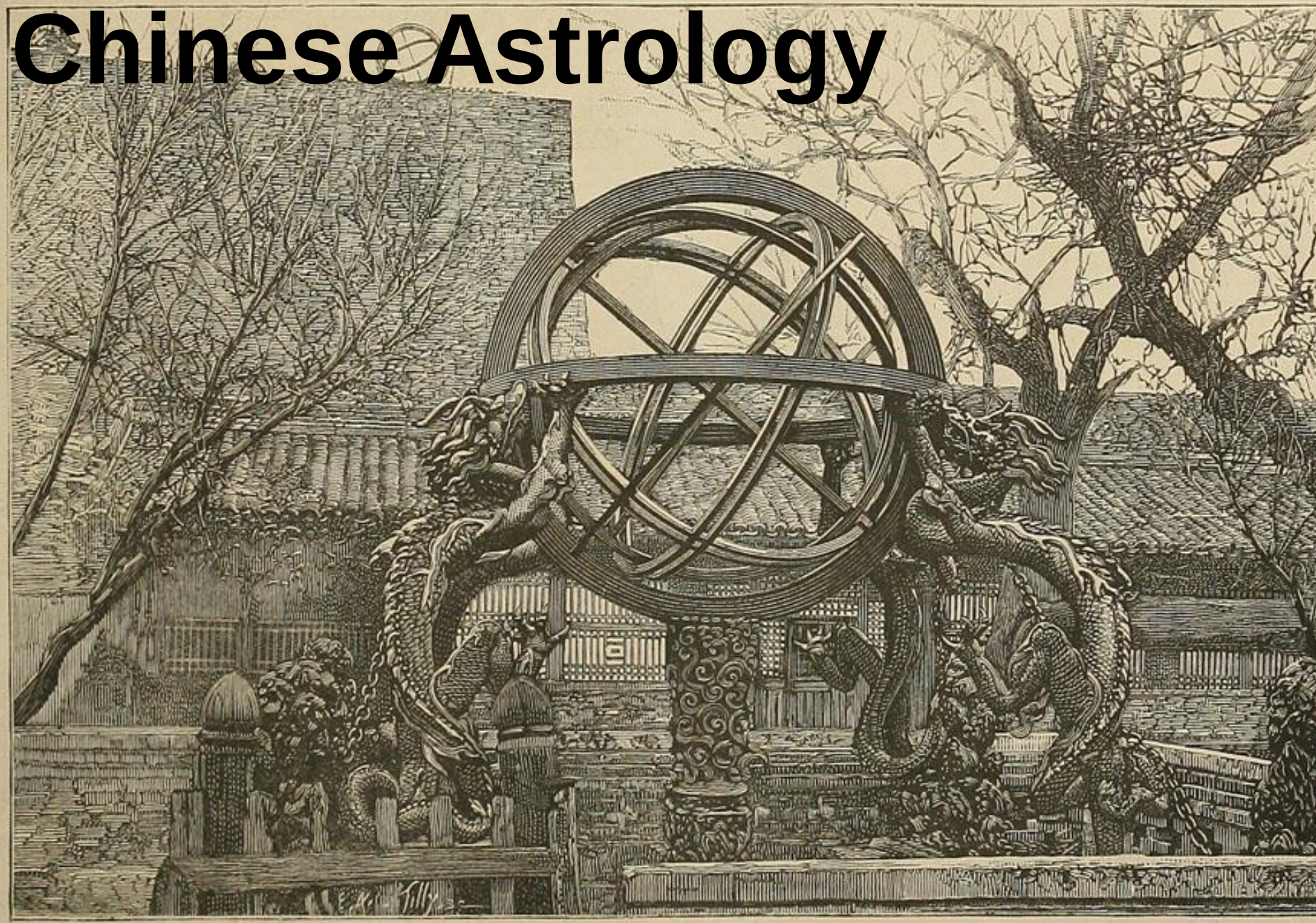
Chinese Astrology



