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Topic : HOW DID THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC APPEAR? History.

Freelancer – Maxim

HOW DID THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC COME TO BE?

To the first explorer 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.

The division of the sky into 12 windows goes back to the Sumerian civilisation and the 60 personal system of numbering 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 zodiac corresponds to the legend about originating from ancient Greek myths.

Aries is the first sign of the zodiac in myths Aries always appears courageous, agile and energetic animal, able to overcome obstacles.

With this sign is associated, the ancient Greek legend Titanida not Fella, saving their 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 as a 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 is the third sign of the zodiac symbolised by people, they are animals. According to legend, Zeus had two sons, which gave birth to him 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 from him belonging to him immortality to reunite with his brother Zeus did so, settling both brothers in the sky.

The fourth sign of the zodiac is depicted in the form of Cancer - the inhabitant of bodies of water, also able to move 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 Lernaeus 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. That's how this constellation came to be.

The fifth sign of the zodiac is represented by the Lion - the king of beasts. The first feat of Heracles was to destroy the fierce and fearless Lion, who lived in the 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 of Heracles, shown during a single combat with the mighty German Lion.

Virgo is the sixth sign of the zodiac and the second symbol of which is a man, not an animal. Virgo is known to symbolise the fertility goddess 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. Once, giving in to curiosity, she lifted the lid after she, contrary to the orders of Zeus, opened the box, from there scattered all the misfortunes and human vices at the bottom of the box remained only hope. After that 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 began to live among the stars, turning into the constellation Virgo.

Libra - the seventh sign and the only symbol of which is not a man or an animal. Libra represents balance, justice and harmony. In the ancient Egyptians scales of justice solely owned by the god Anubis.

Anubis stands at large scales, with the help of which he weighs the heart of the deceased. On one bowl is the heart of a man, and on the other is 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, paralysing its victim with poison. The name is associated with a quarrel, Artemis and the hunter Orion. When the latter sent to him Scorpion to poison him with his poison. After Orion's death, Zeus created the two constellations Scorpio and Orion.

The ninth sign of the zodiac. Sagittarius is a centaur mythological creature half man half horse. According to legend, this is the 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 chained 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.

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

Once fleeing 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 complete the transformation and as a result, the part that remained under water turned into a fish tail, and the upper part remained as a goat.

The symbol of the eleventh sign of the zodiac Aquarius - a man with a jug of which pours water. In the ancient Greek epic Aquarius is associated with the myth of the only person not affected during the great flood, when after the rains, the only survivor of the righteous Devkalionov and his wife Pira found shelter on Mount Parnassus, Zeus commanded the water to retreat, then he ordered both to pick up as many stones as possible and throw without turning 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 one to the 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 riverbank. Suddenly in front of them grew a huge fire-breathing monster Typhon exuding the roar of a bull, the roar of a lion and hissing snakes. Fears Aphrodite humbled to her father Zeus and he turned them both into two fish, which jumped into the river and thus managed to save themselves.

As we see formation of signs of zodiac occurred 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.