

This Article Explores the Historical Roots of Astrology as Well as Its Contemporary Relevance.

Dr. Selene Markovic

Faculty of Computer Science, Adriatic Research University, Croatia

Received : 23/12/2025 ; Accepted : 26/05/2026 ; Published : 28/06/2026

Abstract

One of the oldest systems of knowledge, astrology has experienced significant growth throughout civilizations while yet preserving its cultural and symbolic relevance. This is despite the fact that astrology has been around for some time. From its early beginnings in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt to its systematic formulation in Greek, Islamic, and Indian traditions, including its inclusion into the Vedas, the objective of this study is to trace the historical history of astrology. This will be accomplished by beginning with the early roots of astrology in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. By analyzing how astrology has changed over the course of history, the study demonstrates how it has adapted to various intellectual, religious, and cultural contexts. This is performed by analyzing the ways in which it has evolved throughout the course of time. This inquiry, which analyzes the evolution of astrology from a practice that encompassed the observation of celestial bodies and was tied to agricultural and ceremonial time, focuses on a more individualized system that focuses on individual horoscopes and character interpretation. The subject of this investigation is a more individualized system. An additional factor that is taken into account is the influence of scientific advancements, particularly those that took place during the time period known as the Enlightenment. The empirical validity of astrology was called into question as a result of these breakthroughs, which contributed to the decline of astrology within the realm of academic discourse. Although this was the case, astrology continued to exert a significant amount of influence in popular culture as well as in the belief systems of regular people. This can be due to the expansion of digital media, the growing interconnection of the world, and the revival of interest in alternative frameworks of self-understanding. Astrology has seen a tremendous rebirth in the modern age, which can be related to these factors. The manner in which modern astrology integrates classic concepts with contemporary concerns such as identity, mental health, and social belonging is referred to as transpersonal astrology.

Keywords: Astrology, Historical Evolution , Vedas , Ancient Civilizations

Introduction

The development of astrology, which is one of the oldest systems of knowledge, has been influenced by a great number of different cultures and time periods. In the course of human history, astrology has maintained a steady presence throughout the time period. In the beginning, astrology was developed as a means for observing celestial patterns in order to make predictions about significant events, agricultural cycles, and seasonal shifts. Mesopotamia and Egypt are two examples of ancient civilizations that may have been the origins of this phenomenon. As time went on, it evolved into a more complex system of interpretation, which established a relationship between the motions of the planets and the actions and results of

individuals. This connection was made through the use of astrological astrology. Astrology, as a result of its vast distribution, went through a process of adaptation and refining across a number of intellectual traditions owing to its widespread dissemination. The ancient Greeks eventually became more methodical in their approach to it as a result of their philosophical inquiry and mathematical observations. However, in India, it was included into the wider framework of the Vedas as Jyotisha, which is one of the six Vedangas. This was done in order to make it a part of the Vedas. During the medieval period, Islamic academics were responsible for the preservation and growth of astrological knowledge, which contributed to the transfer of this material into Europe. This information was also transmitted to Europe. Because of the advancements that have been made in modern science, particularly during the time of the Enlightenment, the empirical foundations of astrology have been called into question. A distinct barrier between belief-based systems and observational science was established as a result of breakthroughs in astronomy and scientific procedures, which led to the decline of astrology as a recognized scientific discipline. Both of these developments were responsible for the establishment of this boundary. On the other hand, astrology did not disappear in spite of this transition during this time period. Rather, it persisted in the ways of thinking of people from a variety of cultures, the customs of common people, and the belief systems of individuals.

As a result of the growth of digital media and the expansion of international communication, there has been a visible upsurge in interest in astrology in today's culture. This is especially true in light of the fact that astrology has become increasingly popular. The abundance of horoscope software, content on social media platforms, and internet forums has made astrology more approachable and interesting than it has ever been before. This is a significant improvement over the past. Self-reflection, the exploration of one's identity, and the provision of emotional support are all areas in which it is increasingly being exploited as a tool, particularly among younger generations. the growth of astrology by first tracing its historical beginnings and then evaluating how it continues to be relevant in today's world will be discussed. The objective of this research is to get an understanding of the reasons why astrology is still practiced and the ways in which it continues to affect human intellect, society, and self-perception in a world that is growing increasingly complex and uncertain. Examining its development over the course of time and in different circumstances will allow us to achieve this goal.

