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Astrology and Modern Science

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1. By Divine grace I have great opportunity in presenting the paper on "Astrology and Modern Science" in this Seminar before the august body of astrological savants attending the National Seminar from various parts of India.

2. Science: a) The word science comes from the Latin "Scientia" meaning knowledge. a. Science is a system of acquiring knowledge through observation and experiment to describe and explain natural phenomena and organised systematically having gained using the system and purpose is to produce useful models of reality. b. Science is "knowledge attained through study/practice or knowledge covering general truths of the operation of laws especially as obtained and tested through scientific method concerned with the physical world." Most scientific investigations use some form of scientific method and Astrology is considered as mother of all sciences as it was evolved through long period of nature observation since man's primitive Stone Age. Science is of two types - i. Natural-Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Geology and ii. Social sciences – History, Geography, Politics, Economics etc., Each type of this is again subdivided into Applied Science relating research to human needs.

c) The facts, formulae are established through observations; reasoning relied on both inductive and deductive methods, and through experiments in fully equipped laboratories and these will form the basic facts known as theory and will be consolidated. Basing on these theories as time passes with experience, certain new scientific assumptions will be deduced and through experiments conducted in the laboratories under ideal conditions these formula will be established and approved and will be incorporated in the relevant science as theory for further research and development. At times some experiments as well as some natural scientific facts will be reenacted in their enthusiasm for science development. For example, in their enthusiasm for science sake and further development they recreated known surroundings and conducted experiment with great effort and necessary

arrangements with highly sophisticated latest technology. For example the “Big Bang” theory. It is well known fact that the Universe was created through Big Bang explosion of huge, dark and high density whirling mass in semi-fluid state and known as Dark Energy which works against earth’s gravitation force. It was proved in 1990 that the universe was ever expanding This Dark energy is similar to tension and in space spreading throughout universe thereby decomposing all the material existing in universe and this will take place for more than 100 billion years. To find the basic source of Dark Energy the scientific world created artificial environment required to conduct Big Bang experiment at ‘Lord Harden Collider’ in Switzerland and studying the results. The age of the Universe is 13.75 Billion (equal to 1×10^9 Giga) years which is equal to 137 crores years in Indian measure and this was mentioned earlier by our great Rishis as Pralaya.

d) The first development of science and civilization got impetus and acceleration due to invention of printing press in 15th Century renaissance period when it had become the easiest way of recording all the events in black and white on the paper. This led to preserving the knowledge for future generations avoiding duplication of work and accelerating knowledge by research for best utilisation to human race and ushering into the age of written word. The second important and effective development is discovery of Computer in the second half of 20th century. These developments led to development and boosting Astrology and brought out of ushered in the age of bitten word. All the information which was in obscure and isolated for hundred of years were made available to one and all and the knowledge is spread thereby new discoveries were made through seminars and research. Simultaneously, the available knowledge was consolidated duly revitalizing thereby raising interest in the subject Important thing in this computer age is relieving those men who are scared of mathematics but interested in the predictive part of Astrology.

3. Astrology: a. It is undeniable fact and true that astrology is a boon given to the man kind by the creator Brahma through one of the great Rishis - Augasthya and others. It is the only science which tells future events relating to human life thereby giving caution and opportunity to face accept and grasp the opportunity for one’s happy contented life. All these were predicted by our ancient Rishis through their Divine power known as Divya Dristhi acquired by them through their rigorous discipline, regular planned and pensived life through mystic process of Yoga, as far back as 5000 years BC and which were confirmed in the present civilised, developed scientific era of 20th century through the latest invented scientific Instruments. The Big Bang theory discovered by the modern scientists which was basis for creation of this universe was long back narrated by our ancient Sages as Jalapralaya leaving Vishnu and Brahma, the creator and the latter started creating the universe on the command of Narayana. This indicates the greatness of our ancient sages and our culture greatness compared with the modern discoveries which were all stated first by sages and confirmed subsequently by the scientific world. According to Prof.K.S.Krishnamurthy, “astrology offers help and hope in a manner unobtainable by any other method. It is scientific from the ancients’ time to the day, but it cannot be demonstrated by test tube methods. Planetary force is all

about us hidden from our sight and produces effects which are decisive and sensitive”. Thus it is clear and evident the difference between the Astrology and the science.

