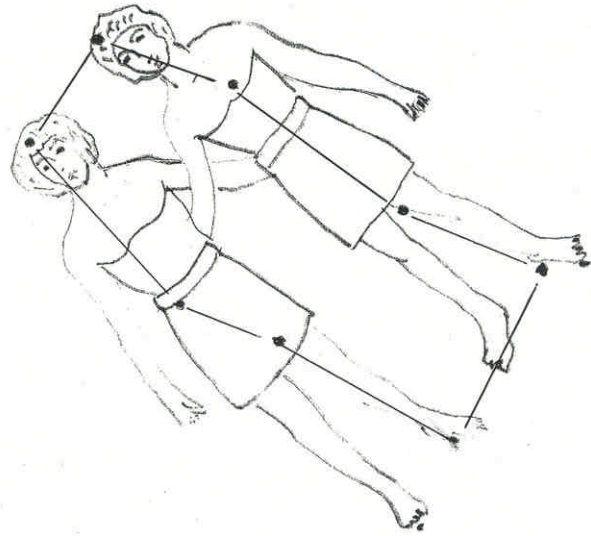


Gemini – The Twins

Castor and Pollux were twin brothers, the sons of Zeus and Leda, the wife of Tyndarus, king of Sparta. They sailed with Jason and the Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece. They were invincible fighters with unparalleled courage. Pollux distinguished himself as a great boxer or fighter and Castor as a great wrestler. Some stories say Castor was a great horseman.

These two were inseparable companions and fought their best when they were near each other.



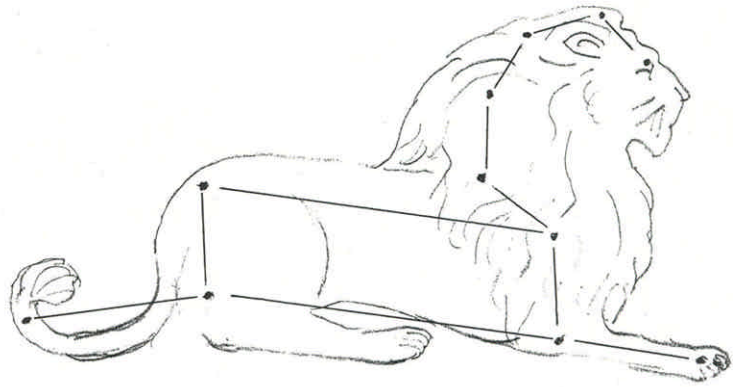
Because of the help they gave their fellow Argonauts during a storm which threatened to sink their ship, the constellation Gemini was considered a favorable sign to sailors when they saw it.

To commemorate their great feats and the help they gave to the sailors, and because of their great love for each other, Zeus placed their constellation, Gemini, in the sky after their deaths.

Today, Gemini can be seen between the constellations of Orion and Cancer, near Leo.

Leo - The Lion

According to Greek mythology, Leo was a ferocious lion who fell to the earth in the forests of Nemea. He feasted on the animals of the forest and also caught and ate many human beings. Many brave men lost their lives trying to kill this giant lion, for its skin was so tough that no arrow or spear could pierce it.



Hercules was given the first of his Twelve Labors, that of killing the terrible lion, by Hera the jealous wife of Zeus. She hoped that he would fail and thus lose the love of his father, Zeus. Knowing that no spear or arrow could pierce the lion's skin, Hercules entered the lion's cave and was able to strangle the terrible lion. Hercules then reappeared at the cave's entrance wearing the lion's skin as a robe. Hercules had saved the people of Nemea. This great act of heroism was commemorated by Zeus, when he placed the picture of the defeated lion (Leo) in the night sky.

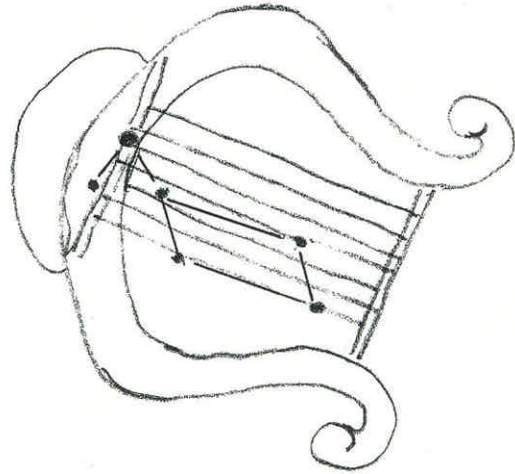
Libra - The Scales

Libra is the only zodiacal constellation that represents an inanimate object. Libra, the scales, represents the equality of the days and nights at the equinoxes. It has more recently come to be associated with Virgo, the goddess of justice, who used these scales as a symbol of her office. Libra is represented in the heavens next to the hand of Virgo.



