

Praises

Before I begin, I offer myself before the Supreme, who has revealed Himself as Sri Krishna and His various incarnations, and to His intimate associates, headed by Srimati Radharani, then to all of the Vishnu Tattva, then Siva and Parvati, then all the DemiGods and Sages, then my Guru's and the Sri Brahma-Madva-Gaudiya Shiksha Sampradaya emanating from Sri Caitanya, the Scriptures Srimad Bhagavatam and Bhagavad Gita, all the devotees of the Lord, and then all living beings, then the impersonal energy of the Lord in all things.

After properly worshipping the Supreme as above We specifically beg the blessings of Mother Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning, Lord Ganapati, the curator of the mystic sciences, Srila Parasara Muni, for his cornerstone contribution, Srila Vyasadeva, for the Bhagavat Purana and Mahabharat which contains the Bhagavad Gita, and to all sympathetic DemiGods, Sages and Well Wishing Souls for their blessings upon our endeavors herein.

If by grace I succeed in transmitting that super-excellent Vedic Sub-Science (Vedanga) of Jyotish to the Dear Reader to any degree, it is wholly due to the power of the original revelation and the fact that by God's own omnipresence Jyotish is resting in all places, things and times.

On the other hand, the undoubtedly abundant mistakes contained herein are wholly the responsibility of the author and bear no reflection whatsoever on the unquestionable positions held by the Lord, the Planets, the DemiGods, our Guru's and Guardians, nor the Super-Excellent position held by the Personified Vedas in delivering revelations about the origins and histories of creation, as well as a means and path to human perfection.

With all humility and in the traditions of my Gurus, I hereby commence to serve the Lord by repeating His teachings in a certain time, place, circumstance and language for the benefit of those Jiva Souls who would like to hear of them. I pray to remain in tight grasp of the Lotus Feet of the Lord throughout this work. I commence at

the universal moment and location of Eugene Oregon, Gregorian
Date 06-24-1997 at 3:03 PM.

Statement of Sampradaya

I base my thoughts and words on what I have learned from the Gurus of my Sampradaya, or Disciplic Succession of Vedic Knowledge, which is formally known as the **Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya Sampradaya of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu**.

In the beginning of the *Bhagavat Purana*, or *Srimad Bhagavatam*, it is told how Srila Vyasadeva, the compiler of the Vedas, was not happy even after creating the Vedas and the Mahabharat, because he had not yet fully glorified the Supreme Personality of God, or Sri Krishna. Therefore Srila Vyasadeva wrote the Bhagavat Purana to solve this problem.

The Bhagavatam has 12 large chapters or *Cantos*. In the first nine Cantos the author gives the history of creation, and many stories of past great personalities direct dealings with Vishnu, or God, and other DemiGods. This is to lay the foundation for a proper understanding of *Daivi Sidhanta* or Divine Conclusions about the absolute truths of God, Life, Creation and the Purpose of Everything.

In the Tenth Canto the Pastimes of Sri Krishna are revealed and along with them the conclusion that Sri Krishna is the Supreme Personality of the Spiritual Realm and that all other Vishnu incarnations, Siva Tattva incarnations, DemiGods and all other beings are subordinate to His Supremacy as God.

In the Eleventh and Twelfth Cantos the finer conclusions of Spiritual Philosophy and predictions about the nature of the times in which we live now are given.

So it is from the author of the Vedas Himself, Srila Vyasadeva, that our Sampradaya receives the authority to pronounce the name of Sri

Krishna whenever we refer to God. Other Sampradayas, taking authority from other scriptures, may refer to Siva or other Personalities of the Heavens or Vaikuntha (Spiritual) Planets as God. Furthermore, the various Sampradayas have greatly varying conclusions about the existence or not of a Personal Supreme Lord and Personal DemiGods. This greatly affects one's spiritual path and acceptance of Jyotish. I stand with my Sampradaya clearly on the *Personal* side.

What is Jyotish

Say it right: **Joe - Teesh**

Then, slip in the “y” after the “J” in “Joe” and you have it pronounced correctly!

Jyoti means **Light**

Ishwar means **Controller**

Jyotish means:

- Controller of Light
- Controls of Light
- Lord of Light
- Lord of all Souls
- The Central Spirit
- The Lord of Everyone
- Krishna, God
- The Sun

Jyotish is Astrology according to the ancient astrological tradition from India. Jyotish is the science of reading a number of charts, listings, and other mathematical formulas, tables and grids, all of which are based on the movements of the planets in our solar system.

Jyotish works. If you have doubts, don't. I personally guarantee you right now that Jyotish works to a very significant and obvious degree. This will be seen by anyone who spends enough time to learn

it. If you don't, you'll never know why I can be so sure. If you do, you'll be just as sure.

To do Jyotish you take the moment and place a person was born, and using scientific methods you calculate the **positions of the planets** in the **zodiac** at that time, then draw them in a **chart** which has as it's starting reference point the **sign rising on the Eastern horizon** for the place of the birth at the birth moment, and with that sign known, the **Houses** of the chart can be known and the planets correctly placed in them. Then other calculations and items or astrological objects are created by the astrologer (or software program). The basic chart is formed mainly of the **12 Signs, 12 Houses and 9 planets**.

By reading the various charts and other items of Jyotish, you can tell much about a person:

- their bodily propensities
- mental propensities
- personality traits
- general flow of life
- events too if you're good enough
- compatability with other persons
- onset and outcome of diseases
- and everything else!

Jyotish is most meant for helping with the final stages of enlightenment for those souls who are approaching liberation. It is a study which helps the soul, who is at a certain stage very close to the highest things available in this world, to fully understand the mysterious spiritual reality of *acintya bhedabheda tattva*, which is a statement which summarizes reality in a nutshell. (more on that later) The proper study of Jyotish strengthens faith in God, by giving concrete knowledge and evidence of the ways and means of the concretely obvious presence of Divine Control in every aspect of life, side by side with the appearance of free will and freedom, and the resultant mixture being gradual elevation of the soul to liberation.

Jyotish is a science, allowed to appear in this world by the Lord, as part of His loving plan to liberate all souls. Jyotish proves the statements of Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita:

(excerpts taken from the Bhagavad Gita As It Is by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada - Founder and Acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

sadṛśam ceṣṭate svasyāḥ
prakṛter jñānavān api
prakṛtim yānti bhūtāni
nigrahaḥ kim kariṣyati *Chapter 3 Verse 33*

Even a man of knowledge acts according to his own nature, **for everyone follows the nature he has acquired from the three modes.** What can repression accomplish?

ye yathā mām prapadyante
tāms tathaiva bhajāmy aham
mama vartmānuvartante
manuṣyāḥ pārtha sarvaśaḥ *Chapter 4 Verse 11*

As all surrender unto Me, I reward them accordingly. **Everyone follows My path in all respects.**

bhoktāraṁ yajña-tapasām
sarva-loka-maheśvaram
suhṛdaṁ sarva-bhūtānām
jñātvā mām śāntim ṛcchati *Chapter 5 Verse 29*

A person in full consciousness of Me, **knowing Me to be the ultimate beneficiary of all sacrifices and austerities, the Supreme Lord of all planets and demigods,** and the benefactor and well-wisher of all living entities, **attains peace from the pangs of material miseries.**

mattaḥ parataram nānyat
kiñcid asti dhanañjaya
mayi sarvam idaṁ protam
sūtre maṇi-gaṇā iva *Chapter 7 Verse 7*

There is no truth superior to Me. **Everything rests upon Me,** as pearls are strung on a thread.

īśvaraḥ sarva-bhūtānām
hṛd-deśe 'rjuna tiṣṭhati
bhrāmayaṅ sarva-bhūtāni
yantrārūḍhāni māyayā *Chapter 18 Verse 61*

The Supreme Lord is situated in everyone's heart, O Arjuna, and is directing the **wanderings of all living entities, who are seated as on a machine, made of the material energy.**

How to learn Jyotish

Originally...

Jyotish was originally taught from a teacher to a disciple according to the ancient Indian ways, or Vedic ways, of what we call Guru-Sisya Sampradaya, or Teacher-Disciple Succession. This means that a disciple would approach a Guru, wanting to learn the science of which the Guru is a known master, and ask for acceptance as a disciple. The Guru would then examine the disciple, according to their qualifications, sincerity, their astrology, appearance, manerisms, family background, and other factors, and the disciple would similarly examine the Guru. If the match and qualifications were correct on both sides, a relationship of Teacher-Student would begin on an appropriate date.

Part of being a Guru is being a Brahmin, and part of being a disciple is humility and submission. The Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra (the cornerstone scripture of Jyotish) agrees with statements made in the great Spiritual Vedic Scriptures that only those students who believe in God, are humble to the Guru, and who are clean in heart and mind and action are qualified to learn the Science of Jyotish.

Math, Mechanics, Books and Software

Around 5,000 years ago, knowing that Kali Yuga (the current great Vedic age, considered to be rather unfortunate overall) was about to commence, Srila Vyasadeva and other classical forefathers of all things Vedic surrendered to

the need for written books, and so they put down the descended, revealed Spiritual Truths and Vedic Sciences of Life into books in the superior Sanskrit language. Parasara Muni, is "the father of Vedic Astrology" only because he wrote down the revealed science of Jyotish, or spoke it out to disciples who wrote it down. The Sage Himself says in the beginning of His work that He is simply repeating knowledge previously handed down from God to Brahma, the father or creator of everything in this realm. That is the Vedic way- to "re-present" or "again give" that which was given to you, without change or modification. Such reference to "transparent representation" is made in all Vedic Scriptures and is always expected from all teachers of things Vedic.

Jyotish is formed from casting charts and other lists and diagrams according to revealed mathematical formulas. These things work because they are built into nature by Lord Brahma, under the training and direction of Vishnu. Lord Brahma and all the other DemiGods who emanate from Brahma are mortal, being born in and of this mutable, recycled, material nature. The lifespans of the DemiGods is far greater than ours by incomprehensible ratio. Consider simply that they live while the creation lives, in order to run it's various aspects.

The Math of Jyotish is given in the classic books in Sanskrit verse, which has for awhile been translated into English. From these books and books created from these books, modern computer programmers have created programs to do the lengthy, complicated and tedious work for the modern Jyotishi, or Vedic Astrologer.

There remains the other side of Jyotish, or the side of vijyan, or realization. Realizing the truths about the natures of the Planets, Signs and Houses of a chart for example, is not guaranteed to be available to just anybody. One must have the requisite goodness of heart, and visionary intelligence, in order to perceive the Truth behind Jyotish, which is omnipresent everywhere and always, yet so subtle as to be missed by most persons, dulled by the illusion of material life.

