

# A Study of The Inter-Relationship between Astrology and Geography



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## Abstract

We all believe there is a special person, job, and place in this world for ourselves. We have had our own unique experiences when we have traveled, or moved to a new place. But, how do we explain it when we go to certain places that seem a little more special to us? We know that place - that one when we got off the plane and felt like we just came home, even though we had never been there before. Or, when are drawn to a part of the world to visit because maybe the culture or the people of that place stir something in us, but do not really know the reason. And here is one we all would love to be in an exotic place and look across the room at a party, and our eyes fall on someone that we instantly fall in love with, and find that place where we have a fantastically successful career.

All of those things might have happened to us, or could happen, if we actually knew where we could actually find those experiences for ourselves in any given part of the world, ahead of time! That could be a huge time-saver if we are planning a major move for whatever reason. At the very least a very exciting adventure. Career, relationships, schooling, new home, and of course, vacations are the significant reasons for moving. Astrocartography is the most wonderful panacea that can help us with all that.

Indeed, the heavenly bodies have their impact on the geographical conditions. Hence, both astrology and geography are closely related to each other. The paper prepared with a specific purpose to correlate Geography and Astrology, is based on the secondary data that reveal the relationship of both the subjects, and is a theoretical study. The paper attempts to highlight that it is Geography that enables the Astrology to work on, and it is Astrology that impacts the Geography.

**Keywords:** Astrology, Planets, heavenly bodies, Geographic Astrology, Geosphere, Jyotish.

## Introduction



The subject matter of Geography includes the lands, features, inhabitants, and phenomena of the Earth and planets. For the convenience of understanding, Geography is studied under two branches, namely, human geography and physical geography. Human geography studies the people and their communities, cultures, economies, and interactions with the environment by studying their relations with and across space and place, while physical geography studies the processes and patterns in the natural environment like the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and geosphere. Similarly, there are four historical traditions of Geography which facilitate the geographical

research. They are- spatial analyses of natural and the human phenomena, area studies of places and regions, studies of human-land relationships, and the Earth sciences. Encompassing the study of people and their communities, cultures and the human interaction with environment, such as, atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and geosphere under different conditions Geography is called "the world discipline" and "the bridge between the human and the physical sciences".

Geography is a systematic study of the Universe and its features. Traditionally, geography has been associated with cartography and place names, but the study of the space and the temporal database distribution of phenomena, processes, and features as well as the interaction of humans and their environment fall in the scope of Geography as well. It is all interdisciplinary as space and place affect a variety of topics, such as economics, health, climate, plants and animals.

The interdisciplinary nature of the geographical approach depends on an attentiveness to the relationship between physical and human phenomena and its spatial patterns. Physical geography, human geography, environmental geography, geomatics and regional geography with their distinct features, are some of its popular branches. Cartography, Geographic information systems, remote sensing are some of the techniques which are adopted and used by the geographers to make the geographical studies.



Astrology has its roots in astronomy, the science of stars and heavenly bodies. The same stars and heavenly bodies pave the path for astrology which is the search for human meaning in the sky. An understanding of general and specific human behavior through influence of planets and other celestial objects is sought in Astrology. The history of astrology dates back to the phase of human existence when man started making conscious attempts to measure, record, and predict seasonal changes by reference to astronomical cycles. The markings on bones and cave walls, which show that lunar cycles were being noted as early as 25,000 years ago, may be taken as the early evidence to it.

With the Neolithic agricultural revolution new needs were also met by increasing knowledge of constellations.

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The appearances in the night-time sky change with the seasons, allowing the rising of particular star-groups to herald annual floods or seasonal activities forced man to go into the depth of the all this, and to correlate the heavenly bodies and the human beings living on earth. By the 3rd millennium BC, a sophisticated awareness of celestial cycles had been developed, and they were taken to have consciously oriented their temples to create alignment with the heliacal risings of the stars.



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Geographic astrology, the popular branch of astrology, is a sufficient evidence to prove that Geography and Astrology are connected to each other. It is popular as locality astrology, relocation astrology or astrolocality, and is the fusion of a few relocation techniques that create a powerhouse of geographic information for the people. AstroCartoGraphy, local space, geodetic are some of the techniques to facilitate the study of the astrologers.

Astrology has its universal significance. It is approved all over the world, and is practiced under various names. In India, astrology is named Jyotisha. To begin with its earliest use and prevalence, it was first used in the sense of a Vedanga which was an auxiliary discipline of Vedic religion.