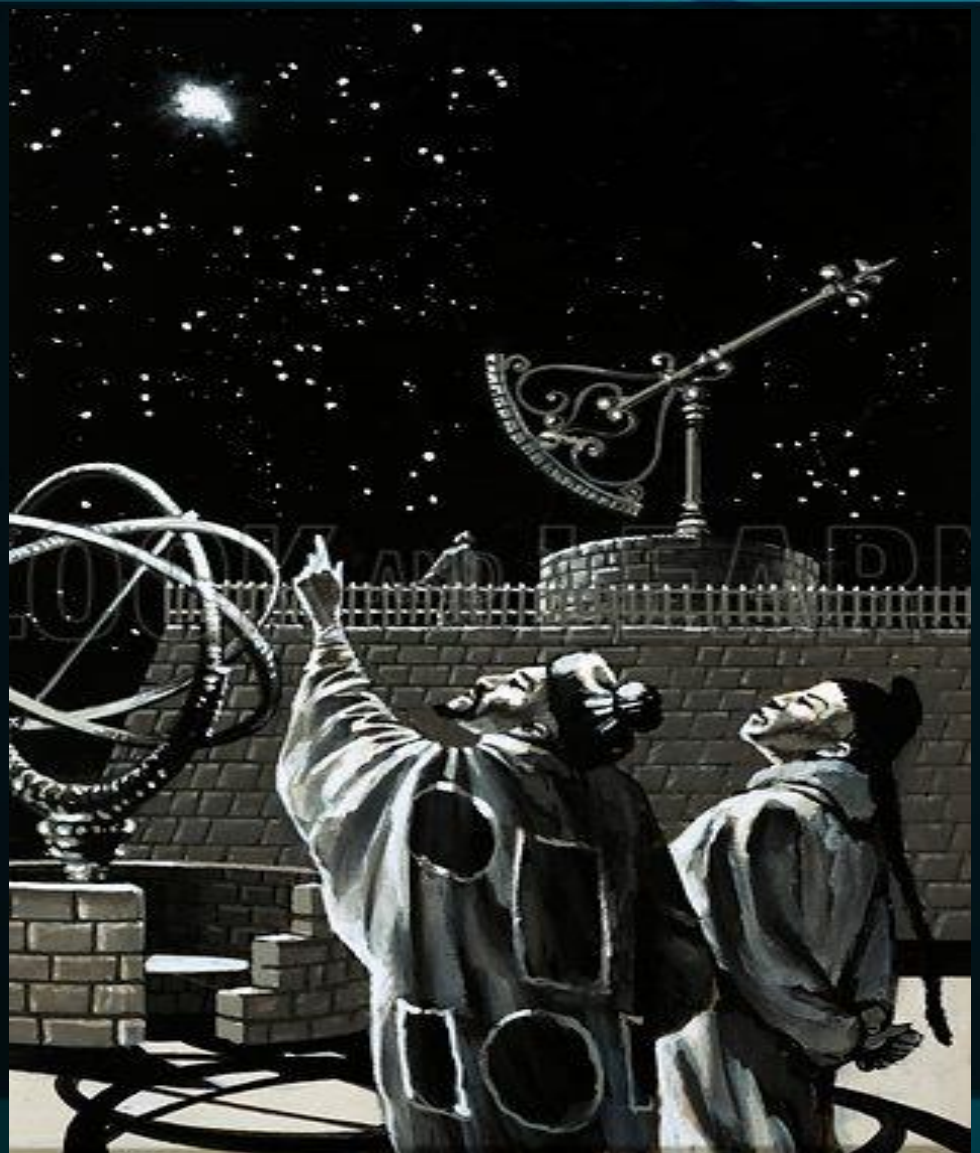
Constructed in the 13th Century.

