

MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology

Astrology, History, Spirit and Soul

Week 4

Optional Reading

Astrology in Persia and the Islamicate World

Secondary Sources online

Please see the references in Campion, Nicholas, *Astrology and Cosmology in the World's Religions* (New York: New York University Press, 2012), Chapter 15.

The major western scholar on Zoroastrianism is Mary Boyce. A search for her name on JSTOR will produce a list of articles.

Corbin, Henri, 'Mundus Imaginalis: the Imaginary and the Imaginal', *Spring*, 1972, pp. 1–19 (first published *Cahiers internationaux de symbolisme* 6 (1964), 3-26),

https://www.imagomundi.com.br/espiritualidade/mundus_imaginalis.pdf

Gardiner, Noah. 'Stars and Saints: The Esotericist Astrology of the Sufi Occultist Ahmad al-Buni', *Journal of Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft* 12.1 (Spring 2017), 39-65. (Available on Academia.edu).

Thorndike, Lynn, *History of Magic and Experimental Science* (8 vols, New York: Columbia University Press, 1923–58), Vol. 1, chap 28.

<https://archive.org/details/historyofmagicex00thor>

Kennedy, E. S. and B. L. van der Waerden, 'The World-Year of the Persians', *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 83, No. 3 (Aug. - Sep., 1963), pp. 315-327. (Available on JSTOR).

Kingsley, Peter, 'The Greek Origin of the Sixth-Century Dating of Zoroaster', *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, University of London, Vol. 53, No. 2 (1990), pp. 245-265. (Available on JSTOR).

Campion, Nicholas, 'The Concept of Destiny in Islamic Thought and its Impact on Medieval European Thought', *ARAM Periodical*, Vol. 1 no 2, summer 1989, pp 281-89. (Available on the Moodle page).

Allison, Chantal, 'The Ifriqiya Uprising Horoscope from On Reception by Masha'alla, Court Astrologer in the Early 'Abassid Caliphate', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 3 no 1, Spring/Summer 1999, pp. 35-56.

[http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/3-1/3-1 Allison The Ifriqiya Uprising.pdf](http://www.cultureandcosmos.org/pdfs/3-1/3-1%20Allison%20The%20Ifriqiya%20Uprising.pdf)

Upton, Joseph M. "A manuscript of "The Book of Fixed Stars" by Abd Ar-Rahman As-Sufi" *Metropolitan Museum Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Mar., 1933), pp. 179-197.
(Available on JSTOR).

Juan R. I. Cole. (1994). The World as Text: Cosmologies of Shaykh Ahmad al-Ahsa'i. *Studia Islamica*, (80), 145–163.

Al-Zahrani, A.. (2009). Sacred Voice, Profane Sight: The Senses, Cosmology, and Epistemology in Early Islamic History. *Numen*, 56(4), 417–458.

Kennedy, E.S., 'Comets in Islamic Astronomy and Astrology', *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Jan., 1957), pp. 44-51. (Available on JSTOR).

MacKenzie, D.N., 'Zoroastrian Astrology in the "Bundahišn"', *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, University of London, Vol. 27, No. 3 (1964), pp. 511-529. (Available on JSTOR).

Chatley Herbert, 'The Lunar Mansions in Egypt', *Isis*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (Apr., 1940), pp. 394-397. (Available on JSTOR).

Pingree, David, 'The Greek Influence on Early Islamic Mathematical Astronomy', *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 93, No. 1 (Jan. - Mar., 1973), pp. 32-43. (Available on JSTOR).

Pacholczyk, Jozef, 'Music and Astronomy in the Muslim', *Leonardo*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (1996), pp. 145-150. (Available on JSTOR).

Gottheil, Richard J. H., 'A Further Fragment on Astrology from the Genizah', *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 49, (1929), pp. 291-302. (Available on JSTOR).

