

How Elu Got In The Sky: An Etiological Myth

Once, a very long time ago, there was a sparrow named Elu. Elu envied another bird named Opa. Opa was known for being a kind, beautiful, and brave bird. His enormous wings would spread wide, and, in a graceful way, he would flap them and lift himself off to the heavens. Elu loved flying, but his wings were small. Because of this, it was tiring to fly. *I need wings like those!* Elu thought as Opa passed by. Elu knew that Opa wouldn't give him his wings, but he thought that maybe he could make some of his own; so he started his search by beginning to look for feathers.

Elu knew that the human, Cholena, had chickens. Elu knew that chickens meant feathers, so he went to her hut. Cholena was known for being nice to all the animals and bargaining with them. When Elu came, Cholena was making some sort of red cake.

“Hi Cholena, do you know the bird Opa?” said Elu.

“Yes I do, what about him?”

“His wings are amazing. I long to have wings like him.”

“And..?” she said, “Go on.”

“And I was wondering if you could give me some feathers for wings.”

“What's in it for me then?”

Elu paused. “Do you want anything in particular?”

“Could you fetch me a bag of mulberries for my cake?” said Cholena.

Elu paused, as he knew that this task wouldn't be easy to complete, but he eventually agreed; he wanted to fly like Opa more than anything in the world.

Elu eventually flew across a damp forest, perfect for finding mulberries. After a while of searching, and only finding a few mulberries, Elu came across a cave and found Kiyiyah the bear. He was known all across the forest for chasing the creatures small and large that lived there. This bear was also infamous for having a horrible temper.

“WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?” the bear boomed.

“I’m looking for some mulberries,” said Elu shyly.

“WHY?” said Kiyiyah.

“I’m tired of having these small wings, and Cholena said that if I give her a bag of mulberries, she’ll give me some feathers for *new* wings.”

“YOU WANT *MULBERRIES?!?*” the bear roared. “ALL THE MULBERRIES IN THE FOREST ARE *MINE!*”

“You can’t take *all* the mulb—”

“ROAAAR!” Kiyiyah started to chase Elu.

Elu immediately turned around and started to fly, but the twists and turns of the trees in the damp forest had no gaps, making it harder for him to find an escape. Eventually he got tired of flapping his small-ish wings. The forest spirit, Kaga, who was known for making peace among the animals, recognized this and told the bear to stop chasing Elu. It seemed like Kiyiyah was about to stop but instead, the bear must have pretended to not hear the spirit. Again the forest spirit, Kaga, warned the bear to stop, but he still must have pretended to have not heard. For the last time, Kaga warned him to stop or suffer the consequences. This time however, the bear got really angry (as if he wasn’t already) and started to chase Elu at full speed; Kiyiyah was catching up.

Meanwhile, Elu wasn’t doing that great. He was tired. *If only I had wings like Opa!* Elu thought. He had almost made it out of the forest and into a vast clearing. He

turned his head to see if the bear was still chasing him, but while his head was turned, he hit a branch and tumbled to the ground. Kiyiyah easily caught up. Elu thought *Oh-no* Elu thought, but just when the bear was about to pounce, Kaga, the forest spirit, saved him. He turned Kiyiyah into an earthworm (now the birds could chase him) and gave Elu new wings, wings even bigger than Opa's. He spread his new set of wings and took off through the nearby clearing, into the heavens, and that's where he has remained ever since.

Asterism Locator Guide

Elu can be found in the southern hemisphere. Look directly south, a little bit above the horizon, and you will see a bright blue star; this star is Achernar. If you look slightly above Achernar, you will see another star. This star is called Gamma Phoenicis; it is Elu's beak. If you look below Achernar, you will see Elu's tail. This star is called Alpha Hydri.

To the left and right of Achernar are Elu's wings.

This constellation is visible:

OCT 1 Midn	JAN 1 6 pm
OCT 16 ... 11 pm	JULY 16 5 am
NOV 1 10 pm	AUG 1 4 am
NOV 16 9 pm	AUG 16 3 am
DEC 1 8 pm	SEPT 1 2 am
DEC 16 7 pm	SEPT 16 1 am

