

Women's history in astronomy unfolds with every generation. Where the names of the stars in relation to women were few, the representation of women in the celestial world is expanding. Adrienne Rich's 1968 poem, "Planetarium", describes the challenge of positive female representation in the science community and in the world. Changes, however, are apparent and far from mythological tragic tales portrayed. Positive representation can be seen in the naming of craters on distant planets, moons and even scientific tools in present day. The realization of all in science, technology, engineering, and math is to revisit and continue to reveal the successes of women's history in astronomy and science overall. Recognize positive changes are already happening and will continue to spread throughout future generations. In my poem, "Femininity in the Infinity," I illustrate the tales behind seven constellations, the moon, and a future telescope. Through the poem, my goal was to bring the stories and science to a full circle by sharing the struggles within the tales of women in mythology, describing transformation, and highlighting a scientific tool for future observations dedicated to one of the most influential women in astronomy. Our perception of how we view femininity within the universe evolves by understanding the origin stories and acknowledging discoveries and breakthroughs in science by the women of science who have broken their own glass ceiling and succeeded beyond it.

Femininity in the Infinity

By Grace Silva-Ortiz

At first glance ...the sky brightly shines
Twinkles dance and mesmerize

From power, beauty, wisdom, and divinity
These are the tales of femininity in the infinity

Cassiopeia wore her crown
Forever situated upside down
Nearly ending her daughter's life
With her boastful nature and strife

A beauty oh so rare
Andromeda kind and fair
Nymphs in a fury
Zeus in a hurry
Destined to be a serpent's meal
Saved by a hero with an even keel
Though seen with chains
Her beauty remains

Callisto transformed
Arcas, a hunter misinformed
A mother bear in the skies
A Baby bear nearby lies
Destined to appear side by side

Yet another mother's tale
Her bond of love never failed
A goddess and son
A plot undone
An abomination of snakes, wings, and man
A dreadful journey began
Two fish who saved the day
Swim around on display

Variants of myths galore
Surrounding Virgo with much in store
Injustice, spring, even a box
The escape from Earth or birth of crops
Either goddess grace the skies
Look up to see with your own beautiful eyes

A story as old as time
Seven sisters in their prime
Ran from Orion no father in sight
Due to bearing the sky's weight and might

The titan could not save his seed from their plight
Zeus intervened
Sending the sisters to gather in a cluster
six are seen, a seventh lacks luster

A beacon of hope through the bleak
Several phases she must keep
A light reflects despite the darkness
A symbol of transformation to harness
With her energy felt near and far
A goddess in the heavens though not a star

As the mother of Hubble will join to seek
Joining the sea of women in the skies to peek
This time not a story of demise
Rather one with an unexpected surprise
Not a star, planet, or organic form
This you see is not of the celestial norm
Bringing beauty and ingenuity
To a realm of opportunity
A wealth of knowledge and hope
Welcome Dr Nancy Grace Roman Telescope

Through time and space the journey is boundless
Of courage, determination, and conflicts that surround us
Different forms and celestial bodies encompass the heavens with care
There are stories for those willing to listen and those willing to share
What once was... forever is
Femininity in the infinity

References:

<https://usvao.org/female-constellations/>

<https://www.theoi.com/greek-mythology/star-myths.html>

<https://www.theoi.com/Titan/Selene.html>

<https://roman.gsfc.nasa.gov>

