



The head and mane of Leo are formed by an asterism known as the Sickle, which looks rather like a backward or reverse question mark. *Alpha Leonis*, one of the brightest Spring stars, was named Regulus or "Little King" by the astronomer, Copernicus. It stands at the base of the Sickle and marks its handle. Though generally referred to in modern times as Regulus, this star was better known in antiquity as Cor Leonis or the Lion's Heart. Regulus is a white-blue triple star, sometimes referred to as the "Regulator of Heaven," which does indeed mark the heart of the Lion and was once thought to oversee affairs on Earth as well as ruling the heavens. **To the Persians, Regulus was one of the four "Guardian Stars." It is also known as the "Royal Star" and "Kingly Star,"** being associated in many ways with kings on Earth. **Thus, both Regulus and the constellation of Leo itself have become a cherished symbol of monarchy ... found on the Royal Coat of Arms in England, for instance. Behind the Sickle, toward the Eastern horizon, three stars form the small triangle which marks the rear of Leo.**