Books, Authors and where they lead to

Generally these days, as is the plan of the Lord, Jyotish, like most other subjects, is preserved and transmitted through the medium of books.

Books are words from a person- so the author of a book is all important. You can tell much about a person from works they author, and indeed, nobody can represent something they themselves do not have proper understanding of, or as we prefer to say in our tradition entrance into. Entrance into Vedic Sciences is not guaranteed, rather, it is granted by the controlling Gods of it's different divisions.

"It's all about who you listen to".

It is one thing to parrot off the science of Jyotish, but it is quite another to be a devotee of the origins of the Science. Vedic things are supposed to be taken only in a mood of submission and surrender to the predecessors and Their teachings regarding Brahman, Paramatma and Bhagavan, or the three levels of God. (Brahman means the impersonal, omnipresent form of the Lord in all things; Paramatma means the omnipresence of the Lord as a witness in all animate living beings; and Bhagavan refers to the personal, which is the highest, form of the Lord, where He is in His original, spiritual body as Lord Sri Vishnu and ultimately, Lord Sri Krishna)

But because Jyotish has a simple, mathematical side, along with a standard base of knowledge about the interactions of the planets and signs and so on, anyone, even those who are not properly situated by disciplic succession or surrender to God, can write books about it, or learn it and use it to some degree. Unfortunately, for those persons who are not surrendered to God via a proper Vedic path, the real promised outcome of the study of Jyotish shall not fructify. Jyotish for them becomes another tool in their lives of material attachment, fruit hunting, and anxiety.

All real devotees of the Vedic Spiritual System in this present age, whether proper Gurus or proper disciples, are vegetarian unless under the immediate threat of loss of life due to starvation. Mercifulness and compassion must be developed, and one must find a way to separate themselves from the cruelest and ugliest kinds of forbidden works which abound in our current times, the ugliest of which is animal slaughter.

It is not that the cow is Holy, that is a myth. The Vedas teach that the cow is one of the highest animal life forms, and therefore killing a cow is considered to be nearly equal to murdering a human, which is the greatest possible act of aggression. These kinds of acts, if not properly warranted in the course of real, actual, humble service of the Supreme, result in reactions in this and following lives which are highly grief-causing and unfortunate. Knowing this, the Jyotishi and all other true Veda-following persons avoid the heinous act of consuming slaughtered animal bodies like the plaque. Be vegetarian!

Practice and Application, Depth of Study

To learn Jyotish, you have to memorize some things, familiarize yourself with other things, and then apply what you've learned, and keep practicing for a long time. Plan on being unable to say much for say, oh, years, OK? It takes years to get good at Jyotish. Most persons who do readings for a living have been doing it for many years. There are some amazing cases of fast learners, and remember, it's hours per day that add up, not just years. Myself for example, I've been absorbed in Jyotish for less years than many in the

field, but how many people are involved only in Jyotish all day every day as a living lifestyle and focus?

Practice makes perfect. By studying more and more charts against the real lives and natures of the persons who own the charts, you will come to understand Jyotish in truth. It is not possible to become a Jyotishi "right away" or "quickly". That's just not possible.

Depth of Study is another issue. Some people study Jyotish very casually, like a conversational, relaxed hobby. Others are studious- keeping journals and notes, cross-referencing and ever comparing. It is of course the latter that tend to know more, but sometimes the analyzing and studious approach can indicate a nature in the Jyotishi that is rigid and only statistical. So, depth of study, or approach to the study, should best be done in a balance between the masculine and feminine, or the left and right brain.

We are after all studying the workings of the Gods, and nothing less. Jyotish is the science of all science, or the science of nature itself. Jyotish is the science of the lesson plan built into material nature. We will have to feel it, along with studying it scientifically.

Science verse Understanding, Intuition, Vision

Jyotish is a mechanical science, and through using it properly we achieve some success in understanding people and other items "that take birth", such as ideas or enterprises.

But nature is full of Jyotish, and so just by looking at things we can also "read their charts". There is therefore, other divisions of Vedic books which deal with reading faces, palms, finger prints, and omens. The truth is rippling throughout every atom of nature, and the wavelengths of the planets are found in all elemental platforms such as in light, sound, color, speed, size, and so on. All things are controlled by God, and so as the planets go, so go everything else, because the planets are the large representational nodes of the humors which are the basic building blocks of all things.

The highly advanced Spiritually Minded Jyotishi, or just "sensitive person", can see many things, through many methods. Jyotish is therefore akin to the sister mystic sciences, some of which were mentioned above. Furthermore, the other major and minor Vedic sciences share the same elements throughout. For example, it is the balance of influences in one's chart that also signifies their dosha or medical makeup in the Vedic Medical Science Ayurveda. Similarly, it is the placement of planets that also tell us what one is more aligned with as career choices, and it is from our charts that we can know whom best we shall marry, or be otherwise allied with.

Therefore, proceeding in the study of Jyotish, will gradually make one increasingly sensitive to the presence of the same basic forces throughout life and nature, and as this progresses in an individual Yogi-Jyotishi, we say that they are achieving Yoga-Jyotish or oneness with the seeing of the modes of nature.

History of Jyotish - As it is

God in Vaikuntha in Lila ever expanding

There are innumerable spiritual planets beyond this material creation and they are called *Vaikuntha* (which means "No Anxiety" and is used to refer to the perfect, eternal Spiritual Realm and the planets there, the people that live eternally on those planets, and the Vishnu level or Krishna level personally present forms of the Supreme Lord who live there also as the centers of service and love for everyone)

Because the Supreme is Himself unlimited, so also is the spiritual world in all respects unlimited and infinite. It is also ever-increasing. Because of this, new souls are created and trained through the process of living many lives in a material creation like the one we are in. We are needed to populate new sections of the Spiritual World so that we and the Lord can enjoy there altogether. As like a dream, when a life is over, and when all our lives are over, they remain only a vague memory at best, with no ability to harm our real selves. At that time, We are There.

Souls and material world

The material nature is a place where souls are raised to perfection through emotional experiences which teach us the science of inter-relating with other living entities who all our equals in one sense, yet posted in bodies of varying levels of needs and intelligence. Ultimately, what we learn here is how to interact as positive members of a collective for a central cause. This prepares us for eternal pastimes in the spiritual worlds, or Vaikuntha planets.

In short, the material world comes about out of a need to train new souls. The reason for the separation and negative experiences here is that our ultimate submission to the Supreme must feel to us like our own decision. Therefore, we have the God-given and God-designed perception of free will here. We *feel* like we have *free will*. But freedom to will does not make us controllers. It is quite obvious that we are not the real controllers of our lives

here. But, we feel as if we make our choices and we then get the results. This process leads to personal conviction and the experience of emotional growth.

Free Will and Full Predeterminism exist side by side here in this world. This you will realize if you study Jyotish. It is a divine paradox, but yet is only difficult to reconcile within ourselves so long as we remain attached to a separate and independent mood from the Supreme Lord. Once we understand the truth about *that* relationship, which we've always had, then we can feel and work with our ability to freely will, side by side with the awareness that our Sweet Lord is pulling the strings, orchestrating our gradual rise, at just such a pace that feels perfectly like ourselves, to ourselves.

Descent of Veda and Jyotish

So again at the beginning of the creative cycle of this creation, when empowering Lord Brahma with knowledge with which to create, our Dear Lord Vishnu gave the science of Jyotish to Lord Brahma.

Later, Lord Brahma passed the science along to His Sons and other Disciples, from whom it was in turn transmitted to other disciples, eventually reaching Parasara Muni, and other sages of more recent times, who wrote it down, along with the other Vedas.

This is recounted in the opening verses of the Parasara Hora Sastra, and there is no sound reason to doubt the direct understanding as it is presented in the verses.

The Vedic civilization spread its wings far and wide many thousands of years ago, and all of its sciences travelled far and wide. It is no wonder that Jyotish, or the Science of Astrology, was found present in other parts of the world in recent millenniums. These ideas have been around the world since the most ancient of times. They spring up again and again as eras of various civilizations come and go. It is our great fortune that the Sages were most safe in India, and that their writings were preserved in such a nice state over such a long expanse of time, through the ups and downs of the temporary kingdoms and invaders.

Passage through time

As books pass through time, they may be changed, added to, or made smaller. Also, Sanskrit verse is compact, expectant of expansion by the trained Guru, to the sincere disciple. Both of these factors combine to make a reality that today we are dealing with a less than perfect opportunity to learn and assimilate the information.

That being the case, still, it is also a fact that the Lord Sri Krishna has promised, in the Bhagavad Gita, that He shall never abandon His sincere devotee, who should therefore never feel abandoned or alone, and that He will reveal in the devotee's heart the truth when necessary. Therefore, if we are rightly situated in devotional service to Sri Krishna, we can be humbly expectant of help from Divine quarters to help us in areas that may otherwise be lacking due to the vitiations of the present age.

Comments on other present day opinions

As for other opinions about the History of Jyotish, I have few warm feelings for them. I have a special distaste for the idea that Jyotish was discovered or invented by farmers of the river valleys of Asia, as put forth in a recent book by another author. The popular version of Indian history, and that of the world, which is basically Darwinistic, is very distasteful to me. Persons who speak about or profit by Jyotish in any way who are not devoted to the Vedic Puranic version of History and the belief that a Benevolent Loving God is guiding the creation for a purpose, are not amongst my choice of recommended authors.

There is ample proof of coverups and unacceptable assumptions made throughout the studies that form the base of the Darwin model of biological and world history. Furthermore, for those who doubt the existence of God, what is left as the purpose of life? How do the faithless live life without confusion and pain? I personally cannot understand that, though I wish them well in all respects.

Acintya Bhedabheda Tattva

What it means

Acintya	means	Inconceivable
Bhedabheda	means	One Yet Different
Tattva	means	A Statement of Truth

“Inconceivable Simultaneous Oneness yet Separation for all things is the truth”

What it refers to

Spiritual philosophies in India each have a phrase that sums up the nature of the particular philosophy, and this is the phrase used by the followers of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, the great Vaisnava (Vishnu-worshipping) leader of 15th Century Bengal, and all of India for that matter.

As the last 2,000 years have progressed in India, different major leaders emerged each of whom added to a growing understanding of the meaning of the various Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads. These *Acaryas* or teachers formed schools of thought.

Sri Caitanya was the most recent of the great Acaryas, and His line of thought was superior to its predecessors, winning converts from leading positions of all previous schools of thought throughout India. Even though only in His teens and twenties, Sri Caitanya became the undisputable leader of Vaisnavism in India quickly and easily through debate on the meanings of the Scriptures. His sampradaya, or school of disciplic succession remains strong and growing today worldwide as one of the most powerful and focused branches of Vedic dissemination, and can be credited with all the training I've received, as well as the willpower to do what I do.