Ancient civilizations are the source of the origins of astrology.

It is possible to trace the origins of astrology all the way back to some of the oldest civilizations that existed on Earth. During that time period, the meticulous observation of the sky served as the basis for building an understanding of both natural and social processes. Not only were celestial bodies considered to be objects of interest in particular regions, such as Mesopotamia and Egypt, but it was also believed that these bodies have symbolic and prophetic significance in those areas. Astrology is a methodical approach that provides an interpretation of the connection that exists between the universe and the existence of humans. The astrological system was built upon these early traditions, which served as its foundation.

Mesopotamian and Egyptian Contributions

Ancient Mesopotamia is the location where the earliest known developments in astrology were made. These advancements are attributed to the Babylonians, who are generally credited with formalizing the art of astrology. Specifically, the Babylonians were the ones who were responsible for the first use of the technology. The movements of the planets, eclipses, and lunar cycles were meticulously chronicled by Babylonian scholars on clay tablets where they were written in cuneiform script. Due to the fact that these records were utilized to create forecasts regarding events such as floods, agricultural outcomes, and political transitions, the idea that celestial patterns controlled terrestrial problems was represented in the fact that these records were utilized.

While this was going on, the ancient Egyptian culture was making a significant contribution to the development of notions related to astrology. Egyptian priests and intellectuals paid particular attention to the stars, particularly the heliacal rising of Sirius, which was thought to be tied to the annual flooding of the Nile. This was one of the most important of the stars. A third piece of evidence that offered credence for the idea that the skies were the masters of life on Earth was the correlation between celestial events and natural cycles. The use of astronomy in Egypt had a considerable influence on the development of calendars, the alignment of temples, and the symbolism of religious practices. Additionally, it was the driving force behind the assimilation of astronomical observation into both the practical and spiritual realms.

When the knowledge systems of Mesopotamia and Egypt came into touch with one another, it eventually made it simpler for astrological notions to be conveyed and developed into other locations, particularly Greece, where astrology would eventually become more systematized.

