

The Relevance of Astrology

Author : Shivaram Babukumar

Published: September 10, 2010, 3:55 pm

Astrology has a long history that dates back to the dawn of civilization. In India we have evidence of astrological knowledge even in the great classics like, the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Sage Parasara who is said to have lived before the beginning of Kali Yuga is believed to be the father of astrology. Astrology explains life's reactions to planetary vibrations. In Sanskrit, it is called Hora Sastra or Jyothisha or the science of time. All these definitions do not convey a correct idea of the subject. It is much more than a science. It is a science of sciences, the key to all knowledge. It is the knowledge that links man to nature and establishes that order reigns supreme in life and that chance and accidents have no place.

The most easily referred to difference between the Indian/Kerala astrology and Western astrology lies in the method of measurement of the Zodiac. Vedic astrology uses primarily the sidereal zodiac (in which stars are considered to be the fixed background against which the motion of the planets is measured), whereas most Western astrology uses the tropical zodiac (the motion of the planets is measured against the position of the Sun on the Spring equinox). This difference becomes only noticeable over time, after several centuries, as a result of the precession of the equinoxes. Synchronically, the two systems are identical, with just a shift of the origin of the ecliptic longitude by about 22 degrees or days, resulting on the placement of planets in the previous sign in Western charts about 80% of the time.

Do planets influence man? Astrology and astronomy are inter-related. Astronomy is the study of the location and movements of stars and planets in the heavens, while astrology is the study of the effects of the planets on human life. Astrology is the study of effects of the planets on human life and it determines the relation between a person's life and the planetary position. The Sun is addressed in the Vedas as the soul of the universe. The Sun and the Moon are the visible Gods. Without Sun's heat and light nothing could exist in the world even for a single second. The sun's power is the cause of the cyclic motions of the earth and other planets. 40 years ago, in the 1980s, an American-satellite reported a tremendous explosion in the sun. During this time, it was found that the number of patients in hospitals had increased tremendously. Cases of hypertension, heart and nervous diseases had also increased. This correlation had been predicted by our ancient sages. NATURE, a famous British scientific journal, observed that a change in sun's outermost layer is followed by a change in the breeding patterns among fish. Similarly, changes in the heavenly positions of planets affect secretions in the human body, as well as sleep, sexual activity and other functions. During lunar phases women undergo bodily changes during their menstrual period, which sometimes lead to mental tension.

'What is the purpose of life?' or 'What is it exactly that we need to accomplish while we are here?' Once we get an understanding about where we came from, how we got here, and where we are going, we will have an increased sense of purpose. We are directed. It is not an easy task to gain clarity on this. You could have a PhD from the best university and still be foggy about your purpose in life. The role of Karma and Rebirth comes there. Many people imagine that the theory of Karma is based on fatalism and predestined necessity and that, therefore, it leaves no scope for individual development. One must admit that the universe is either cosmos or chaos; it cannot be partly ruled by law and partly by chance. The universe and the life activities are regulated by certain laws. If the Sun and the planetary bodies are subject to discipline and their movements and phenomena are according to a certain order, then the lives of individuals who inhabit the planetary systems must also be guided by certain definite laws and rules, and chance cannot make one King and other a beggar by mere accident of birth. According to ancient texts when one dies, his soul which is enveloped in a subtle body and invested with the sum-total of good and bad Karma passes after some time into another body

leaving off his gross body, as a man casts off worn-out clothes and put on new ones. His reincarnation takes place in a physical body corresponding with the deeds done by him in previous life. The process of death and birth go on until the person concerned attains emancipation. This particular branch of science is well taken care of in Prasna Sasthra in Kerala Astrology.

Kerala is famous for Horary or Prasna astrology. Horary astrology deals with the answering of questions in the light of planetary influences, relating to important events in the daily transactions of human life. This branch indeed forms a most useful and prominent aspect of astrological science in as much as it helps us to foretell the occurrence of many important future events beforehand, how and when such events will take place, what their exact nature is whether or not they will terminate favorably, who is instrumental for them and how far such events are beneficial or detrimental to the interests of the party concerned, without reference to the birth chart. If there are any obstacles in the way of success in any undertaking or enterprise, by ascertaining these beforehand by means of Horary Astrology, we can resort to remedies to minimize or completely overcome such evils, and augment the good, so that the future way for one's progress and prosperity may be smoothened.