

The Great Moose Hunt Among the Stars

Constellations:

- Gallasönerna - The sons of Gálla - The hounds of Stallos
- *Sarvva* - *The Moose*
- *Fávdna* - *Arcturus*
- *The skiers* - *The twins* - *Castor & Pollux*
- *The Pleiades* - *The seven sisters*
- *Tjuolda* - *North star*

The daughter of the sun's son became the progenitor of the *Gallasönerna*, the great hunters, who were the inventors of skis and who hunted and tamed the moose. The cosmic moose hunt recurs in the names of and conceptions of the constellations.

The star Arcturus is the hunter Fávdna. The tail of Ursa Major is Fávdna's bow. Fávdna hunts the moose. The great moose of the sky, *Sarvva*, consists of a series of constellations. The upper part of the horns is Cassiopeia; the lower part and front body are Perseus; and the back body contains some of the stars in Auriga. Below the moose are the three stars of Orion; these are the "*Gallasönerna*".

Castor and Pollux are called the skiers. They are all moose hunters, hunting *Sarvva* across the starry sky.

According to another tradition, it is the hounds of Stallos, also *Orion's belt*, who hunt the moose.

In some records, Fávdna is *Sarvva's* bane. To bring down *Sarvva*, Fávdna would shoot his arrow across the stars, through the North Star, which held the sky in place, thus bringing the sky down on earth. The very end of *Sarvva* is said to herald or bring about the end of the world.

The stars were also used to keep time and orient oneself during long winter nights. In the south, the North star could be used to find a direction to the north, while in the northern parts, the star was too high in the sky. Depending on the season, there were other stars to orient oneself by. For example, the reindeer herder could use the Seven sisters to know what time it was during the long winter night.

Source:

- *Bæi'vi Máno Nástit – Sol och månkult samt astrala och celesta föreställningar bland samerna* by Bo Lundmark
- *Sápmi skies – Myth and science over swedish Lapland*