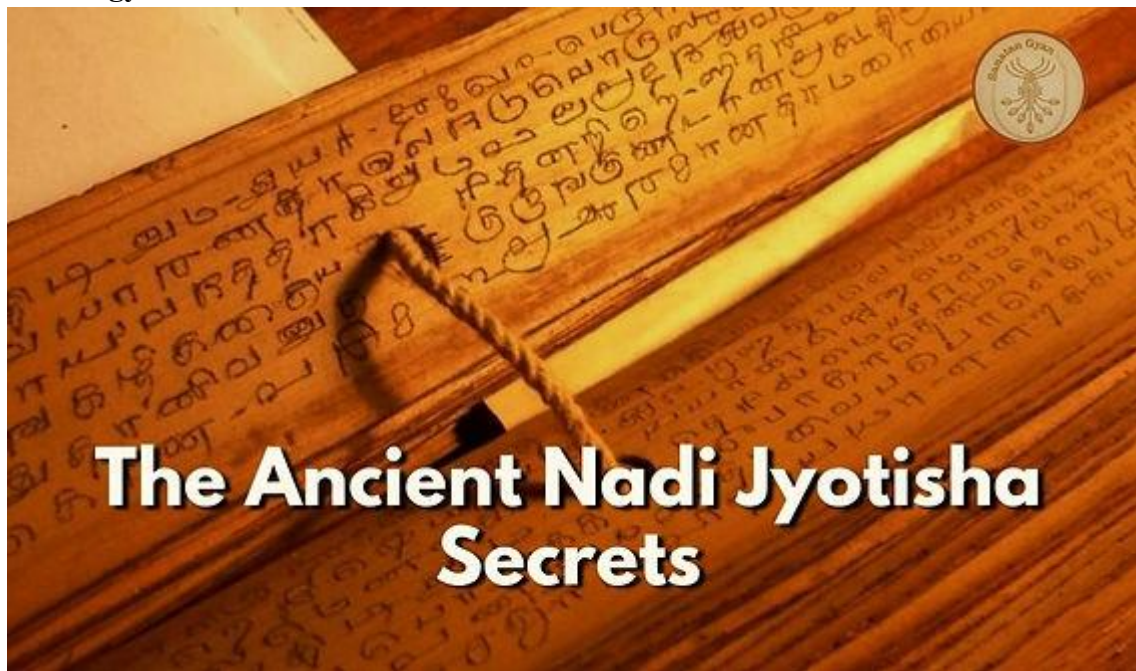
Early Astronomical Observations

At the most fundamental level, astrology was intricately related to astronomy all throughout its early history. Even though they had limited access to technology resources, ancient observers were able to discern the movements of the sun, moon, and visible planets with a remarkable degree of accuracy. This was accomplished despite the fact that they had limited technological means. The zodiac system was formed as a result of these observations, which included the identification of constellations and the dividing of the sky into patterns that were plainly discernible. These observations led to the development of the zodiac system.

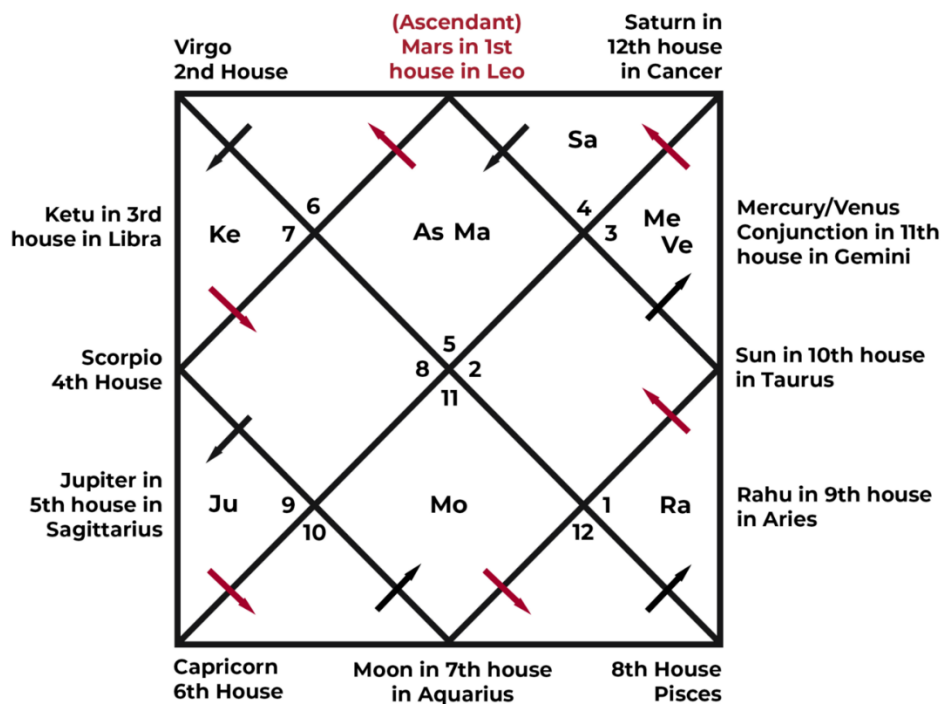
In the beginning, astrological activities were mostly utilitarian in nature because they assisted with agricultural practices, navigation, and the monitoring of time. On the other hand, as more and more patterns were seen and documented, a growing number of them began to acquire symbolic connotations. In order to establish a connection between the heavens and human fate and the happenings of society, it was common practice to interpret heavenly phenomena as portents. Some examples of such occurrences are eclipses and unusual planetary alignments.

These methods of observation, when used over the course of time, resulted in the development of more complex systems that combined symbolic interpretation with empirical monitoring. Astrology was established as a result of this mix of observation and meaning-making, which marked the transition from simple astronomy to astrology. This tradition would have an impact on the intellectual and cultural developments of several different civilizations. Specifically, this shift took place when the process of producing meaning was utilized in conjunction with observation.

Astrology in Indian Traditions



Charlie Brown
30th May 1948, 12:00
Santa Rosa, CA



The practice of astrology in India, which is known as Jyotisha, occupies a central role within the greater context of traditional knowledge systems. Jyotisha is the name given to the discipline. Within the context of India, astrology developed into a complete field of study that is intricately connected to cosmology, ritual, and spirituality. When compared to the vast

majority of other cultural contexts, where astrology was initially developed primarily as a method of prediction, this is a significant departure. It is a reflection of a worldview in which human life is connected with cosmic rhythms, and it is believed that the motions of the heavens influence both individual fate and social order. This philosophy is reflected in this statement.