Lyra - The Lyre (Harp)

Lyra is the celestial harp invented by Hermes, and given to Orpheus by Apollo. It is said that when Orpheus played on his harp, usually love songs to his bride Eurydice, that people and animals would stop what they were doing just to listen. Some stories relate how even the trees would cease movement when he played. One day, Eurydice died suddenly which broke Orpheus' heart. In his loneliness, Orpheus attempted to win her back



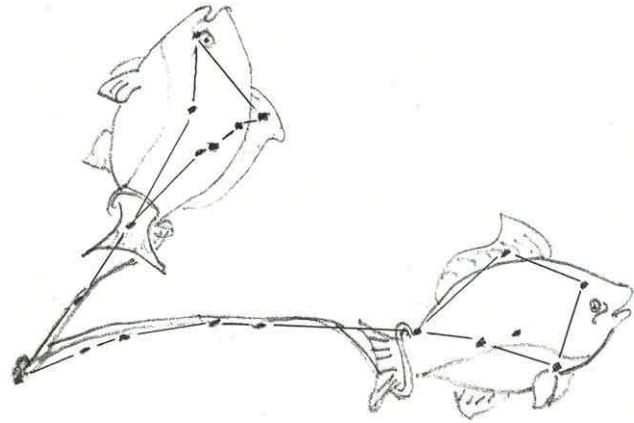
from Hades, ruler of the underworld. Orpheus began his descent into the underworld playing his lyre. As he approached Hades, he was pleased to see that Hades greatly enjoyed his music. After a while, Orpheus stopped playing his music. Hades asked him to resume playing the beautiful love songs on his lyre. Orpheus agreed on one condition: that when he had finished, Hades would release his beloved Eurydice to him. Hades agreed, and Orpheus again began to play. At the conclusion of his music, Orpheus asked Hades for his wife. Hades replied that she would indeed be released on one condition: that Orpheus would trust Hades to keep his word and would return to the upper world playing his music, not ever looking back to see if she were following. If Orpheus doubted or did not trust Hades and looked back, Eurydice would be taken back by Hades into the underworld. So Orpheus began his return trip playing his music. Behind him he could hear the footsteps of Eurydice, which thrilled him greatly. However, to test Orpheus' trust, the return route Hades insisted on lead through a pine grove. As Orpheus approached the upper world he passed through this pine grove, but he could not hear the footsteps of his beloved Eurydice. Unable to endure the quiet any longer, Orpheus glanced over his shoulder to witness Eurydice fade before his gaze, taken by Hades back to the underworld.

Upon Orpheus' death, Zeus placed the constellation Lyra into the heavens in honor of his beautiful music and also to honor the great love Orpheus had for Eurydice.

Pisces – The Fish

One day as Aphrodite and her son Eros (in Roman mythology Venus and Cupid) were in the woods they heard the monster Typhon crashing through the woods towards them. Aphrodite took Eros' hand and they ran away as fast as they could. As they ran, the noise of Typhon's approach got closer and closer.

Finally, Aphrodite and Eros had run so far that they reached the shores of the Great Sea.



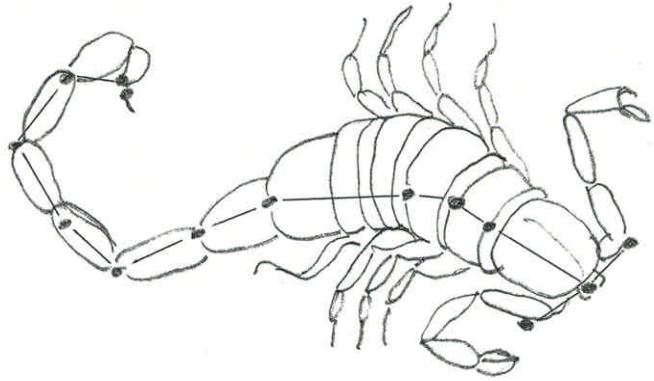
Knowing that the terrible Typhon would soon be upon them, Aphrodite and Eros changed themselves into two fish and swam away to safety.

Zeus later immortalized this great escape by placing the figures of the two fish, Pisces, among the constellations.

Other stories say that Poseidon sent two fish (dolphins) to save Aphrodite and Eros, and these were the two fish that became Pisces.

Scorpio - The Scorpion

This is the famous Scorpion, which came up out of the ground and was commanded by Artemus to sting Orion, the mighty hunter, and caused him to die. That was the punishment Orion received because he had killed so many animals for no reason, except to try to impress her.



Scorpio was then placed into the sky on the opposite side of the world from Orion so as to avoid any further conflict. It was also placed in the sky to remind all of us that it is okay to kill animals for food, but it is wrong to kill them just for the fun of it.