b. Astrology is based on sound and time tested doctrine/reasoning which includes various gross and subtle factors and solid mass evidence regarding applicability and relevance of astrology in practical life. This involves intense study and intricate calculations basing on stars, planets, signs and Bhavas interrelationships and various phenomena on earth including human’s life. The astrological reasoning takes into consideration various gross and subtle factors which might be unscientific based on solid mass evidence regarding its applicability and relevance in practical life. An expert, experienced and well versed Astrologer who is rational, open minded, outspoken and irreligious can pinpoint the nature and time of event for all the problems, even the critical ones like health, accidents etc., Numerous people benefited by their guidance duly getting hope and solace. Serious investigators and experienced astrologers will not accept that astrology is outcome of superstitions based on human anxiety and life uncertainty. Because of its evidence astrology held in reverence in spite of failure in rational explanation. “Ayurveda” the Indian ancestral medical science is another example of similar nature and applicability in every day to day life. Apart from the above facts, astrology can be considered as a science due to –

- i. In casting of the horoscope which is the important tool for predictions, the help of mathematics, a science is essential.
- ii. Astrology deals with the planets its movements, longitudes, Latitudes, Declinations etc., which are related to Astronomy, a science.
- iii. Astrology requires the help of Psychology, a social science for giving predictions to the natives tactfully especially regarding health and unexpected and unpleasant matters.
- iv. Sociology and History social sciences are related to Astrology as predictions are to be given taking into consideration of social situation of the society and with the back ground of history taking as experience, astrology can be developed.

c. The first astrological book written by the great Rishi Parasara in Sanskrit, the mother of all the languages titled -"Bruhat Parasara Hora Shastra" in 5000 B.C. and second astrology book is also in Sanskrit of Varaha Mihira's - "Bruhat Jataka" in 500 AD of Vikramaditya's time. In India we have huge mass of studies and treatises on astrology. Many of them are outcome of the inquiries of earnest and intelligent explorers and strong evidence of planetary influences and their relevance to life. It is believed that astrology is gifted to the world by India and spread to the world and consequent developments of various systems of Astrology like Western, Tajaka etc. It is well known fact the basics of astrology i.e. Graha, Rasi and Bhava Tatwas are the same whatever system may be followed. The first Indian Edition of Astrology was written by Bangalore Suryanarain Rao in diglot form in 1892 (English & Kanada) and subsequently republished as "Compendium of Astrology" omitting Kanada portion.

4. a) The gap and clash between astrology and modern Science is unbridgeable because they differ in several aspects in both the approach and reasoning. The former's investigation is holistic approach to the life and universe whereas the latter's is analytical one. In this context it can be aptly remembered the quotation of mathematician and philosopher Alfred North Whitefield - "A clash of doctrines is not a disaster-it is an opportunity" thought provoking and apt in the clash between science and religion i.e. astrology. The best example for this statement is in the science of Physics on the nature of light where two contradictory theories by Newton's Corpuscular and Huygens's wave theories. Pointing out that while one group of phenomena can be explained by only on the Huygens's and another large group can be explained only on the former's i.e. corpuscular theory.

b) We should not blindly accept anything in any sphere of thought without verifying on solid reasons based on research of the competent persons. If a clash occurs between two groups on the details of any point with overlapping should not lead to reject hastily of any doctrine established with solid evidence. We should wait with a history of thought and perspective sense till the doctrines is accepted and established and not with passively and in despair. But if we have any clash it is an indication of having wider truths and finer perspective within which a reconciliation of a deeper religion and more subtle science is found.

5. a) In Modern times every one including Scientists argue in haste, that Astrology having time tested doctrines, is unreliable and unscientific in spite of their contrary encounterance in their life and making mockery of it. Majority of the people pertaining to various categories of higher social status, influential externally they dispose; internally believing and seeking astrological advises, especially in critical and difficult situations. These people don't accept for critical research and come to hasty conclusion without the knowledge of basics. In this context it is apt to state the opinion of the greatest physicist Sir Isaac Newton's statement that he wanted to criticize Astrology and learning the same since 20 years and became strong supporter of Astrology. Here the Scientist put forward three important points –

- i. The most important one being that before commenting on any subject one should have basic acquaintance of the subject.
- ii. Astrology is a vast subject which could not be mastered in a short period.
- iii. It tells the importance and greatness of Astrology on which Newton had.

