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ASTROLOGY AS LIFE NOT LIVELIHOOD

Prof. Rudra Prasanna Mohapatra, Bhubaneswar

ano Budhi Ahankaar Chitani Naaham, Na Cha Shrotra Jihve Na Cha Ghraana netre

Na Cha Vyoma Bhumir Na Tejo Na Vayuh, Chidananda Rupah Shivoham Shivoham

-Nirvan Shastakam, Adi Sankara In modern days it is common for common men to think that the astrologers are the luck-changers and making a good chunk of money out of their profession. In realty, the facts are not so. Many astrologers are indeed adjunct (part-time) astrologers. These astrologers are in fair professions in either public or private sector but not prepare to give up their passion for astrology. They spend a lot of time in reading the astrological texts and most often other texts on spirituality, theology etcetera. So far as their consultation is concerned. they take very less amount from the clients (most astrologers even do not charge any fees) or whatever the clients wish to pay. But they predict with much accuracy due to their indepth focus on the subject. These astrologers do not suggest any useless costly remedies to their clients rather ask for some chanting or donation as written in classical texts. In the astrological realm, they are known as "Academic astrologer", "Part-time astrologer", "Passionate Astrologer" etcetera.

Now the question arises, if anything is not productive, why these so-called part-time astrologers spend

time on it. The answer, to be honest, they are addicted to astrology. They love to learn and pursue on step ahead in the field of astrology. They contribute to the realm of astrology with their writings in various journals. But they do not make money (forget about good deal of money) out of astrology. The other dimension of looking at this sort of lifestyle is to pursue towards spirituality. These astrologers live a Sattwaik way of life. They spend a good share of their day to day lifetime in chanting mantras or doing spiritual sadhanas to improve their life energies to realize the ultimate energy in a better way. This develops intuition which our ancient sages had. If we look back to the history of astrology, we find sages like Parasara, Bhrigu, Mantreswara are the founding fathers of astrology. Is not it very illogical to define how come these sages able to calculate time in those ancient time? The field of astronomy indeed developed in very later stage. The logical dictum "ex nihilo nihil fit" explains nothing comes out of nothing. In other words, if something is being created, it has some base. This explains the spiritual ability of these seers who can see time rather calculating it. It is also evident, that many sages give a small form to their initial brainchild like Laghu Parasari, Laghu Jatakam. With increased wisdom, later came an

elaborate form like Brihat Parasara



Hora Shastra, Brihat Jatakam etc. These saints gradually gain metaphysical power leading to creation of additional theorems in astrology. But the clue is these sages achieved the flow of insight due to their daily spiritual practices or simply their lifestyle. This poses sufficient reason for any astrologer to conduct himself in such a way that his spiritual attainments hike day by day. This is possible if any astrologer makes his or her life in an astrological way to spiritual advancements. David Frawley in his book "Astrology of the Seers: A Guide to Vedic/Hindu Astrology" (1990) has mentioned, "Astrology was not only the original and foremost of the outer sciences, it was also the most important of the inner or spiritual sciences".

In India, Vedic astrologers are mostly from Brahmin family. Traditionally, these Brahmin family lead a simple life aiming to attain maximum knowledge. It was a practice for many Brahmin family to know Vedic hymns and Yagna. Brahmins are also worshippers to many temples from ancient time for which their lifestyle remain directed towards spiritual attainment. However, unlike sages, these Brahmins used to live a worldly life with family. But their lifestyle helps them towards spirituality. Among these Brahmins, were few from astrologers' families having more disciplined living. These Brahmins practice more silence than the Karma Kanda (wing of Vedas) Brahmin. These Brahmins were busy in calculations, predictions and sometimes consultants to kings.

The question arises, do the present-day astrologers stick to this sort of lifestyle? Do they have the intention to make astrology a doorway to spiritual attainment? The answer if collected from the society,

shall come NO. Many astrologers have made it a vow to make certain amount of money per months to maintain their lifestyle. Other busy in marketing themselves in television. magazines, online advertisement etc. Shri K. N. Rao, possible the most justified astrologer of our time, has said in the interview why he do not take any fees for consultation. He sited an example when he was working in Account General Office in Odisha. In 1980s, he paid a visit to a renowned astrologer of that decade. The astrologer had all the amenities including air-conditioned rooms in 1980s. But he praises Shri K. N. Rao for his free consultation and shared his experience. The astrologer had made a good deal of money by stone remedies. But in the final stage of his life, he was living alone with his differently abled girl. His family has left him. He categorically explained how making surplus money by astrology is an unavoidable hazard in life. Shri K. N. Rao also added that if you take money from the client, you take 20 percent of their karmic bondage. Similarly, another leading astrologer India, daughter of Dr. B. V. Raman and grand daughter of Prof. Surynarayan Rao, Gayatri Devi Vasudev had mentioned the television astrologer as entertaining astrologers. Or else why an astrologer shall appear on television daily for prediction. Again, the same question arise, does the commercialisation or over-commercialization of astrology is killing the values of astrologers?

Maharshi Bhrigu said to be creator of astrology. According to him, if the native is not paying the astrologer for his or her query, then the questions put on the astrologer are ruined. Does it indicate that astrology is performed only for livelihood? Essentially, in olden days



the astrologers are the Brahmachari or Sanyasi (Last stage of life or a preparation for death). They not necessarily need money, but some food shall suffice for them. In short, these astrologers need something considerably basic to their survival, nothing else. In India, it is assumed that serving a Sanyasi shall bring wellbeing to the householders. Hence, the role of astrology is just an excuse for food. In reality it must be said that living a Satwik life is mandate for an astrologer, not demanding money. More or less, any astrologer taking up astrological consultation as his or her only source of income must take some cash for his or her basic survival. The astrologer need to spend a lot of time in reading and writing on the astrological texts by which he can contribute to the field of astrology. For all these, he needs money and these much of money is expected from astrological consultations. Finally, any astrologer should discourage persons with no faith on astrology, not having any serious intention to know their future for any consultation. These people need to be advised to focus more on their physical and mental action for their survival. Only helpless persons with faith in astrology are to be entertained by astrologers. According to Indian astronomer Varah Mihira. "There is no better boat than a horoscope to help a man cross over the sea of life". Hence an astrologer must read the karmic cycle of the native in such a way that the native shall love to live the life. • • •

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(Page 24) dealings. Pointed hands are the most beautiful of all the hands appearance but the most unfortunate of all the hands. In formation if the hand is long, narrow and slender with long tapering fingers, and pointed tips, he is an idealist possessing an intuitive mind. He is gentle, slow to anger, imaginative and adore beauty wherever it is found. He will judge greatly by intuition and inspiration and in rapidity. He is a dreamer who cannot put plans into action. He has no push and is deceived by trusting the wrong persons. A hand that does not conform to the above types is called a mixed hand. The fingers also appear to belong to different types. be adaptable Thev will circumstances, and find the life with full of changes, novelty and originality. Those with soft finger tips are impulsive and take very quick decisions. But if the fingers have joints, there is stop to impulsive action. If the inside of the tip of the finger is bulged, such people will be very sensitive to everything that goes around them. (to be contd....)

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