

Chapter 1 : @ Cafe Astrology Cafe :> More Information

So, astrology i.e. constellations and planets and degrees and nakshatras and their impact on individual life and mind - are basic astrology concepts that science even hasn't heard of. For science, constellations is a shape that a couple of stars make in the sky, that's it.

The long debated pseudoscience of stars has always been taboo to mention aloud. Those figures have stayed consistent for 80 years. S, and the U. K sit among the top 7 countries whose population researches astrology. Growing up in an irreligious home, the only notion I had of something other was in astrology. When my mother met my friends and lovers she always asked me what their star sign was. I would find out for the sake of her questioning. When she congratulated a woman on her pregnancy she would always calculate the month the baby would be born in. As I aged, we would make bets on the signs of people we met, never missing one a round. I never thought much about the fact that we never made an error " and neither did she. My mother told me one day how her friends used to gather on the beach after class. While my relationship with astrology or universal energy has been massaged for years, I was never sure of what to make of it " but it always bothered me to think that it was far saner to believe in a hovering instructional God, than in energy bouncing around the stars above our heads. Hundreds of rituals and inventions that have come from ancient civilizations have been archived and forgotten, but astrology has stayed with us pulsing in and out of popularity. Even with the printing of newspapers becoming arduously more expensive and underfunded, the astrology section still remains viable on the last page to almost every publication. While people love to poke fun at it, it seems every person knows their own star sign. Contrary to popular belief, publications have a certified astrologer in residence, not a basement blogger. While sometimes the writing can be tacky or excessively entertaining, these star masters are in fact drawing charts of the solar system every day. Horoscopes are a lot like forecasting the weather, the chart tells them what is happening with the planets and how it is affecting our signs today. She has identified as a witch since the age of 16, practicing the metaphysical arts for over 15 years. She is trained and certified in esoteric arts, including astrology, numerology, tarot and practical magick. She has practiced yoga and meditation for 10 years, and is certified in Reiki healing. She firmly believes that engaging in spirituality is a powerful tool for self-actualization of one's true desires and happiness. A good astrology column is a source of self-development and creates an arena of guidance for understanding ourselves. The Mystical Sister provides feminine clients clarity and healing through private sessions since , working with clients from New York to Nashville to the Bay areas. As a witch I believe in fighting for the rights of marginalized people, protecting our planet, and putting a deep emphasis on the practice of self-awareness and healing for myself and others. She says she noticed something so therapeutic about her horoscopes that really turned her onto the possibilities of what an astrology practice could uncover. She was encouraged to take up the study by Annabel Gat of Root Astro, who writes horoscopes for Broadly. While other countries, such as India, centralize traditional astrology, the Western world quickly devalues the occult science " often the practice is not fully understood. From planetary stick n pokes, to moon jewelry, crystals and sage burning, engaging in mystical elements has become a trend. Earthly activism is awakening loudly as well, as youth are engaging in conversations about ethical living and sustainability " going from recycling to waste free lifestyles in one giant leap. The planet seems to be coming into focus socially, environmentally and politically " and humans seem to be blurring out. This generation has been actively fighting traditional gender roles and stereotypes, destroying binaries and bringing fundamental attention to androgyny. Downing suspects the resurgence of astrological material as a hint to the rising of introspective behaviour. Perhaps the narcissism millennials are constantly charged with is manifesting into self-awareness after all. I think the younger generations are increasingly self-aware and there is a real power in that. The ancient study began in B. C in Babylonia and was built upon as it was passed down through battle " from the Greeks, to the Romans, the Arabs and then to India where astrology was embroidered with Hindu ideas. For more than 2, years astrology and astronomy were thought to be the same science. The earliest astrology was used to bring a sense of order out of the chaos reflected on the Gods. It was the earliest sense of divinity in the world, as the

foundation for astrology predates the sacred writings of nearly all religions and philosophies. It was used to predict weather patterns for agricultural purposes, and eventually included forecasts of natural disasters and wars. As creatures on planet Earth, we exist within the framework of space and time. Humans respond to and are shaped by their natural environment. We follow the motion of the Sun to know what year it is, the moon to know what month it is, and Earth's rotation on the axis to know what time of day it is. These celestial motions are continuous and entirely predictable. It is this continuation of space and time that enables the mystics to say: Our vessel takes on the nature of space and time that is relative to us, and so understanding our place in the universe can help us tune into a natural rhythm. Early astrologers knew it took 12 lunar cycles now months for the Sun to return to its original position. They then identified 12 constellations that they observed to be linked to the progression of the seasons and assigned them characteristics according to their appearance or suspected energy. For example, the rainy season was always occurring when the Sun was in a particular constellation, which was then named Aquarius. Each sign or constellation takes up a division in the zodiacal circle, each 30 degrees wide. A round chart is drawn where in the Earth is planted in the center. The top of the circle is the Sun at its highest point during the day. Left and right are the eastern and western horizons. The planets have yearlong elliptical orbits through the zodiac and are known to possess distinct powers, being massive bodies of energy in motion. When a planet moves into a division of the zodiac, it will vibrate and emit its energy in the mode of that sign. Being organisms on Earth, it is understood that these frictions can affect us in some way. While people often know which zodiac their birthday falls into, there are actually three signs you must know to understand your cosmic makeup. We are multidimensional humans in a multidimensional world, where the energy of every planet and star is engaging with us. Planets that have greater orbits have less of an individual affect, and affect generationally. The truth behind your astrological imprint lies in how these three signs interact. In addition to your sun sign "the position the Sun was in at your birth, which represents your self expression or motivation" you have an ascendant or rising sign, and a moon sign. Your rising reflects the zodiac sign that was ascending on the eastern horizon the moment you were born. It represents the way others see you or our stage in life. Your moon sign is the position the moon was in when you were born, and it represents your private emotionality, temperament and the ties that come from your childhood. It is said that the Sun and Moon form a mindset "the conscious and unconscious or the projective and the reflective" that is then hosted by the vessel of the Ascendant. The Sun and Moon after all, illuminate the earthly stage. The most notable resistance to astrology is met by people who believe their Sun sign sound nothing like them. This is because the two other signs may add, subtract, or cancel something out. For example, your Leo sun may assume personable qualities of a confident entertainer, but your Pisces moon is introverted and insecure. Sometimes astrological pairings of signs are catastrophic to our inner harmony and cause tension in the self, and sometimes they weave together like a force. People are often unaware of parts of their exterior or find it difficult to accept something about themselves. Much like psychology, hearing things about yourself can be uncomfortable and can sound generic. Both psychology and astrology involve a scientific method, but generally crutch on a lot of social surveying and patterning to prove their case "which is challenging for accuracy. Downing says a huge myth she is constantly facing is people trying to figure out exactly who they are supposed to date by using simple star sign compatibility. The numbers are plugged into an equation to create a chart called your Natal or Birth Chart. It provides the astrologer with a snapshot of the universe at the moment you were conceived. This becomes a sort of time signature, your original state of oneness with Nature. Computer programs have made this extremely easy " but proper interpretation of the chart is both an art of intuition and a science. Your chart is best left in the hands of an accredited astrologer to translate the shapes, distances and placements drawn. There are hundreds of variables for theoretical influences, making combinations and predications infinite. Each zodiac sign has a specific description that can boil down to a few key words. It is represented by a planet, an animal or symbol, and an element. For example Capricorn, ruler of Saturn, symbol of the Goat, is an earth sign. All these components are taken into consideration. Your three signs could make you a full water being, or perhaps two fires and an air. To complicate the process, there is also a distinct series of astrological houses mapped across the zodiacal chart. Houses are divisions in space of the energy field of the Earth, such that there is a fold division,

