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And Exploration of the Greater Pyramid: Prior Attempted Explanations Reviewed.

(Fig.1 is appended to dr.pdf as 3<sup>rd</sup> page online. For 2pp paper-copy group handouts, it is this very page's flipside.)

[Basis of www.dioi.org/g835.pdf, *Griffith Observer 83.5*:1-11, 2019 May.]

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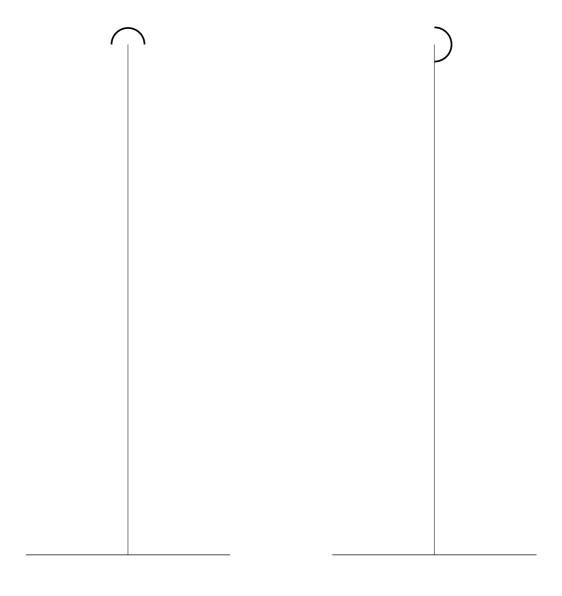


Figure 1: The Great Pyramid's geographical latitude L is  $29^{\circ}58'.7$ . So if we include the effect of 1'.7 of atmospheric refraction, the Celestial North Pole as seen from the Great Pyramid (and both of the other two Giza pyramids) is above the horizon's North point (azimuth 0°) by 30°00′, within c.2 parts in 10000 (www.dioi.org/dr.pdf, §E2 considers if the coincidence is meaningful). In both left&right diagrams of the northern sky as seen from Giza at night, the horizon is the horizontal line at bottom. Perpendicular to the horizon in each diagram is 30° of the Giza meridian — from the horizon to the Celestial Pole. And each diagram bears a dark semi-circle centered on the Pole, depicting the counterclockwise 12h path of one of the two circumpolar stars here considered, whose respective start&endpoints obviously differ by 90°. The left diagram's half-circle marks the night path of star 10i Dra (magnitude 4.61) around the Pole from  $18^{\rm h}$  to  $6^{\rm h}$  Local Apparent Time on -2612/1/10-11, the Winter Solstice, when night's length is the year's greatest, and the interval cited is almost-entirely in full darkness or Astronomical Twilight. (Extremal solar altitude [18h&6h]  $h_{\rm S}=-11^{\circ}.7$ , near enough to Astron. Twilight's  $-12^{\circ}$  bound.) The radius of 10i Dra's semi-circular arc is  $0^{\circ}58'$ , so (dividing by  $\cos 30^{\circ}$ ) the star oscillates  $1^{\circ}07'$  in azimuth. The diagram on the right shows the semi-circular night path of star  $11\alpha$  Dra or Thuban (magnitude 3.65) around the Pole  $6^d$  later, -2612/1/16-17, from  $18^h$  to  $6^h$  LAT (extremal  $h_{\rm S}=-11^{\circ}.6$ , again about  $-12^{\circ}$ ). The radius of  $11\alpha$  Dra's semi-circle is  $1^{\circ}03'$ , which swings it as far east as  $1^{\circ}13'$ in azimuth, en route from 1°03′ below 30° altitude to same above. Both stars were visible from Giza throughout their semi-circular paths: see R.Tousey & M.Koomen, Journal of the Optical Society of America 43.3:177-183 (1953/3).