Vedanga Jyotisha, which contains rules for tracking the motions of the sun and the moon in the context of a five-year intercalation cycle, is the only work of this class to have survived. However, it is noteworthy that its date is uncertain, because its late style of language and composition, consistent with the last centuries BC, albeit pre-Mauryan, conflicts with some internal evidence of a much earlier date in the 2nd millennium BC. As a result, the work has always met controversy.

The Indian Jyotish and the subsequent newer sense of modern horoscopic astrology is associated with the interaction of Indian and Hellenistic cultures in the Indo-Greek period that emerged in the Indus valley region following the military conquests of Alexander the Great and the Bactrian Greeks. The Yavanajataka or the Brihat-Samhita is the oldest surviving treatise of the period. The Yavanajataka is considered the oldest astrological treatise in Sanskrit.

The Indian context of astrology is so immense. Indian astronomy and astrology developed together. The earliest treatise on jyotish, the Bṛhgu Samhita belongs to the Vedic era. Written on the leaves of tree bark, the Samhita is said to contain five

million horoscopes comprising all who have lived in the past or will live in the future.

The pioneer Indian writers in astronomy, who are said to have laid the foundation for astrology through their writings on the various aspects relating to astronomy, are from the 5th century AD. The classical period of Indian astronomy is said to have begun in this century. This century gave several great Indian astronomers with unsurpassable worth in the field of astronomy. It is the century which witnessed the theories of Aryabhata and the Pancha-Siddhantika of Varahamihira.

Thus, it is clear that astrology, that is, jyotish, has geography as its sphere, while geography has its roots in astrology.

#### Specific Objectives of The Study

1. To be familiar with the basics of Astrology
2. To be familiar with the basics of Geography
3. To be familiar with the implications of Astrology
4. To find out the various astrological aspects that have impact on geography
5. To explore the differences between Astrology and Geography
6. To attempt to find roots of Geography in Astrology
7. To find out the relationship between Astrology and Geography
8. To explore the reasons that prevent the common people from the relational understanding of the two
9. To interpret the relational context of both of the sciences
10. To provide valuable suggestions that can enable the people to develop an understanding of the relationship of both Astrology and Geography

#### Review of Literature

Michael Baigent, Nicholas Campion, and Charles Harvey (1984) in *Mundane Astrology* observe that an important systematic approach to astrogeography was developed by various astrologers such as Sepharial in England, and A.M. Grimm in Germany. The study generalizes that these systems assume that the Greenwich Meridian in metropolitan London has a 0° Aries fixed local MC, leaving the various regions of the globe to correspond with the 12 signs of the zodiac.

H. J. Andersen (1987)'s *Astro-Geographie-Atlas*. Bochum confirms that in the course of the development of computer technology which made it easier to calculate more elaborate astrogeographical maps the so-called Andersen system was published in 1974. It included 11 newly developed world maps valid for one planet each.

Chris McRae (1988) in *The Geodetic World Map*. American Federation of Astrologers states that there are subtle differences between the system of Sepharial and Grimm which are not noticeable in many classical astrology methods, but may be noticeable in precision methods such as those of Uranian astrology or cosmobiology. The book also confirms that the Sepharial system was later popularized by the famous Canadian astrologer Chris McRae.

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Nicholas Campion (1988) in *The Book of World Horoscopes* names Marcus Manilius (1st century) and Claudius Ptolemaeus (2nd century) to be the first authors to deliver a system of rulership of zodiac signs for regions. At the same time, he enlists some others like Al-Biruni (11th century), William Lilly (17th century), Raphael (19th century), Green and Sepharial (20th century) in the concerning field.

Jim Lewis and Kenneth Irving (1997) in *The Psychology of Astrocartography* observe that the astrological cartography is the astrological study of the relationship between the individuals and the places on Earth. It makes the projection of valid horoscopes on to the Earth's surface. The most popular method in astrological cartography was based on findings by Don Neroman, Gustav Schwickert, Cyril Fagan, Roy Charles Firebrace und Donald A. Bradley.

G Stockhorst (2003) observes that Astrological Geomancy is any approach to examine and understand the astrological qualities of places. In astrological geomancy places are studied not through projections from maps like in astrogeography but through consideration of the microcosmic system of a place. The surroundings, the use, animals and plants, features of buildings and architecture, events and all possible features of places can be evaluated in astrological geomancy but the most important element would be the landscape. G. Stockhorst is acclaimed to have developed and published a highly elaborate system of astrological geomancy between 1995 and 2010.