So Acintya Bhedabheda Tattva is the expression of Sri Caitanya, and it summarizes our situation as souls in this world, and forever in the hereafter.

It means that we are forever individuals, different from the other individuals around us, and yet we are all one in God, in other ways or from another angle of vision. It also means that everywhere, and in everything, we will ultimately find individuality side by side with shared reality.

For Jyotish, this is found in the fact that our oneness with God is seen in that all things about us are already set, hence one with our environment or God ultimately, and on the other hand we feel and perceive individuality or separateness from all things. These are manifestations of the Acintya Bhedabheda principle popping up wherever we look.

Implications in life

Knowing about this principle and trying to understand it in your life leads to greater detachment, which can foster more peace internally. In order to progress in achieving Love for God, we have to reconcile between these two realities constantly because on the one hand we are understanding many things to be caused by God's plan, yet on the other hand we are understanding other things to be caused by our choices. Both are true always, and the harmonization of them in us and the choices of thought and action that we end up actually doing are dependent upon the interplay of these factors inside us at all times.

Perfect mix with Jyotish

In order to properly study, apply, use and understand Jyotish, one must be familiar with the paradox of Bhedabhed. In fact, the connection runs the other way too, and we can correctly say that through the study of Jyotish one will ultimately understand the Oneness yet Difference reality.

These two do not conflict, but are instead complimentary. Also, the person in the correct understanding of these two does not cease action, or suffer any material loss of motivation. It is not a fact that right understanding leads to lethargy. Right understanding leads to an enlightened mood in life while performing all the duties of life. The external does not need to change much for this understanding to flourish inside.

Free will remains

And free will remains even within the person with this understanding. No matter what we believe, the feeling of being an individual, and the feeling of making willfull choices in life will forever remain. But if one simultaneously cultivates the conception of being in the loving hands of the Supreme at all times, on a predefined path of elevation, then the statement of Krishna in the Gita that *“even at the time of death the real Yogi is not afraid or bewildered”* becomes believable, or possible.

Maya and mahamaya

Believing in this life as real is called **Maya**, or **Illusion**. This trickery is called such because there is another simultaneous reality which we are also a part of which is much larger, greater, and encompasses this reality, which is a subset of the greater. But, the Lord has put us in this maya or state of illusion, for certain reasons.

When a soul advances on the Lord’s taught path as given mainly in the Bhagavad Gita and Srimad Bhagavat Purana, then their understanding of the omnipresence of God in all things becomes accute. At that time, the veil of maya is lifted to a great degree.

There is a greater maya, called **MahaMaya**, which is a similar veil but which serves the purpose of making it possible for those who truly know God correctly, to kind of “forget what they know about Him” so that they can have loving relationships with Him in Vaikuntha.

The point is, there is always Maya, wherever you go, either low grade maya, like here, or high grade maya, as in Vaikuntha.

So, Jyotish kindof “blows away” the maya here. We see things in people’s charts, which they don’t want and don’t expect, and then those things come true. It’s a fact. The illusion is blown by real Jyotish.

And yet we have to go on making our choices and living our lives until they end. And so it shall be forever it seems, that we will always be progressing and learning, and learning to love, and to accept, to not be the center, and yet to serve the center.

Our lives of one hundred years, as seen from the viewpoint of thousands of years, as seen from the viewpoint in space where the Earth is an insignificant spec, seem like small flashes of bacteria on an insignificant piece of dirt floating in space. How small we are. Yet we are very important to ourselves. This is *bhedabheda* manifesting again. Life, that’s us, is one with God. But this life, as specs on a piece of dust, that seems awfully small and separate. Can you balance it and remain positive in devotional service to the center?

This is **acintya bhedabheda tattva**- the ever presence of the Lord in our lives of seeming choice and individuality.

Intro to Chart, Dashas, Readings, and “Other Stuff”

What are charts

Astrology mainly utilizes a chart of the planet’s positions at the time of the birth. The chart of the planetary positions in the signs of the zodiac, rotated so that the sign rising on the East at that moment is the *First House* and all the other signs of the Zodiac following in their order as the successive of the 12 houses, is the *Rashi Chart*. Rashi, also spelled simply “Rasi”, means *sign*. So, the Rashi Chart, also called the Rasi Chakra and Rasi Kundali, is the chart of the planets in their signs at the time of the birth.

There are other charts used in Jyotish. But, all charts have 12 divisions called the houses, each of which holds one of the signs of the Zodiac. Hence we say the 2nd house is Gemini, or Aquarius is in the 10th house. We are always expressing the houses by their number and sign as both are significant as you’ll see.

The planets are rotating around the Sun in different orbits and at different speeds. Hence, they are always moving. At the time of a birth, they are in certain signs as viewed from the Earth, and those are the signs we draw them in within the chart for that person.

The Zodiac and Stars

The Zodiac is a band of stars that surround us on all sides. A circle is considered to be made of 360 degrees, so also we refer to the zodiac in terms of 360 degrees as a large circle in space around our solar system. The Zodiac is comprised of 12 major divisions of stars, which are the constellations you've heard the names of so often: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces.

Signs are 12 in number, and therefore each occupies 30 degrees of the circle around us, and 12 times 30 equals 360 degrees total. All the planets orbit more or less in line with us on a plane of space for which the zodiac is the outer wheel. Hence, looking from Earth to each of the planets we see a sign of the zodiac *behind* that planet, and that is the sign we say the planet is "in" right now.

Each of the 12 constellations has a few special stars as key points in its makeup. There are 27 special stars in Vedic Astrology called *The Nakshatras*. The term Nakshatra can be taken to mean star, though some of the 27 Nakshatras are clusters of stars in actuality. The Moon just so happens to move through these 27 stars at the rate of roughly one per day, making the roughly 27 day lunar orbit. In the same way that each planet is in a sign as viewed from the Earth, similarly each planet is "backed up" by a Nakshatra that rules the zone of space the planet is currently moving through.

Because they are 27 in number comprising the entire 360 degree Zodiac, the stars therefore rule 13 degrees, and 20 minutes each, which when multiplied out you'll find totals 360 degrees again. Each degree, by the way, is made up of 60 "minutes" and each such minute is made up of 60 "seconds" of the Zodiac. This system of degrees-minutes-seconds is used these days as the calculations have become more exact through modern astronomy.

The Nakshatras, or 27 stars, are like signs too- in that they have personalities as zones of space to color planets that fall within their 13 deg. 20 min. domain of influence. The Nakshatras are used extensively in Vedic Astrology as you will see.

East verse West

Their are mainly two systems of astrology presently being used and spread in the Western countries. These are Western or Tropical Astrology and Vedic

which is Sidereal astrology. Western Astrology uses the Tropical Zodiac, whereas Vedic Astrology uses the Sidereal Zodiac.

These two systems used the same sign names, but the difference lies in the fact that, due to the Earth's gradually increasing tilt on its axis, the Equinoxes no longer coincide with the starting points on the usual signs, so those who judge the starting point of the Zodiac by the Sun's Spring Equinox, namely the Western Astrologers, no longer judge planetary positions by the background of the stars, but rather by the Sun's relative relationship with the Earth.

In plainer words, the Western Zodiac and the Sidereal or Eastern Zodiac are in disagreement at the current time by a whopping 23 degrees. When they say a planet is in Aries, we usually say it is in Pisces, and so on, because 23 degrees is almost one whole sign difference. So, get ready, if you've been used to judging your Sun sign by Western standards, you may soon find you are actually the last sign backwards in Zodiac order! And that goes for all your Western-calculated planets, rising sign, etc.

Which is right? That's what everybody asks. Well, my personal experience is that both have some validity, because reading planetary patterns by itself yields significant results. The Western Zodiac has more to do with the natural phenomena of our immediate world, like the seasons, whereas the Vedic Zodiac has more to do with the greater picture of the Universe, which yields better results I think because it is more closely tied to absolute controls rather than relative considerations. Vedic is often said to be "more predictive" as it does surpass Western astrology in this area. Personally I feel it is also better at psychology, which is often claimed to be the privileged area for Western Astrology.

In any case, Vedic Astrology works very well, better than Tropical Astrology many of us feel. Some of us just kind of intuitively feel that something coming from India, preserved by that knowledge-proud-and-protective culture of India, and blessed by its rich spiritual heritage with ample links thereto, is simply going to come out the gate superior to a similar practice which seems to hail more from Western soils, more rich therefore with empiricism than revelation. As far as I've seen we have not been disappointed.

What dashas are and how they're used

Dashas are an important part of Jyotish. They are basically timelines of dates that span and cover each and every day of your life. Dashas are a dated listing of often changing "periods" which are governed by the planets in stacks of up to say reasonably, three at a time, such that you are said to be, for example, in the period of Jupiter-Saturn-Moon, or say Sun-Mercury-Saturn. They mix up

in succession in a planned and fixed order, but the lengths of time each keeps control varies according to lengths set in scripture.

So don't think right now about how the dateline of periods is created, but understand this: The Dashas Work. One of the most amazing things that happens to you when you first begin to study Jyotish is finding out that YES, the significant events of your life make sense as you first begin to see the Dashas you were running at each and every main event time. You will see the reality of the Dashas, and you will be stunned. This happens to most people who contact Jyotish through their own study or through a reading with a really good Jyotishi.

Dashas are the main tool which, when added to the basic charts of Jyotish, give it it's predictive edge that is lacking in Western Astrology. Dashas are easy to calculate from scratch, but it's even easier to let a computer do it for you. Learning how to predict from the dashas is something we'll work on later.

The books of readings and yogas

In order to learn what a planet will do in a certain sign, and in a certain house of the chart or horoscope, we first learn from the old books of readings that come from authors that lived long ago in India, and the updated versions of those same ideas in the books of modern authors.

There are many old and new "books of readings" that are written specifically for Jyotish. Reading them to gain an idea of what the various placements in a chart can cause is essential. Thereafter, it is essential to see if those readings come true in the lives of persons whom you both know and have charts calculated for. I have done this a lot, and I can tell you that many do come true as stated in the books, but that many do not, mainly, I've learned, because the influences blend with other placements and opposite influences in the same chart.

But nevertheless, the classical statements about the planets in the signs and houses are the basis upon which everything is happening. The classical understanding of the planets, signs and house significations and combinations is a baseline reality that is coming down to us to learn from, and not to reject. These ideas need translation into modern time, place and circumstance, but translation is fine, because it represents a people connecting to unchanging concepts using their own reference and reality. The fact is, the influences are the same, but the oxen is now a Toyota, for example.

Indians have a tradition of stressing points more strongly than we do in the West. Therefore, many verses may say something like "this reading never

fails". Well, it can fail, usually, in some chart. So, knowing this about the culture of their speaking, tune your gullability accordingly.

