

Horary Astrology

The Heart of the question

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Evidence point out to the fact that Horary Astrology only began to be practiced in the West some centuries after Natal astrology: perhaps in the 4th century.

Many scholars believe that Horary is as old as Natal astrology based on some evidences supported especially by book 5 of Dorotheus of Sidon (75 AC), *Carmem Astrologicum* or *Pentateuch*, one of the first works on Hellenistic astrology which survived almost preserved since our days.

But if we think that Dorotheus wrote in Greek, was translated into Pahlavi (Persian) and from the Pahlavi into Arabic and then into English, and besides this Dorotheus wrote this work in verses, a fact that is a limitation to didactic transmission, we realize that many things must have been corrupted on the road.

Although there are apparent indications of the use of Electional astrology in Dorotheus' book, that were cited at length by the astrologer Hephaiste of Thebes, in the fifth century, intense revisions made in the nineties pointed out to several interpolations especially in the fifth book of the *Pentateuch*, which overthrew the hypothesis that Dorotheus was referring to Horary astrology.

It happens that authors of the 8th and 9th century, as Sahal and Masha'allah transformed the texts of Electional astrology into Horary astrology.

Quite interesting is the fact that, according to the vast article by Chris Brennanⁱ, Pingree, who translated the *Pentateuch* in 1976 and also Hephaiste, also translated from the Sanskrit, at the same time, the important work called *Indian Yavanajātaka* or "the Greeks Horoscope"

It is an astrological text that was written in Sanskrit verse, in 269/270 AD and originally translated from Greek and written by some Yavaneśvara or "Lord of the Greeks" in DC 149/150.

The text dealt with horoscopic astrology and Pingree became convinced that this text was the basis of all Indians horoscopic developments but also this text, versified by Sphujidhvaja in 269/270 AD, represented the turning point at which occurred the transformation of the elective Greek astrology into the interrogational or Horary astrology.ⁱⁱ

Thus, according to Pingree's (mid-90s) latest opinions, not only interrogational astrology was not practiced by Dorotheus, as the branch was not conceived until two centuries after his death and the innovation did not occur in the Hellenistic tradition, but in the Indian (even if the material that Pingree identified as interrogational astrology or *Prasna*, which is presented in *Yavanajātaka*, seems a bit rudimentary compared to that developed in the Arab-Persian astrology).

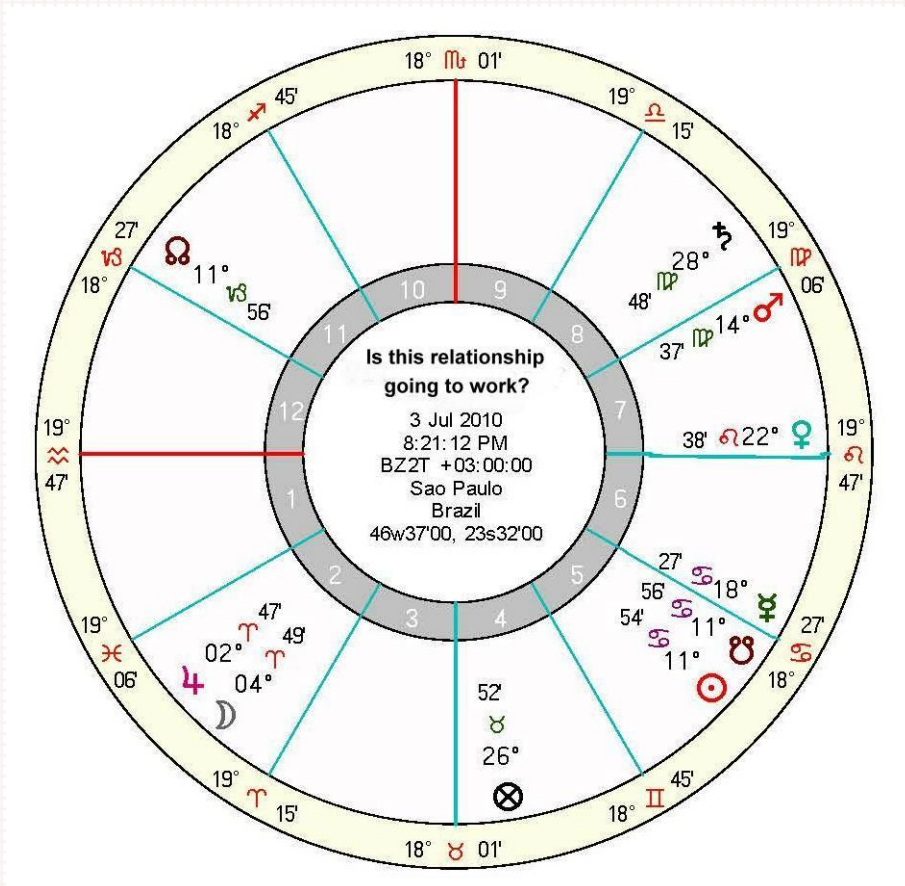
Another novelty is that Horary Astrology as practiced by Arabic authorities was initially used as a way to read the client's mind.

Such charts, called today consultation charts, were used because, as referred by Hermann of Carinthia, author of the eleventh century, any question only comes after some thoughts.

This consultation charts were based on the discovery of the almuten of important points. Several dignities were summed up and finally a planet was elected as the victor or al-mubtazz, having the major number of dignities in the entire chart. This almuten gave an idea about what kind of things were running in the client's mind and the knowledge was used sometimes to impress the querent but also to provide a parameter to the astrologer, directing him to the core of the question.