Integration with the Vedas

The Vedas, which are the foundations of Indian astrology, include a significant amount of information that pertains to the concept of time, cycles, and cosmic harmony. When it comes to the practice of Indian astrology, this understanding is absolutely necessary. The Vedas contain a number of scriptures that emphasize the significance of performing rituals at particular times in order to bring human actions into alignment with the powers that can be found throughout the universe. Throughout the course of history, astrology emerged as the system that enabled the calculation and interpretation of such numerical information regarding the passage of time.

Because of this integration, astrology was raised to a sacred and authoritative status, which differentiated it from systems that are merely observational or speculative. This integration also distinguished astrology from other systems. With the use of this instrument, which became an essential instrument for them, priests and scholars were able to determine the most appropriate times for rituals, celebrations, and agricultural activities with the help of this instrument. Additionally, the association with the Vedas ensured the transmission of astrological knowledge through established scholarly traditions, which contributed to the continuity of this knowledge over the course of several centuries. This knowledge was passed down from generation to generation.

Jyotisha as a Vedanga

Jyotisha is believed to be one of the six Vedangas, which are supplementary disciplines that are acknowledged within the framework of the Vedic tradition. The correct interpretation and application of Vedic information is supported by these Vedangas, which are the books of Vedic knowledge. As a Vedanga, its primary function is to provide a precise technique of timekeeping and celestial calculating, both of which are necessary for the accomplishment of precise ritual performance. This is the primary reason for its existence.

Jyotisha is the one who is accountable for both the observation of astronomical occurrences and the interpretation of astrological signs. The study of planetary movements, lunar cycles, eclipses, and seasonal fluctuations, as well as the interpretation of the symbolic meanings associated with these phenomena, are all covered in this subject. This dual nature is a reflection of an early merger of scientific observation and philosophical interpretation, which led to the formation of this dual nature.

Beyond the practical value of rituals, its significance extends much beyond that. Jyotisha makes a significant contribution to a more thorough grasp of the order of the cosmos, so consolidating the notion that human life functions within a universe that is both organized and linked. It does this by regulating the timing of actions and providing interpretations of life experiences, so acting as a bridge between the physical and metaphysical planes of existence.

In accordance with the customs of India, astrology is a system that is intricately intertwined and combines the performance of rituals, the study of cosmology, and the application of spiritual concepts to various social situations. Jyotisha develops not just as a prophetic

instrument but also as a fundamental discipline that shapes cultural practices and intellectual understanding. Jyotisha is a multifaceted phenomenon. As a result of its connection to the Vedas and its function as a Vedanga, this is the results.

Astrology and the Scientific Revolution

It was during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that the Scientific Revolution took place, and it is widely considered to be one of the most critical turning points in the history of knowledge. Because of this revolution, humanity's perspective on the universe itself underwent a profound transformation. New methods of scientific investigation were pioneered during this time period by a number of individuals, including Nicolaus Copernicus, Galileo Galilei, and Isaac Newton, amongst others. Observation, experimentation, and mathematical reasoning were the elements that laid the groundwork for these techniques. These advancements, which included the challenge of long-standing cosmological notions, had a significant impact on the intellectual standing of astrology, which was severely influenced as a result of these advancements.

Enlightenment Critique

The Enlightenment further enhanced the criticism that was already being offered against astrology by promoting logic, empirical evidence, and scientific skepticism. This was done in order to combat the growing controversy surrounding astrology. Old belief systems that lacked verifiable proof were called into question by philosophers during this time period, which led to an enhanced investigation of astrological claims. This was the time period in which astrological claims were examined more closely. In the end, the practice of astrology, which was founded on symbolic interpretation and lacked consistent predictive accuracy, was considered as incompatible with the norms of scientific study that were rising at the time. This was due to the fact that astrology was based on the interpretation of symbols.

Philosophers and scientists placed a significant amount of importance on the ideas of causality and repeatability, which are fundamental notions that astrology was unable to demonstrate in an adequate manner. In addition to this, as a direct result of this, it quickly lost its position among the intellectual and academic circles. Over the course of the past few years, a body of knowledge that was once considered to be genuine has been increasingly labeled as either superstition or pseudoscience.

