This constellation was known to the Arabs of the Middle Ages as *Al-Jabbār* (“The Giant,” Orion) or *Al-Sayyād* (“The Hunter”), while the Ancient Arabs knew it as *Al-Jawzā* (also rendered *Al-Jawzā’* and *Al-Jawzān*) or, rarely, *Al-Mīzān* (“The Scales”), a mistaken rendering by Ibn al-Sūfi in his famous book on the stars: “The stars of *Al-Jabbār* follow them/they that are known in the cities/among the common people as *Al-Mīzān*/men and boys know them as such/and maybe they are called *Al-Jawzā’*/stars that shine in the dark.”

*Al-Jawzā* is distinct from the stars of *Al-Tawa’mīn* (“The Twins,” Gemini) – one of the twelve star-clusters known in *Al-Jawzā’* – which are in the image of two people whose head is to the north and east and feet to the south and west of its galaxy.

Orion is a cluster of 35 stars, or “planets” as Al-Sufi called them. The most significant of them is *Al-Sahābi* (*Ra’s al-Jabbār* “Al-Jabbār’s Head,” *Al-Haq‘ah*). It is one of the 28 satellite types. Another renowned star in *Al-Jawzā* is the giant, red *Al-Nayr* that is also called “*Al-Jawzā’s* Left Flank” or “*Al-Jawzā’s* Hand.” Another famous star of Orion is *Al-Najidh* (“The Molar”) or *Al-Marzam* (“The Bundle”) on the “right flank.” The three stars of the *Mintaqat Al-Jawzā* (“Al-Jawzā’s Region” also called *Al-Wasat* “the Middle” or *Al-Hizām*, “the Belt”) are also renowned: *Al-Nitāq*, *Al-Nidhām*, and *Al-Fiqār*. In a commentary in his book *The Image of the Stars*, Al-Razi ascribes his description of this stellar configuration to Ptolemy.

The Arabs imagine the configuration of the Orion cluster in two ways. The most famous of these comes from the Arabs of the Middle Ages who conceived of it as resembling a man’s head, two shoulders, two hands, and two legs that they called either *Al-Jabbār* or *Al-Sayyād*, because he is seated on two chairs, with a rod in his hand and a sword across his midriff. The other became a settled one in the minds of the ancient Arabs, who viewed it as a woman called *Al-Jawzā* who is the wife of Suhayl (Canopus) wielding a bow and arrow and pointing it at a lion. He broke her back in a dispute between them and then fled to the southern heavens so that no-one could see him. This star cluster was therefore often referred to in feminine terms by poets in the Arab Mashriq, from the pre-Islamic until the Abbasid era, while those in the Arab Maghrib, mostly referred to it in masculine terms, even though it retained the name *Al-Jawzā* (a feminine word form in Arabic) rather than *Al-Jabbār* (a masculine one).

The Umayyad Al-Kumayt stated in his description of *Al-Jawzā*: “And when he saw *Al-Jawzā* the first morning, she was bundled up/in the dawn like a young girl with budding breasts.”

The Tunisian poet Al-Hasan bin Muhammad al-Tamimi al-Qadi al-Taharti (known also as “Ibn al-Rabib” (d. 430 AH / 1038-39 AD) describes it in this way: “See the image of *Al-Jawzā* if it appears/as if a watchful waiting hunter on a long desert slope/Sword at hand when suddenly appear asses/or cattle before the rising of the sun.”

None of the stars is mentioned in the Koran with the names the Arabs knew them by except for Al-Sh‘irī (Sirius or the Dog Star): قال تعالى: "وأنه هو رب الشعرى (‘The Almighty said: “And He is the Lord of Sirius’ Surat al-Najm, Verse 49). It consists of two stars: Al-‘Ubūr and Al-Ghumaysā’. Al-‘Ubūr is considered by the Arabs, as Ibn Qutaybah says, *kalb al-jawzā* (“*Al-Jawzā’s* Dog”) and one of her followers. The Arabs are also perhaps grandiloquent about *Al-Jawzā* because of the link between Al-‘Ubūr and the Koran. Al-‘Ubūr is a star and the first one to coin it her servant was one of their number called Abu Kabshah, because he noticed that the stars cut across the sky horizontally while Al-‘Ubūr crossed it vertically and so was different from the others, so he prayed to it faithfully. When the messenger of God, peace be upon him, went to call on them to worship God alone, they called him “Abu Kabshah’s son” due his difference from them in his worship, like Abu Kabshah’s in worshipping Al-Shi‘ri.

In the Jewish religion that some of the inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula embraced before the advent of Islam, we find references to *Al-Jabbār* in the context of affirming the divinity of the Creator of it and other stars. In the Book of Job 9:9, we find that “He made the Bear, Orion [*Al-Jabbār*], and the Pleiades/And the chambers of the south” and in the Book of Amos 5:8 that “He made the Pleiades and Orion [*Al-Jabbār*].”

The appearance of the stars of this solar system – especially *Al-Haq‘ah*, which lies at “*Al-Jawzā’s* head” and *Al-Han‘ah* which lies at “*Al-Jawzā’s* left leg” – is accompanied by intense heat. The Arabs say of this that *idhā tal‘at al-hawzā’ tawaqqadat al-mu’azā’* *wa-kanast al-dhibā’ wa-araqat al-‘ulabā’ wa-tāba al-khibā’* (“If *Al-Jawzā* appears, the solid ground smolders, gazelles seek shelter, the nerves in camel’s necks sweat, and tents bake”).

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