paralleling the fold division of the zodiac. In the course of 24 hours, every celestial object will appear to swing around through them all, taking an average of 2 hours to pass through. The houses are connected to more mundane earthly affairs. The 12 can be split into four groups of three, being air, water, fire, or earth houses. Over decades, the names of the houses have reformed to connect to our more civilized reality. Career success was certainly not used in the ancient study. I think astrology has progressed as our consciousness has. However astrologers still follow ancient rules, and the signs and planets are still steeped and based in ancient archetypes and myth. In other words, the planet is the basic quality, the sign is how it is expressed, and the house is where it is expressed. The biggest rule in reading is that no factor of the chart can be judged in isolation. To complicate further, there are apparent angles between planets or points which can be hard or soft, that are visible on your chart. They are known as aspects, and there are five:

Chapter 2 : ASTROLOGY: Superstition, Science, or Something Else? | HuffPost

Astrology: A Science or Superstition? Human beings have always been curious to know their future. Whenever someone is in difficulty and cannot easily come out of it, he wants to know whether the days of his misery will come to an end at all.

Superstition, Science, or Something Else? There has never been a time in history when it is easier to discover, use, or learn about Astrology. With a press of a button or a software program, you can calculate your birth chart and receive a computer analysis of what the planetary positions and signs mean. But why is it good to know? In ancient times wise men observed the stars and orbits of the planets, measured the distances between constellations, and noted the eclipses. They used astrolabes to measure the heavens and a very interesting device called the Antikythera, image below that could, calculate the positions of the Sun and Moon, solar and zodiac calendars as well as eclipses. Originally plotting the heavens was an aid to navigation as well as creating a calendar. Then with more observation the ancient astrologers began to correlate phenomena in the heavens with activities and events on earth. Astrology became the province of emperors and kings and was used to rule their people, warn of revolt, famine and invasions. Jumping to the 20th century Medicine, Science, and Technology developed very sophisticated statistical models and experiments to explain phenomena. Astrology waned and went the way of old fashioned superstition. Now in the 21st century, the Age of Aquarius, we are embarking on new ways to accumulate and interpret knowledge. I predict that astrology will have a legitimate and significant part in the New Age and be a positive factor in medicine, personal relationships, energy sources, and what I loosely call spiritual evolution. Because astrological information resonates in a different way from scientific studies. Astrology is a system of how the motion of the heavens manifests itself on earth. We do not have a clear physical, tangible explanation for why, just that it can work. Some thinkers have called astrology a system of synchronicity; tribal people who read meaning in the connection between disparate events, call these coincidences and relationships, the hand of god. Such ideas tend toward a magic or mystical view of life. But if we encounter Astrology with an open mind and consider the perspective the study offers we may very well enlarge the "data base" and find new uses for this ancient practice. It is good to be clear about what Astrology can and cannot do. People who ask me for an exact prediction may be disappointed. Usually this question is connected to how much money will I get or how successful will a project be. I say there is no planet that reveals a dollar amount or whether your efforts will "go viral" on the web. What astrology can do is tell you is if this is the time to go forward, to wait, or to give up the project. Astrology is also the best personality revealer. The face we wear to the outside world can be very different from our inner life and in matters of love, marriage, and business partnerships knowing the inclinations of a future partner can be very valuable information. In ancient times all doctors followed the rhythm of the planets in administering cures and treatments. In my last post I mentioned how useful Astrology can be in planning travel. Astrology is not superstition, not science, but something else. And the something else is a beautiful tapestry of image, history, and wisdom. We may be surprised.

Chapter 3 : Astrology: Science or Superstition Essay Example | Graduateway

SO: Astrology is not superstition, not science, but something else. And the something else is a beautiful tapestry of image, history, and wisdom. Let's see how it evolves in the coming decades.