Jyotish is never as easy as applying some rules you read in a book. It is an organic living culture which is challenged at each new chart. To actually be able to know about someone or the future events in a life from some dry mathematical charts and lists is a tall order. We get very exact at times with Jyotish, but application of just one rule is not how it's done. By learning many things and blending them with experience over much time, the Jyotishi sharpens their abilities and vision.

Planets

Introduction

Large moving bodies in our area

The planets are the largest things around. Besides them, in our whole big multi million mile expanse of space there is nothing. It's just the planets here, and we're on one of them. We are stuck on the surface of the Earth, which is just a small ball in a huge expanse of space, and we're rotating around on the surface, trying desperately to hold onto our lives by constant work, struggle and all in futility, as we all die.

So, we're on one ball, but there's a number of other balls, and they're all whirling around in a circle around one bright star. They are balls in a system of balls, a group of balls, and within a certain space surrounded by the Zodiac. So, we're very small players- dependent players- in a larger system.

Small items within a larger framework are dependent on the larger framework as it's parts- where it goes, they go.

For example, a chip in my computer is burned if I burn my computer, it goes downtown if I take my computer downtown, and it was bought when I bought my computer.

As their patterns, so all smaller dependent entities and natures

Similarly, as things go in this universe, so it goes for us. We are dependent. The planets are splintered up parts of a greater whole. They each are representatives of different parts of a natural whole system. Their gravity

pulls on each other- for example every one knows that the Moon affects the tides. Well, guess what, it also affects the water inside us making our water-influenced emotions rise and fall with it's 27 day cycle around the Zodiac.

You were born on one of the spinning balls. The influences of all the parts of the Universe led to your appearance. You, like me, are totally dependent on the nature we live in for your life- if the Sun stopped shining you and I would die, period. We are dependent on many things we cannot see.

The planets are the signifiers of the unfoldment of all things in the Universe- reading their dance is to read the plan of unfoldment of all things- the plan of God, the Light of God, or Jyotish.

Veda doesn't use the outers

The Vedic Astrological system doesn't use the three outer planets Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. These are mentioned in some old books I'm told, but that's not important. I believe these planets may have effects- I believe that just because they exist they are certainly meaningful and probably have a God personality behind them as the other planets do, but since the Sages don't talk about them we don't use them. It's that simple.

As dictators of most natural patterns such as music, color, cycles, natural phenomena

The planets we do use, Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu, have colors they rule, as well as notes, sounds, metals, elements, and more. You see, the wavelengths of the planets, again, because they are the biggest and significant objects in the Universe and are affecting our world entirely, are to be found in all things.

For example, Mars rules Red, and Mars rules all Martial activities such as war and police work. Isn't it funny that Red is always used in the kind of urgent areas of work where Mars people are often found- Red Cross, Blood Red, Red Fire Trucks, Red Flashing Lights, Red Hats, Red Stop Signs, Red Circle with a line through it. So the stone of Mars is Red Corral.

Once you learn Jyotish you will know the planets by all of these kinds of things as well. You will see the planets in colors, in people's faces, in the way they dress, in the sound of music, in the pace of a city, in the mood of a handshake- everywhere. Evernthing is working under the strict control of the modes of material nature- that means astrology- or more specifically, the unfolding Universal seasons based on the Universal clock.

About motion-speed-stations-retrogrades.

The planets rotate at fairly steady speeds and each on their own orbit band so that they don't collide, and in this way, with the Sun in the center they are rotating around and around, year after year. In fact, what is our year, but the time it takes for our ball to go around the Sun one time. See, astrology is the basis of the calendar that is running your life already!

In astrology, the speed a planet is travelling relative to our planet affects how strongly it acts in a persons life. A planet is like a strong beam of light in your chart. The beam, if held still on one point, can ignite a fire. But if we just run the beam of light quickly across the dry leaves, nothing happens. It is exposure over time that allows a strong beam of light to begin to burn the object on which it focuses.

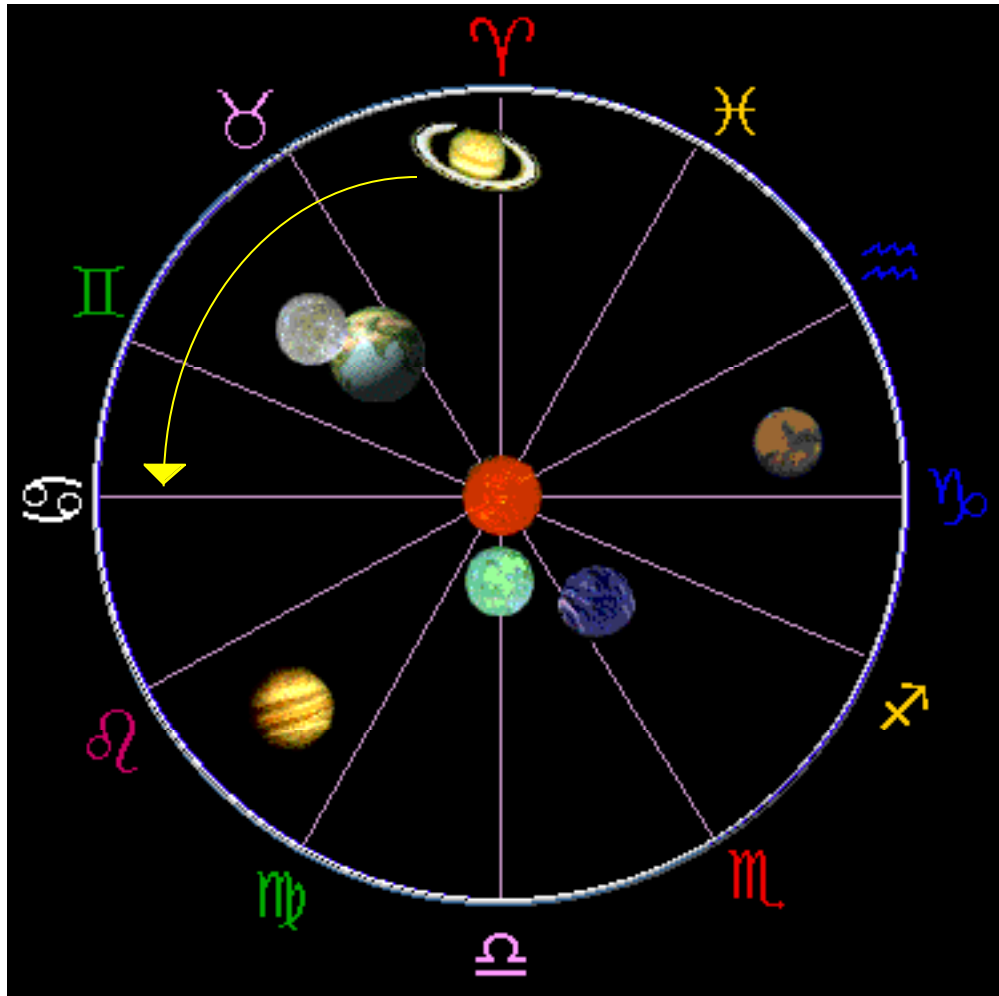
So when planets are either moving slowly in relation to us or standing still in space, then their effects are heightened in the chart.

Yes, planets seem to slow down, stand still, then proceed backwards, then again stop, turn around and go forwards again. This is because of the law of retrograde motion.

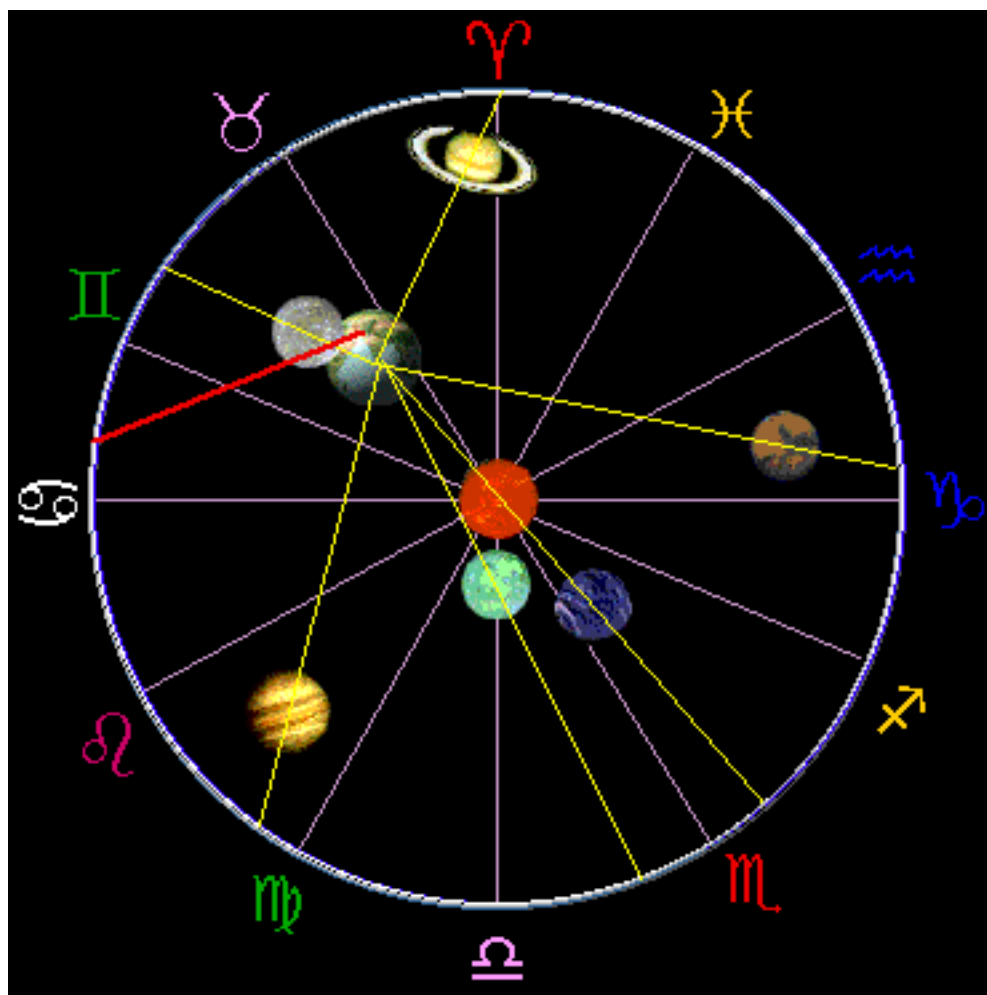
The Planetary Movements

A Jyotishi must have a good idea of how the planets move. I am going to briefly explain the basics to you.

