

Twenty Seven Vedic Stars In Two Dimensions

(nakṣatrāṇi नक्षत्राणि)

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The Vedic astronomy (ज्योतिष्य शास्त्र) *jyotiṣya śāstra* describes twenty seven stars *nakṣatrāṇi* (नक्षत्राणि) in cosmos which represent measurement of time in our daily life on planet earth. This originated with the genius of Vedic seers *ṛṣayaḥ* (ऋषयः). I will try to explain this using two dimensional diagrams on paper for all of us to understand.

The twenty-seven Vedic stars or *nakṣatrāṇi* (नक्षत्राणि) and twelve constellations *rāśayaḥ* (राशयः) are listed below.

Twenty seven Vedic stars *nakṣatrāṇi* (नक्षत्राणि)

aśvini (अश्विनि), *bharanī* (भरणी) , *kṛtikā* (कृतिका), *rohinī* (रोहिणी),
mṛgaśīrṣā (मृगशीर्षा), *ārdra* (आर्द्र), *punarvasu* (पुनर्वसु), *puṣya* (पुष्य),
āśleṣā (आश्लेषा), *maghā* (मघा), *pūrova phālgunī* (पूर्व फाल्गुणी), *uttara
phālgunī* (उत्तर फाल्गुणी), *hasta* (हस्त), *citrā* (चित्रा), *svāti* (स्वाति),
viśākhā (विशाखा), *anurādhā* (अनुराधा), *jyeṣṭhā* (ज्येष्ठा), *mūlā* (मूला),
pūrvāṣādhā (पूर्वाषाढा), *uttarāṣādhā* (उत्तराषाढा), *śravaṇa* (श्रवण),
dhaniṣṭhā (धनिष्ठा), *śatabhiṣā* (शतभिषा), *pūroabhādra* (पूर्वभाद्र),
uttarabhādra (उत्तरभाद्र), *revatī* (रेवती)

rāśayah (राशयः), Constellations

मेष *meṣa* (ram) = Aries, वृषभ *vṛṣabha* (bull) = Taurus, (मिदुनम्) (*midunam*) twins = Gemini, कर्कट *karkaṭa* (crab) = Cancer, सिंह *siṃha* (lion) = Leo, कन्या *kanyā* (virgin) = Virgo, तुलु *tulā* (Weighing scale) = Libra, वृश्चिक *vṛścika* (scorpion) = Scorpio, धनुस् *dhanus* (bow) = Sagittarius, मकर *makara* (crocodile) = Capricorn, कुंभ *kumbha* (water pot) = Aquarius, मीनम् *mīnam* (fish) = Pisces.

The two greatest and longest epics (ityāhasa इत्याहस), *Ramāyaṇa* रमायण and *Mahābhārata* महाभारत) of the world give complete astronomical details at the birth of *Śrīrāma* श्रीराम and *Śrī Kṛṣṇa* श्रीकृष्ण. Modern astronomy shows *Ramāyaṇa* रमायण is older than 5,000 B.C, and *Mahābhārata* महाभारत is older than 3,000 B.C. It shows the antiquity of Vedic astronomy. (वाल्मीकि *vālmīki*) in (श्रीमद्रामायण *śrīmadrāmāyaṇa*) records the complete astronomical details of the birth *Śrī Rāma* (श्रीराम). Astronomical details are as follows.

वाल्मीकेः रामायणम् अष्टादश सर्गः
vālmikeḥ rāmāyaṇam aṣṭādaśa sargaḥ
८, ९, १०, ११, १२ च श्लोकाः 8, 9,10,11,12 ca ślokāḥ

ततो यज्ञे समाप्ते तु ऋतूनां षट् समत्ययुः ।

ततश्च द्वादशे मासे चैत्रे नवमिके तिथौ ॥ ८

*tato yajñe samāpte tu ṛtūnām ṣaṭ samatyayuh |
tataśca dvādaśe māse caitre navamike tithau || 8*

