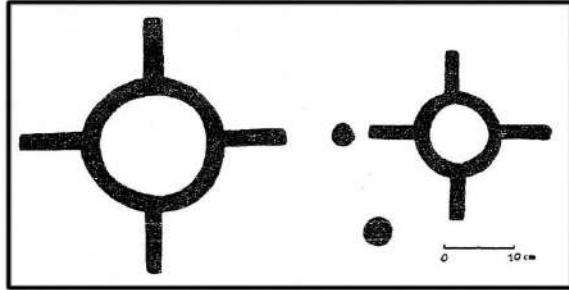
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*Figure vi. The origin of the spiral of creation (indigenous drawing: actual size)*

### **La spirale della creazione**



Sirio



## Raffigurazione del sistema di Sirio

Sirio incontra il Sole, e le due stelle hanno una massa analoga

## □ Pluralità dei mondi

- Un primo mondo: Amma lo “abbandona”, lo “distrugge” per creare un altro (Cf. T. Obenga, 1996, p. 92)
- Un secondo mondo che ha come base “l'uomo” (p. 93)
- 14 altri mondi (7 terre e 7 cieli): “Amma crée 7 x 2, c'est-à-dire une infinité de mondes” (p. 170).
- (Vedi anche Bernard le Bovier de Fontenelle, *Entretiens sur la pluralité des mondes*, 1686).



- Due grandi sistemi stellari

- Un sistema interno

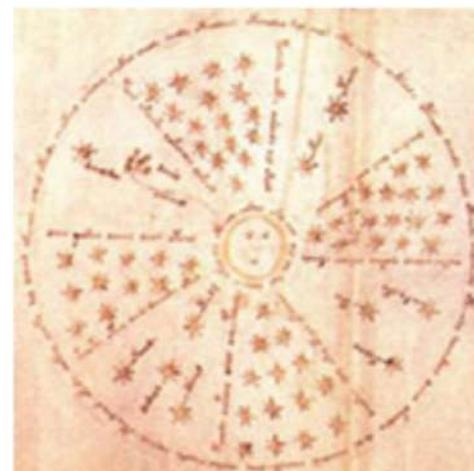
“Il est considéré comme le moteur du monde stellaire intéressant directement la vie des hommes et son développement sur la Terre” (p. 321). Comprende l'astro solare.

- Un sistema esterno

« Il est constitué d'astres plus lointains ».

Comprende la nostra galassia, la Via Lattea (yalu ulo).

- Yalu ulo è una galassia spirale





## • I corpi celesti

- “Tolo” = stelle fisse. Non girano intorno a un’altra stella
- “Tolo tanaze” = pianeti che girano intorno a un’altra stella
- “Tolo gonoze” = satelliti che girano intorno a un pianeta.

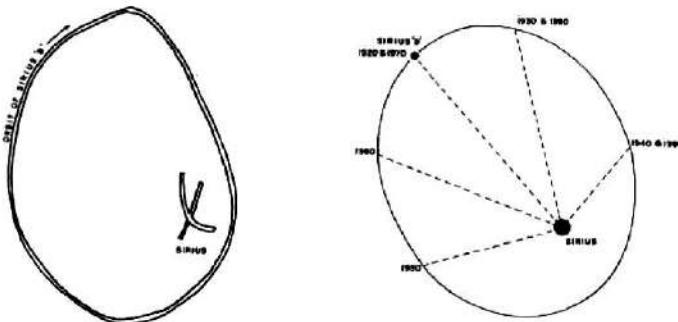
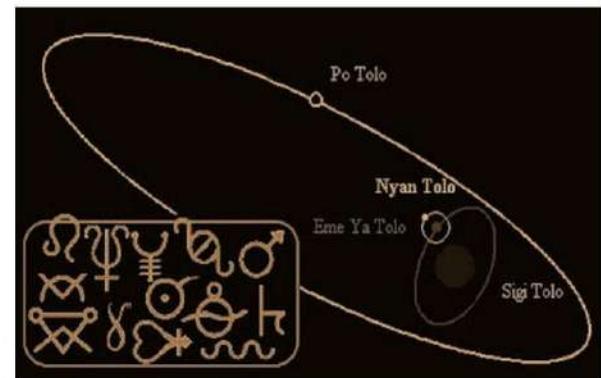


Figure 6. On left: the orbit of Digitaria (Sirius B) around Sirius as portrayed by the Dogon in their sand drawings. On right: A modern astronomical diagram of the orbit of Sirius, the years indicated being the positions of Sirius B in its orbit on those dates. Note that the Dogon do not place Sirius at the centre of their drawing but seem to place it near one focus of their approximate ellipse – which constitutes one of the most extraordinary features of their information, and matches the diagram on the right to an uncanny degree.

