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

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.

The division of the sky into 12 windows goes back to the Sumerian civilization and the 60 personal numbering system 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 originating 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 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 symbolizing 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 symbolized 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, the inhabitants 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 a ruler hydra, he got into the leg of Cancer, because of which Hercules weakened, but he immediately killed Cancer and still managed to finish the fight in his favor. 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 the Lion 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 defeat 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 immortalizes the courage of Hercules, shown during the single combat 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 symbolizes 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 human vices at the bottom of the box were scattered away, leaving only hope. 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 is the feather of the goddess Maat. Which symbolizes 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 paralyzes 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.

The tenth sign of the zodiac Capricorn, an animal with strong hooves that climb 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 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.

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 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 symbolize 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, 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 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.**