In the picture below, notice Aries is at the top, Taurus is the pink "bulls head" at about 11 O'clock, and Gemini is the 2 green Pillars at about 10 O'clock and so on. Those are the signs. They are in space. They are the constellations of the Zodiac. The Sun is in the Center, and the other planets are rotating counter clockwise as in the arrows coming off of Saturn. This is all physical fact- this is astronomy, no voodoo here.



Now, pinpoint the Earth in the above picture. Now draw a line in your mind from the Earth to all the other planets, each one directly, then continue each of those lines through the planets and on to the zodiac sign behind them. You will end up with a drawing as under:



Notice the yellow lines now coming from the Earth through each planet, and onto the signs behind each planet. So, when we speak of the signs the planets are in, we are speaking "Geocentricly", which means "Earth as the viewing center". Notice the red line coming from the Earth over near to the Cancer symbol- this is my representation to talk about "The Ascendent", which is also fine to call "The Lagna" or "The rising sign". Looking directly East from the place of a birth, we will see (or not see if it's daylight out) a certain sign rising - one of the signs of the zodiac is ALWAYS rising on the Eastern Horizon from EVERY point on Earth at ALL TIMES. Trust me on that.

So, what sign was rising at the moment of a birth becomes the degree point of the ascendent, and the sign involved takes over as the First House of the chart. So, the above chart has something like 25 degrees Gemini rising because that's where my red ascendent line is touching. Then notice that the line through the Moon ends up at around 20 degrees Taurus, and see all the others. Here's how the chart would be drawn Vedic:



This is the Geocentric, or Earth Centered drawing of the planets at the same moment as the previous Sun Centered Universal drawing. Notice we are placing the planets in the signs as they appear from Earth, not the Sun. Astrology is about the effects the planets are “beaming at us”, not at the Sun.

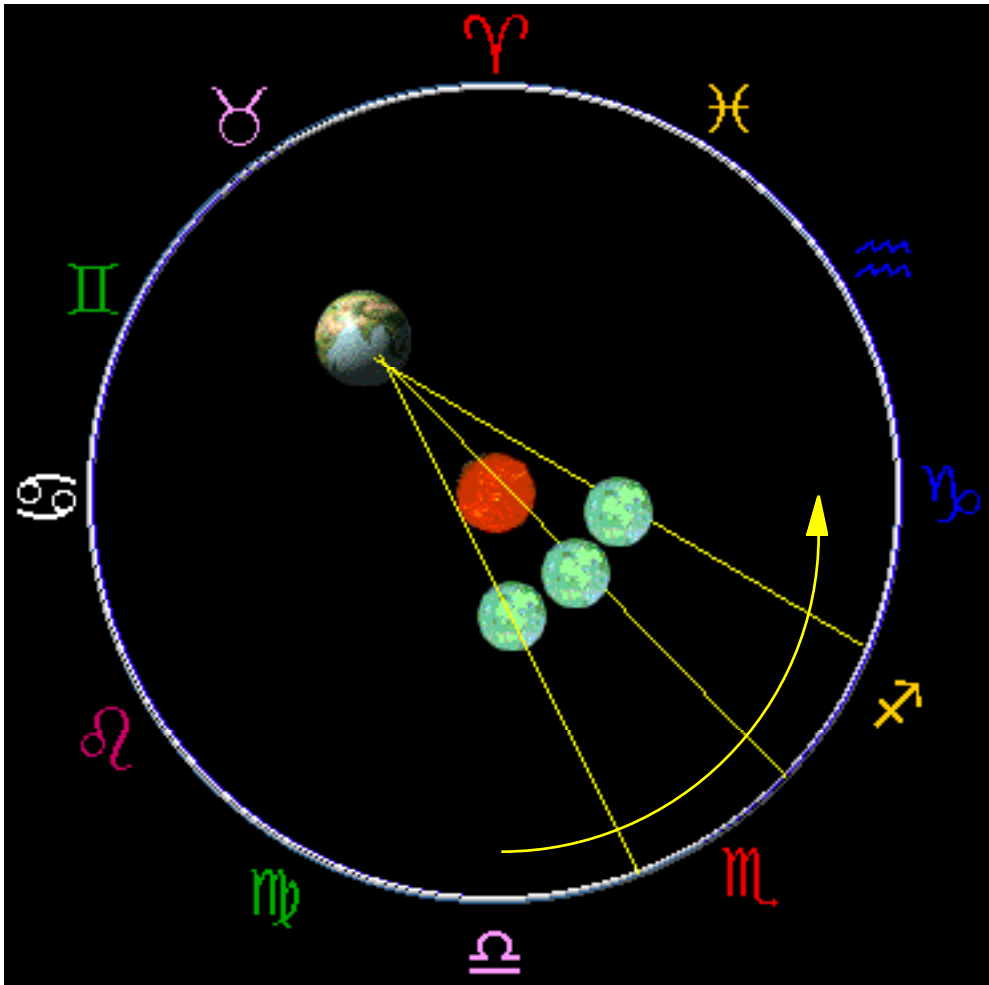
The reason Gemini is rising is because it WAS rising on the Eastern Horizon in our Hypothetical chart previously shown.

The signs of the Zodiac are ALWAYS in the same order. The stars don’t swim around at all. They stay in the same places. Only the planets travel around. So, once you establish the rising sign, the rest of the signs just follow around in order filling the remaining 12 spaces or houses in the chart.

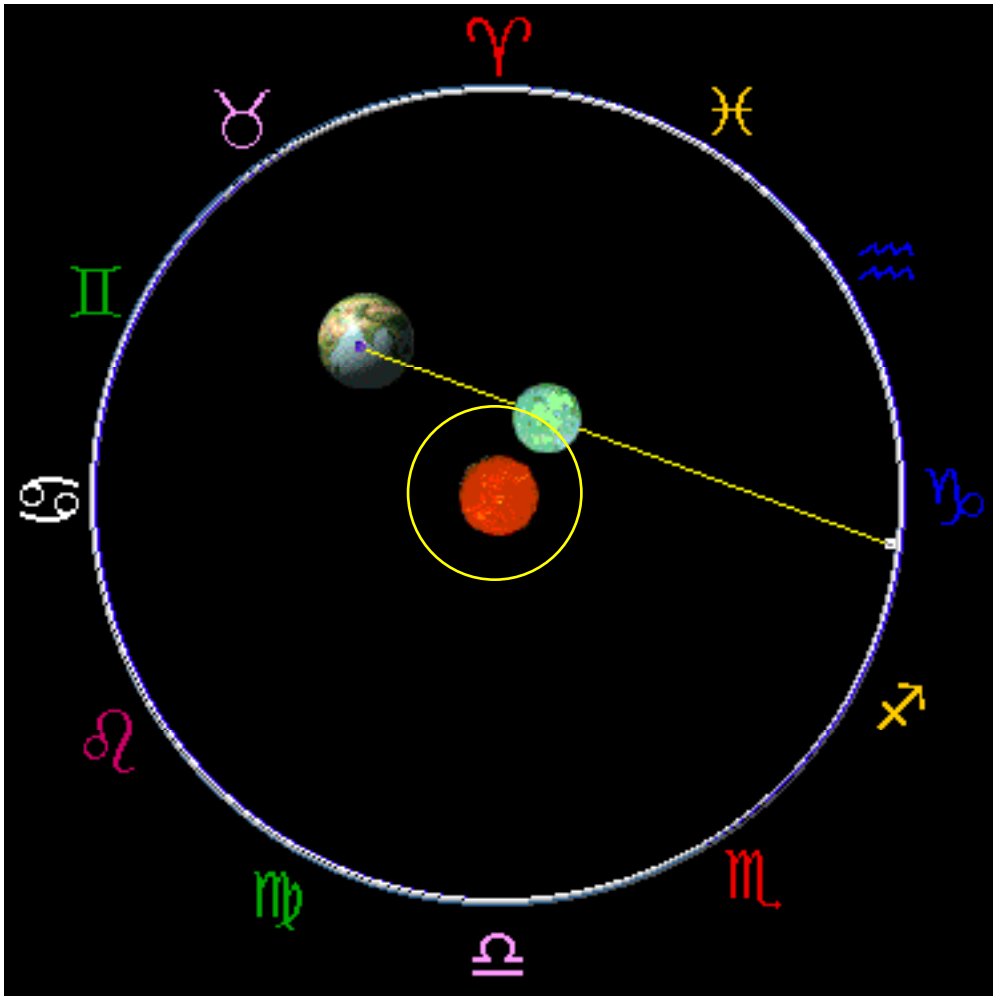
In Jyotish, there are 12 houses because there are 12 signs. The houses and signs are synonymous. Whichever one is rising is the first house. It doesn’t matter how much of that sign is rising- whether the first part or the last part has already come- whatever- that sign becomes our rising sign or the first house. The rest of the signs just fill in using their natural order.

The apparition of Stations and Retrograde

Consider the drawing below. As Mercury moves along on the other side of the Sun, notice that the points in the background Signs that it hits or points to are moving forward from Scorpio to Sagittarius.



Now when Mercury comes up alongside the Sun and is soon going to be coming between the Sun and Earth, there is a point where for a short time, to it's cresting on the edge of it's orbit in relation to us, it appears to stand still when we judge by looking at the sign behind it. This is called "Stationary". It happens at about the point shown below:



At this point, what really happens is this: The energy from the sign behind the planets is focused by the planets onto us much like a prism would do if angled just right. The planets are reflector points, and the Zodiac signs give off certain types of rays or influences. This is what's *always* going on.

