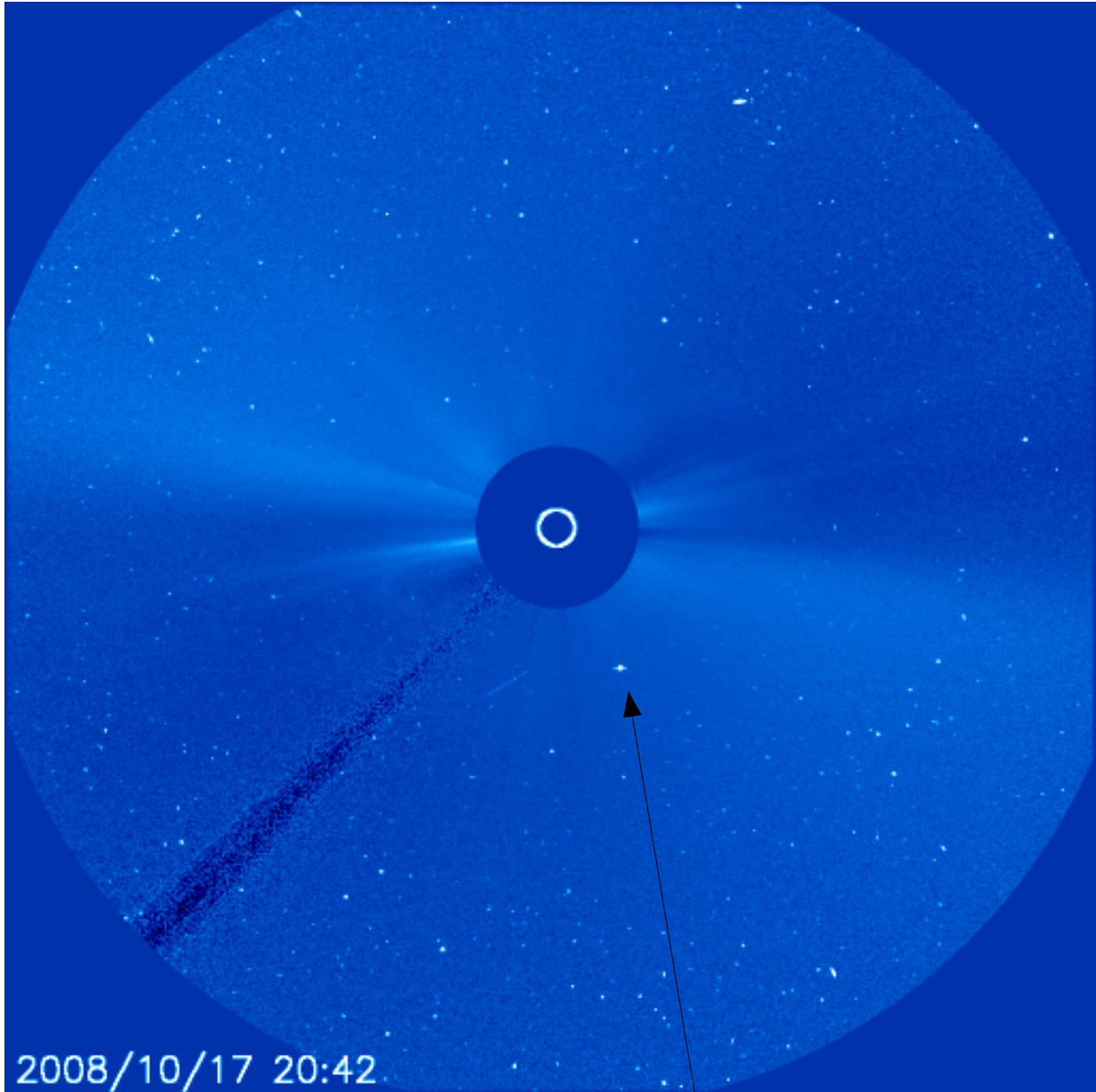


**SPICA : ALPHA VIRGINIS : THE HARVEST SYMBOL
THE MOST FORTUNATE STAR IN THE HEAVEN**

The Hindus knew Spica as Chitra, "Bright" figured as a Lamp, or as a Pearl

SPICA : ALPHA VIRGINIS



SPICA

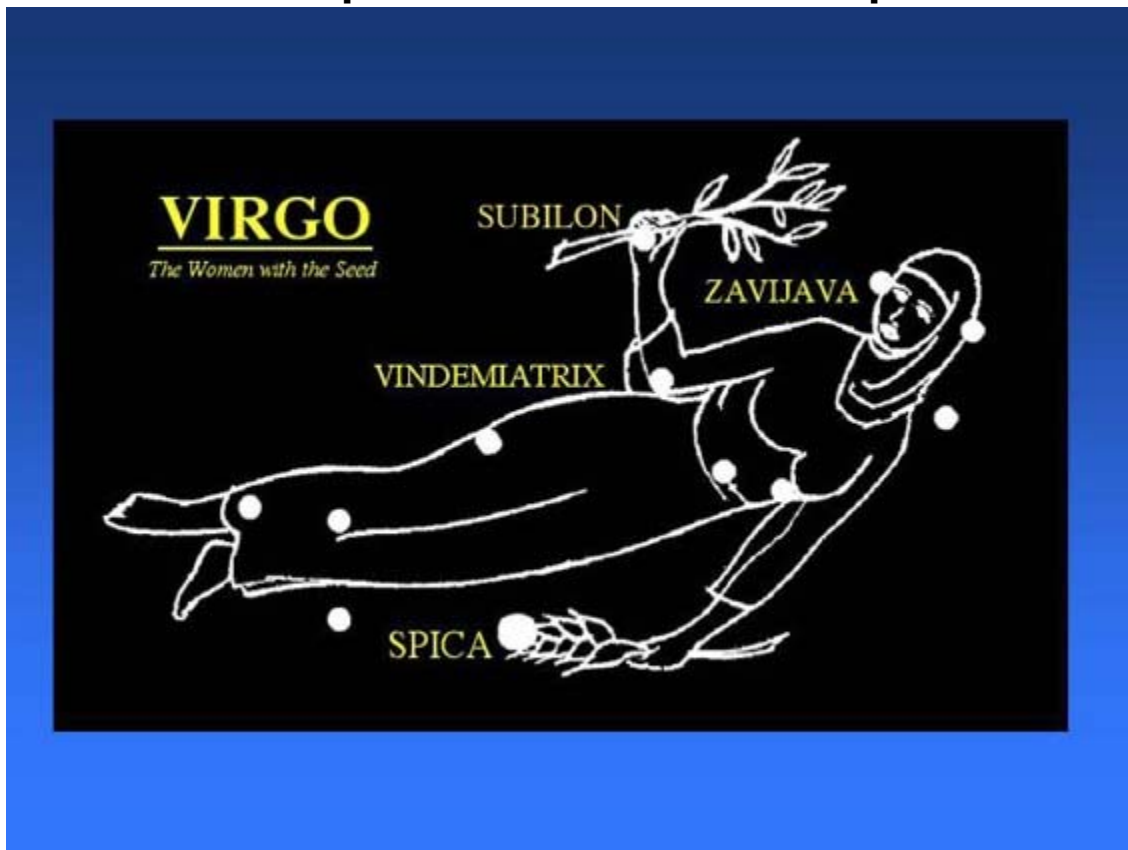
EVERY YEAR THE SUN APPROACHES SPICA AROUND
17TH OCTOBER.

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Spica (Alpha Virginis) is the brightest star in the constellation Virgo, and the 15th brightest star in the nighttime sky. It is 260 light years distant from Earth. A blue giant. Spica is still first magnitude (1.04), showing its absolute brilliance, the star visually 1900 times more luminous than the Sun. Lunar occultations yeild evidence that Spica is in fact multiple, with three other fainter components.

Spica is believed to be the star that provided Hipparchus with the data which enabled him to discover precession of the equinoxes.[9] A temple to Menat (an early Hathor) at Thebes was oriented with reference to Spica when it was constructed in 3200 BC and, over time, precession resulted in a slow but noticeable change in the location of Spica relative to the temple. Nicolaus Copernicus made many observations of Spica with his home-made triquetrum for his researches on precession



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Though a large constellation, Virgo, the Virgin, does not have much of any prominent stellar pattern, relying on Spica to tell us where it is. The star lies about 10 degrees south of the celestial equator, and practically on the ecliptic, the path of the Sun, and is regularly occulted, or covered over, by the Moon. The Sun passes Spica in the fall, rendering the star a harvest symbol that is reflected in its name, from Latin meaning "ear of wheat," the name actually going back to much more ancient times.

Spica is a brilliant white binary star marking the Ear of corn in the maiden's left hand. Deviant titles include Spicum, Spigha, Stachys, stakhus (Greek: 'ear of corn'), Arista (Latin, 'ear of grain'), Aristae Puella (Latin: 'grain maiden') and Spica Virginis or 'Virgin's Spike'. In ancient Egypt the star was associated with the Nile goddess Isis and temples in the ruined city of Akhenaton appear to have been aligned to its rising and setting. As was generally the case in ancient astrology the principle star characterised the entire constellation, which was known to the Egyptians as the 'most dedicated wife'.

