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HIP 16470

HIP 16470

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 16470

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 16470. Until now it may have been another distant light; pausing to look is the beginning of giving it a place in our own story.

A dedication begins with that simple gesture: choosing something beautiful and wanting to share it. The star will continue on its way, beyond our calendars, while here below its light can accompany a date, a name or words we wish to keep. Immensity takes on an intimate measure: the measure of what matters to us.

The colour of its fire

The light of HIP 16470 has a character of its own. The B family carries the blue tint of hot surfaces in its light. Imagine a clear radiance, like the first brightness over snow. Its beauty comes from the same matter that, under other conditions, can kindle an amber-coloured star.

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 16470 crosses approximately 585.6 light-years to reach us. The brightness we receive has therefore spent about 585.6 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.

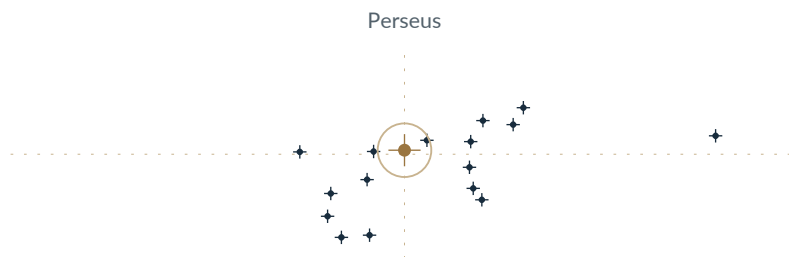
Its light has crossed the time of several generations. We can imagine hands writing letters, lit windows and voices that now live only in other voices. Through all that passing on, the brightness kept travelling; tonight it reaches us.



A landscape for imagination

HIP 16470 lies in the region of Perseus. Perseus has the name of an adventure. Looking at it, we can think of the courage to set out towards something important, even while the road is still lost in darkness.

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.

A quiet rhythm in three colours

In 1971 and 1972, John E. Winzer observed HR 1063 at Kitt Peak, comparing its light with two nearby stars. Through V, B and U filters he found small, orderly changes of 0.03, 0.04 and 0.05 magnitudes. In 1974 he reported the first established periodic variation in a helium-weak star. A one-day observing rhythm left two possible periods, 2.4761 or 1.6780 days, and one comparison star might itself vary. The paper kept both cautions in view.

Behind the record, we may picture the simplest astronomical gesture: someone looked, stayed a little longer, and chose to remember. The instruments and pages have changed, but that gesture remains close to us. Tonight we can give it a personal meaning, finding in one distant light a place for the words, dates and shared moments we wish to keep.

A life opening out

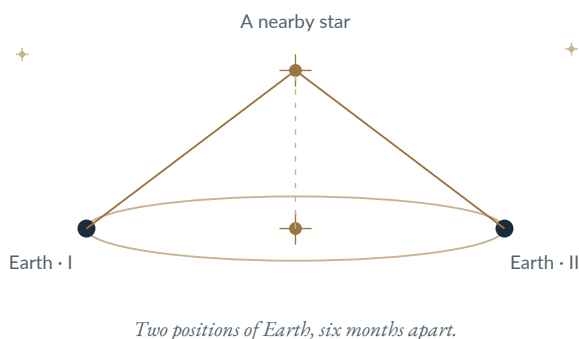
The word giant speaks of a star that has moved beyond the appearance of its first long stage. Its envelope has expanded and the interior has changed the way it supports itself. We can imagine a life opening its rooms, a light taking up more space while writing a different chapter of its story.

To approach HIP 16470, 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 16470 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

HIP 16470 lies in Perseus. Its catalogue position is about 03 h 32 min 09 s, +48° 01' 25" (J2000), and its visual magnitude is 5.47. Use a current star chart to place it among the surrounding Perseus stars; the constellation is easier to recognise than this individual point.

A 114 mm telescope with a 500 mm focal length and a 25 mm eyepiece gives about 20×. The instrument will not resolve the stellar surface, and the brightness changes reported by Winzer are small; this is not a promise of a naked-eye show. The pleasure is in finding the same distant light whose changing signal once emerged from nights of measurement.

Somewhere to return

We can close this booklet and let HIP 16470 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 · HIP 16470

https://vizier.cds.unistra.fr/viz-bin/VizieR-5?-source=I/239/hip_main&HIP=16470

NASA · Our Sun

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

ESA · Measuring stellar distances by parallax

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

SIMBAD / CDS · HIP 16470 = HD 21699 = HR 1063

<https://simbad.cds.unistra.fr/simbad/sim-id?Ident=HIP%2016470>

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/>

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>

Winzer (1974) · Photometric variations of the helium-weak star HR 1063

<https://adsabs.harvard.edu/pdf/1974AJ.....79...45W>



May there always be a night
to look again.



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A STORY OF LIGHT