

Part Two

The Nature of the Stars

What are the stars? How does their nature differ from the five “wandering stars” or planets known since antiquity, and from the sun and the moon? How is the universe of stars and planets arranged and how does it function? Over the ages there have been many answers to these questions: superstitious, mythological, religious, philosophical, and ultimately scientific. The long process of acquiring useful and reliable knowledge about the stars has been punctuated with a number of discoveries and insights that are important to the story of Sirius, and in which Sirius often played a critical role.