

Faith Parent Hendrickson

Synopsis of Orientation Lesson ~ 2/10/2014

Medieval Astrology is a precisely predictive astrology from which Modern astrology came; however, Medieval astrology includes techniques not used in Modern astrology, and Medieval astrology dates back to centuries before Christ. Celestial myths and events (good and evil) that were shared from Egyptian, Babylonian, and Persian sources from around 200 BC were the basis from which Greek-speaking philosophers of the Byzantine Empire (the Eastern Roman Empire) created Medieval astrology, and this occurred during the first through sixth centuries. Medieval astrology was first practiced from approximately 750 AD to the Renaissance times (1500 AD) by the Arab and Persian astrologers, followed by the astrologers of Western Europe, and then by the East (Byzantine) later around 1100 AD.

There was great success in the astrology by the fourth century as Medieval astrology became an important influence for most of the Roman Empire's religions, and this success is due to astrology being recognized as a science. It was a short-lived success for two reasons: the fall of the Western Roman Empire in Western and Central Europe (c. 500), and two centuries of declined astrological practices in the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine). By 711 the Moslem Arabs conquered the Middle East, and Arabic was spoken until the Arabic rulers of the Moslem urged their academics and scholars to learn Greek and the scientific myths of the Greeks, Persians, and Indians.

During the time of decline from 500 AD to 1100 AD, mathematical education was lacking in the Western Christian areas, but it wasn't until around 1100 AD that they realized the need for science just as the Moslems had earlier in the 8th century. It was around 1100 AD that the Moslem West then began to translate Arabic scientific texts to Latin. This created a strong three-century long rebirth of interest in Latin West until the 15th-16th centuries of the Renaissance when the resurgence of the Greek language studies led to a reassessment of Greek astrological texts and techniques. During the time of Moslem Turkish expansion and their rejection of all things "oriental," there were actions to "refine" Medieval Astrology by rejecting any practices not proved to be of the "purer" and "better" Greek astrology.

The 17th century is when Medieval Geocentric Cosmology was all but replaced by the Heliocentric Theory of Copernicus as the Scientific Revolution in Western Europe due to growth in mathematical physics and modern chemistry, forcing astrologers to follow suit with their Art, solving natural mysteries through reason and experimental science. Furthermore, Christianity considered their faith to be rational and the basis of their expression, not reason, so this same imposition parted the astrologers in two: Scientific (removing non-astronomical features such as Arabic parts and signs) and Hermetic (occult, alchemy, magic—Medieval astrology's philosophical background comes, in part, from Hermeticism). Natural astrology became the prediction of weather, earthquakes, epidemics, volcanic eruptions, etc., and Judicial astrology was now considered "little more than fortune telling." (p. 5)

The astrological tradition from about 200 BC to 1700 AD and the Latin texts before it is what this course focuses on vs. any materials tainted by the acts of the reform mentioned above. Medieval astrology is the astrology of highly educated mathematicians, physicians, and linguists who worked for the church and aristocracy along with the upcoming and growing middle class in the cities: Masha'alla (c.740-815), Abu-Ma'shar (787-886), Guido Bonatti (c.1223-1295), Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499), Nostradamus (1503-66), John Dee (1527-1608) and others.

There are important fundamental basics to Medieval Astrology: 1) only the seven visible planets are used, 2) only eight Ptolemaic aspects are used, 3) Arabic Parts are used, 4) five dignities are used (instead of two), 6) specific rules guiding delineation (the key to prediction), 7) predictive techniques that are unused in Modern Astrology, and 8) Medieval astrology is Predictive astrology.

What makes Medieval astrology unique is the prediction, which the practice insists on the strong emphasis of accurate delineation without judgment and keeping philosophies and metaphysics out of the practice and studied separately. Medieval astrology provides us a way of knowing our own fate through our own personal constellation. It is an inside-out approach that allows us to see "what is" so we can sort through chaos and see there is an order and purpose first, then we can plan for the future as we understand these heavenly laws as wisdom is our tool to freedom. We are one with the Universal ways.