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HIP 79488

HIP 79488

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 79488

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 79488, a modest light in Hercules. To seek it is to give one point its own place in the immensity.

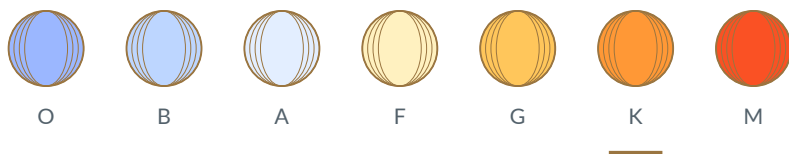
Its story reaches toward an old chart, then pauses at a question. A modern reader has traced this star into a reconstructed pattern, while other readers placed that point elsewhere. The disagreement has not erased the map; it has made the act of reading it more visible.

The colour of its fire

The light of HIP 79488 has a character of its own. The K family keeps the colour of an ember seen at the end of an evening. Its surfaces are cooler than the Sun's, though still extraordinarily hot. That amber tint suggests a gathered light, a warmth that seems to ask us to stay a little longer.

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

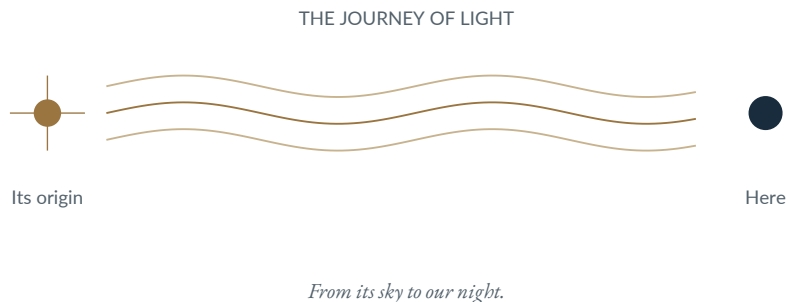


Light keeps the colours of its origin.

The journey ending here

The light of HIP 79488 crosses approximately 424.7 light-years to reach us. The brightness we receive has therefore spent about 424.7 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.

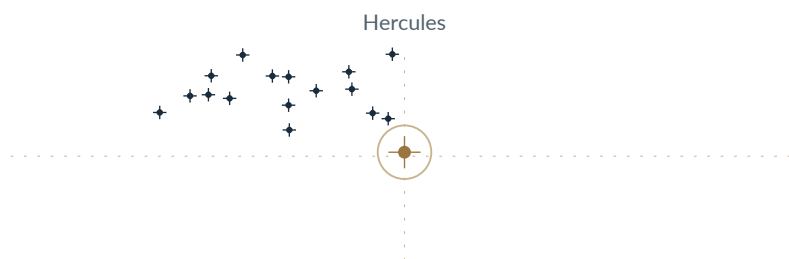
Its light has crossed the time of several generations. We can imagine hands writing letters, lit windows and voices that now live only in other voices. Through all that passing on, the brightness kept travelling; tonight it reaches us.



A landscape for imagination

HIP 79488 lies in the region of Hercules. Hercules lets us think of the strength needed to persevere. There is also a quiet strength in caring, waiting and returning, small gestures beneath an immense night.

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 star traced through a disputed map

A star chart compiled by Su Song in 1094 became the subject of a modern reconstruction by Hisaaki Shinkai. Using Hipparcos positions, he redrew the old constellations for the sky's 1080 vernal equinox. In one table, the first point in the historical figure, within the historical figure, is called the historical figure, the eastern star, and matched to HIP 79488, or 9 Herculis. Yet the same row keeps earlier disagreements in view: one study had placed the point at 50 Sigma Serpentis, while two others identified Lambda Ophiuchi. The hand-drawn chart itself has limited positional precision, Shinkai cautions. So this is not a name carried unchanged across nine centuries, but a careful modern proposal, with its alternatives preserved beside the star. HIP 79488 enters the old map through a question that remains visible.

We can imagine the word passing from hand to hand while the star remained beyond every page. Languages changed; the desire to remember a light endured. Tonight that long conversation reaches our gaze. A name, spoken softly, can gather the breadth of the sky into something intimate: a place to return, and a reason to tell someone else where to look.

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 79488, 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 79488 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

We can begin simply: look into a starry sky and let our eyes grow used to darkness. Hercules rises high in the evening sky; a clear, dark location helps with a fifth-magnitude star. A wide field is a gentle start if a telescope joins the night. A 114 mm Newtonian with a 500 mm focal length gives 20× with a 25 mm eyepiece. HIP 79488 remains a point of light, found by patience rather than spectacle.

If a telescope joins the evening, a wide field is a gentle beginning. As a reference, a 114 mm Newtonian with a 500 mm focal length gives 20× with a 25 mm eyepiece. The star remains a point of light; the instrument gathers more of its brightness. The best memory may be the moment we leave the eyepiece and say: there it is.

Somewhere to return

We can close this booklet and let the star become a small light in an enormous night again. We have followed it into a reconstruction of an old chart without turning a scholarly proposal into certainty. The preserved disagreement asks us to look closely at both the sky and the records made of it.

There will be clear nights and others when clouds keep the sky. The old map can wait for another reader, and the question can remain open without losing its beauty. When Hercules returns above the horizon, HIP 79488 will be there among its lights, ready to be found again.

The traces of this story

ESA Hipparcos / VizieR

https://vizier.cds.unistra.fr/viz-bin/VizieR-5?-source=I/239/hip_main&HIP=79488

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>

SIMBAD / CDS · HIP 79488 = HD 145892 = 9 Her cross-identification and coordinates

<https://simbad.cds.unistra.fr/simbad/sim-id?Ident=HD+145892>

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

Hisaaki Shinkai (2026) · Memoirs of Osaka Institute of Technology 70(2), 41–72 · Appendix A.3/Table A.3 and method; published PDF

https://www.oit.ac.jp/labs/is/system/shinkai/Papers/20251119_GishouHouyou.pdf

ESA Hipparcos catalogue via CDS VizieR · HIP 79488 row; coordinates and magnitude

https://vizier.cds.unistra.fr/viz-bin/asu-tsv?-source=I/239/hip_main&HIP=79488



May there always be a night
to look again.



HIP 79488

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A STORY OF LIGHT