History of astrology The Zodiac Man a diagram of a human body and astrological symbols with instructions explaining the importance of astrology from a medical perspective. From a 15th-century Welsh manuscript Many cultures have attached importance to astronomical events, and the Indians , Chinese , and Maya developed elaborate systems for predicting terrestrial events from celestial observations. The majority of professional astrologers rely on such systems. Chinese astrology was elaborated in the Zhou dynasty â€” BCE. Hellenistic astrology after BCE mixed Babylonian astrology with Egyptian Decanic astrology in Alexandria , creating horoscopic astrology. After the conquest of Alexandria in the 7th century, astrology was taken up by Islamic scholars, and Hellenistic texts were translated into Arabic and Persian. In the 12th century, Arabic texts were imported to Europe and translated into Latin. Major astronomers including Tycho Brahe , Johannes Kepler and Galileo practised as court astrologers. Astrological references appear in literature in the works of poets such as Dante Alighieri and Geoffrey Chaucer , and of playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare. Throughout most of its history, astrology was considered a scholarly tradition. It was accepted in political and academic contexts, and was connected with other studies, such as astronomy , alchemy , meteorology , and medicine. Astrology thus lost its academic and theoretical standing, and common belief in astrology has largely declined. Babylonian astrology Astrology, in its broadest sense, is the search for meaning in the sky. This describes how the gods revealed to him in a dream the constellations that would be most favourable for the planned construction of a temple. The oldest undisputed evidence of the use of astrology as an integrated system of knowledge is therefore attributed to the records of the first dynasty of Mesopotamia â€” BCE. This astrology had some parallels with Hellenistic Greek western astrology, including the zodiac, a norming point near 9 degrees in Aries, the trine aspect, planetary exaltations, and the dodekatemoria the twelve divisions of 30 degrees each. Sextus Empiricus argued that it was absurd to link human attributes with myths about the signs of the zodiac. The city of Alexandria was founded by Alexander after the conquest, becoming the place where Babylonian astrology was mixed with Egyptian Decanic astrology to create Horoscopic astrology. This contained the Babylonian zodiac with its system of planetary exaltations , the triplicities of the signs and the importance of eclipses. It used the Egyptian concept of dividing the zodiac into thirty-six decans of ten degrees each, with an emphasis on the rising decan, and the Greek system of planetary Gods, sign rulership and four elements. Krishna Rau and V. Choudhari in and , respectively. The early translators included Mashallah , who helped to elect the time for the foundation of Baghdad, [51] and Sahl ibn Bishr , a. Zael , whose texts were directly influential upon later European astrologers such as Guido Bonatti in the 13th century, and William Lilly in the 17th century. Christian views on astrology The first astrological book published in Europe was the Liber Planetis et Mundi Climatibus "Book of the Planets and Regions of the World" , which appeared between and AD, and may have been authored by Gerbert of Aurillac. However, he attacked the use of astrology to choose the timing of actions so-called interrogation and election as wholly false, and rejected the determination of human action by the stars on grounds of free will. Catherine de Medici paid Michael Nostradamus in to verify the prediction of the death of her husband, king Henry II of France made by her astrologer Lucus Gauricus. Major astronomers who practised as court astrologers included Tycho Brahe in the royal court of Denmark, Johannes Kepler to the Habsburgs , Galileo Galilei to the Medici , and Giordano Bruno who was burnt at the stake for heresy in Rome in Advances in astronomy were often motivated by the desire to improve the accuracy of astrology. Among other things, astrologers could advise on the best time to take a journey or harvest a crop, diagnose and prescribe for physical or mental illnesses, and predict natural disasters. This underpinned a system in which everythingâ€”people, the world, the universeâ€”was understood to be interconnected, and astrology co-existed happily with religion , magic and science. They are also considered by their placement in houses twelve spatial divisions of the sky. Each planet is in a particular sign and a particular house at the chosen time, when

observed from the chosen place, creating two kinds of relationship. Hindu astrology Page from an Indian astrological treatise, c. Chinese zodiac Chinese astrology has a close relation with Chinese philosophy theory of the three harmonies: The early use of Chinese astrology was mainly confined to political astrology , the observation of unusual phenomena, identification of portents and the selection of auspicious days for events and decisions. It is based on cycles of years, lunar months, and two-hour periods of the day the shichen. The zodiac traditionally begins with the sign of the Rat , and the cycle proceeds through 11 other animals signs: They do not rely on direct observations of the stars. The Vietnamese zodiac is almost identical to Chinese zodiac except the second animal is the Water Buffalo instead of the Ox , and the fourth animal is the Cat instead of the Rabbit. The Japanese have since celebrated the beginning of the new year on 1 January as per the Gregorian calendar. The Thai zodiac begins, not at Chinese New Year , but either on the first day of fifth month in the Thai lunar calendar , or during the Songkran festival now celebrated every 13â€”15 April , depending on the purpose of the use. Christian views on astrology , Jewish views on astrology , and Muslim views on astrology Ancient St. They said that the methods of astrologers conflicted with orthodox religious views of Islamic scholars , by suggesting that the Will of God can be known and predicted in advance. Avicenna considered that the movement of the planets influenced life on earth in a deterministic way, but argued against the possibility of determining the exact influence of the stars. And if you astrologers answer that it is precisely because of this distance and smallness that their influences are negligible, then why is it that you claim a great influence for the smallest heavenly body, Mercury?

Chapter 4 : What is Astrology? Science, Myth, Superstition, or Religion? | EVC Astronews

Astrology consists of a number of belief systems that hold that there is a relationship between astronomical phenomena and events or descriptions of personality in the human world.

A Science or Superstition? Human beings have always been curious to know their future. Whenever someone is in difficulty and cannot easily come out of it, he wants to know whether the days of his misery will come to an end at all. And if yes, then when? When one invests a great deal of time, effort or money into some project, it is natural to wonder whether that investment will bear some fruit. There have always been people around who have successfully predicted future events. Their methods have been different - some people can simply look into the future, some use tarot cards, some draw up an astrological chart which we call horoscopes, some read the lines in the palms of people. One cannot deny that future has been accurately predicted many a times and by many a people. Each successful prediction proves that it is indeed possible to correctly predict future. In the ancient times, astrologers were held to be in great esteem by the people. There was no difference between astronomers and astrologers. Many will be surprised to know that most of the renowned scientists of the past, including Sir Isaac Newton, were astrologers too. Needless to say that the astrologers of that era were all great mathematicians too. An accomplished astrologer was called "Trikal-darshee": Slowly over a period of time this subject came into disrepute. How Astrology lost its exalted status? It is a fact of life that people emulate successful, popular and respected persons. Seeing the social status enjoyed by astrologers, charlatans started masquerading as astrologers. They learnt a few tricks of the trade and started duping gullible people. It was and still is a very lucrative business. An astrologer earns money by making predictions while giving no guarantee that any of his predictions will turn out to be true. There is no money back guarantee: Once an astrologer sets up shop, people start coming to him in the hope that may be he will be able to foresee their future correctly. The astrologer is in a wonderful position. For example, he may make predictions about ten persons, getting only one prediction right. The nine persons, about whom he predicted wrongly, will never come back to him. But the tenth person, about which the astrologer was able to predict correctly, will not only come back to him again but also refer many other persons to him, citing personal experience. In this way, the business of an astrologer always flourishes, no matter how he himself fares in his trade. But the downside of this was that astrologers, as a group, started being seen as a lot of dubious persons like politicians of the modern age. People, who had talent, started to pursue other fields of knowledge. Over a period of time, the inevitable happened. It was the decline of India, the fountainhead of human civilization, and its loss of status as the repository of all the knowledge of the ancient world see How India lost its Glory. The Islamic hordes, who attacked and looted India many a times and later ruled that country for hundred of years, had no respect for priceless works of art, the magnificent architecture and the other exalted areas of human endeavor. They destroyed most of the ancient temples, burnt down libraries like Nalanda and Takshshila and permanently took away innumerable books of infinite wisdom from the future generations of humanity. A great amount of recorded knowledge was lost, astrological books included. This loss proved to be irreparable, as the then Indian society became engaged in ensuring its survival and a constant struggle against the aggressors. The few people, who had some invaluable texts and scriptures with them, were hard put to preserve the remaining works of ancient sages. That is why, when one studies Astrology, he feels as if some vital links are missing. The criticism and The defense Astrology is scoffed at by people for two main reasons. First, of course, is that the predictions made by astrologers often goes wrong. Secondly, if one takes his horoscope to different astrologers, they make different predictions. They even make different horoscopes given the same set of data regarding the birth of a person. One cannot deny that the reasons cited above are valid. Let us take an example to illustrate this point. A man falls sick due to some disease. He goes to his neighborhood doctor. The doctor advises him to go for some tests. He prescribes some medicines and the patient goes home in the hope of getting rid of the sickness as soon as possible. After taking the medicines for next two days, the patient finds that the medicines are not working the way they were supposed to work. He goes back to the doctor and the doctor changes the medicines and the person starts responding to the second set of medication immediately.