नक्षत्रेऽदितिदैवत्ये स्वाच्चसंस्थेषु पञ्चसु ।

ग्रहेषु कर्कटे लग्ने वाक्पताविन्दुना सह ॥ ९

*nakṣatre' ditidaiivatye svāccasaṁstheṣu pañcasu |
graheṣu karkate lagne vākpatāvindunā saha || 9*

प्रोद्यमाने जगन्नाथं सर्वलोकनमस्कृतम् ।

कौसल्याजनयद् रामं दिव्यलक्षणसंयुतम् ॥ १०

*prodyamāne jagannātham sarvalokanamaskṛtam |
kausalyājanayad rāmaṁ divyalakṣaṇasaṁyutam || 10*

विष्णोरर्धं महाभागं पुत्रमैक्ष्वाकु नन्दनम् ।

लोकहिताक्षं महाबाहुं रक्तोष्ठं दुन्दिभिस्वनम् ॥११

*viṣṇorardham mahābhāgaṁ putramaikṣvāku nandanam |
lokahitākṣaṁ mahābāhuṁ raktoṣṭham dundibhisvanam || 11*

कौसल्या शुशुभे तेन पुत्रेणामिततेजसा ।

यथा वरेण देवानामदितिर्वज्रपाणिना ॥ १२

*kausalyā śuśubhe tena putreṇāmitatejasā |
yathā vareṇa devānāmaditirvajrapāṇinā || 12*

And then six seasons had rolled after the completion of the sacrifice (*yajña* यज्ञ), in the twelfth month, on the ninth lunar day, under the influence of *Punarvasu* पुनर्वसु, asterism presided by *Aditi Devatā* अदिति देवता , when the Sun, moon, Saturn, Jupiter and Venus were at Aries, Capricorn, Libra, Cancer and Pisces, and when Jupiter had arisen within the Moon at Cancer, *Kausayā* कौसया gave birth to that Lord of the universe bowed to by all the worlds, *Rāma* राम , descendant of *Ikṣvāku* इक्ष्वाकु , furnished with excellent marks (features), the one half of *Viṣṇu* विष्णु , exceedingly righteous, with rosy eyes, mighty arms, and crimson nether lips, and endowed with voice like that of a kettledrum. Then on having given birth to that son of immeasurable prowess, *Kausayā* कौसया , looked resplendent like *Aditi* अदिति , on having brought forth that foremost of the celestials, wielder of the thunderbolt.

Time lapse of time for moon between two stars.

The moon (*candra* चन्द्रः) circumambulates around the earth every thirty days pointing towards twenty seven Vedic stars (*nakṣatrāṇi* नक्षत्राणि). The earth circumambulates around the sun every 365 days. Therefore, the moon visits all 27 stars $12 \times 27 + 27$ or $27 \times 13 = 351$ times in 365 days. The time lapse between two

stars for the moon is 1.04 days or one day and approximately 57 minutes.

In the diagrams outer circle show twenty seven stars. In 2nd, 3rd and 4th figures earth with circumambulating around. The moon points towards each star. Moon points towards 27 stars approximately once every month.

Remarks

The unfortunate story is the western orientalist and the so called Indologists have used Vedic astronomy as synonymous with astrology. It was the political agenda during the British rule in land.

References

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2. Age of Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Mahabhārata by Rāmulu Gajavāḍa Saṁskṛtam Teacher at Vedānta Temple, Hollywood, California.