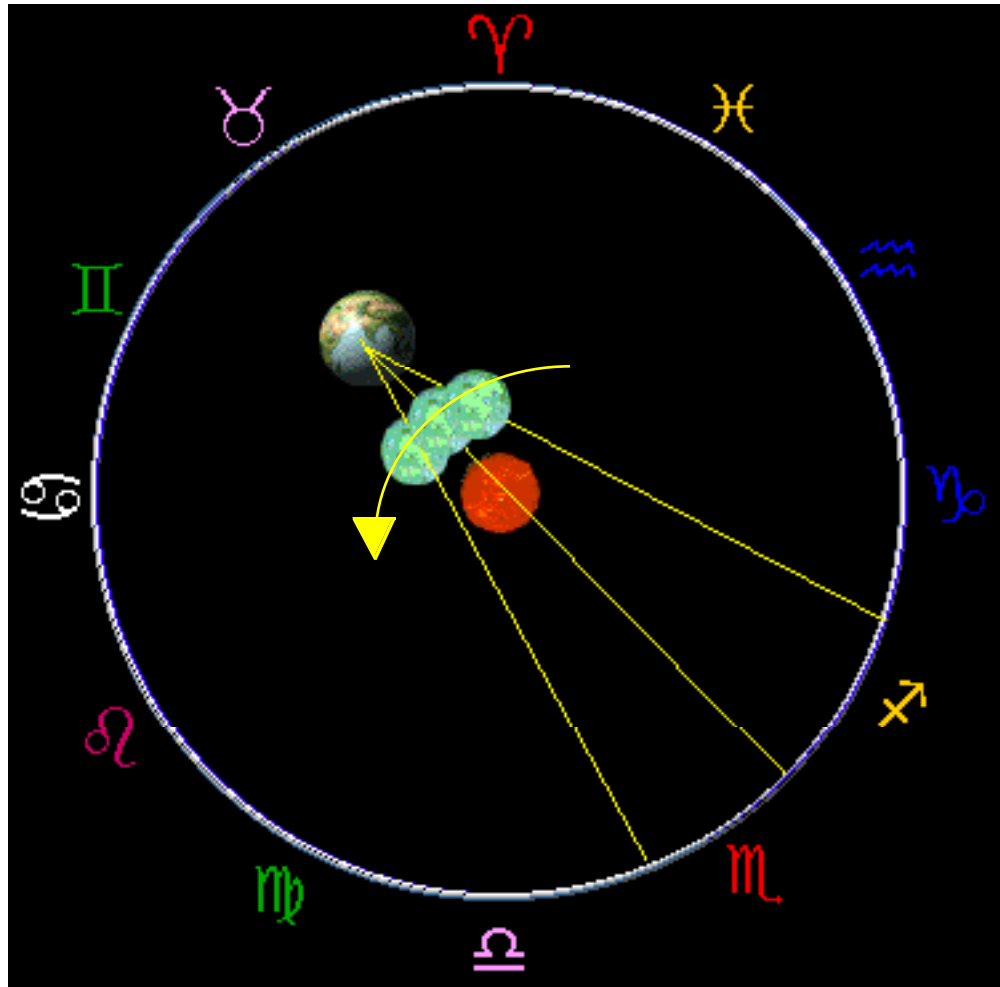
But what's happening special at the time of a planets "station" (that's when it *appears* to standstill against the Zodiac backdrop) is that we are getting an *extra long dose time* of just *one spot in a sign* being focused through that planet at us.

In the above drawing, the spot of about 27 degrees Sagittarius is being focused through Mercury upon the Earth. We would say, in astro-jargon, that "Mercury is Stationary Retrograde at 27 degrees Sagittarius".

Retrograde verse Direct

The planets are actually never turning around. They just appear to be. After "stationing" as in the above drawing, Mercury comes up between the Sun and

Earth and *appears* to be moving backwards if we just judge from the sign “behind” Mercury. See this in the drawing below:



Notice that as the days roll by and Mercury is aborting just normally around the Sun as it always does, it *appears* to be moving backwards when we judge by the sign and sign part that appears *behind* Mercury as viewed from our viewpoint here on Earth.

Now if you think about the other planets, those circling inside our orbit such as Mercury and Venus and those outside our orbit such as Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, you’ll find that they all do this. The Sun and Moon never go retrograde in relation to us.

In Jyotish, a retrograde planet is strong generally, although retrogression is also sometimes causing “exact opposites” as it represents travel direction opposite to the norm. Generally however, retrogression, which appears in charts very frequently, serves to make planets stronger. A planet that was stationary on or around the day of birth is very prominent or powerful to do

whatever the chart says it will do, and if a planet was recently stationary and at the time of birth is just starting to move again, same thing, very strong. This is just one point of Jyotish. I'm not trying to over stress it- I was just covering the movements of the planets so that these physical realities will have some home in your brain as you proceed to talk about them in Jyotish.

The Planets Themselves

The Lagna

When you go to a play at the Theatre, the players enter the stage from the left (maybe). So you have your eyes glued to the left side of the stage, just waiting to see who will come on the stage.

So it is with the rising Sign. If you watch the Eastern Horizon, and if you could see the Zodiac behind that Horizon, you would find that the constellations, or Signs of the Zodiac are rising there at the rate of one sign roughly ever two hours. Wow!

These big huge 30 degree (1/12th) sections of the circle of space that surrounds us at all times are rising one after the other all day long. You know, the reason the Sun rises and sets each day is because the Earth is turning. So, as the Sun rises, so do the Signs of the Zodiac, also because of the turning of the Earth.

At any given moment, if you look East, the Sign rising is the "Rising Sign" or "Ascendent" or "Lagna". These all mean the same thing. And just like with the planets, it is the exact degrees-minutes-and seconds that we are interested in with the Lagna, so we might say someone has "29 degrees Sag. rising". So, we are interested in the exact angle, as usual. You'll see why later- it has to do with the all sub-divisions of the signs mostly.

The Lagna is very important. It is the body and overall life. Afflictions to the Lagna are significant. It is the starting point of the chart. The Lagna is the first house, and sets up the chart. Without the Lagna we don't have a chart. It's not optional. The Lagna is based on the place you were born, as well as the time. If you are born in New York at a certain time, and you look East, you see the Lagna. But someone born in New Delhi at that exact same moment would see a different Lagna because the Earth is a ball, and looking East from any point on the surface of that ball is going to produce a different spot in the great circular Zodiac that surrounds us.

The significance of the rising sign is that it determines the overall nature of one's body. The lagna has most to do with the body, then the overall life in general. So, if a lagna is a materially good sign, and the lagna or first house is affected by materially helpful planets, then the overall life will be smoother and the person will be healthy and good looking. The opposite influences will produce the opposite results.

I've covered the Lagna here in the list of planets because it functions a lot like a planet as a very important point in the chart.

The Sun

The Sun is the center of the Solar System of planets used in Vedic Astrology. Therefore the Sun rules all types of Central things such as the central government, the centrally powerful person in an organization, and so forth. In ourselves, the Sun rules our center, which is our soul.

The Sun is the source of light for all other planets and beings, so the Sun rules in astrology our center of energy. As the source of energy in the Universe, so from the Sun's placement in our charts we judge our level of energy.

The Sun God is father to great Kings in ancient Vedic history. In a chart, a strongly placed Sun gives the ability to lead and be forceful. As we cannot live without the power of the Sun, so it goes in life that nothing can live without the power of the Sun. If one person has a very strong Sun in their chart, they will have a hard time subordinating to those who do not. People with strong Suns therefore tend to surface as leaders by their own force.

The Sun owns the Sign of Leo. Leo is therefore invested with the powers of the Sun. Since the King, or the Sun, is independent, makes the laws, and is therefore in many ways above the law, we find independence and leadership qualities of Leo. Planets placed in Leo take on this nature- that of independence and leadership or force of will. The way of a Lion, the symbol of Leo, is that of "either dominate it, or walk away". A lion either dominates something, or walks away. Lions do not surrender to anything, therefore they are "the king of the jungle".

The Sun is called a "malefic" planet in Jyotish. Malefic means "negative" or "dangerous". Why is it that the central planet, the one that represents the soul, is considered as "bad". This is because the soul does not, in one sense, belong here. The soul is ultimately meant to be in the spiritual world, and one with other beings in service to the center. But here, the soul is overcome by the feeling of separateness and independence, and hence is a "malefic" entity in itself. The law here is that one living being lives at the expense of

another. Our very presence here as souls has a malefic effect on other living beings always. We are here to learn by carrying out our personal, somewhat selfish, campaigns of self-serving continuation of our lives. Our presence here puts us in contact with elements which give us pain. So, the Sun, or the soul, is in a somewhat negative position so long as we are here, unliberated, in this material world.

The ego is a malefic, because it is generally separate from God. We feel like we are somebody, but that somebody is a nothing. We are humble slaves of God, but we often feel like something else. That is false ego or *ahankara*. In Sanskrit *hankara* means *ego*, but putting an “a” before any Sanskrit word means the opposite. So *hankara* means *ego*, and *ahankara* means the non-ego, or un-real ego, *the false ego*.

In many Sanskrit devotional songs and poems the word *ahankara* is used. This word is a favorite of the Saints of Ancient Times, because they liked to be able to sum up the illusioned ego of a person in this world in one easy word. That’s their word- *ahankara*, and it is ruled by the Sun in Jyotish.

The Sun’s position in our chart represents where our false ego will most manifest. The position of the Sun in our chart represents an area of life we will have to reckon with, in order to clear ourselves of attachment in preparation for liberation from bondage and suffering. Liberation to the Spiritual World is something to want and long for. But, our attachments and longings here will keep us here. We have to become humble. The Sun promotes non-humility or *pride*. Pride is the enemy of the Spiritualist. So, the Sun, though it is our pivot point for being here in this life, it is nevertheless attaching us as well. Saturn, the Sun’s enemy and opposite in many ways, rules humility.

In Jyotish the Sun rules central things, powerful things, things which have force of character, things which are essential or pivotal, as well as overbearing things, and things which can burn and dominate. The Sun may be called a Malefic by Vedic Sages, but most Westerners would call it a great benefic because Westerners by background are aggressive, and supportive of a strong ego in the individual. So keep in mind the Sun is considered a malefic mostly for reasons which are not understood, nor attractive to, the Western mind prior to it’s infusion with Vedic Style Spiritual Philosophy.

The Moon

The Moon is close to us, and reflects the light of the Sun. The Moon is the most visible planet of all, to us here on Earth, because we can look at it so easily. It neither burns our eyes, nor hides in the deep darkness of space, like the others. Rather, the Moon is up close and personal, showing Herself fully

to us. The Moon is indeed very dear, close, friendly. It's light is very nice and pleasing. Her full bodily lustre each month is a rising sight to see.

The Moon is the most prominent reflection of the central light of the Sun. Therefore, the Moon rules the most obvious reflection of our soul to the seeing world, and that is our mind or selves as conscious beings. It is not so much our body, or our skin, or our hair, that makes us who we are as people, so much as do our minds. And not our knowledge, but rather, our emotional mental selves. Our attitude- how we "take life" or "interact with life" on an emotional level, that is the most important and influential aspect of ourselves which reflects to others.

The Moon rules the mind, the emotions, nursing, nurturing, mothering and the overall self. An afflicted Moon greatly shapes the personality in the direction of the affliction, whether it be harshness of character, sadness of mind, or an angry and aggressive nature. Similarly, benefic influences upon the Moon in a chart, or a well placed Moon we could also say, bestows the reflections of helpfulness, peace of mind, cleanliness all around, and so forth.

The Moon is "the other lagna", which means that as we normally take the rising sign as the first house, so also we can take the Moon Sign as the first house and read the chart of the person that way too. This is a very important principal in Jyotish, and we will cover this technique more later.