b) Now a days throughout the universe all the subjects, both Natural and Social Sciences, are encouraged by the Government by providing funds for further studies and research in various universities. In spite of advanced and intensive training they are failures in every sphere - space research, medical fields etc., whereas in Astrology there is no such facility and encouragement for research. All astrological predictions will not be cent per cent correct and some will go wrong. This is applicable to all subjects without any exception. It is not out of context to mention, that the hospital authorities will take declaration from the patient's close relative absolving the doctors, treating the patient from the risk involved in the treatment

even though the doctor is experienced, highly qualified and hospital is equipped with latest, highly sophisticated technical instruments. Further Astrology is neglected and underwent incognito and retardation due to social and political circumstances like foreign invasions/rule in spite of this it has survived because of people's patronage and interest shown by ardent believers, students and followers. Since last two decades interest is growing to study astrology and introduced in various Indian Universities as well as in foreign countries. As a matter fact Astrology is encouraged and followed more seriously in countries like America, England etc., In these countries Astrologers can be sued in Consumers' Council if the predictions fails and so they have more responsibilities and seriousness.

c) The ancient explorers had strong belief that knowledge can be acquired only through the scientific methods only. It is unfortunate that our Indian Scholars and Scientists do not believe our ancient and traditional knowledge until some foreign countries viz., Germany, England etc., have found their importance, relevance and greatness through their heresy, studies and research. They took strenuous efforts to establish the proved fact by all means published and brought to the attention of the scholarly world. Then only our Indian scholars began to believe our ancients knowledge and their utilization to the human world especially Vedas, Upanishads, Astrology and Ayurveda (Oldest Indian Medical Science). All these knowledge are in Sanskrit language which only a few people know now changes are occurring and our people to study them using the modern scientific methods. In one way we, Indians should be grateful to those foreign scholars for enlightening us our greatness and creating interest for further study.

d) Salient features of our Sages contribution to the scientific knowledge are –

i. The discovery of subtle and profound psycho-biophysical connections between human organism and cosmic subterranean process. Their knowledge was more and beyond incomprehensible to the modern European scientific world and these were ignored by concealing their incapacity under argument that oriental wisdom is mere mysticism and showing their inability to distinguish the rational but not yet fully understandable essence from various figments of imagination. Really it is a wonder, our ancient Sages got such knowledge without experiments, ifs and buts that regulate the course of vital processes and the character of the interaction between man and nature, particularly the celestial bodies influence and the various radiation process from space to earth. All this, both in diagnosis and treatment, was considered and shows high level of culture which arouses awe, admiration, .gratitude and thirst for research leading to human race further development. The ancient phenomena discovered by our Sages were found by the modern scientists and made them awe with respect and gratitude, for example –

i. Puspak Vimanam is modern Jumbo jets.

ii. Pasupathastram used in Mahabharata war is Atom bomb.

iii. The birth of a. Dronacharya, Guru of Pandavas, and b .Birth of Dritharashtra's 101 children, through the process of keeping the embryos in the separated containers, specially made of mud-pots. This is nothing but modern medical method of "In Vitro Fertilisation" (IVF) i.e. test-tube baby process.

The scientists done research on our ancient literature and fund, due to enthusiasm, eagerness and sincere devotion and got inspired by great amount of knowledge; with the ultimate goal of new discoveries leading to human welfare development in all fields and aspects. "A giant leap backwards" is not to be disposed and contempted but encouraged if it leads to sense of gratitude, admiration, self-contentment and thirst of learning ultimately gaining new knowledge for further advancement in total human progress.

e) While scientists agree for radiation and electro-magnetic waves in their research they disagree to apply it for Indian Literature esp. astrology which is the Dominating factor to the modern science. Astrology 's approach is not entirely material which is the modern dominating factor in the present world but both material and mental and they are interlinked and modifying influences are present in the entire Universe. Astrology regards universe as interlinked consciousness and physical phenomenon established in the source by Brahman – the almighty God and supreme reality, having infinite potential. Thus Astrology stresses the importance of Karma and our ancient Sages found evidence to this Karma.

6) Conclusion: The latest scientific thinking is also coming to more balanced view that the universe is both mental and material and requires a depth study of humans' nature and mind In the evolution of new science the critical research to be carried-out in present times on ancient knowledge which emphasis on consciousness will contribute a great deal for better understanding of human beings and thereby the Universe. . All these regulates human world to exist with love and affection, cooperation, development through constant regular, planned, disciplined moral life. All these will be finally leading to the cherished national leaders' desire of "Vasudhika Prapancham" i.e. leading finally the universe emerging as a single family living with peace, cooperation, happy and comfortable life.

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