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HIP 34624

HIP 34624

A light for our story



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A story among the stars

Celestial Library edition



*Every light holds a story. These pages
follow its journey, from the heart of the
star to the sky we share.*

The sky, page by page

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HIP 34624

One light among many

Some nights begin when we stop hurrying. The day withdraws, our eyes learn the darkness and, little by little, the stars appear. Among them is HIP 34624. Until now it may have been another distant light; pausing to look gives it a place in the story we share beneath the sky.

To choose one star for a closer visit is a quiet act of attention. It will continue on its way beyond our calendars, while here below its light can accompany a season, a journey or words we wish to remember. Immensity takes on a human measure: the measure of what we hold dear.

The colour of its fire

The light of HIP 34624 has a character of its own. The G family feels familiar because the Sun belongs to it too. We can imagine a brightness related to the light entering a window and accompanying our days. Elsewhere in the sky, matter has found a way to shine that reminds us of home.

To the unaided eye, a stellar colour can be little more than a whisper. The atmosphere makes it tremble and our eyes receive it in their own way. Beyond that point we can imagine a living surface of hot matter: the visible beauty of processes working on a scale far greater than ours.

SEVEN FAMILIES OF LIGHT



Light keeps the colours of its origin.

The journey ending here

The light of HIP 34624 crosses approximately 643.3 light-years to reach us. The brightness we receive has therefore spent about 643.3 years on its way. Distance becomes time: looking at this star means meeting light that began travelling before this moment. When it set out, the Sun and its planets already shared a history billions of years old. On their scale, this journey is barely a breath.

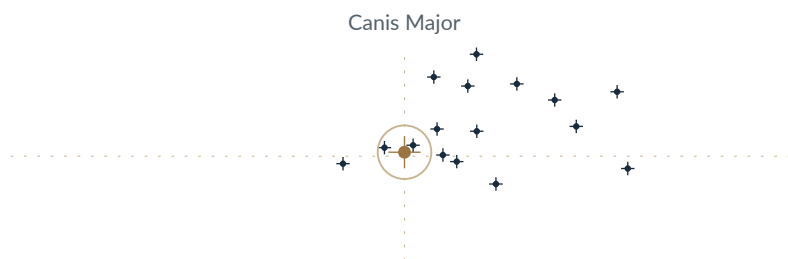
Its light has crossed the time of several generations. We can imagine hands writing letters, lit windows and voices that now live only in other voices. Through all that passing on, the brightness kept travelling; tonight it reaches us.



A landscape for imagination

HIP 34624 lies in the region of the Great Dog. The Great Dog offers an image of faithful companionship. We can imagine it watching beside the road of night, with a presence that needs no words to be felt.

Figures in the sky are a human way of approaching immensity. In our gaze they join lights that may lie at very different distances. Imagination stretches the thread; the stars provide the brightness. A single landscape can therefore keep old images while receiving a story that begins tonight.



Its light, among other lights of the constellation.

Four visits across a long interval

Some records reveal a star by returning to measure it. In a 2014 CORAVEL catalogue, De Medeiros and colleagues gathered HD 55070 into a single line; SIMBAD connects that designation with HIP 34624 and HR 2708. The row brings together four observations spanning 1,155 days, more than three years. From them the authors report a mean radial velocity of 16.28 ± 0.14 kilometres per second and a projected rotational velocity of 9.8 ± 1.0 kilometres per second. They also list a radial-velocity scatter of 0.27 kilometres per second and a 0.455 probability in their constant-velocity test. The table carries no binary remark, but that silence cannot rule out a companion. What it preserves is a measured passage: spectra gathered over a long interval, turning motion and rotation into a portrait with stated limits.

An observing record can become a patient conversation: the telescope returns, the line grows clearer, and uncertainty remains part of the truth. Four visits leave a rhythm of attention, not a promise that the star stands still.

A life opening out

The word giant speaks of a star that has moved beyond the appearance of its first long stage. Its envelope has expanded and the interior has changed the way it supports itself. We can imagine a life opening its rooms, a light taking up more space while writing a different chapter of its story.

To approach HIP 34624, we can let that scale widen our imagination. A stellar age is unlike a birthday: it speaks of changing matter, of energy finding a way out, of a balance sustained and transformed. Tonight's light is one page of that time, and we happen to be here to receive it.

Measuring with two glances

To begin measuring a stellar distance, Earth offers us a movement. We observe from one side of its orbit and look again about six months later from the other. A nearby star seems to shift slightly against more distant ones. That small change of perspective is called parallax.

We can feel the principle by looking at a finger with one eye and then the other. What fits between two glances at home requires our planet's journey in the sky. There is something beautiful in that patience: to learn how far a light is from us, we first learned to look from somewhere else.



Nothing stands still

Although it seems still, HIP 34624 belongs to a moving sky. Stars travel through the galaxy and our own home moves with the Sun. The distances are so great that many of these changes need years of observation to become visible. The serenity we see is really keeping a journey.

We can imagine every night as a meeting between travellers. We arrive with one more day of memories; the star arrives with its light and its path. The meeting seems to repeat, yet it is never quite the same. Perhaps that is why looking again can be such a simple way to celebrate shared time.

The night of finding it

A quiet way to meet HIP 34624 begins with the open sky and enough darkness for the stars to emerge. Find Canis Major on a reliable chart, then let the constellation guide your attention toward this modest point of light.

A telescope gathers more light, while patient looking gives the eye time to adapt. No instrument can shorten the distance; it can make a faraway presence easier to find. The night offers its own invitation: return whenever the sky is clear and the season brings the Great Dog into view.

Somewhere to return

We can close this booklet and let HIP 34624 become a small light in an enormous night again. Something, though, will have changed. We now know part of its journey, a shade of its colour and a way to find it. What seemed far away has a place in our memory.

There will be clear nights and others when clouds keep the sky. Not every night will allow observing, but each can bring back the memory of this gesture. Sometimes a name is enough to return to a date, a voice, a few shared words. And when the light appears again, we will have one more reason to pause and look.

The traces of this story

ESA Hipparcos / VizieR

https://vizier.cds.unistra.fr/viz-bin/VizieR-5?-source=I/239/hip_main&HIP=34624

NASA · Our Sun

<https://science.nasa.gov/sun/facts/>

IAU · Constellations and their names

<https://iauarchive.eso.org/public/themes/constellations/>

Celestron · Choosing eyepieces

<https://www.celestron.com/blogs/knowledgebase/how-to-determine-which-eyepieces-to-use-with-your-telescope>

CDS VizieR J/A+A/561/A126, Table 1 and ReadMe: CORAVEL velocities for evolved stars.

<https://cdsarc.cds.unistra.fr/viz-bin/cat/J/A+A/561/A126>

Original ISDORA prose and illustrations. Images are artistic evocations or diagrams, not to scale. Distances are approximate. Constellation figures include contemporary literary readings.

To keep discovering

NASA · The lives of stars

<https://science.nasa.gov/universe/stars/>

NASA · What is a light-year?

<https://science.nasa.gov/exoplanets/what-is-a-light-year/>

ESA · Measuring stellar distances by parallax

https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2013/06/Measuring_stellar_distances_by_parallax

De Medeiros et al. (2014), A catalog of rotational and radial velocities for evolved stars. V. Southern stars, *A&A* 561, A126,
doi:10.1051/0004-6361/201220762; full article.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1312.3474>

SIMBAD / CDS direct identifier cross-match: HD 55070 = HIP 34624 = HR 2708.

<https://simbad.cds.unistra.fr/simbad/sim-id?Ident=HD%2055070>



May there always be a night
to look again.



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A STORY OF LIGHT