For now, understand this- the Moon is the Most Important planet in Vedic Astrology because it holds this special post of being as sensitive as the ascendent. Afflictions to these two, the Ascendent (*lagna*) and the Moon, are very strong shapers of both character and events. Your body, your health, your mind and gifts from birth are all dictated in greatest measure by these two. So just appreciate that the Moon is one of two very main points in a chart to examine correctly and carefully.

Mars

Mars is the Ksatriya of the Gods, meaning the warrior. Mars rules aggression, weapons, enforcement of law, emergencies, urgencies, weapons, energy, suddenness, rashness, anger, the color Red, and related items and matters.

The Sun is the King, and Mars is the Kings Commander of Armed Forces. Mars is ever beholdent to the will of the Sun. The General enforces the orders of the King, so Mars is always ready to be pushy on behalf of the King. Soldiers are usually fighting either for a cause, or for a government. This is because soldiers, even modern US Marines for example, derive their natures personally and collectively from the planet Mars, the "God of War". Soldiers usually have a strong Mars in their charts.

There are points in all of us when we apply our energy and quickness, usually to prevent a disaster, or to save a situation. For example, we move quickly to catch a falling glass object. Mars likes to protect- we race to save a child from running into the street. If somebody is hurt, we hurry to the scene. Mars people are often involved in causing bleeding with their weapons or stopping bleeding with their medical equipment. The gun of the soldier kills some and saves others. It's good to be on the right side of a person under the influence of Mars.

The Sun is the King, and Mars his Military General, and Jupiter his Guru or Advising Minister of the Court. These three planets- Sun, Mars and Jupiter are all very masculine and each other's friends. Together they are the "fire trine" of planets because they each rule one of the fire signs of Aries, Leo and Sagittarius, and they are always working well together.

If a person has a good Mars energy in their chart, then they are into enforcing rules, good at following orders, have plenty of energy, are quick when it's needed, and are usually also terrible when crossed. A weak Mars makes one easily tired, jittery, easily angered, reactive.

Mars and Venus are the two planets whose orbits surround the Earth's on each side. Venus orbits just inside our orbit whereas Mars is the next planet outside our orbit. Venus rules all things desirable and Mars rules aggressive action. Venus represents the feminine and Mars the masculine. These two surround the Earth, sandwiched in the middle of the passionate attraction these two have for each other, so to speak. The intense passions caused by these two have most people on Earth within their grip. In Sanskrit terminology, most people are in the Maya (illusion) of Lust and Passion.

Mercury

Mercury is the Prince of the Court. He is going to be the King someday, and His father is the King, or the Sun, but for now Mercury is just a boy. Since this boy is the Son of the King, he is given tons of respect, and the King uses him (Mercury) as a minister gofer- run here and negotiate this deal, then run over there and carry this message, then go do your studies, then just hang out with me- this is how the King talks to this boy.

Mercury is youthful and causes youthfulness or immaturity in the chart in the house it resides. Mercury is the negotiator, so it rules in us the ability to be diplomats, negotiators, deal-makers, or good liars. Mercury rules all types of communications, spoken and written. A good Mercury in a chart makes for careers where speaking, studying, thinking, writing and other scholarly thinking related matters are necessary. A bad Mercury can work towards making a person dumb or odd in mental workings.

Mercury, being youthful, is not mature nor convinced about anything for certain. He is truly a gullable boy, so, he is easily influenced by other planets. Any planet with Mercury will influence him. So Mercury is called “mutable” or “changeable”. This reflects in the chart very much. Mercury always stands for the thinking capacity in a person, which in Sanskrit would be called your “Budhi” or “intelligence”. Mercury’s Sanskrit name is therefore “Budha”, which also means “the intelligence”.

An important point about each of us is our level of intelligence. This is partially judged from Mercury (as well as Jupiter and other things). The intelligence is influenced by learning, surroundings, family background, and so in the chart we will see all these things influencing the highly influencable Mercury.

Mercury is sensitive, because it rules a very important part of us- our intelligence. If your intelligence is low, there’s not much anybody can do to help you have a better life. A fool is a fool, and there’s no point in giving a fool alot of opportunities. This is a cold, hard fact. When you empower a fool, the only thing that happens is more trouble for everyone.

So Mercury is a very important point in a chart, much like the Moon, the Lagna, and the Sun. In fact, when quickly looking at a chart, one should first see the influences on these, the Moon, Mercury, Sun and Lagna. These are very sensitive points that make up the “insides” of a person. You can call these “inner planets” because they rule our “insides”.

Jupiter

Jupiter is the “Guru of the Gods”. Jupiter is called “Guru” in Sanskrit. Guru means “heavy” because he is “heavy with knowledge”. Jupiter is also called Brihaspati (bree-haws-putt-tee). Brihaspati is the name of the Guru of all the demigods in the higher planets. He is the advisor, or teacher, of the demigods. From these designations we derive the nature of the effects of the Jupiter planet.

In a chart, the disposition and relationship of Jupiter to the chart will determine therefore how the person feels about, and deals with, all things related to higher advice and council. A good Jupiter in a chart which leans towards Jupiter in a positive way will grant good relations with Priests, Law, Higher Education, the Legal system, the Financiers of the world, and so on. Jupiter has close ties with higher law such as God’s laws, the laws of the land, and so on. Jupiter encourages righteousness when He is strong.

Jupiter is a large planet, and so rules largeness in things. Jupiter tends to expand things. Wherever He sits and wherever He aspects in a chart will tend to grow based on Jupiters influence. For example, if Jupiter affects the

Lagna, which rules the body, then the body will tend to be large, or fatty. When a good Jupiter affects housing ruling money then the money will tend to grow. Jupiter in the second house, which rules speaking, will tend to make the person speak often, and with a tone of givine advice, one of Jupiters other natural tendencies.

Gurus and advisers are always well wishers, so Jupiter is very giving or kind, and is known as a great giver or granter of fortune. Jupiter is considered the most benefic planet, because of His nature of always wanting to give and grant benedictions. Because children are an expansion of life in many ways, as well as a gift from God, Jupiter rules children. Because Jupiter represents God through his many advices He has a tendency to be related to the ninth house, which rules God in our lives.

Jupiter is a Brahmin, which means Priest. Brahmins give advice and guidance of all types to the other members of the society, and this is Jupiters tendency- to give advice or to show the way to achieve one's objectives.

Venus

Venus is called Shukra in Sanskrit. Shukra literally means "semen", but more generally means "refined things". Venus rules over all types of refined things that are desireable such as art, music, flowers, love, beauty, etc. A well placed Venus in a chart that is well disposed towards Venus will grant to the person a life full of "the good things" such as those things mentioned above.

Venus is also a Brahmin or Priest, but of the "Rakshasha" type. Venus is called the "Asura Guru". *Sura* means "godly people" and therefore *Asura* means the "ungodly people". Venus is the Guru of the ungodly side in us. Venus gives us advice on how to achieve material success, whereas Jupiter's Braminical advice is more of the godly nature.

The Vedic way of understanding of life, and the process of elevation, is such that addiction to material gratifications are known to be often "anarthas" or "unnecessary". Too much stress is laid upon material gratifications in ungodly societies. So, Venus is loved and followed when the person or society is of the materialistic type. For Westerners, a good Venus is considered a good thing, because it helps in bringing in material wealth, sense gratifications, and all types of material fortunes. Famous, rich and beautiful people often have strong Venus, as these blessings are highly desirable to the materialistic masses, who love to worship such "achievements" in life. People in general are much more interested in the "Lives of the Rich and Famous" than they are in the "Lives of the Intelligent and Devoted".

Sukracarya (literally "the Venus Teacher") is a famous personality in the Vedas because he was present in many of the struggles between the

Rakshashas (demonic or materialistic beings) and the Devas (the “good” Gods). Brhaspati, Jupiter, was always on the side of the Gods as their Guru, and Shukracarya was always on the side of the Rakshashas as their Guru. The advices of these two Brahmins, Jupiter and Venus, are almost always opposite and oppositely motivated. Inside us, we tend to listen more to one than the other.

While Jupiter tends to give advice leading to surrender to higher principles, Venus gives advice which works for us in the here and now. Jupiter is more about dharma, or religion for higher principles, whereas Venus is more about adharma, or self serving ways. The entire Vedic principle is to surrender to the greater laws of God, whereas Venus teaches us to maximize things as they are now, for ourselves. But it is not that one is bad and one is good- it’s that priority has be established correctly. It is not wrong to have material quality in our lives, or pleasures and enjoyments, but they should not direct us and dictate our actions when higher principles of goodness are at stake.

Saturn

Saturn is known for his ring. Saturn rules restrictions- or things that surround us on all sides. All types of blocks, restrictions and obstacles are the ruling lot of Saturn. The wedding ring is related to Saturn, because it represents a restriction that prevents certain types of actions- namely, courting other spouses and therefore the ring is a symbol of a block or restriction.

Saturn is the outermost planet in the Vedic scheme of things, and so has “the last laugh”. Saturn is final, being the last one. Saturn rules all types of final things, or things which are insurmountable. Saturn is “the bottom line” in many ways. Therefore, Saturn rules Death as well as Unconquerable Time. All things decay in time, and Saturn rules this decay, or the effects of old age. Saturn is old, and low, the worker, the downtrodden, the dirty.

Saturn rules the colors blue and black, which are akin to seriousness, coldness, and finality. Things turn dark when they are dead, when the color of life has gone out. The sky is either blue or black because the distance we are looking at when we look at the sky is always insurmountable, being such a far distance. When we look across the land the trees in the distance are more “greyed out” than the closer trees, because that distance, being insurmountable, takes on the dulling effects of Saturn. If something is hazy or unclear, it is because it is “out of reach” and that is Saturn again.

When Saturn affects a house or planet in a chart, then it “shuts it down” to some degree, by means of it’s strong oppressing power. Saturn has the ability to oppress anything. When it aspects the Moon, or Mind, then the person feels the effects of Saturn in their mind, which basically leads to depression.

Saturn is large and slow, and so it rules these things. Large slow things cause a lot of pressure, and so does Saturn. When Saturn affects something, it slows it down, puts it under pressure, and ultimately crushes it under its tremendous weight and restrictive power. On the good side, these things give it rule over focus. Focus is a funny thing- it means application of pressure for a certain goal. Saturn can make things it affects highly focused or controlled, which at times is a very good quality.

Because of all these things, Saturn is considered a "first class malefic", or in other words, a planet capable of doing great harm. But that is spoken from the angle of vision of the materially oriented. Materially speaking Saturn is usually malefic, except when his reduction and crushing capacity is used, in the chart, against the enemies of our material progress. For example, if Saturn is situated in such a way as to crush the twelfth house, or the house of losses, then our losses are crushed, which means we don't lose as much.

