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Astrology was my Hobby A Personal Account

Oswald Chakravarty

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BOOKS AND CHARTS

When I was 15 my uncle began to teach me the fundamentals of astrology. After a few months study of books and horoscopes, a friend showed me his hand. Instead of looking at his palm I decided to cast a horoscope for the time at which he questioned me. He was very surprised to find that even without looking at his hand I could tell him many things about his past. I predicted that he would get a job in a factory. He did not believe me—but a few weeks later he came to congratulate me on my accuracy! Such incidents encouraged me to study astrology still further.

Then God made me spiritually alive and for a few months my interest in astrology died down. When I asked some friends whether I should continue to practise it, they said that astrology was scientific and that there was nothing wrong with it, but that it could be used to help people. They could not have been more wrong.

Now I studied astrology from many books. When anyone came to consult me, I used to make a chart for the time of the question and consider all the astrological factors which showed up in it. I would meditate on these factors, keeping the question in mind. Ideas would come into my mind, which I noted down. Suddenly, the answer would be on my tongue.

My predictions sounded strange to me and I wondered how they could possibly take place. But the things I said came true!

By now I was completely absorbed in astrology. Looking for the astrological cause for everything filled my waking hours. Although I did not notice it, the Bible had become a bore and I did not like to pray. The only things which interested me were astrology, palmistry and numerology. Soon Tantra was added to my reading list.

SURPRISES

One day in 1970 my teacher at college showed me his palm and I was able to tell him what he wanted to know. Then he told me that his father was an astrologer, and invited me to his home. P. 408

His father was indeed a successful part-time astrologer. Whenever he used his powers of prediction he worshipped the gods of the various planets in order to appease them. Otherwise, he said, they would have a bad effect on the astrologer and his family.

He then revealed that his own brother had been unable to pass his final examinations because of practising astrology. When he gave up astrology for a time and worshipped the gods, his powers of concentration gradually returned and he eventually got through his examination.

This reminded me that I, too, was unable to pass my examinations at the first attempt. The books agreed with the remedy suggested by the astrologer but I knew that to worship other gods would be directly to disobey the first two of the Ten Commandments: *You shall have no other gods before me, and you shall not make for yourself a graven image ... you shall not bow down to them or serve them.* So I did not worship the planetary gods.

In those days I became very irritable. At times there was such a storm of evil thoughts in my brain that I thought I was going mad. Sometimes I even felt like killing people and used to lock myself in my room until the urge died down.

I also suffered from headaches, hypertension and nervousness. After I had used the power of predicting the future for anyone, I used to feel very tired and weak.

Another startling fact was that many of those who consulted me slowly developed an aversion to the Bible. Jesus and all the things of God. I just could not understand what was wrong, as I had been telling them things which proved correct.

HOBBY MY MASTER

One day, a boy who used to travel to college and back with me seemed to me to have a peculiar look in his eyes, as if he were going to die very soon. Next day, when the two of us were standing with a teacher at the bus-stop, a speeding truck knocked the boy down and ran over his head, killing him instantly.

A month later, I was talking to another friend when I noticed that he had the same peculiar look in his eyes, as if he would die the next day. Next morning the newspapers reported that he had been killed in an accident. Now I was scared. A fearful power had appeared in me and I was helpless to get rid of it.

Sometimes the thought of killing myself came into my mind, but the spirit of God showed me that this was an absurd thought and that I [p. 409](#) should seek release from it. It was as if I were no longer master of myself, but a slave to some powers which were trying to destroy me. I had started with astrology as a hobby, but now it had become my master. I longed for release.

Then I thought of the astrologer who had advised me to leave astrology. I went to him again and he told me I must give up astrology for a while and worship the gods of the planets.

Now I knew that I was in a fix and could not escape from Satan's clutches on my own. I tried to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ, but it was very difficult even to get down on my knees to pray. But God was merciful and when He saw that my desire to be freed was real, He put a desire in my heart to study the Bible.

First, I passed my final examinations and then I was able to get down to more serious study of the Bible. After some months I found that I had given up astrology. I had the courage to turn away the people who came to consult me. They were very surprised, but I knew the evil effect of using powers which God has forbidden us to use:

There shall not be found among you ... anyone who practices divination, a soothsayer, or an augur, ... For whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord.

([Deut. 18:10-12](#) RSV)

BOOKS BURNT

In December 1971 I developed a strong urge to burn all the occult literature I had. But I did not want to—after all, I had spent hours preparing those notes and charts. So I put the thought away from my mind. Two weeks later the same thought came back to me: that I should burn all my occult literature. So I prayed to Jesus that if this thought was from him it should remain, otherwise it should fade away.

After another month the urge was still there, so I took out all my charts and burned them. But that night there was no sleep, only an even stronger urge to destroy every last trace of astrology, which meant even my carefully prepared notes.

Next morning I took the step of burning everything. As everything burned up, I felt as if a burden had been lifted from me. Now studying the Bible and praying was a very interesting and lively affair, because my obedience to Christ had restored my friendship with him.

At this stage I made a fresh commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and was very happy. My headaches, nervousness and the storm of p.410 confusing thought had stopped. I now came across this verse in Lev. ([20:6](#) RSV):

If a person turns to mediums and wizards, playing the harlot after them, I will set my face against that person, and will cut him off from among his people.

This is just what had happened to me. God has set His face against me. My experience confirmed the truth of this verse.

Now that I had left the works of Satan and turned to God, the things which had been predicted about me did not come true. Now my future was in the hands of that Person who can change the future easily. He had forgiven my past and taken control of the future.

After some months, however, I again looked at somebody's palm, told the past and also predicted a few things. That night and the next morning I did not want to pray or study the Bible. When I noticed what was happening I asked God for forgiveness and decided never again to read a person's hand or horoscope.

As I look back, I see that my spiritual life had been crippled by astrology. Jesus has forgiven me and healed my body, soul and spirit. In fact he has given me a new spirit which wants to expose the deceitfulness of doubting and not obeying the Bible, which has been written for our good.

Praise and thanks be to Jesus, the Almighty Lord, for his love and power and for delivering me from what had once so completely mastered me.

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Postscript: Ways of Guidance for Christians

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