

MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology

Astrology, History, Spirit and Soul

Week 4

Required Reading

Astrology in Persia and the Islamic World

Reading

The available on-line primary sources are less for astrology in the Islamic world than for the classical world. We are just recommending two astrological extracts, the Emerald Tablet, and short passages in the Koran.

There is a considerable amount of required reading this week. We suggest you read the reading headed 'All Students' and the rest is required if you choose to write about the astrology of Persia and the Islamic world. That said, you should be selective.

Required Reading for all Students

Historiography

Evans, Richard, *In Defence of History*, London: Granta Books 1997, Chapter 3.

Taub, Liba, 'Review: The Rehabilitation of Wretched Subjects', Reviewed work(s): *Ancient Astrology* by Tamsyn Barton; *Power and Knowledge: Astrology, Physiognomics, and Medicine in the Roman Empire* by Tamsyn Barton, *Early Science and Medicine*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (1997), pp. 74-87. (Available on JSTOR)

Secondary Sources

Campion, Nicholas, Chapters 1 and 2 on astrology in Persia and the Islamic world, from early draft of *History of Western Astrology*. (PDFs on Moodle)

(NB, as these are unpublished, you cannot quote Nick Campion from them; you can however, use and follow all the references)

Campion, Nicholas, *Astrology and Cosmology in the World's Religions*, Chapter 15

This is a reduced version of *History of Western Astrology*, Draft Chapters 1 and 2. It contains less information but, as it is publishable, is quotable.

Primary Sources

Abû Ma'sar, *Libri mysteriorum*, The astrological metaphors.

Italian translation by Giuseppe Bezza from Angelicus 29, fo. 62ss. Laurentianus Plut. 28, 33, fo. 123ss. English translation by Daria Dudziak

<http://www.cieloeterra.it/eng/eng.testi.metafore/eng.metafore.html>

Masha'allah, *On Reception*, trans. Ben Dykes

http://www.skyscript.co.uk/masha_allah_receptions.html

An explanation of a particular astrological technique in which planets in particular zodiac signs could have a relationship with others in particular signs.

Jabir ibn Hayyan, *The Emerald Tablet of Hermes*

<http://www.levity.com/alchemy/emerald.html>

This page gives a variety of translations along with commentary. It has secondary sources in the bibliography, but not always the original primary sources. Reference whatever translation you use as best you can.

Koran

<http://www.earth-history.com/Islam/Quran/quran-cont.htm>

See the passages cited in Nick's draft chapters on Islamic astrology.

Required Reading if you write on Islamicate astrology

Secondary Sources

Burnett, Charles, 'The Certitude of Astrology: The Scientific Methodology of al-Qabīṣī and abū Ma'shar', *Early Science and Medicine*, Vol. 7, No. 3, Certainty, Doubt, Error: Aspects of the Practice of Pre- and Early Modern Science (2002), pp. 198-213. (Available on JSTOR)

Bezza, Giuseppe, 'Saturn-Jupiter Conjunctions and General Astrology: Ptolemy, Abū Mashar and their Commentators' in Charles Burnett and Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum (eds), *From Masha'allah to Kepler: Theory and Practice in Medieval and Renaissance Astrology* (Lampeter: Sophia Centre Press, 2015), pp. 5-48.

Burckhardt, Titus, *Mystical Astrology According to Ibn'Arabi*, translated Bulent Rauf, Abingdon, Oxford: Beshara Publications 1977 (repub Fons Vitae, 49 Mockingbird Valley Drive, Louisville, KY 40207, USA, www.fonsvitae.com).

Ibn Arabi is perhaps the greatest example of a Neoplatonic astrologer in the Islamic world. This book is the only study of Ibn 'Arabi's astrology and if you wish to take this area further, for example in your dissertation. you should obtain this

book either through library loan (it is held in the UWTSD library) or purchase (it is around £4.00-£5.00 second hand).

A copy is online at

<https://archive.org/details/MysticalAstrologyAccordingToIbnArabiByBurckhardt/page/n19/mode/2up>

The sections extracted by Burckhardt to comprise his book are largely drawn from Ibn Arabi's enormous work *al-Futuhat al-makkiyya* (*The Meccan Revelations*). Ibn Arabi created a complete cosmological system, most easily accessible in William Chittick's *The Self Disclosure of God*. Ibn Arabi correlates various planets, signs of the zodiac, and so on with any number of other cosmological factors, including the three "kingdoms" of animal, vegetable, and mineral, etc. This is most likely a correspondence which reflects Ibn Arabi's own personal cosmology.

Campion, Nicholas, 'Astronomy and the State: time, space, power and the foundation of Baghdad', in Michael Rappenglück, Barbara Rappenglück and Nicholas Campion (eds.) *Astronomy and Power* (Cambridge: British Archaeology Reports, 2014), pp. 233-9.

https://www.academia.edu/106250061/ASTRONOMY_AND_THE_STATE_TIME_SPACE_AND_POWER_IN_THE_FOUNDATION_OF_BAGHDAD

Holden, James Herschel, *A History of Horoscopic Astrology*, Tempe AZ: American Federation of Astrologers, 1996, pp. 103-133. (Available on Google Books).

Pingree, David, 'Astronomy and Astrology in India and Iran', *Isis*, Vol. 54, No. 2 (Jun., 1963), pp. 229-246. (Available on JSTOR).

Pingree, David, 'Classical and Byzantine Astrology in Sassanian Persia', *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*, Vol. 43, (1989), pp. 227-239. (Available on JSTOR).

Saif, Liana. "From *Ġāyat al-Ḥakīm* to *Šams al-Ma'ārif*: Ways of Knowing and Paths of Power in Medieval Islam." *Arabica*, vol. 64, no. 3/4, 2017, pp. 297–345. (Available on JSTOR).