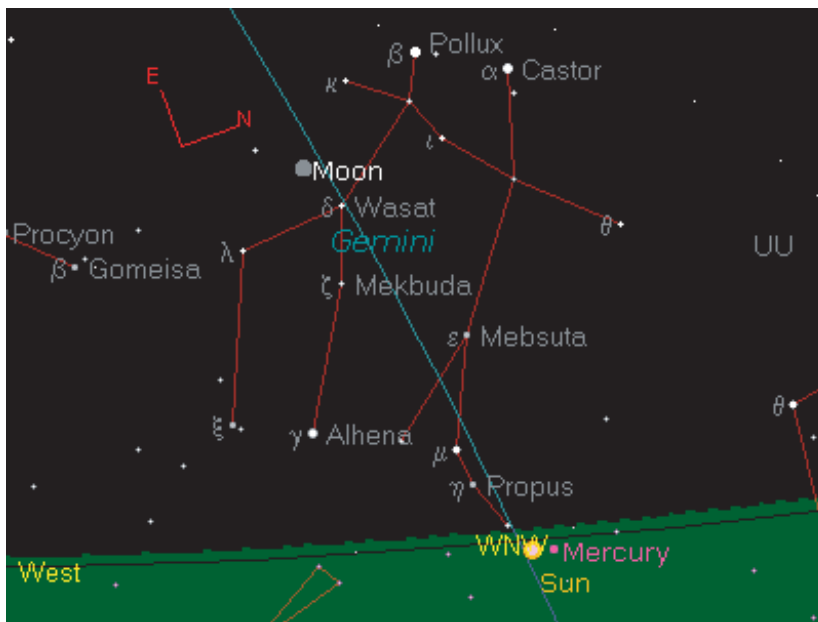


REPORT 06 DIARY NO. -567

Nebuchadnessar Year 37 Month II Day 1
Julian Year -567 (568 BCE) May 22

Time: Sunset 6:49 pm
View: West

Diary Line 8: *Month II (the 1st of which was identical with) the 30th (of the preceding month), the moon became visible, while the sun stood there, 4 cubits below β Geminorum; it was thick; there was earthshine [...]*



Sunset May 22, -567: the moon was 8° (4 cubits) below Pollux

Comments: : On Day 1 of a Babylonian month, the first appearance of the moon after New Moon occurs around sunset when a thin lunar crescent is visible low in the western sky. On May 22, the moon was high enough in the sky to be seen well before sunset - *while the sun stood there*. It was thick, which signifies the crescent was more substantial than a sliver. The reference to "earthshine" testifies to the acuity of Babylonian sky-watchers - they could make out the dark section of the moon faintly illuminated by sunlight reflected from the earth.

The moon was visible south of (below) Pollux (β Geminorum) in the constellation Gemini. TheSky computes the moon was $7^\circ 30'$ south of Pollux. The Diary records an 8° (4 cubits) distance, a difference of $30'$ from the computed value. The mismatch amounts to 2 minutes.