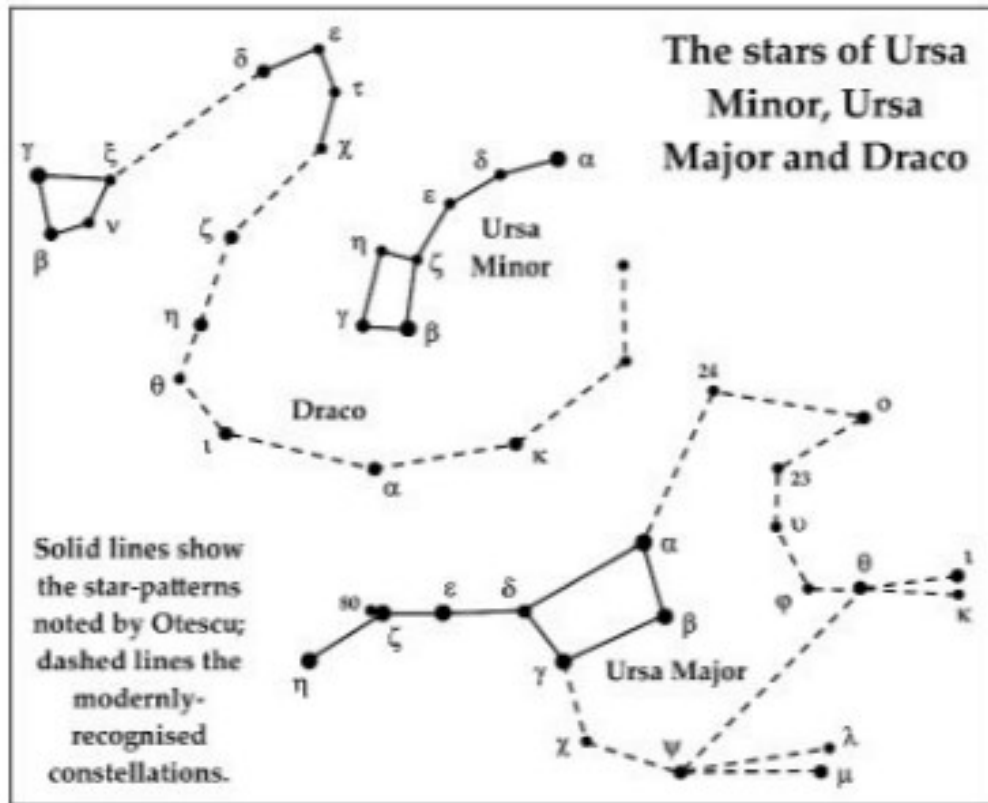


CHAPTER ONE: CONSTELLATIONS

I: Ursa Major and II: Ursa Minor

Usually, these are called *Carul Mare* (the Great Chariot) and *Carul Mic* (the Little Chariot). The four stars which form the trapeziums in each [$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ Ursæ Majoris and $\beta, \gamma, \eta, \zeta$ Ursæ Minoris] are called *Roatele Carului* (the Chariot Wheels), and the remaining three [ϵ, ζ, η Ursæ Majoris and α, δ, ϵ Ursæ Minoris] are *Proşapul* (the Shaft), or *Tânjala Carului* (the Slow Chariot Shaft), or *Oiştea* (the Axle). In other instances, they are called *Ursul Mare* (the Great Bear) and *Ursul Mic* (the Little Bear) [16], the trapeziums being *Trupul Ursului* (the Bear's

Body), and the three separate stars *Coada Ursului* (the Bear's Tail). The Little Chariot is also called *Plugușorul* (the Tiny Plough) [14] or *Grapa* (the Harrow) [38].



The peasants have grasped the important idea that the two Chariots are always to the North, and some of them use these as a direction guide at night [4].

Polaris [α Ursæ Minoris] is sometimes called *Împăratul* (the Emperor) [32], and at other times *Candela Cerului* (the Sky's Votive Light) [16], because it is a comparatively immobile star with little diurnal movement, and it is the most luminous star in that part of the sky.

Polaris is also sometimes called *Stâlpul* (the Pillar) [12, 40] or *Steajărul de la Arie* (the Stake of a Horse-