For example, if Venus was the almuten and was occupying the 2nd house, the client's thought was about substance, even if the consultation was focused in a relationship question, matter of the 7th house.

I'll exemplify the method with the following chart:



The querent is asking if her new relationship will develop into a compromised one.

In this kind of question we usually take the ASC ruler and the Moon to represent the querent and the lord of the 7th house to represent the boyfriend, the quesited.

The chart has Saturn as the hour ruler, so the Ascendant being Aquarius we know that it is a radical chart, able to give a clear answer.

Saturn, the Ascendant ruler is in the 8th house, and in this case, as we are not dealing with a health question, we will take it as the client's anxiety.

As Saturn does not aspect the ASC, according to Masha'allahⁱⁱⁱ we have to begin with the Moon.

Then, the Moon is in the 2nd house but in the third sign and its last aspect was with Jupiter. Its next application is with the Sun, Lord of the 7th. The Sun receives the Moon by exaltation and the Moon receives the Sun by domicile.

The Moon is in a succedent house and the Sun is in the 5th, a succedent house either, but in the 6th sign.

Succedents houses are useful and can realize the matter. Specially the Moon has enough strength to act and there is no planet to cut the Moon's light in its way reaching the square conjunction with the Sun.

Even if the Sun was very near to the South Node, a drain for any benefit, in a general way the delineation leans toward a good outcome, with some struggle, since the aspect is by square. The powerful reception between the signifiers in general provides a good outcome, provided they are not in a weak house.

However the heart of the question leaned to other kind of issue besides the plain romantic relationship.

Calculating the almuten according to Ibn Ezra, we see that Saturn is the most powerful planet in the chart.

The way to count the dignities is based in a table that is found at:
<http://www.astrologiahumana.com/TABLESSENTIALDIGNITIES.pdf>

We took into consideration the Sun, Moon, Part of Fortune, SAN, Lord of the Day and Lord of the Hour, and all the planets in the chart, according to their strength by house.

The table to do that can be found at:
<http://www.astrologiahumana.com/TABLEAlmutemFiguris.pdf>

As we can see Saturn has the best score and Saturn directs (because he is in the 8th house) to issues related with financial resources of the partner.

In 2nd place the higher score goes to Jupiter which is in the house of the querent's substance .

It is interesting that the heart revealed an issue not contained in the question, i.e. an issue related much more with the 2nd and 8th houses than with the 7th.

TABELA PARA CÁLCULO DO ALMUTEN

		☀	☾	♁	♂	♃	♄
☀	Domicílio (5)		5				
	Exaltação (4)					4	
	Triplicidade (3)		3		3	3	
	Termo (2)				2		
	Face (1)			1			
☾	Domicílio (5)					5	
	Exaltação (4)	4					
	Triplicidade (3)	3				3	3
	Termo (2)					2	
	Face (1)					1	
ASC	Domicílio (5)						5
	Exaltação (4)						4
	Triplicidade (3)			3			3
	Termo (2)						2
	Face (1)			1			
POF	Domicílio (5)				5		
	Exaltação (4)		4				
	Triplicidade (3)		3		3	3	
	Termo (2)					2	
	Face (1)						1
SAN	Domicílio (5)						5
	Exaltação (4)					4	
	Triplicidade (3)		3		3	3	
	Termo (2)			2			
	Face (1)						1
Regentes Dia	Dia (7)						7
	Hora (6)						6
Dignidades e Debilidades	I (12)						
	II (6)		6				6
	III (3)						
	IV (9)						
	V (7)	7					
	VI (1)			1			
	VII (10)						
	VIII (4)					4	4
	IX (5)						
	X (11)						
	XI (8)						
	XII (2)						
TOTAIS		14	24	8	16	25	21
							38

There is some dissidence between authors such as Umar Al Tabari, Sahal, Masha'allah and Al Kindi on the way to judge the mind: their reviews are slightly different from that of Ibn Ezra, but basically they all take into account the same points, tending to give more quantitative value to the term or bound than to the triplicity, a Hellenistic heritage.

Hephaeste of Tebes^{iv} has a way more closely related to Indian astrology using the 12th part of the Ascendant to guess the querent's thoughts.

As for this Horary chart I predicted a negative result due to the weak position of the Sun, the partner. I saw that he idealized and exalted the querent but her, as the Moon, would be facing by square not only the Sun but specially the Nodes, which is a very difficult situation for the Moon.

I confess that if I had used the Almuten it would have been able to give me an important tip, guiding me to give a more secure delineation.

My answer would have been perfect if I had said: " the relationship will not work because she was expecting for substance and support and the partner would not be able to provide it, since he was in a difficult situation in general. Because of this the querent will not wish to continue the relationship."

In fact, this was exactly what happened.

Conclusion:

It can be very interesting to calculate the almuten , especially if the chart is not clear enough.

This kind of technique is still new in Horary astrology, but was already been spotted by the ancient authors, as the Medieval-Arab astrologers.

It is a method to be tested, but it looks like it is able to lead to the querent's heart.

ⁱ <http://www.chrisbrennanastrologer.com/Brennan-Katarche-of-Horary.pdf>

ⁱⁱ "From Astral Omens to Astrology", David Pingree, page 47

ⁱⁱⁱ "On Reception" , translated from the Latin into English by Benjamim Dykes and by Robert Hand

^{iv} " The Search of The Hearth", by Hermann of Carinthia, Translated and Edited By Benjamim Dykes, PHD