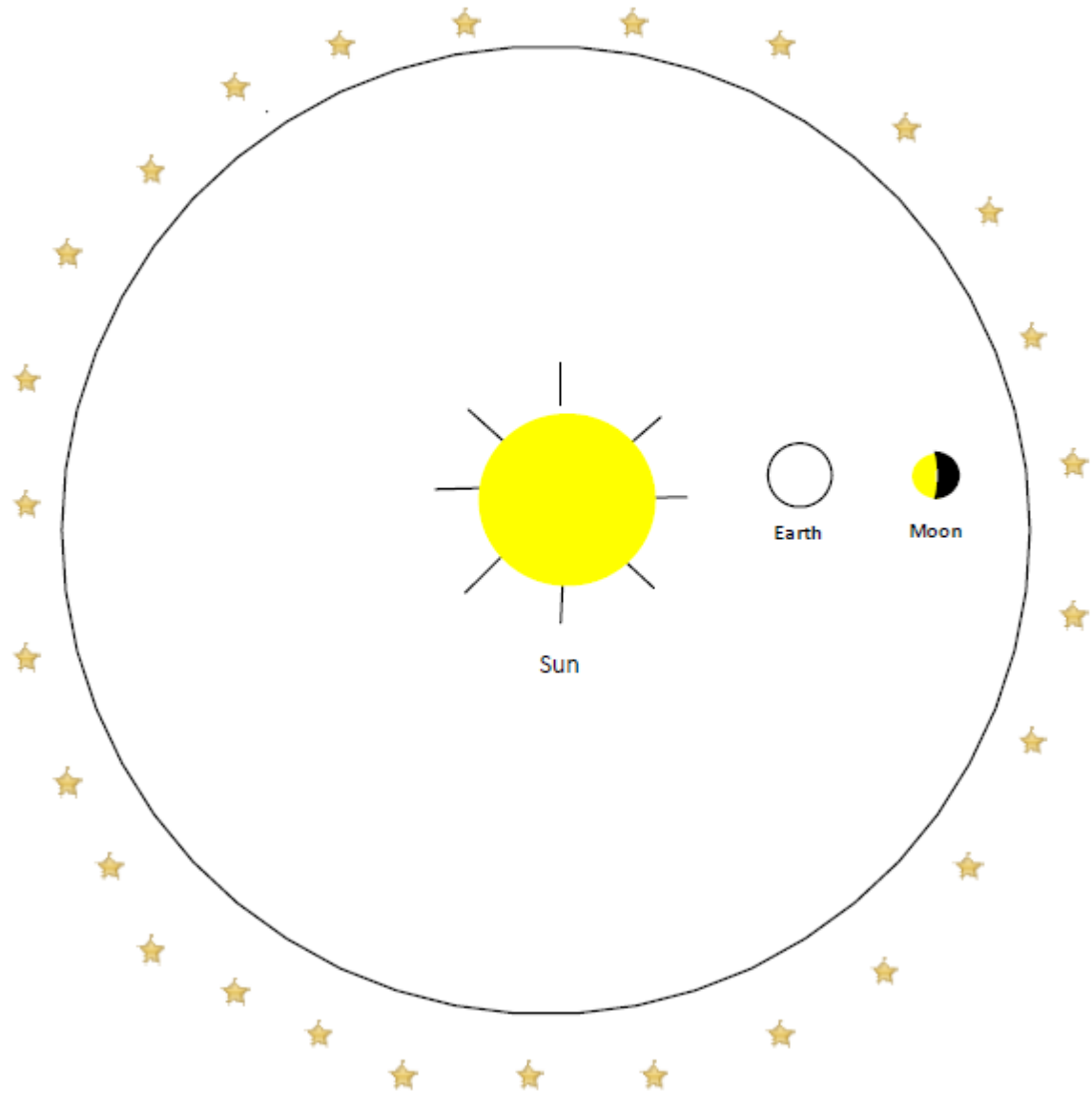


Figure # 1 Showing sun, earth & moon in their respective locations. Moon revolves around the earth, as the earth revolves around the sun. Moon (full moon position) pointing towards a star (*nakṣatra* नक्षत्र). There are twenty seven stars in the outer circle in the diagram.