Within a few days, the person is back to his old healthy self. What would have happened if the person had not responded to that second set of medicines? Most probably he would have gone to another doctor. That doctor would have advised him to go for more tests, diagnosed his problem as per his own knowledge and experience and treated him accordingly. Again, there would have been the same probability of the patient getting rid of his disease. So, in the end it boils down to problem of correct diagnosis. As soon as the disease is identified correctly, it can be treated successfully. In fact, he guesses the disease based on the symptoms the patient displays and to confirm his suspicions the doctor asks the patient to undergo a particular set of tests. There is one more element which may mar the chances of the patient getting better: If the lab conducting those tests makes a mistake, the doctor is bound to be misled by the results. It has also been observed many a times that even with the same symptoms and the same set of test results, different doctors may diagnose the problem differently. The same thing, when happening in the context of Astrology, is proffered as a proof that it is not a science. When a doctor makes a mistake, his skills are blamed not the Medical Science. But if an astrologer fails, it is Astrology which is considered a pseudo-science. If doctors can arrive at different conclusions on the basis of same data, why astrologers should not be allowed to differ with each other. If you take the blood samples of the same patient to different labs, you are almost certain to find differences in their findings. If the machines built with all our scientific knowledge at our disposal make mistakes, no one denigrates modern science itself. But when it comes to Astrology, people are only too ready to dismiss it. Perhaps, by doing this, people want to prove that they have, what is called, scientific temperament. Why Astrologers go wrong in their prediction? This is perhaps the foremost reason. Most of the astrologers, after learning a bit, find it difficult to resist the temptation to start making predictions. They cannot hold themselves back from showing off their half baked knowledge. Another reason is the temptation to start reaping, as soon as possible, the fruits of their efforts made in learning the subject. Once the customers start flocking to them, they lose the urge to keep learning further. Also, they are left with little spare time to make further efforts to learn more. They get too busy duping people. In the modern times, since the pursuit of this subject is not considered very respectable, persons of genius do not take up the study of Astrology. This does not help the development of Astrology nor does it help add to the knowledge or find the missing links in this subject. Currently, there are no serious research projects related to this field. Thus this base of knowledge does not get updated. As the very basis of Astrology is mathematical, the data such as time of birth etc. If this data is incorrect, the horoscope and consequently the interpretation of it is bound to be faulty. The position of cusps, house divisions, and the planetary positions at any given moment needs to be accurate too. One must follow the most accurate data for example, from NASA for calculations, in this age of science. Normally, astrologers tend to take the easy route, that of following some ready-reckoner sort of things, leading to inaccuracies in their calculations. Destiny of the subject: It may so happen that the fate of the person who wants his future read, does not favor the person in knowing his future. This idea may seem far fetched but it is not. Even in modern times, with all the development of medical science, patients keep dying of fully treatable diseases. If a person is destined to die of pneumonia, he will in spite of the fact that millions of people around the world are successfully treated for it every year. If fate can play a role here why cannot it play the same role regarding Astrology. The very nature of Future: Modern science divides the universe in two parts: It is believed that whatever is unknown today, will become known tomorrow. Over a period of time, every thing will become known one day. But the enlightened sages have said that certain aspects of the existence is unknowable. These things do not belong in the domain of human knowledge. Certain aspects of future also belongs to the same domain.

Chapter 5 : Astrology: Science or superstition?

Astrology is not a science, but rather, astrology is a combination of fiction, myth, superstition, and religion. The Horoscope is a work of fiction. There is no correlation between the alignment of the stars and how people will live their lives.

On the other hand, a greater part of a population is against the above statement. They claim that everything that is related to astrology is entirely superstitious. We will discuss in this article on both sides of a coin to know the pros and cons of Astrology. Is astrology a science or superstition? Some claim that Astrology is a science as it deals with the heavenly bodies such as planets, stars, etc. However, the disparate people state that there is no reliable evidence or theory or process to prove that astrology is science. Now, let us have a detailed go through on the predicament. A Science- As we already know that astrology is the study of a relationship between the positions and movements of cosmos bodies Planets , the astrologer and supporters of the same believe that the stars and planets have an influence on the human dealings. Also they have alleged that they have the evidence of previous experience of people for whom the predictions worked to be right. It may sound strange, but astrology has attained a prominent place in this modern scientific world. Yes, you can foresee your future; calculate your birth chart with just one click on the Internet!!! P There are numerous sites for predicting your future with your horoscope. A Superstition- The main reason for insisting Astrology to be a superstition is because of the following reasons. Most of the time, the predictions made by astrologers are proved wrong. There is no reliability in the opinion given by astrologers. The results vary from one astrologer to another. Foreseeing your life may be interesting. However, it will be a wrong decision if the astrologer says something negative. The act of astrology may also lead to many hoaxes It is an unstable state to believe that a chart with stars and diagram can predict and determine the future than any other important aspects of life. And most importantly, we should know that Astrology has different meanings, for different kinds of people in the different regions. Here, the reliability is put to question as there is no stable database or foundation for astrology to prove right. Also, horoscopes have yielded positive and negative results as well. One must be mentally prepared to accept the fact that horoscope or astrology is not going to determine the life. It is not a funny material too. Astrology is neither science nor superstition. It is a belief from our ancestors who were far intelligent comparatively.

