

***Bṛhajjātaka* and the Making of Horoscopy**

Virendra Singh Bithoo¹

An important transformation is seen in the branch of science in the Gupta period. The area of the science mostly consisted of chemistry, medicine, astronomy, astrology and architecture. The idea of a well versed person is based on his excellence in all fields of science. During this time, many mathematicians and scientists gave their theories and reached the zenith, and Varāhamihira was one of them. He was born in Avanti in 505 A.D and was patronized by Yaśodharman Vikramāditya of Malwa. Bhaṭṭotpal, commentator of Varāhamihira's *Bṛhat Saṃhitā*, wrote on his excellence of writing, "the redactor of entire Jyotiḥśāstra". Varāhamihira includes points of all previous authors and considers astrology based on the *āgamas*. The term *Jyotiḥśāstra* is elaborated in Varāhamihira's text *Bṛhatsaṃhitā*. He divides it into three *Skandha* or parts: the first branch is called Tantra and deals with the mathematical calculation of heavenly bodies; the second known as *Horā* treats horoscopy or the casting of horoscope; the third is called *Aṅgaviniścaya* based on natural astrology. In the *Saṃhitā*, all these parts are discussed with some additional details on medicine, gems and stones, good and bad animals, and the planets and results of their appearance, architecture, manufacture of perfume, eclipse, rainfall etc. There are other important works by the same author. *Pañcasiddhāntikā* is a well-known work on Tantra (mathematical calculation of astronomy) and *Bṛhajjātaka* deals with horoscopy. This paper will focus on the critical study of *Bṛhajjātaka* and the process of casting the horoscopic chart. *Bṛhajjātaka* talked about several signs of the zodiac, effect of different planets in these signs, planetary division and subdivision of life known as *Daśās* and *Antardaśās*. There different *RājaYogas* or the birth of kings, and ascetic *Yogas* have also been discussed. This process is based on the calculation of rising signs in different places at different timings. Varāhamihira tells us that an astrologer is one "who knows both text and meaning of the works on mathematical astronomy, natural astrology and horoscopy." All these aspects will be critically dealt with in this paper.

Keywords: Varāhamihira, Astrology, Horoscopy

¹ Jawaharlal Nehru University, Sri Lanka, virendrasinghcharan@gmail.com