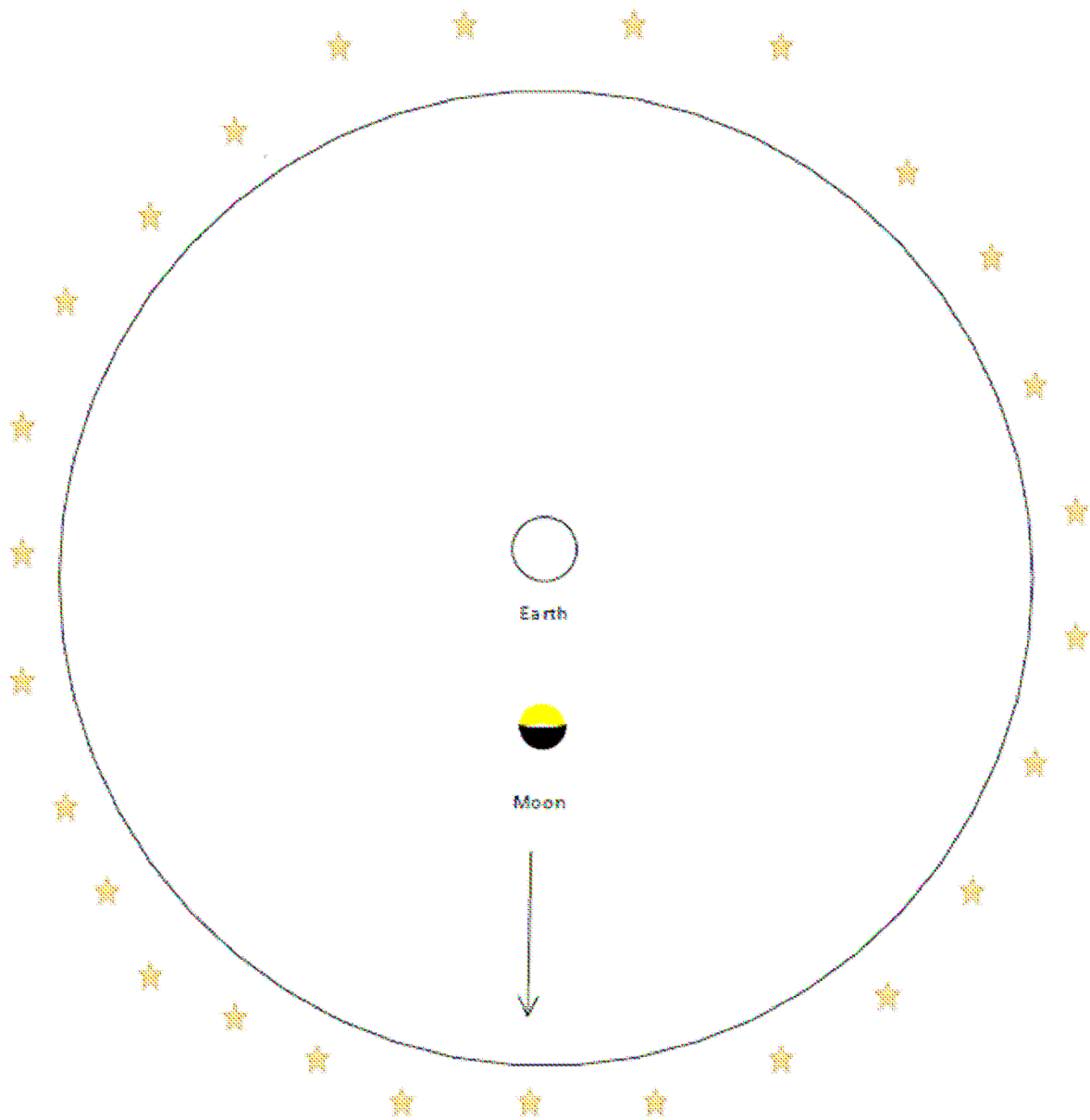


Figure # 2 Showing moon one quarter turn away from the previous position pointing towards another star (*nakṣatra* नक्षत्र).