Separation of Astronomy and Astrology

Astrology and astronomy were clearly divided from one another as a result of the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment, which turned out to be one of the most significant effects. This was one of the most significant effects. The two were tightly intertwined in ancient times, with the observation of heavenly bodies serving both practical and interpretive tasks. During this time period, the two activities were intertwined. Alternately, the theoretical features of astrology gradually divorced from the scientific field of astronomy as it progressed into a more exact and evidence-based science. This occurred as astronomy evolved into a more scientific profession.

The study of astronomy began to focus on the physical qualities, movements, and rules that control celestial phenomena. This was accomplished through the utilization of mathematical models and technological advancements such as telescopes. The practice of astrology, on the

other hand, continued to be based on symbolic connections and interpretive frameworks, and it did not have the scientific support that was required for its progress.

As a consequence of this separation, a recently established intellectual environment was established. On the other hand, the area of astronomy was recognized as a valid scientific discipline, whilst the field of astrology was relegated to the realm of cultural belief and personal practice. Astrology did not disappear despite this separation; rather, it adapted to and continued to exist within popular culture and in everyday life. This was the case even though it was separated.

Conclusion

The historical growth of the field of astrology demonstrates the unique capacity of astrology to adapt to a wide variety of civilizations, intellectual traditions, and cultural circumstances. Since the beginning of time, astrology has been a manifestation of humanity's endeavor to fathom the connection that exists between the existence of humans and the universe surrounding them. It is possible to trace its origins back to ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian observations of the sky, and it was absorbed into Indian traditions through the Vedas. The fact that it developed into a structured system during the classical and medieval periods is another factor that contributes to the relevance of this discipline as a cultural and academic exercise. The epistemological foundations of astrology were called into question as a consequence of the significant transformations that were brought about by the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment. This ultimately led to the separation of astrology from astronomy and its demise as a recognized scientific subject within the scientific community. Astrology, on the other hand, did not vanish as a consequence of this shift; rather, it was repositioned inside the sphere of personalized belief and the expression of cultural values. The continuous presence of this phenomena illustrates that human connection with astrology goes beyond the pursuit of empirical confirmation and involves more profound psychological and symbolic requirements. With the expansion of digital media and international communication, there has been a large resurgence in interest in astrology in the modern world. This is particularly due to the fact that astrology has become increasingly popular. For the purpose of self-reflection, identity creation, and emotional advice, it has grown increasingly popular as a result of its transformation into an instrument that is both interactive and generally available. A contemporary adaptation that shows its adaptability and continual relevance in addressing the complexities of the human experience within an environment that is both uncertain and subject to rapid change is presented below. When all is said and done, the continuous existence of astrology can be interpreted as a reflection of fundamental human impulses. These impulses include the need to connect individual experiences with a larger cosmic framework, the hope of identifying patterns in the midst of uncertainty, and the search for meaning. Despite the fact that it is no longer a central topic of discussion within the scientific community, astrology continues to be an important cultural and symbolic system. It also continues to have an impact on how individuals perceive themselves and the world around them. It integrates ancient traditions with modern life and continues to have relevance.

Bibliography

- Barton, T. (1994). *Ancient astrology*. Routledge.

- Campion, N. (2008). *A history of western astrology* (Vol. 1: The ancient and classical worlds). Continuum.
- Campion, N. (2009). *A history of western astrology* (Vol. 2: The medieval and modern worlds). Continuum.
- Evans, J. (1998). *The history and practice of ancient astronomy*. Oxford University Press.
- Grafton, A. (1999). *Cardano's cosmos: The worlds and works of a Renaissance astrologer*. Harvard University Press.
- Holden, J. H. (2006). *A history of horoscopic astrology: From the Babylonian period to the modern age*. American Federation of Astrologers.
- Pingree, D. (1978). The Mesopotamian origin of early Indian mathematical astronomy. *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, 9(1), 1–12.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/002182867800900102>
- Tester, S. J. (1987). *A history of western astrology*. Boydell Press.
- Tarnas, R. (2006). *Cosmos and psyche: Intimations of a new world view*. Viking.
- Whitfield, P. (2001). *Astrology: A history*. British Library.