An Egyptian Coptic title was Khoritos, 'Solitary', on account of Spica being such a notably brilliant star in an otherwise poorly lit area of the sky. This visible isolation has contributed to a reputation of being unfruitful or unfortunate for marriage, but otherwise Spica is considered a very fortunate star, particularly for those concerned with arts, sciences, law or religion. Ptolemy noted its influence as like that of Venus and, in a less degree, that of Mars but it is often described in a manner that suits a Mercury-Venus temperament and it is said to promote fortune in all matters related to 'Veneriall or Mercuriall men'. [5]

William Lilly noted that Spica prenotes the Native to attaine the chiefest Degree of Ecclesiasticall preferment, or a rich Benefice, with applause and great Estimation, and substance attending it, and all these for the admirable parts of his ingenuity; all matters or affairs he has to do with Veneriall or Mercuriall men, succeed well. Of the general nature of the star he wrote that it expressed a person: of sweet disposition, diligent in attaining Arts and Sciences, or a most admirable invention when Mercury is with him; if Saturn be there it imports a suspicious person, sharp and

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Of the direction of the midheaven to Spica Lilly wrote:

Unexpected Honour or Preferment is conferred on the Native beyond his hopes or capacity, and many times it affords power of life or death over others : most Astrologians doe hold the mid-heaven directed to the Virgins Spike, to signifie Church preferment; but it must act according to the Birth or capacity of the Native...

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It contributes unto the Native, store of Wealth, and Plenty of Honour, for his excellent parts and endowments of the Mind, and therefore he receives from Mercurial, Veneriall and Joviall Persons.

These and similar passages from the basis of many later texts, the overriding significance being favourable conditions attached to public and legal affairs, and success through inventiveness and the mercurial arts.

SPICA - [23 degrees of Libra]

Riches and honors, fortune and fame, gives ability in the sciences, art, writing, music, creativity, sociable. Great benefactor to any planet it is conjunct.

Since Spica represents the Virgin's Spike or the ear of corn in the maiden's hand, it is said to be indicative of service (as the chief star of the constellation, this is also why the Sign of Virgo is linked with service) and those of a sweet disposition and diligent in attaining arts and sciences according to Lilly, also since it represents an article of food, it is considered a fortunate star significant of wealth and plenty. The second brightest star in Virgo is Porrima, which marks the waist of the maiden. It is said to offer a courteous, refined, and loveable character.

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**Fixed star: SPICA
Constellation: Alpha (α) Virgo
Longitude 1900: 22LIB27 Longitude 2000: 23LIB50
Declination 1900: -10.38' Declination 2000: -11.08'
Right ascension: 13h 25m Latitude: -02.03'
Spectral class: B2 Magnitude: 0.98 Variable**

**The Hindus knew Spica as Chitra, "Bright", their 15th nakshatra (Hindu
Moon Mansion), figured as a Lamp, or as a Pearl, with Tvashtar, the
Artificer, or Shaper, as its presiding divinity.**

The astrological influences of the star Spica

**According to Ptolemy it is of the nature of Venus and Mars; and, to Alvidas, of Venus,
Jupiter and Mercury. It gives success, renown, riches, a sweet disposition, love of art and
science, unscrupulousness, unfruitfulness and injustice to innocence. [Robson*, p.211.]**

**If rising or culminating: Unbounded good fortune, happiness, ecclesiastical preferment,
unexpected honor or advancement beyond native's hopes or capacity. [Robson*, p.211.]**

With Fortuna: Great wealth, voluptuous propensities. [Robson*, p.212.]

**With Sun: Great and lasting preferment, eminent dignity, immense wealth, great happiness
to native's parents and children, help from friends among clergy, favorable for public and
legal affairs. If culminating, Church and State preferment. If with Venus and Mars also the
native is a potent king obeyed by many people, but subject to many infirmities. [Robson*,
p.211.]**

**With Moon: Gain through inventions, success, wealth and honor from Mercury, Venus or
Jupiter people. [Robson*, p.211.]**

**With Mercury: Neat, tidy, clever, ingenious, favor of clergy and people in authority, gain
through investment, responsible position. [Robson*, p.212.]**

**With Venus: Benefits from friends, social success, false friends of own sex. [Robson*,
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With Mars: Popular social success, may have good judgment and quick decision or be

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**With Jupiter: Popular, social success, wealth, ecclesiastical honor and preferment.
[Robson*, p.212.]**

**With Saturn: Apt to be suspicious, sharp or rugged, but does much good, occult interests,
good speaker, popular, many friends, gain through legacies but extravagant, good health,
favorable for domestic matters. [Robson*, p.212.]**

**With Uranus: Mediumistic, popular, business connected with ornaments, gain through
marriage, fortunate, sudden natural death. [Robson*, p.212.]**

**With Neptune: Well-born, comfortable surroundings, always sufficiently well off,
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Source:

- 1. www.skyscript.co.uk/virgo_myth.html**
- 2. Wikipedia**
- 3. Astrology on the web**
- 4. Astrological degrees and fixed stars**

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