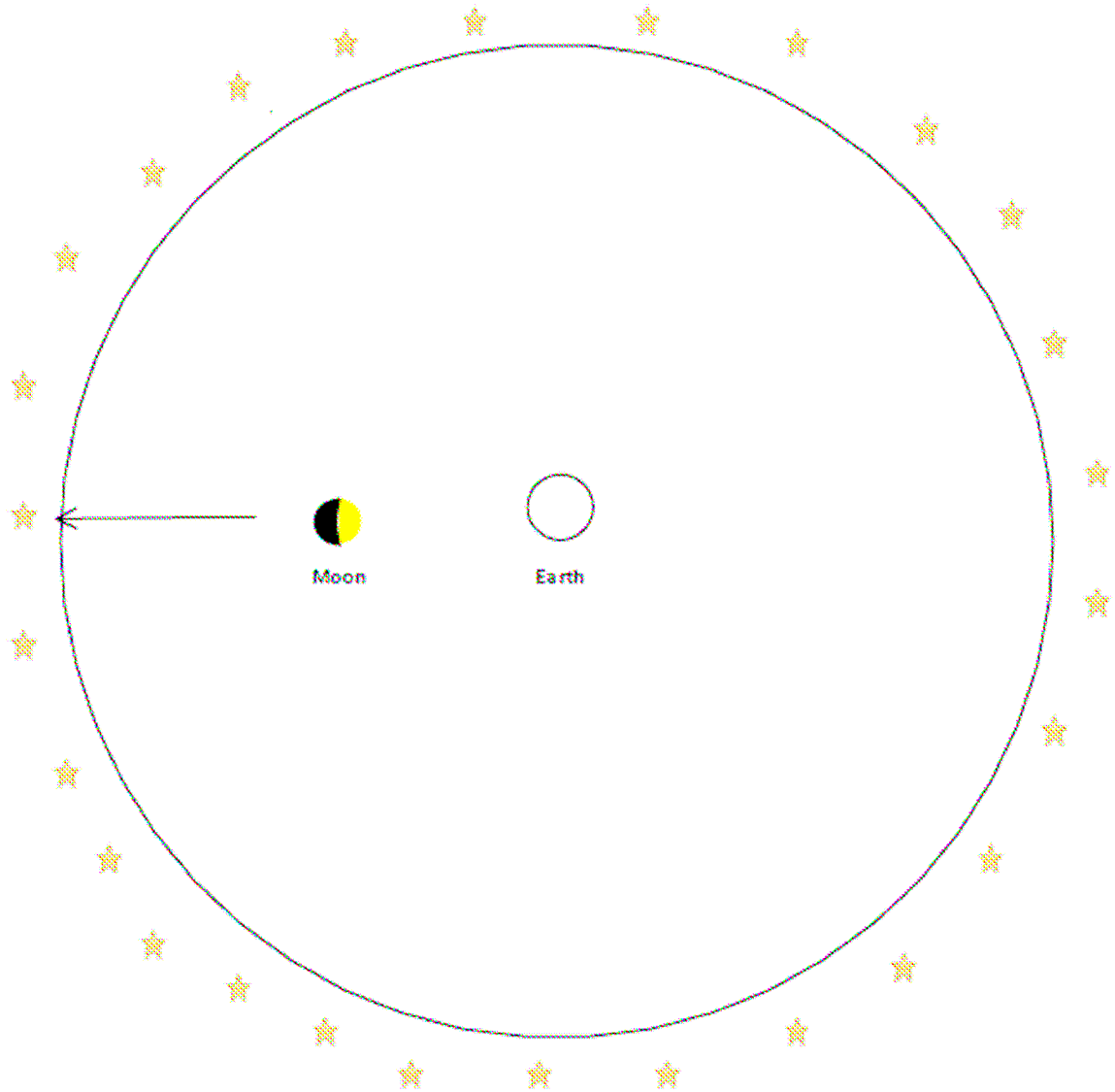


Figure # 3 Showing the moon half turn away around from the first position and (new moon) pointing towards a different star (*nakṣatra* नक्षत्र).

