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The terms astrology and astronomy are often heard very commonly everywhere. The former is usually seen on TV and read in newspapers. Astrology is familiar to us in the sense that it is something we often consult when it comes to knowing what is in store for us in the future. It tends to predict what may possibly happen in the next few days, weeks, months, and even years. An astrologer, one who reads astrological signs, is often associated with being a psychic.

Astronomy, on the other hand, is thought of by many to be connected to the stars and heavenly bodies. For many, it is something more scientific. However, the truth is that these two are not very different. It can be noted that astrology's history as well as that of astronomy are interrelated with each other. And the sad thing is that, astrology's contribution to science has been underestimated.

How do these two terms differ and relate?

Astrology's name was derived from the words *asteer* (meaning star or constellation) and *logos* which commonly means study. However, to say "the study of the stars" does not mean astrology. It actually defines astronomy but this word had been formed by putting together *asteer* and *nomos* (meaning law). Therefore, the literal meaning of astronomy is "the law of the stars".

The term "stars" does not strictly pertain to those balls of fire that sparkle and twinkle in the night skies but also includes the planets and other heavenly bodies.

Astrology

Astrology was just among the many ways of predicting future events back in Mesopotamia. Other methods include checking the conditions of the livers of animals, the occurrences of eclipses, atmospheric phenomena, and the migration of birds. However, astrology had its advantages which include the divine nature of the stars, and the universality of celestial phenomena.

Some kinds of astrology

Primitive Zodiacal astrology

This was developed in the state of Chaldaea. In this idea, it is emphasized that the stars are not the cause of the events or occurrences. These only indicate time but do not affect or have any impact on things that are bound to happen.

Horoscopic astrology

This kind appeared during the Persian occupation in Mesopotamia. In this kind, it is believed that the particular position of the different planets at the time of a child's birth is the same thing that determines the characteristics and qualities that will be in this child.

Astronomy

Astronomy has become more developed and more contemporary. This has even become very useful especially in science. Here are some kinds of astronomy:

1. Radio astronomy. This kind of astronomy studies radiation that has a wavelength of more than

one millimeter.

2. Infrared astronomy. The detection and analysis of infrared radiation are being studied in this kind of astronomy.

3. Optical astronomy. This is the oldest form of astronomy and is also called visible light astronomy.

These two concepts, astrology and astronomy, may often be confused as one and the same thing. However, the fact remains that these have survived history and that is proof enough that they affect people's lives and contributes a lot to it.

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