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# Topic : HOW DID THE ZODIAC SIGNS COME TO BE? History of origin.

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To the first explorers of the sky these constellations seemed similar to the outlines of animals, so the belt of constellations is known as the zodiac from the Greek word **zodiac** meaning circle of animals.

Division of the sky on 12 windows goes back to Sumerian civilisation and 60 personal system of calculation and astronomy of ancient Babylon. As a result of acceptance of the Babylonian system by ancient Greeks and **12 signs of zodiac** on number of constellations have appeared.

Each sign of the zodiac corresponds to its own legend from ancient Greek myths.

**Aries The** first sign of the zodiac in myths **Aries** always appears as a courageous, agile and energetic animal, capable of overcoming obstacles.

With this sign is associated, the ancient Greek legend **Titanida not Fella**, saving her children from the evil stepmother planted them on a golden ram, which was to carry them to **Colchis,** but on the way the girl did not stay on the back and fell into the sea, where she drowned, and the boy on arrival in a safe place brought the beast in sacrifice, which was accepted by **Zeus** himself and carried the beast in the sky, creating the **first constellation of the ram.**

The second sign of the zodiac **Taurus** is a kind animal always symbolising strength and sexuality. According to legend, the ancient Greek god **Zeus** was in love with the Phoenician girl **Europa,** to possess her, he turned into a **white Taurus** and kidnapped her, he carried her to the island of **Crete,** where he possessed her, and the head of a huge **Taurus** reflected in the sky and **turned into the constellation Taurus.**

**Gemini The** third sign of the zodiac and symbolised by **humans**, they are animals. According to legend, **Zeus had** two sons who were born to him by Princess **Leda**. Their names were **Castor and Pollux**. They were mighty and brave brothers who performed many feats, but when one of the brothers died, the second asked **Zeus** to take away his immortality to reunite with his brother **Zeus** did so, settling both brothers in the sky.

The fourth sign of the zodiac is depicted as **Cancer**, a water-dwelling creature also capable of travelling on land. It is known that **Cancer** as a symbol appeared in the zodiac about 500 years before the beginning of our era. The name is associated with the second feat of **Hercules**, when **Hercules** fought in the waters with a ruler hydra, he was in the leg of **Cancer,** because of which **Hercules** weakened, but he immediately killed **Cancer** and still managed to finish the fight in his favour. However, the goddess **Hera,** who disliked **Heracles**, considered the **Crayfish a very brave animal**. So she took him up into the sky. And that's how this constellation came to be.

The fifth sign of the zodiac is represented by **Leo the** king of beasts. The first feat of **Heracles was to** destroy the fierce and fearless **Lion** who lived in a German valley. No human weapon could pierce its skin. **Heracles** tried to kill the **Lion** with the help of arrows, but this technique also did not give a positive result. The hero decided to overcome the **Lion with his** bare hands, possessing incredible strength, he managed to squeeze his neck with his fingers and strangle him. The constellation of the lion immortalises the courage **Heracles** showed during the fight with the mighty German **Lion**.

**Virgo The** sixth sign of the zodiac and whose second symbol is **human** rather than animal. It is known that **Virgo** symbolises the goddess of **fertility Demeter**. The sign is a symbol of **innocence and purity** with the appearance of the constellation of Virgo, is associated with the myth of **Pandora's box.** Pandora brought to earth a box, which she was forbidden to open. One day, giving in to curiosity, she lifted the lid after she, against the orders of **Zeus**. She opened the box and all the misfortunes and vices of man were scattered out, leaving only hope at the bottom of the box. After that the dark times came and the gods one by one left the earth. The last to leave was **Astrea**, the goddess of **innocence and purity**. She has lived among the stars ever since, transformed into the constellation of **Virgo.**

**Libra is the** seventh sign and the only symbol of which is **not a human or animal.** Scales personify balance, justice and harmony. Ancient Egyptians scales of justice solely owned by the god **Anubis** .**Anubis** stands at the large scales, with which weighs the heart of the deceased. On one bowl is the heart of a man, and on the other the feather of the goddess **Maat**. Which symbolises the truth according to the beliefs of the Egyptians, **if the heart of man will be in balance with the truth, he will be able to find a second life in Greek mythology.**

The eighth sign of the zodiac is represented by **Scorpio**, who paralyses his victim with poison. The name is associated with a quarrel, **Artemis** and the hunter **Orion**. When the latter sent **Scorpio to** him to poison him with his venom. After **Orion's** death**, Zeus** created the two constellations **Scorpio** and **Orion**.

 **Sagittarius is the** ninth sign of the zodiac. **Sagittarius** is a **centaur mythological creature half man half horse.** According to legend, it is a wise **Charon**, who possessed many arts. He could **heal, hunt, play musical instruments and predict the future.** Once **Heracles** wounded **Charon with** a poisoned arrow, but since the wise centaur was **immortal, Heracles** promised to find a way to relieve his suffering and when during his exploits **Heracles** found the unfortunate **Prometheus,** whom **Zeus had** buried to a rock where an eagle was devouring his liver, the centaur **Charon** agreed to take his place and so **Zeus rewarded him for his nobility by placing the centaur among the stars**. Thus it became the constellation **Sagittarius.**

**Capricorn**, the tenth sign of the zodiac, is an animal with strong hooves that climbs up mountain steeps clinging to every ledge. The image is associated with the great god of **Mesopotamia Ea**, who brought these peoples knowledge and culture. In the time of the ancient Greeks **Capricorn became associated with the god Pan, a cheerful and lustful creature, ruler of forests and fields, flocks and shepherds.**

Once saving from the pursuit of the terrible monster **Typhon** god **Pan** jumped into the river, but diving into the water he did not have time to finish the transformation and as **a result the part that remained under water turned into a fish tail and the upper part remained like a goat.**

Symbol of the eleventh sign of the zodiac **Aquarius** man with a pitcher of which pours water. In the ancient Greek epic **Aquarius is** associated with the myth of the only person who did not suffer during the great flood, when after the rains, the only survivor of the righteous **Devkalionov** and his wife **Pira** found refuge on Mount **Parnassus, Zeus** commanded the water to retreat, then he ordered both to collect as many stones and throw as possible without turning around over his head. **Deucalion and his** wife did so and the **stones thrown by Pira turned into women, and those thrown by Deucalion into men. So Deucalion became the progenitor of mankind.**

The twelfth sign of the zodiac is depicted as two **fish tied to each other, but swimming in opposite directions. Two fish** in the water symbolise opposing emotions. Legend . Once the goddess of love Aphrodite and her son Irot walked along the bank of the river. Suddenly in front of them grew a huge fire-breathing monster Typhon exuding the roar of a bull, roaring lion and hissing snakes. **Aphrodite's fears were put to rest by her father Zeus, who turned them both into two fish, who jumped into the river and thus managed to escape**.

**As we see formation of signs of zodiac took place gradually and all signs which ancient Greeks have perceived from Sumerians they have combined with the world perception and have managed to create such system which has reached our days.**