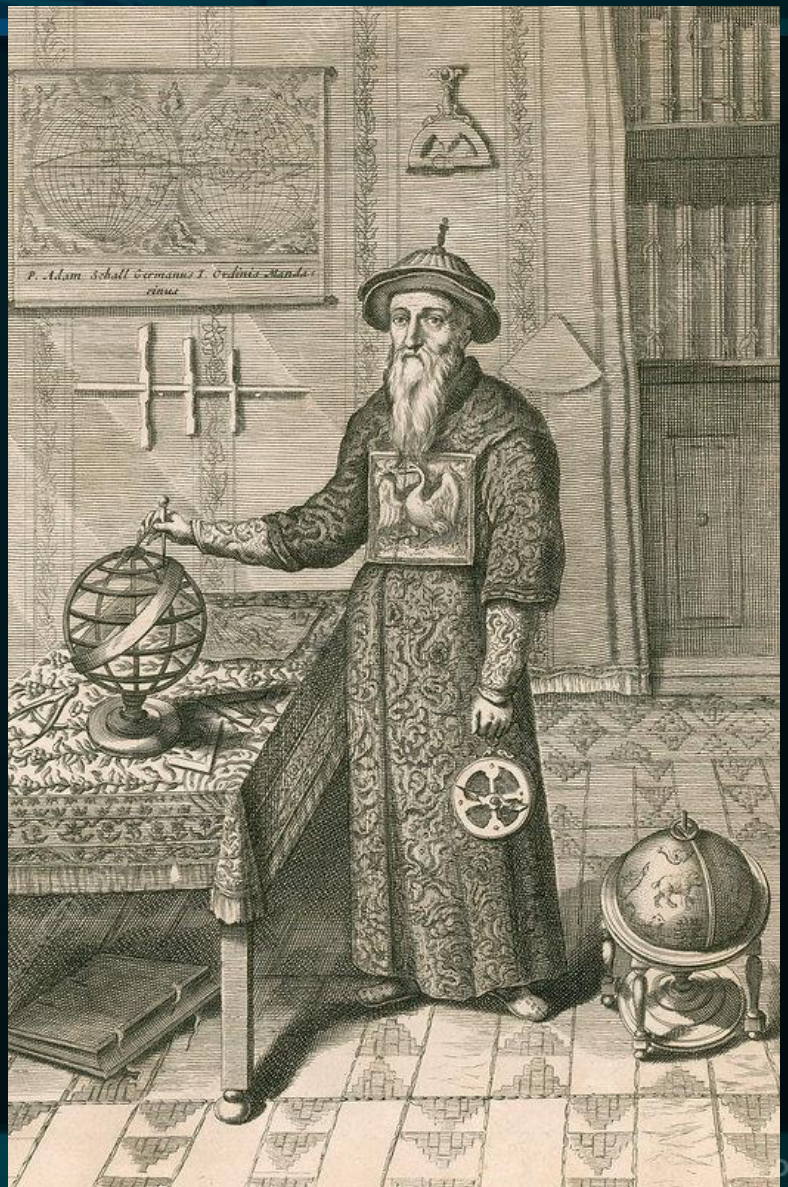
by Adegboyega Paul Salawu

Chinese Astro Origins

- It developed largely clear of the Indo-European sphere, by developing its own particular methods and nuances.
- They were careful and precise when keeping their astronomical records.
- Modern historians believed that Chinese astronomy remained mostly unchanged since 1800 BCE.
- The practice of astronomy was a royal preserve, in which emperors employ astronomers to record phenomena and chart the heavens (sky).
- Recording time accurately was their main goal.

Chinese Astronomers Studying the “Heavens”





Astrology or Astronomy ?

