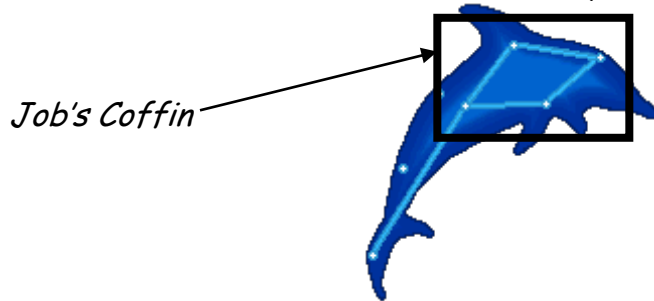


Delphinus (Del-feen-us) - The Slingshot Stars (Pueblo)

★ The asterism is rather curious, for its four main stars form a rectangle called "Job's Coffin". This is probably a hang-over from the time Delphinus was interpreted as a whale, as in Chapter 41 of *Job* where God challenged Job: "Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook?" However, there is no reference to Job being swallowed by a whale, as happened with Jonah, so

the name *Job's Coffin* remains a bit of a mystery.



★ Best seen in September.

Myth

Long ago, in the days after the great flood when all things began to come alive again, the people emerged from the underworld. They began moving slowly to the south as they were instructed by Our Mother, the mother of the Pueblo Indians. She also told the people that they were all brothers and sisters and were to live as one large family.

As they began traveling, one little girl, Kotcimanyako (kot-see-man-yak-o), was left behind in all the hustle and bustle of packing and moving out. She stood looking up at Our Mother.

"Come closer, Kotcimanyako," said Our Mother.

The little girl came closer, and Our Mother gave her a little bag of tightly wrapped white cotton.

"Carry this little bag on your back," she told Kotcimanyako. "Do not unwrap the bag for any reason."

The little girl promised not to open the bag.

Again, Our Mother said, "Be very careful, little one, and remember not to open the bag, no matter what happens."

Again, Kotcimanyako promised, though she had no idea what was in it and did not know why she was forbidden to open the bundle.

And so Kotcimanyako began on her journey to the south, hoping to overtake the others before too many days passed. As she walked, she wondered about many things, but most of all about the bag on her back. "Why can I not open the bag? Would it hurt to take just a little look?" And so she thought until her head was spinning and her curiosity began to get the better of her.

At lunchtime, she took the bundle off her back so she could rest by a little stream. She asked herself, "One little peek couldn't hurt anything, could it?"

The bundle was tied with many knots. It seemed to be growing in her hands as she struggled with the first knot. Before long, she came to the last one and began working it loose. Just then, something popped out. As the knot fell apart, more things flowed from the bag and scattered all over the sky. She had no idea what they were, but they were coming out so fast that she grew very frightened.

Quickly, she tried to grab the ones that had not flown away and stuff them back into the bag. Her fingers worked fast to gather as many as possible. Then she put them in her bundle and tied it tightly.

When Kotcimanyako came to the south and the end of her journey, she discovered that the things she had let out were stars. She unwrapped the few stars she had been able to keep and the elders placed them in their proper patterns. This is the reason why most of the patterns are unnamed - those are the ones that scattered when Kotcimanyako opened her bundle. The few we have names for are the ones that remained in her bag. They are the Slingshot Stars, the Pot Rest Stars, and the Shield Stars (Big Dipper).