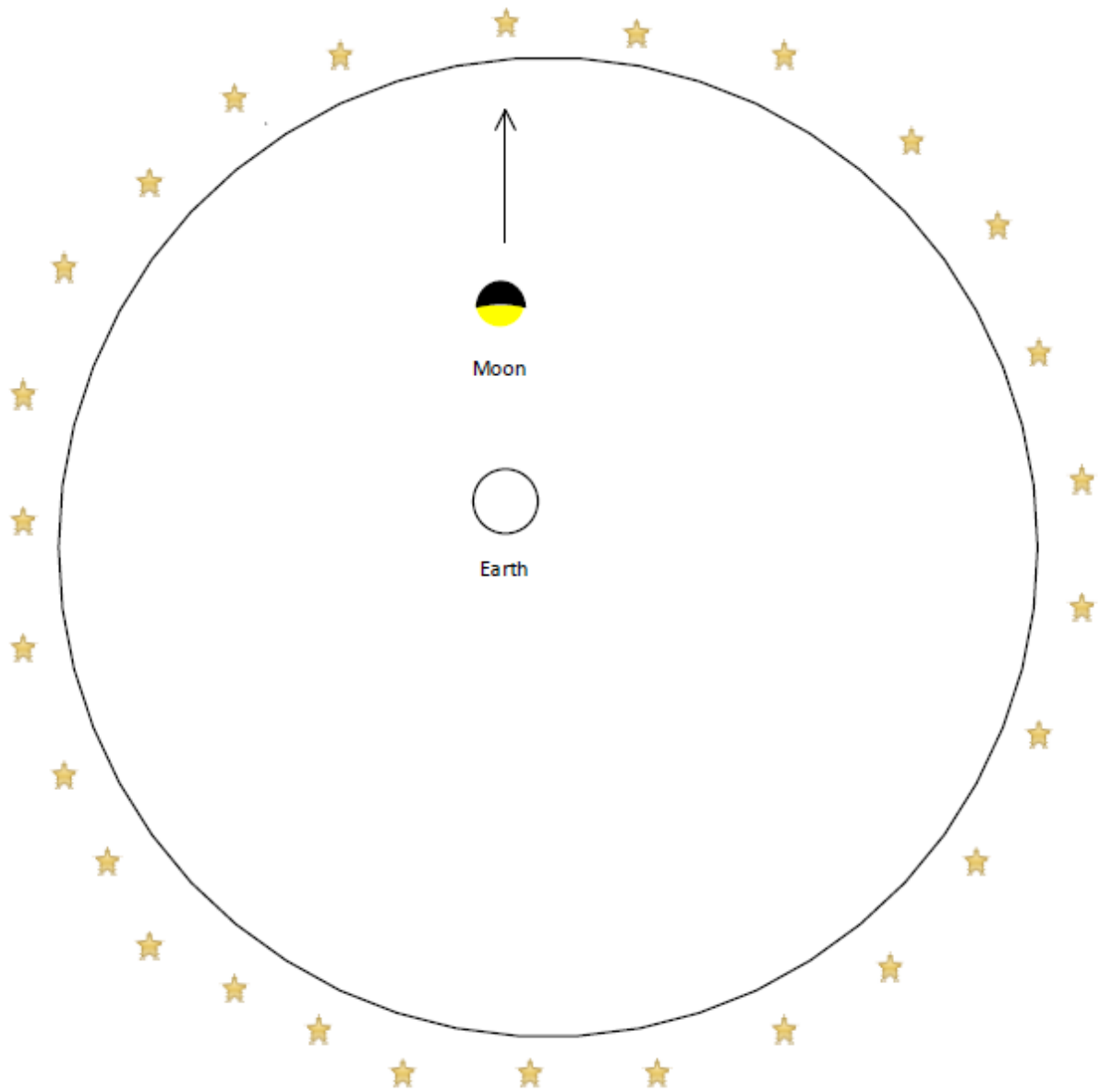


Figure # 4 Showing three quarters turn away from first position pointing towards a different star (*nakṣatra* नक्षत्र).

Drawings by Fitzgerald Oatis