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## **CONSTELLATION LUPUS- ICONOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS FROM MYTHOLOGY TO FOLKLORE**

The Wolf is a constellation of the Southern Hemisphere, so it can be seen by an observer who is located in this particular region of the planet. Its closest neighbors are the Compass, the Square, the Hydra, and the Scales. In the sky, the constellation Wolf is bordered by Centaurus and Scorpio. To find it in the sky, you need to focus on the constellations Centaurus and Libra. The constellation of the Wolf is easy to detect to the left of the first and south of the second. A good time to observe falls in May. It is clearly visible south of the 35th parallel.

The first mention of the constellation Wolf is found a long time ago. It has a rather ancient history and was familiar to the Phoenicians and Greeks, and the Sumerians referred to it as the "Beast of Death". The ancient Greek astronomer Ptolemy entered the constellation Wolf in the Almagest list under the name "beast." The stars of this constellation were once part of the Centaurus. The astronomer of ancient Greece Hipparch separated the constellation Wolf from Centaurus and named it the Beast (Therion). Although it was not considered a genuine work, until the work of Ptolemy was not translated into Latin. In it, the scientist finally identified the constellation Wolf. The stars of Centaurus in ancient mythical legends were depicted in the form of animals impaled on the centaur's spear.

Myths and legends tell of constellations and help us interpret the meaning of their names. In the mythology associated with the constellation of the Wolf, it is mentioned that the people of the copper age did not plant cattle, did not cultivate the land and did not grow trees. Residents only destroyed each other in wars, mired in blood and crimes. They did not honor and respect the gods. For this, thunderer Zeus disliked people and decided to punish them. First of all, his rage fell on the Arcadian ruler Lycaon, who ruled in Likasur. Zeus, under the guise of an ordinary mortal, descended into the realm of Likasura. Before that, he sent a sign to the townspeople, and everyone met the thunderer, paying proper honors. The only one who did not kneel before Zeus was Lycaon. The pride of the king eclipsed his mind, and then he decided to check whether Zeus is a god. The ruler hacked one of his slaves, roasted one of the body parts, and cooked another one and presented it to Zeus. Lycaon assumed that if the newcomer is a god, he must know that the food was made from human meat and would not eat it. Zeus was terribly angry. Lightning flashed in the hands of the thunderer and the lord's palace was turned into a pile of ashes. Lycaon himself turned Zeus into a wolf and left him in the sky in the form of a constellation.

All cultures speak of werewolves as mythical creatures. Myths, related to the constellations, help us where to look for hints of the origin of this mythical creature. Although the iconographic depiction of the constellation Wolf the Centaur brings the pierced beast to the altar (the constellation Altar / Ara), the myth refers to Lycaon, the appearance of lycanthropy, then the folk werewolf, which all together has a deep symbolism and archetypal memory of the existence of a different position of constellations for 4th to 2th millennium, at the time when the constellation Wolf was visible in the northern sky. Today, the constellation *Lupus* is the constellation of the southern sky, but at the core of the myth is the story of the origin of the werewolf, a folklore tradition that, in an almost unchanged form, has been preserved to this day.

**Key words:** constellation Wolf, myth of Lycaon, lycanthropy, werewolf, folklore, star Tuban