## • Le costellazioni

- “Amma bogu tolo”: Orione
- “Atanu tolo”: le 3 stelle della cintura di Orione
- “Enegrine tolo”: la stella gamma della costellazione del cane minore
- “Sigi tolo”: Sirius (nella costellazione del cane maggiore)
- “Tara tolo”: la stella alfa della costellazione del cane minore
- “Tolo bani nenneu”: la stella “rossa” della costellazione del toro
- “Tolo dullogu”: le stelle della Spada di Orione
- “Tolo duno”: le Pleiadi (costellazioni del toro)
- “Yara tolo”: la stella beta della costellazione dell’Ariete.



• Sirio

-Nome: Sigi tolo

-Considerato “l’ombelico del mondo” (sigi tolo aduno bogi).

“Le groupe d’étoiles, dans lequel Sirius joue un rôle primordial, comprend la constellation d’Orion et un certain nombre d’astres placés non loin d’elle” (p. 470)

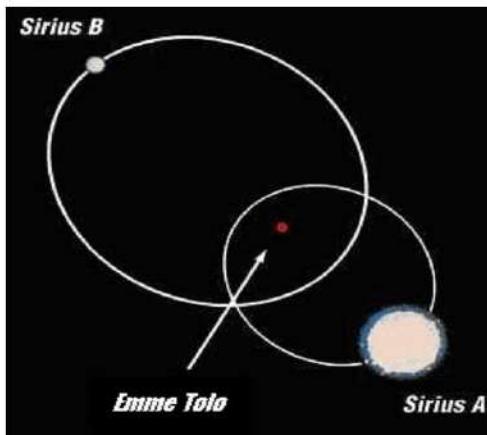
-Il sistema toro comprende 4 astri :

\* Sigi tolo : Sirius A

\* Po tolo : Sirius B

\* Emme ya tolo: Sirius C

\* Nyan tolo: satellite di Sirius C.



- Caratteristiche di Po tolo (Sirius B)

- Piccolissima

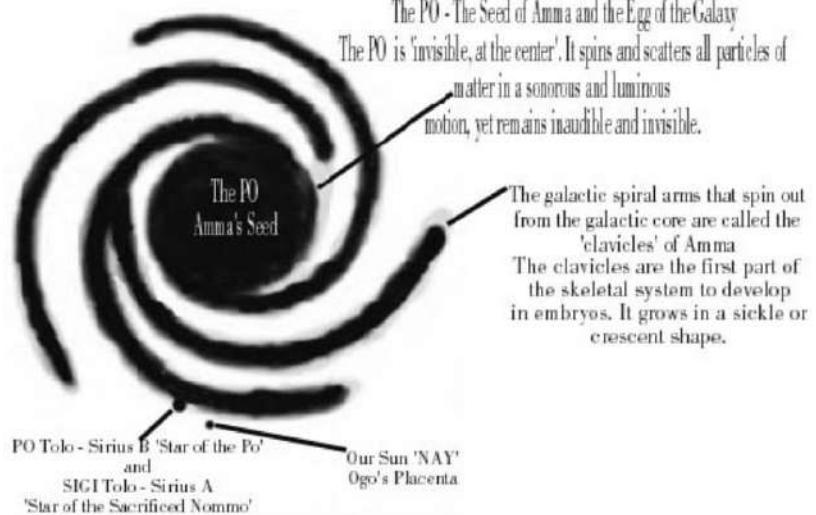
- Densa, pesante (35000kg ca)

- Bianca

- Vedi anche H. A. Adams (per Sirio B)

- e D. Benest, J. L. Durent (per Sirio C)

### The Galaxy According to Dogon Cosmology



## • Alcune idee generali

- le stelle e le costellazioni sono innumerevoli
- L'universo è “infinito” ma “misurabile”
- La luna, un satellite della terra: “La lune circule en spirale autour de la terre” (p. 477)
- La rivoluzione solare: “Le soleil tourne sur lui-même” (p. 477)
- Tre calendari dogon: lunare, solare, venusiano
- L'atmosfera come massa umida: « Le soleil envoie à la terre ses rayons ; l'humidité qu'il provoque remonte à la lune » (p. 478).

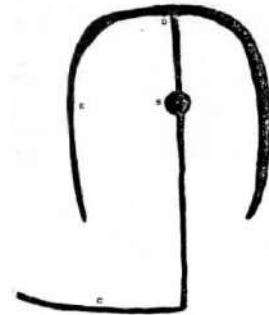
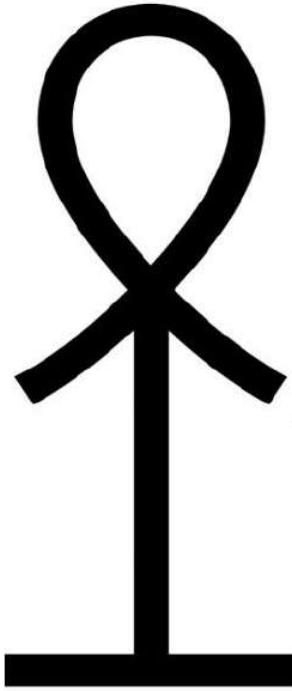


Figure 41. The course of the stars of the Sirius system



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