- During this period, astrologers were separate from astronomers.
- It was the astrologer's job to interpret occurrences and omens.
- It was the astronomer's job to chart events such as lunar eclipses.
- The Emperors often consult astrologers before every major decision

The Yellow Path

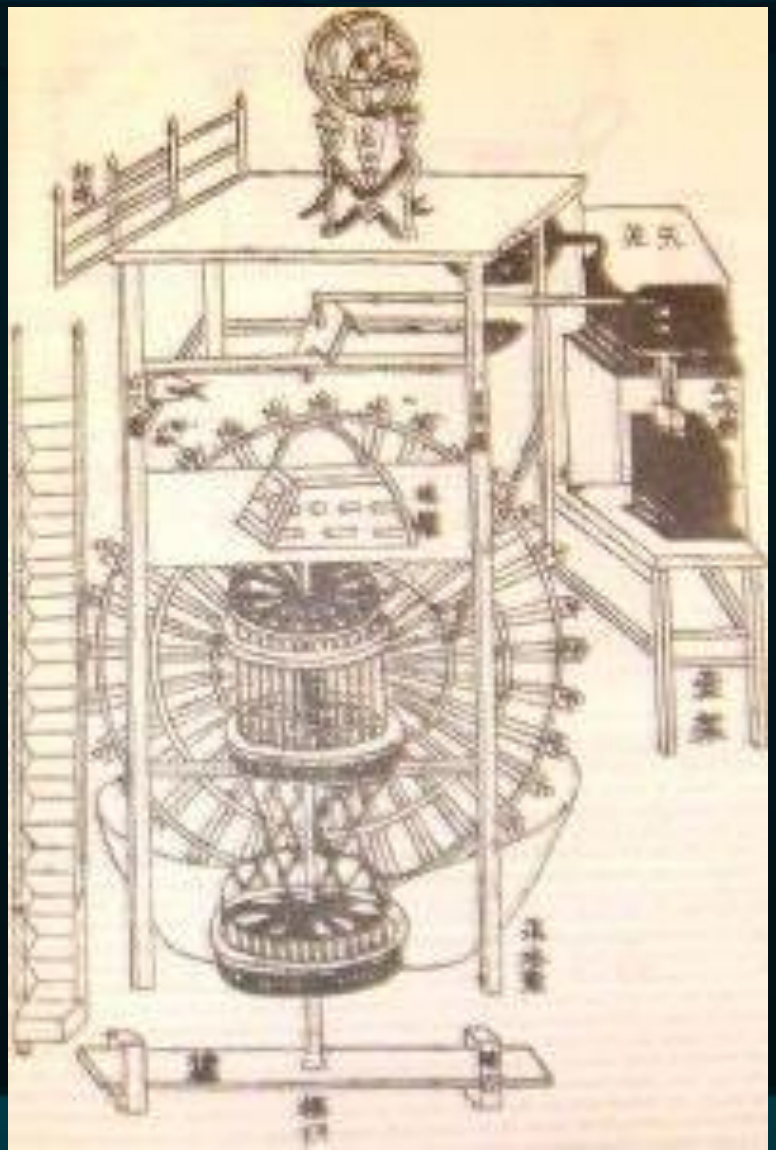
- The Chinese version of the zodiac was called the yellow path. It is a reference to the sun traveling along the ecliptic.
- They followed a calendar that consists of 12 lunar months and calculated the year to be 365.25 days long.
- They also set the number of degrees in a circle equal to 365.25.
- The sky was divided into 4 quarters, with 7 mansions each. It was used to chart the position of the moon as it crossed the sky

The 28 Mansions of the Chinese Astronomy

Chinese Astronomers

- Unlike Indo-Europeans who used observation based upon the rising and setting of celestial bodies, the Chinese used circumpolar stars as their reference point.
- Chinese astronomers' main job was to chart time, announce the first day of every month and predict lunar eclipses.
- If their predictions were wrong, they were often beheaded.

Chinese Clock



Chinese Phenomena

- The Chinese were precise in recording astronomical phenomena such as sunspots, nova, comets, etc., long before any other culture observed them.
- In the year 1054, Chinese astronomers observed a supernova which they named guest star. This supernova created what we see today as the Crab Nebula.

Crab Nebula

The End

Thanks for listening, do you have any question?