

“The Offering which Pleases the Fortunate-Ones”

*Syllabus for the Summer Course on
Traditional Tibetan Medicine and Astrology*

'Astrology'

[Palpung Buddhist Sciences College]

1. Syllabus

First section:

1) Introduction to the Tibetan astrological science

A) the different types of Tibetan astrology and an outline of its creation and evolution in history

1. on ancient Tibetan astrological science
2. on nak-tsi astrology (originating in China)
3. on kar-tsi astrology (originating in India)

B) a short introduction to the content of the Tibetan astrological science

1. on ancient Tibetan astrological science
2. on nag-tsi astrology
3. on the astrology of Kalachakra

2) Introduction to the general application of Tibetan astrological science.

an overview of the traditional Tibetan calendar and its usage

Second section:

1) the preliminary knowledge of astrological science

1. the five aspects of the turtle
 - a. general explanation on the turtle
 - b. explanation of the symbolic or emanation turtle

2. explanation of the objects of calculation
 - a. on the 'mother-son , friend-enemy' relations of the 5 elements
 - b. on the nature of the elements, etc.
- B) preliminaries of Kar-tsi astrology
 1. on writing numbers and methods of calculation
 - a. writing numbers and counting
 - b. calculating the numbers respective positions
- 2) actual calculations in nag-tsi astrology
 - A) on bloodlines
 1. identifying the different bloodlines
 2. on combining the bloodlines and the cycles of years
 - B) years
 1. the 12 years cycle and definition of where the year begins
 2. classifying the 12 animal signs into male, female, and the arrangement of the 60 years cycle
 3. methods for calculating 'vitality, body, power and luck', etc.

Third section:

- 1) actual calculations used in nag-tsi astrology
 - C) the *moles*
 1. defining the nine *moles* and their respective elements
 2. on the *moles* cycle and how they rule over the cycles of years
 3. on the 'vitality, body, power and luck' *moles*, etc.
 - D) the eight Baguas (hexagrams)

1. on the nature and elements of the Baguas
 2. what to do and avoid in accordance with the cardinal directions of the Baguas
- E) the planets and constellations
- F) strengthening and weakening phases of the elements
- 2) on Buddhist history's chronological calculations
 - A) Buddhist chronology according to sutras
 1. duration of the teachings
 2. on locating our position within this period
 - B) Buddhist chronology according to the Tantras
 1. on the general Tantra tradition
 2. on the Kalachakra tradition

Fourth section:

- 1) main calculations used in nag-tsi astrology
 - A) the horoscope
 - B) marital calculations
 - C) obstacles calculations
- 2) the size of the universe and cosmology in Kar-tsi astrology
 - A) the size of the universe
 1. on the 'container' -- the universe
 2. on the 'contained' -- the sentient beings

B) cosmology

1. short introduction to the celestial and earth spheres
2. on what is travelled upon [by the planets] -- the constellations and houses

Fifth section:

1) on calculations in nag-tsi astrology

- A) calculations for sickness
- B) calculations for funerals.
- C) on miscellaneous calculations.

2. The need and aims for the different topics to be taught during the courses:

First section:

1) *Introduction to Tibetan astrological science*

This lesson is designed to give a clear and concise introduction to beginners about Tibetan Astrological science. It will give one an understanding of its' history as well as what astrological knowledge is.

A) the different types of Tibetan astrology

This lesson gives a point by point introduction to the different types and sub categories of the Astrological Science which existed in Tibet. This overview is aimed at giving a clear understanding of the structure of Tibetan Astrology.

B) *History and evolution*

This lesson explains the history of each of the different types of Tibetan Astrological Science mentioned above, and as well as giving a basic comprehension of its' history as a whole.

2) *an overview of the traditional Tibetan calendar and it's usage.*

This lesson introduces how a calendar is compiled, the way it is used and how to actually use it. The different kinds of information used in the traditional calendar are also introduced. These include seasonal changes and the daily position of the planets and constellations etc. Based on this, certain advice is given on what to do and what to avoid, on both the outer and inner level.

Second section:

1) *the preliminary knowledge of astrological science*

This lesson acts as a 'key to open the door' to Tibetan Astrological Science. Briefly, it provides all the indispensable basic knowledge used to practise the Astrology used in the systems of both Kalachakra and elemental astrology.

A) *preliminaries of nag-tsi astrology*

This lesson not only teaches the general concepts of elemental astrology, but also gives one indispensable basic knowledge used for making astrological calculations such as horoscopes and marital astrology etc. This astrological system -- based on the five elements-- was originally taught by the Bodhisattva Manjushree in China.

B) *preliminaries of Kar-tsi astrology*

This lesson is supposed to be the key to the essential points of the karts (astrological) treatise. It gives one the preliminary knowledge needed to understand the karts astrological calculations which in turn enables one to understand the way the planets, constellations and signs move

2) *actual calculations in nag-tsi astrology*

Elemental astrology uses a set of general (or preliminary) calculations. Bloodlines, animal signs, moles and baguas (hexagrams) are used to make specific calculations. This lesson gives one the tools to make specific calculations used in horoscopes etc.

Third section:

2) *on Buddhist history's chronological calculations*

This lesson's principal gives one an understand of the different phases of the Buddhist teachings in general, especially the tantras; mainly the Kalachakra Tantra. It shows the duration of the different types of teachings and the succession in which the masters came.

Fourth section:

1) *main calculations used in nag-tsi astrology*

A) *the horoscope*

based on the interdependence of the moment of one's birth, the horoscope shows the ups and downs (?) of the vitality, wealth, domestic situation, etc during one's life. It also shows the main obstacles and difficulties and methods (how) to overcome them.

B) *marital calculations*

based mainly on the animal signs and the interdependence of the birth of each spouse. This calculation forecasts the compatibility of a couple and the harmony and disharmony which will be experienced in the marriage. By doing this, it shows the couple how they can overcome their obstacles, and how optimise domestic life, familial wealth etc.

C) *obstacles calculations*

the obstacle calculations alerting/warning one of the obstacles within one year. It not only gives methods to dispel those obstacles, but it also gives some

hints of the behaviour (and the diet one should follow. As it is said 'by doing the obstacle calculations, one will be free from (adverse) conditions.

2) the size of the universe and cosmology in Kar-tsi astrology

this lesson is brief introduction to the cosmology as taught in the Kalachakra Tantra. It depicts the formation of the outer universe , the way sentient beings come into existence, and the arrangement and movements of the constellations and planets .

Fifth section:

1) on calculations in nag-tsi astrology

A) calculations for sickness .

these calculations tells one the causes of a specific sickness, especially those caused by spirits or demons. To overcome these diseases it prescribes methods such as advice on diet and behaviour to follow as well certain shamanic rituals (tib: 'to', exorcism etc). Furthermore, as said in the Rinchen Pun-gyu "delay the moment of your death with 'to' rituals". These calculations can momentarily free one from certain causes of death.

B) calculations for funerals.

This type of calculations shows what should be done to accumulate merit after for the deceased, and especially what should be done to avoid any negativity or obstacles which could befall the family of the deceased. By doing the calculations properly and applying the antidotes, will avert the negative influences of the constellations and planets, and prevent further deaths (which could happen as a consequences of following incorrect procedure.)

C) on miscellaneous calculations.

This area of astrology calculations contains the calculations relating to everyday decisions, both the long and short term. As the Rinchen Pung-gyu says, " By checking the planets and constellations one will meet with every kind of success. "