Chapter 6 : Destiny Astrology I Home

Astrology: Science or Superstition Essay. On January 14, , it was announced by mass American news media CNN, that a 13th astrological sign, Ophelcius was added to the western zodiac, causing the astrological signs of those born after to differ from those born on the same date in latter years (Carroll, , January, 14).

Abstract -- Eleven representative views of astrologers imply that astrology is all-revealing, factual, inarguably true, applicable to everything including past lives, enthralling to thinkers, soon to dominate scientific thought, the key to a new world view, and more. Just study it seriously, they say, and you will be convinced it works. But seven representative views of scientists who studied it seriously imply the exact opposite. This conflict of views can be explained by differences in what astrology means to different people, by differences in what astrology claims, and by the failure of astrologers to allow for non-astrological factors hidden persuaders that lead to astrology-like outcomes. The case against astrology is that it is untrue, it has failed hundreds of tests, and astrologers do not usefully agree on what a given birth chart indicates. The case for astrology is that a warm and sympathetic astrologer provides low-cost non-threatening therapy that is otherwise hard to come by. Much the same applies to sun sign astrology but at a more basic level. In short, there is more to astrology than being true or false. But astrology is an easy target for commercial abuse. It also faces strong competition from hundreds of self-help psychology books that it may or may not survive once its true nature becomes more widely known. Includes tests of validity and agreement, and insights into how not to test astrology. End of a shouting match Astrology has been a field made quarrelsome by a shortage of facts. Could astrology be true? Could the stars really correlate with human affairs? Such questions have been furiously debated without resolution for more than years. Advances in related areas astronomy, psychology, statistics, research design and a decisive technology personal computers have since put astrology under the scientific microscope like never before. Today, most questions can be answered. Quarrelling is no longer the option it once was. In what follows we ignore the usual tired arguments against astrology sun signs do not agree with the constellations, there is no known way it could work in favour of the only question that matters: What is the case for and against astrology? Unfortunately the media generally see astrology only as a sales gimmick eg sun signs in Sunday supplements or as a source of sensation, as when phonline astrologers earn huge sums or when crooked astrologers fleece the public. If your knowledge of astrology comes from what you read in the media, be aware that you are likely to be seriously misinformed both for and against astrology. Views of astrologers Astrologers leave you in no doubt that astrology works: Against its detractors, astrology "will obtain an easy victory, a glorious triumph, by the force of its most powerful weapons -- facts. Our feelings and emotions. Our external affairs and relationships with the world at large. Responses aux critiques anciennes et modernes From sex to career to character and future prospects -- and more. Its truths are inarguable. Astrology "despite the contemptuous guffaws of scientific orthodoxy, still continues to enthral the minds of some of our finest contemporary thinkers. They reveal not only the mysteries of the universe but also the mysteries of each of our lives. Discovering your Karma through Astrology Astrology "promises to contribute to the emergence of a new, genuinely integral world view, one that In short, astrology is all-revealing, factual, inarguably true, applicable to everything including past lives, enthralling to thinkers, soon to dominate scientific thought, the key to a new world view, and more. Just study it seriously and you will be convinced it works. Or so astrologers lead us to believe. Now a word from scientists who have studied it seriously. Views of scientists The following views reflect serious studies up to the s: I do not think that any psychical researcher That is why the whole superstructure of astrology is so utterly worthless and fallacious. Astrology cannot be used to predict events of any kind, nor is astrology able to provide any useful information regarding personality, occupation, health, or any other human attribute" Roger Culver and Philip Ianna, *The Gemini Syndrome* , a review by astronomers of years of data collection, tests, and most of the available evidence. However, because of the important areas which remain to be investigated, this conclusion may need future qualification. We should not be dogmatic. Not a single classical astrological element is shown to be able to resist statistical research. Evidently astrology works if studied by astrologers but not if studied by scientists. How is such

disagreement possible? To find out we must first look at what is meant by "astrology". What is meant by "astrology"? Astrology means different things to different people and leads to different levels of interest. In Western countries there are four broad levels of interest in astrology as shown below with the rough percentage of the population involved at each level. For comparison the proportion of people who are dentists is roughly 0. Level of interest 1. Deep involvement -- Calculates charts, seeks meaning to life, 0. Scientific -- Performs tests, seeks answers, 0. At the first level are the readers of sun sign columns. They see astrology as entertainment. At the second level are those who have their birth chart calculated and read. They see astrology as an intriguing way of exploring themselves. At the third level are those who read charts to find meaning in their lives. They see astrology as a form of religion unconnected with the entertainment of sun sign columns. At the fourth level are those who test astrology scientifically. They see astrology as a popular belief worthy of study regardless of whether the belief is actually true. The previous views of astrology by astrologers apply to levels 2 and 3, which also apply to people who consult astrologers. In the USA roughly one million people a year consult astrologers, which seems like a convincing vote in favour of levels 2 and 3. So the popularity of astrological consultations is perhaps no more remarkable than the popularity of any of 99 flavours of ice cream -- if it exists then some people will try it. Which of course does not explain why astrologers are convinced that astrology at levels 2 and 3 really works. For this we need to put astrology to the test. Putting astrology to the test Astrologers claim they can tell your character, abilities, health, love life, events, destiny, and more, just from your birth chart. It seems amazing that a handful of planets could show all this. But astrologers have the perfect answer -- just try it. What could be more reasonable? So this is precisely what research has done. Take sets of birth charts jumbled up with descriptions of their owners. Can astrologers match charts to owners? In astrology books they do it all the time. To date a total of 54 studies have made this test using a total of astrologers and birth charts. Astrologers fail to match charts to owners better than chance Here the results expected by chance were determined by picking matches at random for each of the 54 studies and repeating 10, times. The difference between the For astrologers this is bad news, which they dismiss in various ways. They say the tests were unduly difficult or were run by people ignorant of astrology in fact many were run by astrologers. They say you cannot test astrology which if true would mean they could never know anything about it. But once again research comes to the rescue with an ingenious test that avoids any need to match charts with owners. How well do astrologers agree on what a given birth chart indicates? To date a total of 28 studies have put this to the test using a total of astrologers and birth charts. Typically each test looked at how well 5 to 30 astrologers agreed on what a given chart indicated about its owner. Their average agreement was dismal -- better than tossing a coin but nowhere near the minimum acceptable, see figure below. The average agreement among astrologers was The next question is obvious. If astrologers cannot usefully agree on what a birth chart indicates, how can they know that astrology works? Indeed, why should anyone bother with astrology in the first place? It is here that we need to ask what is meant by "astrology works". What is meant by "astrology works"? One of the key inspirations of recent research has been to recognise that astrology, however defined, delivers statements that like statements generally can contain 1 factual information such as "you have red hair", and 2 personal meaning such as "you are here to fulfil your destiny". At one extreme are people who seek only personal meaning. For them astrology works if it provides meaning. Here "it works" means "it is meaningful. At the other extreme are people who seek only factual proof. For them astrology needs to be true. Here "it works" means "it delivers results beyond those explained by non-astrological factors", of which more later.

