

The ill-starred kisimā: an astrological technique lost in translation

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THE PROGNOSTIC TECHNIQUE OF DIRECTION OR PROROGATION, known in Greek as ὄφεις and first described in its classical form by Claudius Ptolemy, was central to the practice of Arabic-language astrology, where it was called *tasyīr*. As the Sanskritization of this astrological tradition began in the thirteenth century, however, the mathematical-astronomical foundations of prorogation were misunderstood, and the technique does not appear to have survived the first generation of Indian practitioners.