



URANOS: STARS, CONSTELLATIONS AND SKY LORE

all publics – educators & pedagogues – researchers & passionate amateurs

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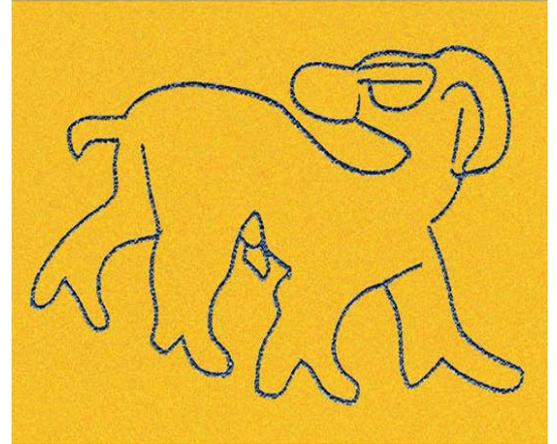
Mesopotamian constellations

𒂗 𒌦 𒌦 𒌦 **lú.HUN.GÁ = *Agru***

« the Hired Man »

𒌦 **LU = *immeru*, « the Lamb »**

The sign of the *Ram* on an seal impression of Ur, IIIth c. BC.



The star of the constellation **lú.HUN.GÁ = *Agru***

* The most ancient name of the constellation is **lú.HUN.GÁ = *Agru***, « the Hired Man ». It appears very soon, in Sumerian lists of the IIIrd dynasty of Ur, that is to say in the XXIth century BC. This appellation is corresponding to the star α *Ari*, as it is confirmed in ulterior documents.

* In ephemerides and catalogues of neoassyrian period, that is to say in the VII-VIth centuries BC, we may find the following star names :

| Bayer name | Transcription | Translation |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| β <i>Ari</i> | mul IGI šá SAG 𒄩UN | the Anterior star of the Head of the Hired Man |
| α <i>Ari</i> | mul ár šá SAG 𒄩UN | the Posterior star of the Head of the Hired Man |
| δ <i>Ari</i> ? | mul MURÚ šá SAG 𒄩UN | the star of the Middle of the Hired Man |

* In ephemerides of the beginning of the IVth century BC, we find in parallel with **lú.HUN.GÁ = *Agru*** :

LU [= UDU] = *immeru*, « the Lamb »

* At the same epoch, in a astrological calender, the symbol of the month od *Nīsānu*, that means 21 march-21 april, is mentioned so :

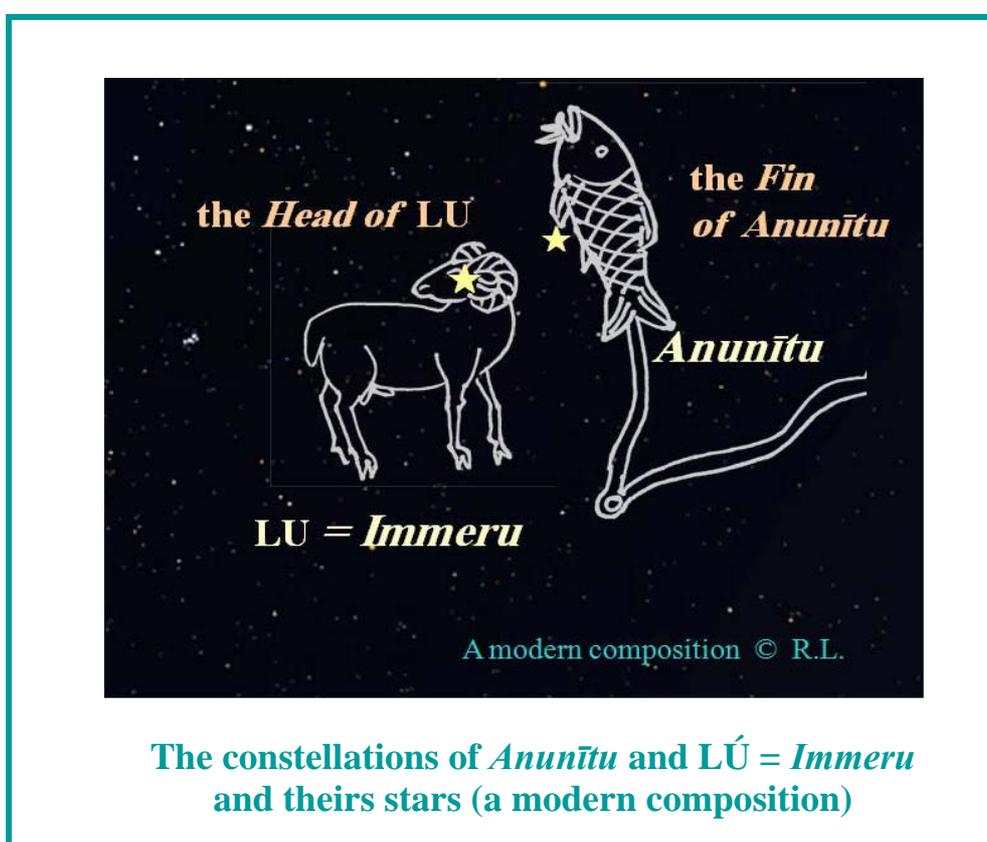
UDU.NITÁ = *immeru zikāru*, « the Sheep male ».

The mythology linked to the figure of LÚ = *Immeru*

The famous treaty é *MUL.APIN*, dated from the VIIth century BC, learns to us that this « Hired Man » is precisely Dumuzi / Tammuz, the Divine Shepherd. We may suppose that the attribute of this god is the sheep.

Dumuzi / Tammouz is associated, in the mesopotamian mythology, to the goddess Inanna / Ištar as a lovers couple archetype. Thinking that her lover forgot her during her descent to the Hell, she indicates him with the daemons to replace her in the Kingdom of Underworl where it is agreed that she must find a substitute.

On the celestial vault, the two lovers are side by side since the goddess Inanna / Ištar manifest herself as *Anunītu* who takes the form or the [Occidental] *Fish* whereas Dumuzi / Tammuz is represented by LÚ = *Immeru*, that is to say the figure of the *Ram*.



For more details as for the sources, you may see, on this website, in French :

[Le point sur l'origine mésopotamienne du signe du Bélier](#), par Roland Laffitte, *Cahiers de l'Institut d'Orient du Collège deFrance*, I (2009), 101-108.