

# Chronology and Development of Astrology (1)

- c. 15,000 B.C. Mesolithic man observes the lunar phases and the Sun's seasonal arrival at the equinoctial and solstitial point. Marks found on bones and antlers show the lunar phases.
- c. 6,000 B.C. Early observations of planets as "wanderers" in Babylon.
- c. 1,375 B.C. Sun worship in Egypt under Ikhнатon.
- 1,000 B.C. Beginning of Indian mundane astrology.
- 747 B.C. First records of eclipses in Mesopotamia
- 6th century B.C. Pythagoras develops the idea of the harmony of the spheres. Mesopotamian astrology continues to spread to India and Tibet. Persian invasions of Egypt introduce new astrological knowledge. Confucius adds commentaries to the I Ching.

## Chronology and Development of Astrology (2)

- 409 B.C.            Date of the oldest known Babylonian horoscope for an individual: April 29, 409 B.C.
- 331B.C.            Mesopotamian astrology introduced into Greece following Alexander's conquest of Babylon. Greek astrology takes on a more personal form, the Zodiac and planets being made to correspond to figures from their mythology.
- 280 B.C.            The medical ideas of Hippocrates are apparently influenced by astrology. Rome begins to be strongly affected by Greek astrology.
- 70 B.C.            Greeks set up the first known personal horoscope based on the exact time of birth, thus deriving the 'Ascendant'.
- 4 B.C.            Magi / astrologers from Chaldea apparently predict the birth of Jesus Christ.

## Chronology and Development of Astrology (3)

- A.D. 10      The poet / astrologer Manilius publishes his *Astronomicon*, the first major Greek work on astrology.
- A.D. 140      Ptolemy of Alexandria publishes his *Tetrabiblos*, the first major textbook on astrology.
- A.D. 354 – 430      St. Augustine leads an early Christian attack on astrology.
- A.D. 476      End of the Roman Empire; decline of astrology in the West.
- A.D. 700 – 1200      Arabs continue divinatory astrology during the Dark Ages following the fall of Rome. Astrology is reintroduced to medieval Europe via the universities of Spain during the Moorish invasions. Charlemagne helps further astrology in the West.
- c. A.D. 800      School of astrology established in Baghdad. Chinese astrology develops.

## Chronology and Development of Astrology (4)

c. A.D. 1000      Mayans observe solar/lunar data to predict weather, war and natural disasters.

c. A.D. 1300      St. Thomas Aquinas aids in the reconciliation of astrology with the church. Universities in Spain and Italy establish chairs of astrology.

15th – 16th cent.      The Renaissance favours development of astrology. Astrology is associated with alchemy, magic, and other occult arts and practiced by Agrippa and others.

A.D. 1543      The Copernican view of the universe is regarded by sceptical scientists as a refutation of geocentric astrology; thus bringing to a close the interest in astrology.

c. A.D. 1555      Nostradamus publishes his first “prophecies”. Several rulers embrace astrology.

## Chronology and Development of Astrology (5)

- A.D. 1666      Astrology is banished from the French Academy of Sciences.
- 17th century      Morin de Villefranche, the court astrologer / physician of Louis XIV, publishes *Astrologica Gallica*.
- A.D. 1781      William Herschel discovers Uranus.
- A.D. 1824      Astrology is outlawed in England (*The Vagabond Act.*)
- A.D. 1846      The discovery of Neptune (and earlier Uranus) helps astrologers to begin to resolve some of the old ambiguities of their craft. For some critics, it aided in further refutation of astrology.
- A.D. 1930      Pluto's discovery is celebrated by astronomy. Astrology becomes popular through newspapers. Astrology begins to be influenced by depth psychology.