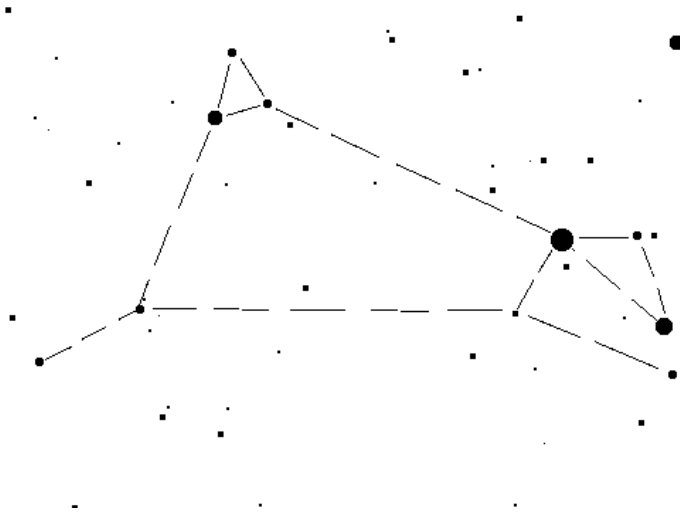


## *Aries (Air-ez) - The Ram*



The story of Aries begins with the unhappy children of a broken family. Queen Ino couldn't stand the children of King Athamas. She developed a complex plot to get rid of them. The first thing that she did was to spread disease among the crops so that the crops would fail and there would be no harvest. When the king sent to the great oracle at Delphi to ask of the gods the reason for the failure, Ino bribed the messengers to bring back the answer that the children should be

sacrificed to save the crops. Thanks to Ino's bribery, when the king hesitated to make the sacrifice, the local priests insisted that the children must be sacrificed. Athamas took the children to the top of a nearby mountain to make the sacrifice, but their mother, Nephele, was watching from heaven. She bade the gods to send down a golden ram from heaven to carry the children to safety. This is the ram of Aries. At last moment before the sacrifice, the ram arrived and carried the children off towards Asia.

Aries also represents the golden fleece Jason and the Argonauts returned to Greece.