Chapter 7 : @ Astrology Science Or Superstition Lyrics :> More Information

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Although described as divination, astrology was certainly important enough to be explained by CNN national news and it certainly caused a stir among Americans who believe that the positions of the stars and planets can be used to predict and understand life and events. Although widely accepted enough to appear in most newspapers, astrology is not accepted by the western scientific community as accurate or scientific. While astrology cannot seem to be explained or believed by science, people seem to believe otherwise. The most damning piece of evidence that astrologers have is the sheer believability and the fact that so many people will attest that it is accurate to their lives or personalities. In the preceding paragraphs, a careful analysis will be offered in the hopes of categorizing astrology as either a science or complicated form of divination. Based on certain definitions, astrology could be considered a science. Consider the second definition listed above. In fact, abroad it is considered a science. So far as prayer related to astrology is concerned, the Supreme Court has already considered the issue and ruled that astrology is science. The court had in also directed the universities to consider if astrology science can be added to the syllabus. What the astrologer will use is a book like this called the Ephemeris. And, this book is tables of calculations of where all twelve vibrations of the zodiac are. It determines the contay. And, it determines, at the time that you were born, where the different astrological signs were and how that influences your birth. If someone was doing a very major thing, like getting married or having a major contract to sign, and they wanted me to find out what is the best time for them. And then, I would go into this book and I would determine for them what the best date is. What sign would best influence which one of the twelve zodiac signs would be of good influence. So, these are the main tools of an astrologers are these books. Anybody can get these books and do these calculations themselves which I would highly suggest because astrology is a lot of fun. And, there is a lot of calculations, but, and there is a lot of detail, but in actuality it is discovering a lot of truths that exist right above us which makes astrology really quite wonderful. These books are available at any of the bookstores. But, if my high suggestion is to find an astrologer who has done this for many years and let that astrologer do your chart for you. Because what makes a good astrologer is working many, many, many, many charts and then it would be more accurate for you. While astrology does seem quite scientific, it is the third definition of science which the scientific community considers to distinguish astrology from traditional sciences. Here science is defined as knowledge or a system of knowledge covering general truths or the operation of general laws especially as obtained and tested through scientific method and also such knowledge or such a system of knowledge concerned with the physical world and its phenomena. Although astrology is concerned with the physical world and its phenomena, scientists feel that astrological claims are vague and cannot be proven. For instance there is no way to test if the stars are actually having an effect on what happens. At best one can hypothesize a correlation but there is no way to actually prove that an event is the result of the position of the Earth, stars or planets. The scientific community also feels that astrologers do not use scientific methods to prove or research their claims. While any field of scientific study continues to make new discoveries each day, astrologers continue to employ the same methods and knowledge which has been available for centuries. Some scientists even argue that the word knowledge should not even be used in the definition astrology, since so much is left unexplained. While according to the scientific method, astrology is not considered a science, it seems to just be something people will have to accept that cannot be explained. Astrology is able to predict events with some form of accuracy, although it is not determined how this is possible or why the relation between celestial bodies and humans and events exists. It is known that the moon and sun affect our bodies, regulating menstrual cycle of women and mood. It is not known why, but it is known to be true. Some would even call it a scientific fact, yet the connection cannot be proven. The usage of the word science is the real concern here. It is at the discretion of the speaker which context the word science would be used in that particular situation.

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Used loosely, almost anything could be considered a science, take for example definition 2b. Astrology is just as it is defined by the dictionary, merely a form of divination. In Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. Retrieved February 23, , from [http:](http://) In Executive producer , American Morning. Astrology is a science: The Times of India, Calypso, G. Understanding astrology charts [Web].

Chapter 8 : Astrology: Science or Superstition? by Hans Jürgen Eysenck

Astrology has been practiced for thousands of years, and it appears to many people that astrology is a manifestation of the human mind's first attempts to explain events in the world rather than causal relationships.

