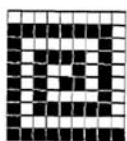


durable
Tale

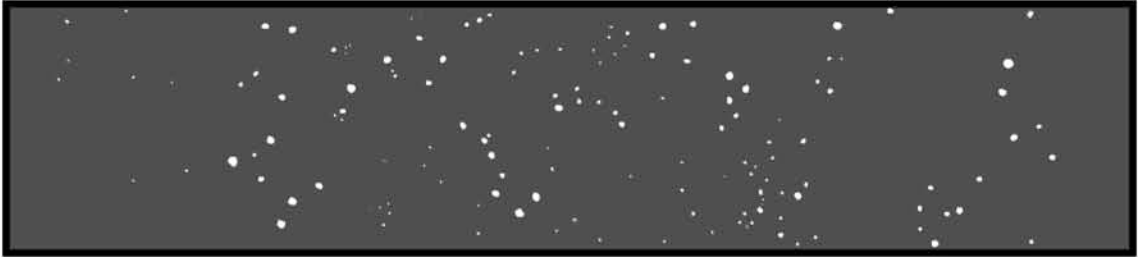
*A Personal Almanac
and Graphic Report*

How a Georgia farm girl
connected an African star story
with the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh



DRAFT, 10/2010

Marilyn Gottlieb-Roberts © 2010
www.durabletale.com



A classically trained painter,
I borrowed the art-life attitude from performance art
for this adventure in the northern hemisphere's night sky.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1. PERSEUS Early Bronze Age Greek hero with six autumn constellations.....p. 3

Part 1. Ancestry of Perseus **THE DANAIDS**.....page 5

Part 2. Parents of Perseus **DANAE & ZEUS**.....page 8

Part 3. The Hero Himself **PERSEUS**.....page 15

Part 4. Enduring fame **PERSEUS' STAR TURN**.....page 28

Part 5. **GATHERING EVIDENCE** Chronology, credits, memorabilia.....page 30

CHAPTER 2. West African STAR LORE FIELD REPORT.....page 33

Part 1. From the **SERER, WOLOF, BAMANA, DOGON, and TIV**.....page 34

Part 2. From the **FULANI**.....page 37

Part 3. Theoretical Inland Niger Delta **OLD STAR STORY ALMANAC**.....page 47

LIST OF COLLABORATORS in Senegal, Mali, and Nigeria.....page 52

CHAPTER 3. Almanac reading of GILGAMESH I-IX.....page 53

Part 1. **INTRODUCTION**.....page 54

Part 2. **ILLUSTRATIONS:** Star picture chart, Gilgamesh star map, and Gilgamesh almanac.....page 59-67

LIST OF COLLABORATORS for this chapter.....page 68

CHAPTER 4. MY OWN ALMANAC.....page 69

CHAPTER 5. THE BIG PICTURE A manual of studio science.....page 85

Part 1. Homage to the **STAR ATLAS**.....page 86

Part 2. **LIGHT, SHADOW** and the **MOON**.....page 88

Part 3. The **EARTH'S AXIS** and **PRECESSION**.....page 90

Part 4. Masters for **MOVING SKY FLIPBOOK**.....page 94

Part 5. **SCALE MODEL SOLAR SYSTEM** on a U.S. football field.....page 102

Part 6. Human and geologic **TIMELINES**.....page 104

CHAPTER 1

PERSEUS

Early Bronze Age Greek hero with six constellations



My grandfather, John Wiley Roberts, was a skillful north Georgia farmer. He learned his craft from my great-great-grandfather, "Uncle" Wiley Roberts. A childhood fascination with the spoken almanac they shared is still with me. In 1980 I put their almanac in with a six-constellation story group to make a ten-year Gathering Evidence art tour in the SE U.S. Because West Africa still runs deep in the American South, in the next decade I explore folk astronomy in Senegal, Mali and Nigeria.

During 2000-2010 I form this book's five chapters; Chapter 1 is an account of the ancestry, life and fame of the Greek hero Perseus, whose Bronze Age adventures are still remembered in the six main constellations of autumn. Chapter 2 is a report on oral sky science and poetic astronomy from West Africa, a thread I continue in Chapter 3's star map and story almanac reading of the Gilgamesh epic as written in the standard Babylonian version. Chapter 4 is a seasonal almanac of my own seven decades, and Chapter 5 is a manual of studio science.