



Arab constellations

Al-Ḥamal

الحمل

« The male Lamb »



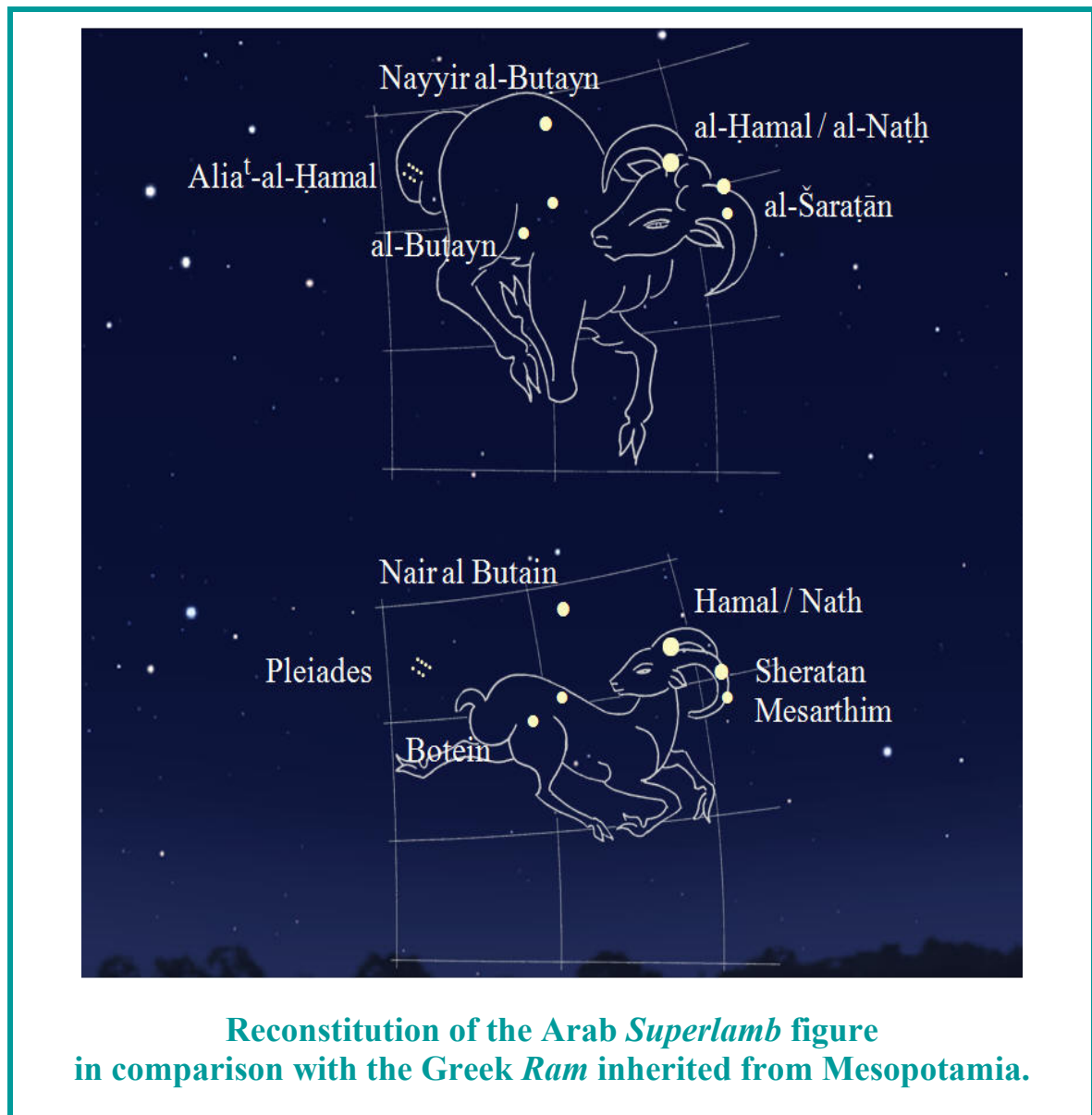
Al-Ḥamal as a zodiacal sign in the *Kitāb al-mawālid* or *Book of Nativities* by Abū Maṣʿar, BnF, ar. 2583, ca 1250, fol. 25v.

Before they took up Greek astronomers constellations, the Arabs possessed the figure of a *Superlamb* which appears from the lunar mansions and then from the classical catalogues.

The Arabic الحمل *al-Ḥamal* does not mean « the Ram », which is said الكباش *al-kabš*, a name which may have the constellation besides its Arab name in the translations of Greek treatises, but « the male Lamb [of less than one year] ». That is in fact the name which comes to it from Babylon whrer it was *emmeru*, « the Lamb », via the oriental Aramaic texts where it is called *emmārā hasen*, « the Strong Lamb » (see, in this site, the « [Notice of Sergius de Rašʿaynā](#) » (in French)).

Star names of the Arab *Superlamb*

Bayer Name	Arab name			Current international name
	Arabic	transcription	translation	
<i>α Ari</i>	الحمل	<i>al-Ḥamal</i>	the Male Lamb	Hamal
	النطح	<i>al-Naṭḥ</i>	the Butting	Nath
<i>β Ari</i>	الشرطان	<i>al-Šaraṭān</i>	the Two Marks	Shératan
<i>γ Ari</i>				Mésarthim
<i>δ ε Ari</i>	البطين	<i>al-Buṭayn</i>	the Little Belly	Botein
<i>c Ari</i>	نير البطين	<i>Nayyir al-Buṭayn</i>	the Brillant of the Little Belly	Nair al Butain
<i>M 45</i>	ألية الحمل	<i>Aliaʿ-al-Ḥamal</i>	the Tail of the Lamb	



Source :

- * AL-ŠÜFĪ, °Abd al-Raḥmān, *Kitāb suwar al-kawākib al-tābita* [= *Traité des étoiles fixes*], Rayy (Iran), 960.
- * IBN QUTAYBA, *Kitāb al-Anwā'* [= *Livre des Levers stellaires*], Baghdād, vers 860.
- * LAFFITTE, Roland, *Des noms arabes pour les étoiles*, 2nd ed., Paris : Geuthner, 2006 (1st ed. : 2001).