

Star Gazers

STGZ220

07/11 - 07/17

IS IT REALLY JUST 'THE BIG DIPPER'? NOPE!

ONE LINER: The Big Dipper goes by many, many names.

WELCOME STAR GAZERS! ONE OF OUR MOST FREQUENTLY REFERENCED STAR PATTERNS IS THE BIG DIPPER. IT'S FAMOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD! LEMME SHOW YOU ...

HIT THE DARKNESS ABOUT At ABOUT 11PM AND FACE NORTHWEST. HIGH IN THE SKY YOU'LL SEE THESE SEVEN STARS ... DUBHE, MERAK, PHECDA AND MEGREZ FORM A BOWL, ALIOTH, MIZAR AND ALKAID MAKE A HANDLE.

THE BIG DIPPER!

BUT THESE SEVEN STARS HAVE LOTS OF NAMES AND STORIES. IN ARABIAN LORE, THE BOWL IS A COFFIN, WITH MOURNERS FOLLOWING IT.

IN SOME NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES THE BOWL IS A BEAR, WITH THREE HUNTERS CHASING IT.

IN PARTS OF EUROPE IT COULD BE A WAGON OR CHARIOT, A PLOW, A SAUCEPAN, A FISHING NET, OR EVEN A MEAT CLEAVER AND IN EAST ASIA IT'S OFTEN A LADLE AND IN INDIA IS THE SAPTA-RISHI OR SEVEN SAGES.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU CALL IT, THE ASTERISM HAS HELPED NAVIGATE HUMANS ACROSS THE PLANET FOR MILLENNIA. SO RAISE A GLASS, OR LADLE, TO THIS ASTERISM AND KEEP LOOKING UP!