Humans began observing the night sky tens of thousands of years ago, but astrology is of more recent origin. Religion and magic were a natural outgrowth of wonder and ignorance; they likely survived, at least in part, because they were useful to the priests and royalty as a means of frightening their subjects into line. Thus, astrology was the result of combining the ancient practice of observing the night sky with a magical view of the world, specifically what Lawrence Jerome, in *The Humanist*, calls the "principle of correspondences." For instance, the reddish color of the planet Mars means to the astrologer that it is magically related with blood, war and metal iron. Those qualities are still the ones ascribed to the planets in "modern" astrology. Finally, in the second century c. During the Middle Ages, astrology was denounced by the church and went into eclipse, though it remained popular in the islamic world and in the East. In Europe, it began to flourish in the late Middle Ages, from roughly the 13th century on, and was very popular during the Renaissance. Since its resurrection, belief in astrology has touched all segments of the population, not only in the U. Most of the top Nazis believed in astrology. Hitler himself, however, apparently did not believe in astrology and viewed it as merely a convenient means of manipulation. Today, the percentage is far higher: Among the general population, the percentage is far higher. Three decades ago, Jon D. Things have only gotten worse since then. In the s, two-thirds of U. There were at least 10, full-time and , part-time astrologers in the country. And astrologically related books and magazine articles were a glut on the market. A few sample titles: *Judging Compatibility,* and *Choosing by the Stars: If anything, the percentage of newspapers carrying astrology columns has probably gone up, the number of astrologers has almost certainly gone up along with population and credulity, and astrology books still sell like, well, astrology books. A number of years ago I wrote a "horoscope" for a humor magazine in which I listed among my credits an article in Motor Trend titled, "Astrology and MPGs: Tune Your Car by the Stars. Why Astrology is Magic, Not Science* In addition to its being based on the magical "principle of correspondences," there are many other reasons to regard astrology as a system of magic rather than as a science. First of all, astrologers have never attempted to explain how astrology supposedly works—that is, why the apparent positions of different astronomical bodies supposedly have different effects upon different people. Many believers in astrology have suggested that each planet issues a different variety of special as-yet-undetected radiations or "vibrations". It does not make sense to suppose that the various planets and the moon, all with rather similar physical properties, could manage to affect human affairs in totally dissimilar fashion. Second, astrology does not even take into account all of the major bodies in our solar system, let alone all those in our galaxy or the hundreds of billions of other galaxies in the universe. Third, there is no reason whatsoever to believe that the mysterious, undetectable, astrological forces supposedly emanating from the planets would be any stronger than the gravitational forces of the planets. And those forces are weak indeed. At its nearest conjunction, Mars exerts far less gravitational force upon a newborn infant than the midwife or doctor who delivers the child. Fourth, astrologers, in their computations, do not take into account the inverse square law, which is a fundamental law of physics. It says that the amount of radiation received by a body varies as the inverse square of its distance from the source of the radiation. For example, the amount of light reaching a ship four miles from a lighthouse will be only one-quarter per unit of surface area of that reaching a ship two miles from the lighthouse, and one-sixteenth of that reaching a ship one mile from the lighthouse. They only concern themselves with the apparent position—to a viewer on Earth—of Mars in relation to the backdrop of the zodiac constellations and the other planets. So, if the astrological "radiation" "vibration" choose your own nebulous term of the planets does influence human beings as astrologers claim, it would have to be a most peculiar type of radiation, one which disobeys a fundamental, well-established law of physics. Fifth, many astrologers ignore precession. This slow wobbling is called precession. It means, among other things, that the stars we now see in summer will be seen in winter and vice versa 13, years from now. It also means that the sun has receded almost a full

sign along the zodiac since the Tetrabiblos was written nearly two millennia ago. So, the calculations of astrologers who rely on that hoary source are now off almost a full sign. But the choice of the time of birth as the moment of supposed astrological imprinting makes no sense at all. Some astrologers, especially the "humanistic" variety, attempt to discount criticisms such as these by claiming that the planets and stars do not produce astrological effects, but, rather, that the positions of astronomical bodies only serve as "indications" of astrological forces. By taking such a position, astrologers are saying in effect that for unknown reasons the positions of some of the stars and planets are indications of the undetectable effects of unknown types of undetectable forces emanating from unknown, undetectable sources. Such a proposition is even more ludicrous than the traditional astrological view that the stars and planets "never mind how" influence our daily lives. Finally, there is absolutely no empirical evidence, absolutely none, that astrology has any value whatsoever as a means of prediction. What scientific testing has been done indicates that there are no astrological "effects. Silberman then inspected the records of couples who divorced and who married in and in Michigan. He found no correspondence beyond that of random chance between the astrological signs predicted to be compatible or incompatible by astrologers and the signs of those getting married or divorced. French statistician Michel Gauquelin has conducted far more detailed tests which also have discovered no astrological effects. In one test he examined the signs moon, zodiacal, planetary, ascendant, and mid-heaven for 15, professionals from five European nations in 10 different occupations. He found no evidence of any astrological effects. His calculations showed that the correlation between astrological signs and occupations to be that of random chance. Reasons for Belief in Astrology The fact that millions of astrological believers claim that they "feel" astrological influences in their own lives and "see" astrological influences at work in the lives of others is a prime example of wishful thinking, and nothing more. Believers in astrology, like other religionists, want so badly to believe in their preordination system that they "feel" and "see" effects where none exist. Similarly, a great many born-again christians claim to "feel" the presence of Jesus or the "holy spirit" and to "see" the hand of Satan at work in astrology and other occult beliefs. Most born-again christians really do believe that Satan exists. And if believers in astrology want us to accept their feelings as evidence supporting their beliefs, they must, to be consistent, grant the same evidentiary value to the feelings of born-again christians, which in some ways directly contradict the feelings of astrological believers"all of which demonstrates the unreliability of personal feelings as "evidence" in matters of this sort. Why would anyone believe in anything as patently absurd as astrology? Probably for reasons similar to those of persons who believe in such patent absurdities as transubstantiation or their own "personal savior. Their "reasoning" is that of a stubborn child: Unfortunately for the astrologers, that does not appear to be the case. A study of credence in another occult belief, ESP, published in the March Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, tends to confirm that occult believers ignore contradictory evidence much more often than skeptics. In that study, skeptics and ESP believers read articles with which they agreed and with which they disagreed, and then answered questions about the articles. He took out a newspaper advertisement in which he promised free personalized horoscopes to all who answered the ad. One hundred fifty persons responded. Gauquelin then sent out the same horoscope to all and asked them how well it fit them. Ninety-four percent replied that they recognized themselves in it. The horoscope was that of Dr. Michel Petiot, a mass murderer. Why do occult believers have such a reluctance to face facts? They want someone or something to tell them how to act, how to think, and how to feel. Astrology, like other religious beliefs, fills the bill. As a system of preordination "Oh! Astrologers themselves admit this, with some of them maintaining that astrology "controls," "influences," or "can serve as a road guide. Still, why do so many choose astrology as a belief system rather than Mormonism, Catholicism, Islam, etc.? A probable reason is that astrology meets the desire of many people for a preordination system, yet it does not contain the most unpleasant aspects of conventional religions. It is silly and utterly irrational, and almost certainly influences some to make unfortunate personal decisions. Consider the effect of articles such as "Birth Control by Astrology" upon those who take them seriously. In extreme cases, astrological belief may incline individuals toward passivity"after all, if everything is written in the stars, why not just go with the flow? But unlike such religions as Judaism, Christianity, Mormonism, and Islam, astrology is not based upon guilt, misogyny, and sexual repression. It is

simply based upon credulousness, ignorance, irrationality, and the eagerness of human sheep to be led. Astrology is a handy crutch for those who are repelled by the more overtly reactionary, inhumane aspects of conventional religions, but are not yet ready to free themselves from supernatural preordination systems. In itself, this turn from organized religion is mildly encouraging. But it would be far more encouraging to see believers in astrology rise from the Procrustean bed of their irrational beliefs and begin to think for themselves.

