

A Brief Obituary of Astrology

The beginning of the year 2001 was very exciting for the Indian scientists, science students and the people who love science. Because the living legend of today's astrophysics and writer of best selling book on astrophysics for common man "A Brief History of Time", Stephen Hawking visited India to deliver a series of lecture. After Galileo, Newton and Einstein, certainly Stephen Hawking is the most popular scientist in the present day world. Though Hawking had not postulated any theory or laws like theory of Relativity or Laws of Motion, yet his popularity is among all sections of people across the globe, irrespective of the fact whether they understand physics and black hole theory. What is the reason behind the popularity of this wheelchair born scientist who has to use a speech synthesiser and a portable computer to communicate with people and his audience who came to listen him? It is because he was successful to bring astrophysics to common people. His book "A Brief History of Time" is still a best seller. He had suffered from ALS or motor neuron disease and lost his ability to speak and move around. At times doctor had given him few months time to live. But he proved everybody wrong due to his indomitable determination and will power to become the most celebrated living scientist of present day world.

Stephen had tried to answer some fundamental questions: Where the universe come form? How and why it begins? Will it come to an end? Does god had anything to do with the creation of the universe? All these questions agitate every man's mind since time immemorial. Delivering the Albert Einstein lecture on "Predicting the Future: From Astrology to Black Holes" during his visit to India, Hawking declared that the real reason most scientists don't believe in astrology is not the scientific evidence, or lack of it, but because it is not consistent with our other theories, which have been tested by experiments. According to Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, it is impossible to determine simultaneously both the position and momentum of a particle with accuracy. If positioned is measured accurately, then momentum becomes correspondingly inaccurate and vice-versa. ***Even God is bound by the Uncertainty Principle***, and how an astrologer can predict future when no one can even correctly know the position and velocity of a particle. Utilizing probability theory one can at best calculate the probabilities, but definite predictions are simply impossible. If this is the fact and reality, what is the scientific basis of astrology?

Unfortunately, even when the memory of Hawking's lecture was still alive the University Grants Commission took a surprising decision to introduce astrology as a subject of study in Indian Universities without any logic or scientific reason. Religious Pundits over ruled the view of rational scientific community. But science can not be bend with mere superstition or blind faith.

Before the last Assembly election to Assam Legislative Assembly, a convention of Astrologers declared that then officiating Chief Minister of Assam P.K.Mahanta would win the Assembly election hands down only to get official patronage and for their own vested interest without any scientific reasoning. But the result of election proved their claim to be hollow and simply a guessing. The

Nepalese astrologers had recently declared that if Crown Prince Dipendra was allowed to marry before he was 35, King Birendra would die. As it turned out, not only was Dipendra single at 35, but his mother's refusal to marry the woman he loved led directly to the death of King Birendra, Queen Aishwarya, Prince Gyanendra & Princes Shruti Rana. It is not know what justification the Nepalese astrologers put forward for their false prediction, but it certainly proved that no prediction in this universe is above Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. Is it not a real life obituary of astrology? Let UGC open it's scientific eyes and take lesson from reality.