

STGZ239

11/21 - 11/27

PERSEUS ELBOW AND MEDUSA S EYE

HOWDY WELKIN WATCHERS – TRACE HERE! LAST WEEK WE FOUND THE PLEIADES, A GORGEOUS OPEN STAR CLUSTER – AND THIS WEEK WE’LL USE IT AND A FEW OTHER STARS TO FIND PERSEUS AND MEDUSAS’ SEVERED HEAD – SO LET’S HIT THE DARKNESS!

OUR SKIES ARE SET TO 5AM LOOKING WEST – STARTING AT THE PLEIADES, HOP UP AND RIGHT TO CAPELLA IN AURIGA – AND THEN DOWN AND RIGHT TO MIRFAK.

MIRFAK TRANSLATES TO ELBOW – PERSEUS’ ELBOW IN THIS CASE! PERSEUS IS THE LEGENDARY GREEK HERO WHO SLEW MEDUSA – WE SEE HIM HERE ON HIS BACK AS A KIND OF V-SHAPE. MIRFAK IS ON THE UPPER TINE AND ON THE LOWER IS ALGOL – THE EYE OF MEDUSA. ALGOL IS A THREE-STAR SYSTEM, SO IT DIMS AND BRIGHTENS OVER TIME; OOH SO CREEPY! IT GOES BY ANOTHER NAME – RA’S AL-GHUL – MEANING HEAD OF THE DEMON...

IF YOU NEED ANOTHER WAY TO FIND PERCY JUST LOOK FOR THE DISTINCTIVE W OF CASSIOPEIA... HE’S ALWAYS NEARBY. THANKS FOR WATCHING, AND KEEP LOOKIN’ UP.