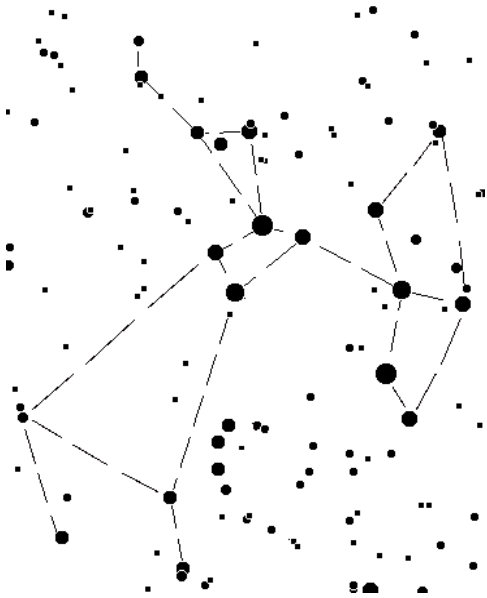


Sagittarius (Saj-i-tear-e-us) - The Archer



Sagittarius is a centaur. The Archer is half-man, half-horse. The Archer represents the upper body of a man growing out of the body of a horse. The man's body replaces the neck and head of the horse.

The figure of the centaur may be a residue of the terror inspired by the sight of the first armed horsemen. People who had not yet domesticated the horse and did not imagine riding on the back of a beast, may have had difficulty separating the animal from its rider. So the warriors sweeping down on them firing arrows may have been seen as a strange kind of half-human creature, combining upper body of a warrior with the four legs of an animal.

Sagittarius is associated with Crotus, the son of the god Pan. Crotus was both skilled at the hunt and sensitive to the arts. According to one story, Crotus begged Zeus to transport him into the stars upon his death.