

MA Cultural Astronomy and Astrology
History of Astrology
Week 3
Required Reading
Astrology in Persia and the Islamic World
Nick Campion

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.

Required Reading: Primary Sources

Abū 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>

Note that this is an English translation of an Italian translation of a Greek translation of a part of Abu Ma'shar's *Great Introduction to Astrology*.

Masha'allah *On Reception*, trans Ben Dykes

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

An explanation of a particular astrological technique

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: 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. JSTOR

Nick Campion: chapters 1 and 2 on astrology in Persia and the Islamic world, from early draft of *History of Western Astrology*

PDFs

(NB, as these are unpublished, you cannot quote Nick Campion from them; you can however, use and follow all the references)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* (New York: New York University Press, 2012), chapter 15

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

George, Demetra, 'Manuel I Komnenos and Michael Glykas: A Twelfth-Century Defence and Refutation of Astrology', *Culture and Cosmos* 5.1, 2001, pp. 3-48; *Culture and Cosmos* 5.2, 2001, pp. 23-51

https://www.demetra-george.com/Translation_Manuel_Komnenos.pdf

Contains a good summary of the history of astrology up to the 12th century, including Byzantine astrology. Beware of misspellings of proper names.

Holden, James Herschel, *A History of Horoscopic Astrology*, Tempe AZ: American Federation of Astrologers, 1996, pp. 103-133
GOOGLE BOOKS

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

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

Required Reading: 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
JSTOR