

Part I:Origins of Vedic Astrology & Fundamental Principles:

1. Brief history of Vedic Astrology [VA]-Ancient Vedic Roots.

The Rishis-I:

The Rishis [Sages, Seers], who had retreated into the forest, for contemplation & meditation, constituted *an important special species of Divine beings*, whose function, seemed to be that of Divine channels for spiritual knowledge, spiritual truth and spiritual illumination, in the first place; and also for worldly knowledge in the second.

The eternal laws of the spiritual world [and of this world too, which was, but a manifestation of the same Spiritual Source, or Isvara], *came to the whole of mankind, through these Rishis. They got at the truth of creation, through meditation, introversion and contemplation, rather than through an intense objective study of Nature, of all Prakriti, through the process of experimentation and analytical thinking - a process, that is very familiar to us in our own day.*

As the Scientists of our own day, in our materialistic civilization[which stubbornly refuses to acknowledge, the primacy of Consciousness & Awareness], *are the bringers of such knowledge of the natural laws; we have to conclude that the scientists, of our own age, who indirectly are responsible for giving all the boons and blessings of our modern civilization[such as technological comforts, luxuries, good health, through their discoveries and inventions], are the counterparts of the Rishis, in our materialistic age.*

That ancient civilization, like our modern one was also naturally built on knowledge, on laws of nature, *but its men of knowledge were also men of wisdom, because they first knew themselves, through*

Armajnana[Self-Realization], before they could access the other laws of the natural world, which to their eyes, were all only a reflection of the world of the spirit, or Consciousness, or its timeless bedrock, Awareness.

One fundamental difference between the Rishis and the modern day Scientists must be noted. The Rishis knew who they were-namely the Primal Light of Consciousness, whereas our modern Scientists, only know themselves as ‘personalities’, and as ‘men’. Because Scientists, do not know themselves [*unless of course, they choose to know themselves, by turning to Religion, or, by cultivating the spiritual life, or, by contemplation, which is an activity, which lies entirely, outside the frontiers of Science*], our Scientists have no self-knowledge, no wisdom, nor knowledge of the unity of all life, the oneness of all life.

Their methods of gathering knowledge were different, the Rishis, through their Atma-Jnana[Self-Realization], and the Scientists through their Prakriti-Jnana[Understanding of Nature].

Once this distinction is clearly understood, *the constant exalted appearance of the Rishis in all spiritual literature will immediately become obvious*. They were, putting it crudely, the men of knowledge, the ‘Scientists’ of that spiritual age, of that ancient civilization. Just as our Scientists are the most respected and honoured, those Rishis, commanded the highest respect, in their spiritual civilization.

The etymological meaning of this word Rishi is also quite apt-“A Ray of Light”.

Pandit Vamadeva Shastri [Dr David Frawley] has good grounds for giving his astrological work, the appropriate name of ‘Astrology of the Seers’.

With this basic understanding, we are going to see a little more closely, the significance of the role of the Rishis in that ancient civilization.
