

## Chapter VIII

# THE HOLY INCARNATION AND ASTROLOGERS

The three Magi who worshipped Infant Jesus with gifts knew well the practical implementation of astrology and are the most fortunate of the astrologers. When a new star appeared in the sky, astronomers in earth may have studied it in deep using factors such as its size, distance from earth etc.

But the three skilled astrologers knew exactly when the star appeared and from the calculations based on the facts concluded that the star signified the holy birth of the King of Jews.

They, of course, thought that the royal infant was born in the palace and hence travelled to Jerusalem. They reached Jerusalem Palace and asked King Herod about the infant. It is seen in the Bible that the information from the astrologers created panic for the King and all the people of Jerusalem. The news spread all over Jerusalem rapidly like wild fire.

During the journey to Jerusalem, the divine miracle star was not guiding them or was visible to them. It is evident from the information they gave to the King and other issues that followed.

What the astrologers asked the King was “Where is the King born for the sake of Jews? We saw his star in the East”. If the star was guiding them in their journey to Jerusalem, those innocent astrologers would have told that to the King and the King would have sent assassins with them disguised as followers to worship the infant.

And also if the star was guiding them in their journey to Jerusalem, they would not have reached the palace, since the star would have proceeded further without stopping above the palace.

According to the information received from the three astrologers, the King called scholars (Aramaic astrologists) to the palace and it was from them that he knew that the infant was born in Bethlehem. But the King was doubtful whether the star that was visible in the east signified Christ. The Aramaic astrologers was able to solve the doubt, but they lacked one valuable information, “The exact time of appearance of the star”.

It can be seen from Mathew 2:7 that the King secretly approached the Magi and got information about the time of appearance of the star.

“Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time that star had appeared”. (St. Mathew 2:7)

Using this valuable information the Aramaic astrologers (from the astrological table of Aramaic Astrology) came to the conclusion that the star was of Christ. So the King cleverly advised the three Magi and sent them to Bethlehem. [The cunning advice was that he also likes to worship Infant Jesus and when the Magi return after worship must visit the Palace]

After paying gratitude to the King, the astrologers went to Bethlehem. Their minds were tensed how to find the Holy Infant in Bethlehem. There was only one method for them, to find every new-born child born in Bethlehem and ask their exact time of birth and compare it with the time of seeing the star of Christ. This may have given them the courage to travel to Bethlehem and see the Royal infant.

During the night the Magi were travelling to Bethlehem with nervous minds. They were walking under the clear night talking to each other. Looking up in the starry night sky they chanced to see the star that they saw in the east once again. It seemed that the star was traveling before them. That is why St. Mathew has described it as follows “They were overjoyed by the sighting of the star” (Mathew 2:10)

The invitation of the Aramaic astrologers to the Palace by the King, the importance of the ‘Time of sighting the star’ secretly obtained by the King from the Magi and afterwards given to the Aramaic astrologers and the calculation based on astrological tables that made clear that the star denoted Christ, all prove the fact that Bible supports astrology.

It can be widely seen that astrology is considered as a method to predict the future. But the fact is not exactly that. “A King has been born for the Jews” as informed by the Magi at the Palace denotes past. And “Infant Jesus is lying somewhere in Jerusalem” denotes the present situation.

Astrology can reveal the things that happened in our life in the past and the unknown factors, either good or evil, that influence our daily life the most. It can also be used to prevent evil things in life and make us Godly and also to make our mind calmer. That is why the people who believe in astrology are more God-fearing, takes fasts and shows more interest in other religious activities than those who believe otherwise.

Even though King Herod was seen as a believer of astrology, power-madness forced him to take a decision to kill Christ.

We have already understood that astrology is a spiritual science and it is used for both good and evil. The three astrologers that we see in this chapter used it for good but King Herod used it for evil purposes (so as to kill Christ) as seen in Bible.