Yashash Shukla (2016) holds the idea that there are 3 pillars of astrological predictions and very much linked to destiny change. Place is the most amenable side of Luck Triangle. By changing this side, the area of triangle can increase or decrease. And this is the only factor which is open to change as you only need to move from a place to another. Place, Period and Person form a triangle.

Clive Thompson (2017) in *The Whole World in Your Hands* observes that in the second century CE, the astrologer Claudius Ptolemy was so obsessed with getting horoscopes accurate that he decided to make an accurate world map in order to project and chart the relationship between the person's birthplace and the heavenly bodies displaying the influence of the heavenly bodies on the birthplace of the person. While doing so, he coined the term "geography".

Eileen Grimes (2018) under *Learn About Astrocartography*, Location Astrology observes that astrologer Jim Lewis introduced astrocartography to the astrological world in 1978. According to the astrology stated in Lewis' book *Astrocartography*, 'The Book of Maps', "astrocartography allows a person to determine what will be accented, highlighted, or brought into consciousness in a new location."

Molly Hall (2018) says that Fire sign people (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) want to be in the midst of action, stimulation, like dynamic big cities that never sleep; Earth sign people (Capricorn, Taurus, Virgo) crave green, fertile locales with lots of wild terrain to explore; Air sign people (Libra, Aquarius, Gemini)

thrive in cultural meccas or in places with blue-sky panoramic views; Water sign people are lured to water ways and places — coastal towns, islands, bays, and inlets, near lakes and rivers.

#### Hypothesis

1. Geography and Astrology have several things in common for study
2. Geography and Astrology are connected with each other
3. There is a close relationship between the two
4. The perspectives of both the sciences differ, as the astrologer concerns the impact of the planets on the universe, while the geographer concerns the study of universe including land etc.
5. The understanding of both the sciences is essential to understand either of the two

#### Methodology

In its nature, the study is all theoretically and free from the use of the primary data or survey. At the root of the study there is the secondary data on the theme received from the various research papers, journals, blogs, interviews and statements available on the various internet sites. For the proper shaping of the study as a scientific one, all the steps required for the theoretical study were followed and adhered to. Beginning with the selection of the theme and title, the study met its end with the findings and conclusion. In-between, there were the study of relevant related literature that helped the authors develop an understanding of the theme and subject through the contents relating to the objectives, hypothesis, methodology, tools and techniques, generalizations etc.; setting of the specific aims and objectives for the study that enabled them to go on working systematically; formulation of alternative and null hypothesis that allowed them to find out the differences between their pre-assumptions and ideas on the theme and the results drawn on the basis of the study of the related literature; methodology that helped them make the study all systematically. The authors observed objectivity during the course of the study for the sake of the scientific spirit of the work.

#### Key-Findings & Conclusion

1. Geography studies the lands, features, inhabitants, and phenomena of the Earth and planets, and astrology is grounded in the working of the planets, satellites and other heavenly bodies
2. It is an all-encompassing discipline that seeks a perfect understanding of Earth and its human and natural complexities, both where objects are, and how they have changed and come to be.
3. Both geography and astronomy are complementary to each other because the geographical conditions are essentially influenced by the movement of the heavenly bodies, and it is

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the geographical conditions that enable the heavenly bodies to move

4. Geography is a systematic study of the Universe and its features, hence, the things that form the subject matter of astrology are encompassed in Geography
5. Astrology studies the human meaning in the sky, and attempts to understand human behavior through the influence of planets and other celestial objects.
6. Initially, Astrology refers to measure, record, and predict seasonal changes by astronomical cycles.
7. Geographical Astrology is one of the most fascinating areas of astrology, which is about looking about the global world to identify the personal power places in the world that resonate specifically with the individual.
8. Various regions of the globe correspond to the twelve signs of zodiac.
9. Both Geography and Astrology use various planet maps for the sake of scientific study of the universe
10. Both the geographer and the astrologer concern the earth for their studies in different perspectives
11. Place which is one of the 3 pillars of astrological predictions and very much linked to destiny change is the concern of Geography as well

On the basis of the above discussion, it is evident that astrology and geography, though two different subjects and sciences, are connected with each other with a close relationship. The study of one helps in the understanding of the other.

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