

ATRIUM TOUR

ASTROLOGY

Astronomy is a scientific discipline that studies celestial objects and phenomena, while astrology is a belief system that claims to interpret the influence of celestial bodies on human affairs and events on Earth. The difference between Astronomy and Astrology is similar to the difference between Chemistry and Alchemy. Astronomy and Chemistry are natural sciences. Astrology and Alchemy are pseudoscience.

Roger Bacon viewed astrology as a science that could be used to understand and even predict aspects of the natural world and human affairs. While he acknowledged the potential for astrology to be misused, he saw its study as valuable within the broader context of his experimental science.

He considered astrology, along with astronomy, as part of the mathematical sciences. He believed it could be used to understand the influence of celestial bodies on earthly events and human lives, though he also recognized the limits of its predictive power. Bacon was critical of deterministic astrology, which claimed that all events are predetermined by celestial influences. He believed that human free will played a role and that astrology should be understood as revealing probabilities rather than certainties.

Bacon sought to integrate astrology into his broader scientific framework, which emphasized observation, experimentation, and mathematical reasoning. He believed that astrology, when studied rigorously, could contribute to a deeper understanding of the natural world.

Bacon's interest in astrology, along with his other unconventional ideas, contributed to his being viewed with suspicion by some of his contemporaries, including members of the Franciscan order. In 1277, Bacon was placed under house arrest in the convent in Ancona, Italy, partly due to his views on astrology - particularly his belief that the birth of Christ and the advent of Christianity were influenced by a planetary conjunction. Some scholars believe Bacon's imprisonment was also influenced by his unorthodox views on magic and his emphasis on experimental science.

Despite the controversy surrounding his views on astrology, Bacon is recognized as a significant figure in the history of science and philosophy. His emphasis on experimental observation and his attempts to integrate various fields of knowledge, including astrology, contributed to the development of scientific thought. Bacon's work on optics, mathematics, and language also laid the groundwork for future scientific advancements.