

Definition

What does it mean?

Morphology/Origins (breaking down the word)

WORD OF

EVIDENCE

THE WEEK

Synonyms

Expand your vocabulary!

In a sentence

How may you use it?

Click here for the link to the full article.

SIMPLIFIED VERSION PRESENTATION VIEW PRINT VIEW Tuesday, 20 October 2020

Star-gazing prophet sparks astrology row



Crystal ball: Four of Jessica Adams's uncanny predictions.

Is astrology just harmless fun? Supporters think that it can comfort people who are afraid of the future, but sceptics fear that it encourages the gullible to choose fantasy over reality.

In the ancient Greek myth, the god Apollo placed an inventive curse on the princess Cassandra: she would have the gift of prophecy, but no-one would ever believe her predictions. When she warned Troy of its coming destruction by the Greeks, everyone ignored her – and the city was razed to the ground.

Jessica Adams must have felt much the same way last year, when she predicted that a deadly virus would disrupt the world in 2020. As a shocked planet sank into lockdown, she packed up her things and left for Tasmania, one of the few places on the face of the globe that are now Covid-free.

Sceptics argue that there is no possible means by which celestial bodies could influence human behaviour.

But astrologers think that this misses the point. They claim that astrology is not about stars and planets at all but about cycles in human history that tend to repeat themselves. The night sky simply provides a helpful language for studying these patterns.

Journalist Alexandra Jones believes that the growing popularity of astrology is linked with worsening mental health. She suggests that when people are depressed or anxious, they easily convince themselves that nothing they do can change their own

Can something be true if it has no basis in **evidence?**



YOU DECIDE

1. Would you like to know what happens in your future, or are you happier without this knowledge?
2. Can something be true if it has no basis in evidence?