Chapter 9 : Astrology: Fraud or Superstition?

For more than 2, years astrology and astronomy were thought to be the same science. The earliest astrology was used to bring a sense of order out of the chaos reflected on the Gods. It was the earliest sense of divinity in the world, as the foundation for astrology predates the sacred writings of nearly all religions and philosophies.

Without that knowledge, without that capacity to think, you can easily become a victim of people who seek to take advantage of you". It was not known to the Babylonians that the constellations are not on a celestial sphere and are very far apart. The appearance of them being close is illusory. The exact demarcation of what a constellation is, is cultural, and varied between civilisations. This provided a further motivator for the study of astronomy. Those in positions of power, like the Fatimid Caliphate vizier in , funded the construction of observatories so that astrological predictions, fuelled by precise planetary information, could be made. On astrology, it cited the inability of different astrologers to make the same prediction about what occurs following a conjunction , and described the attributes astrologers gave to the planets as implausible. Astrology provides the quintessential example of a pseudoscience since it has been tested repeatedly and failed all the tests. The criterion was first proposed by philosopher of science Karl Popper. To Popper, science does not rely on induction ; instead, scientific investigations are inherently attempts to falsify existing theories through novel tests. If a single test fails, then the theory is falsified. Using this criterion of falsifiability, astrology is a pseudoscience. According to Professor of neurology Terence Hines , this is a hallmark of pseudoscience. An astrologer could only explain away failure but could not revise the astrological hypothesis in a meaningful way. As such, to Kuhn, even if the stars could influence the path of humans through life astrology is not scientific. In the case of predicting behaviour, psychology is the alternative. For these reasons Thagard viewed astrology as pseudoscience. Whether or not they: In this approach, true falsification rather than modifying a theory to avoid the falsification only really occurs when an alternative theory is proposed. James, astrology is irrational not because of the numerous problems with mechanisms and falsification due to experiments, but because an analysis of the astrological literature shows that it is infused with fallacious logic and poor reasoning. In that case, I think, we are perfectly justified in rejecting astrology as irrational. Astrology simply fails to meet the multifarious demands of legitimate reasoning. Other comments by astrologers are based on severely erroneous interpretations of basic physics, such as a claim by one astrologer[who? Further, James noted that response to criticism also relies on faulty logic, an example of which was a response to twin studies with the statement that coincidences in twins are due to astrology, but any differences are due to "heredity and environment", while for other astrologers the issues are too difficult and they just want to get back to their astrology. When specific predictions from astrologers were tested in rigorous experimental procedures in the Carlson test, the predictions were falsified. Ten of the tests, which had a total of participating, involved the astrologers picking the correct chart interpretation out of a number of others that were not the astrologically correct chart interpretation usually three to five others. When the date and other obvious clues were removed, no significant results were found to suggest there was any preferred chart. Again the results were no better than chance. No effect was seen. The suggestion is that a small subset of the parents may have had changed birth times to be consistent with better astrological charts for a related profession. The sample group was taken from a time where belief in astrology was more common. Gauquelin had failed to find the Mars effect in more recent populations [c] , where a nurse or doctor recorded the birth information. The number of births under astrologically undesirable conditions was also lower, indicating more evidence that parents choose dates and times to suit their beliefs. The underpinnings of astrology tend to disagree with numerous basic facts from scientific disciplines. ESP, Telekinesis, and other Pseudoscience. They commented on the example of Elizabeth Teissier who claimed that "the sun ends up in the same place in the sky on the same date each year" as the basis for claims that two people with the same birthday but a number of years apart should be under the same planetary influence. Over a 40 years period there would be a difference greater than , miles. Further, the creation of the zodiac and the disconnect from the constellations was because the sun is not in each constellation for the same amount of time. Astrology was claimed to work before the discovery of Neptune,

Uranus and Pluto and they have now been included in the discourse on an ad hoc basis. Some astrologers make claims that the position of all the planets must be taken into account, but astrologers were unable to predict the existence of Neptune based on mistakes in horoscopes. If they decide to keep it, what about the growing list of other recently discovered similar bodies Sedna, Quaoar. Lack of mechanism[edit] Astrology has been criticised for failing to provide a physical mechanism that links the movements of celestial bodies to their purported effects on human behaviour. Bok , Lawrence E. Jerome, and Paul Kurtz. They said that there is no scientific foundation for the tenets of astrology and warned the public against accepting astrological advice without question. Their criticism focused on the fact that there was no mechanism whereby astrological effects might occur: We can see how infinitesimally small are the gravitational and other effects produced by the distant planets and the far more distant stars. It is simply a mistake to imagine that the forces exerted by stars and planets at the moment of birth can in any way shape our futures. Sagan said he took this stance not because he thought astrology had any validity, but because he thought that the tone of the statement was authoritarian, and that dismissing astrology because there was no mechanism while "certainly a relevant point" was not in itself convincing. In a letter published in a follow-up edition of *The Humanist*, Sagan confirmed that he would have been willing to sign such a statement had it described and refuted the principal tenets of astrological belief. This, he argued, would have been more persuasive and would have produced less controversy. If the astrologer insisted on being inconsistent with the current understanding and evidential basis of physics, that would be an extraordinary claim. However, synchronicity itself is considered neither testable nor falsifiable. Forer effect It has also been shown that confirmation bias is a psychological factor that contributes to belief in astrology. Another, separate, form of confirmation bias also plays a role, where believers often fail to distinguish between messages that demonstrate special ability and those that do not. If more information is requested for a prediction, the more accepting people are of the results. The personality descriptions were taken from a book on astrology. The effect is heightened when the individuals were aware that the personality description was being used to discuss astrology. Individuals who were not familiar with astrology had no such tendency. Adorno conducted a study of the astrology column of a Los Angeles newspaper as part of a project that examined mass culture in capitalist society. Following the complaints of astrology believers, Cox gave the following statement to the BBC: I should have said that this new age drivel is undermining the very fabric of our civilisation. The closeness of the two words varies depending on the language. This may partially be due to the implicit association amongst the general public, of any wording ending in "ology" with a legitimate field of knowledge. In half of the polls, the word "astrology" was used, while in the other the word "horoscope" was used.