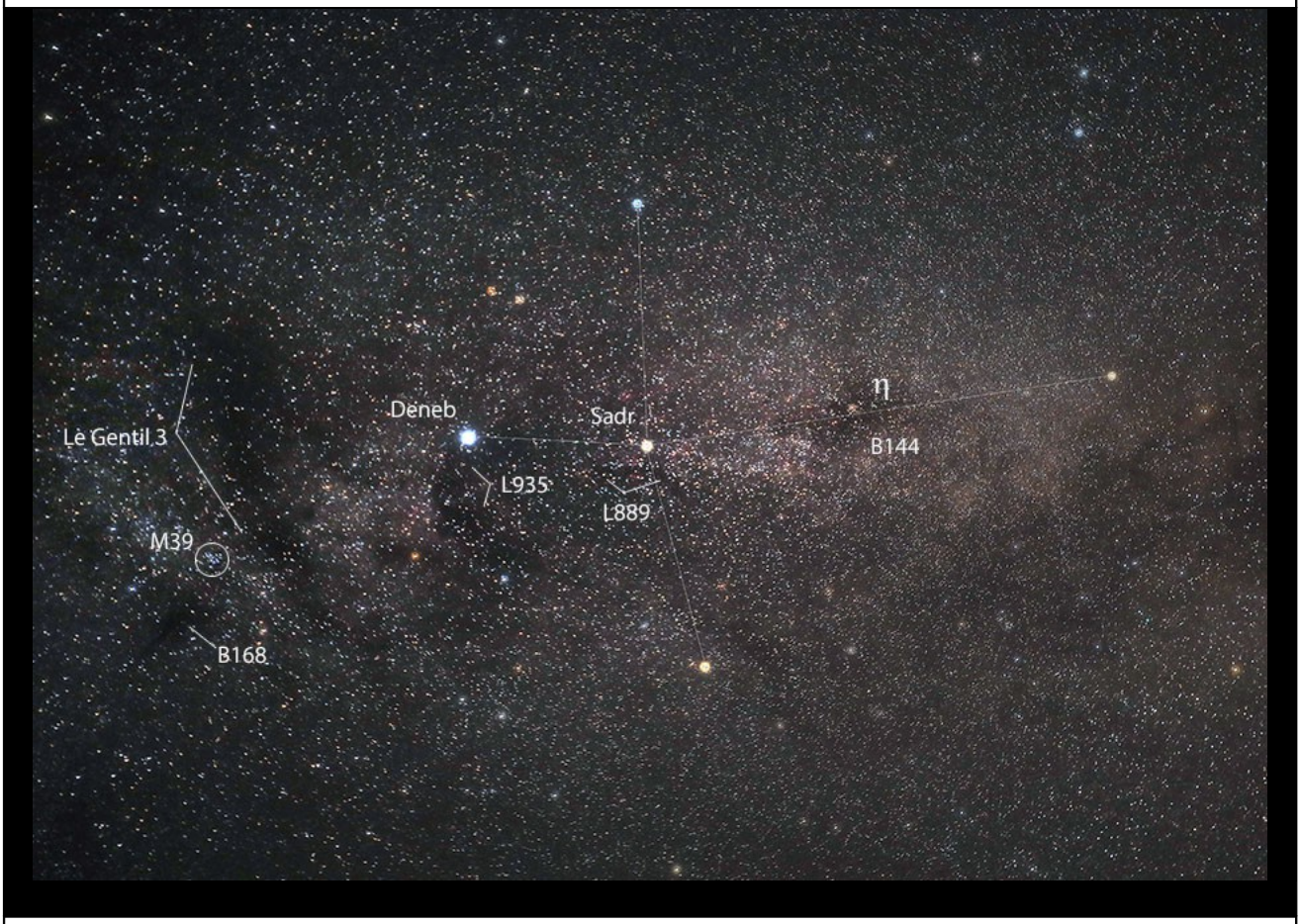
Le Gentil 3 Dark Cloud



Quick Facts:

Constellation: Cygnus

Going to the dark side, this object is a dust cloud that blocks light from more distant Milky Way stars. Many of these blotches are visible all along the band of our galaxy in both summer and winter skies. Le Gentil 3 is one of the darkest ones easily visible to the unaided eye. Also called the Funnel Cloud. Telescopes will show far fewer faint stars when pointed here compared to adjoining regions.

Find it: Under dark skies, sweep 10 degrees northeast of Deneb with your eyes and locate a dark funnel shape pointing east.

Image by Bob King. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.