Guo, Li, Reviewed work(s): *Kūšyār Ibn Labbān's Introduction to Astrology* by Michio Yano, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 120, No. 2 (Apr. - Jun., 2000), pp. 277-282. (Available on JSTOR).

Samso, Julio, and Hamid Berrani, 'The Epistle on *Tasyir* and the projection of rays by Abu Marwan al Istijī', *The International Journal of the History of the Exact and Natural Sciences in Islamic Civilisation*, Vol. 5, pp. 163-242 <http://www.ub.edu/arab/suhayl/volumes/volum5/paper%204.pdf>

Morris, James Winston, 'The Spiritual Ascension: Ibn 'Arabī and the Mi'rāj Part I, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* , Vol. 107, No. 4 (Oct. - Dec., 1987), pp. 629-652. (Available on JSTOR).

Morris, James Winston, 'The Spiritual Ascension: Ibn 'Arabī and the Mi'rāj Part I, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* Vol. 108, No. 1 (Jan. - Mar., 1988), pp. 63-77. (Available on JSTOR).

Tester, Jim, *History of Western Astrology*, Woodbridge: Boydell Press 1987, pp. 150-166. (Available on Google Books)

Ibn'Arabi, *The Bezels of Wisdom*, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1980. (Available on Google Books).

Not astrological, but plenty of material on Ibn'Arabi's cosmology

Primary Sources: Print

The following are sources which are not online but which you may consider obtaining through library loan should you wish to extend this area, perhaps into a dissertation.

Abu 'Ali Al-Khayyat, *The Judgement of Nativities*, Tempe, Arizona: American Federation of Astrologers, 1988.

Abu Ma'shar, *The Abbreviation of the Introduction to Astrology, Together with the Medieval Latin Translation of Adelard of Bath*, edited and translated by Charles Burnett, Keiji Yamamoto and Michio Yano, Leiden, New York and Koln: E.J. Brill 1994.

Al-Biruni, *The Chronology of Ancient Nations*, trans., C.E.Sachau, from the Arabic text 'Athfr-ul-Bakiya', or 'Vestiges of the Past', London 1879.

Al-Biruni, *The Book of Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology*, trans. R.Ramsay Wright, Luzac and co; London 1934.

Anon. *Ghayat Al-Hakim. Picatrix: the Goal of the Wise*, trans Hashem Atallah, Seattle: Ouroboros Press 2002.

Dykes, Benjamin (ed. and trans.), *Works of Sahl and Masha'allah*, (Minneapolis: Cazimi Press, 2008), and *Persian Nativities*, Vol. 1: Masah'allah and Abu'Ali, (Minneapolis, Cazimi Press, 2009).

Dykes, Benjamin (ed. and trans.) *The Forty Chapters of al-Kindi: Traditional Horary and Electional Astrology* (Minneapolis, Cazimi Press, 2011).

Dykes, Benjamin (ed. and trans.) *Introductions to Traditional Astology: Abu Ma'shar and al-Qabisi* (Minneapolis, Cazimi Press, 2010).

Dykes, Benjamin (ed. and trans.) *Choices and Inceptions: Traditional Electional Astrology*: (Minneapolis, Cazimi Press, 2012).

Zoller, Robert, *The Arabic Parts: A Lost Key to Prediction*, Rochester, Vermont: Inner Traditions 1980.

Part 2 is a translation of the 13th century Italian astrologer Guido Bonatti's work on the Arabic parts.

Secondary sources: Print

The following are sources which are not online but which you may consider obtaining through library loan should you wish to extend this area, perhaps into a dissertation.

Steele, John M., *A Brief Introduction to Astronomy in the Middle East*, London: Saqi, 2008.

The best short introduction.

Chittick, William C., *Imaginal Worlds: Ibn Al-Arabī and the Problem of Religious Diversity*, Albany: SUNY Press, 1994. pp. 1-19. (Available on Google Books)

Ibn Arabi is perhaps the greatest example of a Neoplatonic astrologer in the Islamic world. These pages are the only ones available online.

