

They might not look like much, but these blurry flickers of light - right there in the middle - are the oldest stars ever to be observed by the human eye.

Discovered by a team of astronomers at the Australian National University (ANU), these ancient stars were born when our Universe was a youthful 300 million years old.

"These pristine stars are among the oldest surviving stars in the Universe, and certainly the oldest stars we have ever seen," said Louise Howes, lead author of the study published in the latest issue of Nature.

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