Corbin, Henry, *Cyclical Time and Ismaili Gnosis*, London, Boston, Melbourne: Kegan Paul, 1983.

Corbin, Henry, *History of Islamic Philosophy*, trans. Liadain Sherrard and Philip Sherrard (London; Kegan Paul International in association with Islamic Publications for The Institute of Ismaili Studies, 1993).

Corbin, Henry, *Spiritual Body and Celestial Earth from Mazdean Iran to Shi'ite Iran*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1977).

Critchlow, Keith: *Islamic Patterns: An Analytical and Cosmological Approach*, London: Thames and Hudson 1983.

Fakhry, Majid, *A History of Islamic Philosophy*, New York: Columbia University Press 1983

Iqbal, Muzaddar, *Islam and Science*, Aldershot: Ashgate 2002.

Kennedy, E.S.; Pingree, David, *The Astrological History of Masha'Allah*, Cambridge, Mass., 1971.

Kennedy, Edward S., *Astronomy and Astrology in the Medieval Islamic World*, Aldershot: Ashgate 1998.

LeMay, Richard, *Abu Ma'shar and Latin Aristotelianism*, Beirut: American University of Beirut, Oriental Series no. 38, 1962.

Nasr, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, *An Introduction to Islamic Cosmological Doctrines*, New York: State University of New York Press 1993.

This book is the only dedicated study of Islamic cosmology in English. If you wish to take this area further, for example in your dissertation. you should obtain this book either through library loan or purchase (it is around £20.00-£23.00 second hand).

Pingree, David, *The Thousands of Abu Ma'shar*, Warburg Institute, London 1968.

Pingree, David, *From Astral Omens to Astrology From Babylon to Bikaner*, Rome: Istituto Italiano Per L'Africa E L'Oriente 1997.

Samso, J., and H. Berrani, 'World Astrology on eleventh century Al-Andalus: the epistle on Tasyi and the projection of rays by Al-Istijji'

Savage-Smith, Emilie, *Magic and Divination in Early Islam*, Ashgate 2004.

Thorndike, Lynn. *A History of Magic and Experimental Science*, Vol I. Book 3. Chapter 28, "Arabic Occult Science of the Ninth Century"

Zoller, Robert, *The Arabic Parts: A Lost Key to Prediction*, Rochester, Vermont: Inner Traditions 1980.

Part 2 is a translation of the 13th century Italian astrologer Guido Bonatti's work on the Arabic parts.

Gibb, H.A.R.; Kramers, J.H.; Lévi-Provençal; Schacht, J., (eds.), *The Encyclopaedia of Islam*, New Edition, London, Luzac & Co, 1960 -.

Contains articles on astronomy and astrology and some of the major astrologers.

Gillespie, Charles Coulston, *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1974.

The multi-volume Dictionary of Scientific Biography, available in the reference section of a good library, contains excellent descriptions of the lives and works of most of the Arabic astrologers and astronomers.

Holden, James Herschel, *A History of Horoscopic Astrology*, Tempe, Arizona: American Federation of Astrologers 1996, pp. 99-129, 146-8.

Hoskin, Michael, *Cambridge Concise History of Astronomy*, pp 68-74.

Pingree, David, *From Astral Omens to Astrology From Babylon to Bikaner*, Rome: Istituto Italiano Per L'Africa E L'Oriente 1997.

On-Line Journals

The International Journal of the History of the Exact and Natural Sciences in Islamic Civilisation

<http://www.ub.edu/arab/suhayl/index.html>

Ibn Arabi works On-line

<http://www.ibnarabisociety.org/works.html>

Visual Sources

The Warburg Institute's online collection

<https://wdl.warburg.sas.ac.uk/home>

Katzenstein, Rane and Savage-Smith, Emilie, *The Leiden Aratea: Ancient Constellations in a Medieval Manuscript*, Los Angeles, Getty Publications, 1988.

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