But Saturn has another good side. Consider the diamond- it is created from black coal under great pressure for a long time. Saturn rules coal, pressure, and long periods of time. So, Saturn creates the diamond, which is very beautiful and extremely hard. When a person is under Saturn, they eventually become beautiful and hard, or shining and strong. The trials and struggles that Saturn puts us through teach us hard lessons. As one popular rock song says:

"We can't run and we can't hide, because when we meet what we're afraid of, we find out what we're made of".

So, Saturn makes us strong, by putting us to the test for a long enough period of time that we develop muscles and willpower.

Therefore Saturn rules the side of the religious peoples which is strong in principle, unbending, renounced from material motivations, and so forth. Saturn has a lot to do with the dark blue color worn by most Police officers, and the black worn by many Priests. Men often wear dark suits to do business, because it promotes a no-nonsense, dead-serious demeanor in their business dealings.

Saturn rules the low workers or Shoodras, as we say in Sanskrit. This is because he rules all things low and difficult. Things which are cold, dark, hard and created under pressure are ruled by Saturn, so He rules many types of metal like iron and steel, as well as the tools of hard work. Because he is an old man, he rules old things.

Rahu

Rahu is not an actual planet-ball, as the other planets are, but a point in space that is of great influence. The nodes Rahu and Ketu are always opposite each other in the Zodiac. They are calculated from the orbits of the Sun and Moon in relation to the Earth. They are gravitational line up points. They cause the Moon to actually wobble in it's orbit.

The Puranic story that tells of the creation of Rahu and Ketu goes like this in brief: There was a feast for the Gods, and they were all there. At such feasts the Gods would drink Soma-Rasa, or the drink of "immortality" (a feeling it creates in them only, as they are never immortal). There was a Rakshasha, or demon, named Rahu who wanted some of that sought after drink. So, disguising himself as a God, Rahu sat in on the feast. It just so happened that he sat inbetween the Sun and Moon Gods, whose names are Chandra and Vivasvan respectively.

When the cup was passed it finally came to Rahu, who put it to his lips. At that moment the Moon recognized who Rahu really was, and told the Sun. The Sun told Vishnu, God Supreme, who utilized his Sudarshan Chakra weapon to cut off Rahu's head immediately. Rahu's head went flying, but it had touched the drink, so he got a real positive boost for long life. Whereas, the body of Rahu became dead. The body is now called Ketu. Thereafter and to this day, the head and body of Rahu float in space forever trying to chase and harm the Sun and Moon. When there is an eclipse, it represents the Sun or Moon entering Rahu's mouth, then coming out his neck again.

It is a scientific fact, that when the Moon gets close to the nodes in it's real orbit, that it wobbles due to the gravitational pull of the point. So, when in a chart we see that the person was born at a time when the Moon was close to one of the nodes (Rahu or Ketu) that the mind is disturbed, since the Moon rules the mind. This is a fact which you will see played out in the lives of those who have this (myself being one of them). Since the nodes occupy two signs, roughly one sixth of the population has this. However, it is strongest when the Moon is really close to the Node it conjoins- or in other words, when the two are close by degrees within the sign- say within 5 degrees of each other. Then the effects become pronounced.

Rahu's nature is that of anger, upsetness, anxiety, suddenness and other things which we would feel if we got our heads cut off right when we were getting something we wanted. Think of it: Just when you are about to get what you always wanted, right then something comes to totally ruin your plans. But, the secret is this: Anyone who is killed by the weapon of Vishnu is also highly benefitted spiritually, so this plays out in our lives as well. So, the effects of Rahu can be said like this: Painful and troublesome, but ultimately for a higher cause.

Ketu

Ketu is the dead body of the lusty demon, killed by Vishnu. So, Ketu rules beheadings and losses and death, along with Saturn. Spiritually speaking, Ketu is somewhat purified because he was killed by Vishnu. So, Ketu rules over the highly renounced, the Sannyasis (Sanskrit for renounced persons) because they have voluntarily given up everything.

Wherever Ketu sits in a chart there we will find the sucking black hole effect. It feels forever like a hole into which we tend to want to put more and more of that thing to satisfy it. We cannot get enough where Ketu sits- we feel the lack of that house in our lives very much. Therefore many say that Ketu rules separations, cuts, loses and deprivations.

For the spiritually minded Ketu is very good, and for the materialistic, very bad. It is good for the Spiritually minded because it rules liberation from bondage. When Rahu's body was separated from his head, the body no longer was under the influence of Rahu's mind, and so was free. Ketu represents the ultimate freedom from ourselves, our spiritual liberation. Ketu is very final in this sense.

In Vedic thought, liberation, called "Mukti" or "Moksha" is considered the highest goal of life. After all our material role playing is through, we are to seek liberation from material bondage and misidentification, and seek out union with God (Yoga means union). So, liberation is the highest goal and Ketu is the "Moksha Karaka" or significator of Moksha in our charts.

When reading astrological books, one must remember that many of them were written, oddly enough, from the materialistic viewpoint. Indeed, today also, many people who are into astrology are into it for reasons of bettering their material positions, or finding out just how good their life (here on Earth) is going to be. Therefore, the books often say that Jupiter is the highest benefic.

But spiritually minded astrologers know that, in terms of real spiritual development, Saturn is above Jupiter and Ketu is above Saturn. Jupiter reals Wisdom, but Saturn rules Truth, yet Ketu rules Moksha, the highest achievement of all. So, Ketu is the most spiritual planet, with Saturn being next in line, and Jupiter takes third place.

Midheaven and other angles

The Midheave, or MC as it is sometimes called in astrological books, is a point in space which was "straight up" from our birth moment. If you were to look straight up at the Zodiac at the time of the birth, you would be looking at the spot which is called the Midheaven.

The Midheaven in the middle of our tenth house, which rules career, rise, high position and attainment. When we stand up, we are under the midheaven. Our head, in a sense, points up towards the midheaven. If someone rises high in life, say a famous person, or a successful person, or a President of country for example, then you know for sure that they have a significant midheaven, or tenth house, in their charts.

The midheaven is a point in the Zodiac, just as the Lagna is the point in the Zodiac. So, we record the midheaven as a point in a Sign with so many degrees, minutes and seconds. Planets near to this point, or owning the sign this point falls in, or aspecting this point will affect the rise, career and other attainment factors in the life.

There are a number of other such points we look at in charts. They are, for example, the middle and starting points of the houses in the Bhava Chart, or House Chart. Then there is the Yogi point, another mathematically calculated point in the Zodiac. Of all the points, the Lagna and Midheaven are the most significant.

Outers and Subtle

Vedic Astrology does not use the three outer planets Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. God and the Sages saw fit to exclude them for their own reasons, and we follow suit. They probably represent Gods or Goddesses as the others do, and they probably have some effect, but for whatever reason they have been excluded, that is enough for the Vedic followers- we need not speculate about the matter.

There are a number of subtle planets mentioned in Jyotish classics. The most widely referred to are Mandi and Gulik. These planets are calculated points, like Rahu and Ketu for example, and not planets that have actual mass. Most modern Jyotishis do not make any use of them, and some of the computer programs therefore don't calculate and list them at all. Their effects remain largely untested to Jyotishis in the West therefore. Perhaps someday they can be brought into the computer programs and more heavily tested.

I would like to say that, while I respect all Vedic revelation as significant, I am also practical. There are many parts of the even the great Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra, the cornerstone classic of the science of Jyotish, which we in modern times no longer use. This is more due to lack of time and energy to learn and incorporate all the principles and techniques given therein. It is hard enough to digest just the basics these books give, what to speak of the numerous advanced techniques which they give without much explanation as the correct application of the techniques. Since you can get so much from just the basics, and my purpose, that of spreading Vedic thought, is helped plenty

by the spread of the basics, I myself am not excited to the point of taking action, on many of the finer and obscure techniques found in the classics.

Signs

Introduction

Colorings

The Signs of the Zodiac, or the twelve main constellations, are Colorings. They color the planets within them, and they color the houses which they are for a given chart.

Here's the Signs and their Lords:

Sign (English & Sanskrit)		Ruling Planet	
Aries	Mesha	Mars	Kuja
Taurus	Vrishaba	Venus	Shukra
Gemini	Mithuna	Mercury	Budha
Cancer	Karkata	Moon	Chandra
Leo	Simha	Sun	Surya
Virgo	Kanya	Mercury	Budha
Libra	Thula	Venus	Shukra
Scorpio	Vrishchika	Mars	Kuja
Sagittarius	Dhanus	Jupiter	Guru
Capricorn	Makara	Saturn	Sani
Aquarius	Kumba	Saturn	Sani
Pisces	Meena	Jupiter	Guru

Signs are owned by planets, and hence in the table we give the Lords of the Signs. The planets have natures, as we've already shown to some degree, and these natures are reflected in their signs. Most of the planets rule two signs, and in those cases the qualities of the planet are somewhat split between the two signs. It's the Sun and Moon who each rule only sign one, and the rest rule two signs each and in a certain order. So, here's another way of viewing the Zodiac, one where the "Kind and Queen" are at the top, and the rest in order by house:

Leo Cancer

Virgo	Gemini	<i>Mercury ruled</i>
Libra	Taurus	<i>Venus ruled</i>
Scorpio	Aries	<i>Mars ruled</i>
Sagittarius	Pisces	<i>Jupiter ruled</i>
Capricorn	Aquarius	<i>Saturn ruled</i>

In the above diagram, the King Sign Leo (Simha, Leo, means Lion) is on His own right side, and the Queen Sign Cancer is on His left. The signs on “her side” of the Zodiac are listed on Her side (Gemini to Aquarius) and the signs on His side of the Zodiac are listed under Him (Virgo to Capricorn).

Notice the top two, Virgo and Gemini, are ruled by Mercury, the next two by Venus, and so on. This is the order of the planets by orbit moving out from the Sun.

Mercury orbits close to the Sun, because as the Prince, Mercury must remain close to the Power Center, otherwise he’s likely to be kidnapped, because you know how scoundrels like to kidnap the children of the rich and famous, and Mercury, he’s so gullible anyway.

Venus needs to be close to the Power also because without light, who cares what she looks like- nobody can see who’s beautiful in the dark. So, She, Venus, needs the light of the Sun to be seen. Also, beauty and pleasures need support- they are not independently wealthy. In fact, indulgences tend to decrease wealth. Prostitutes work for money, not charity. The arts are the pastimes of the rich and powerful. Low, hard working, poor people barely have time or money for fancy Venusian things like nice clothes, nice cars, jewelry, perfumes, hairstyles, and so on. So, where we find mundane Power, and where we find the mundane Center, there we will find a greater degree of Venus as well. Venus clings to the Central Powers of this material plain.

Next comes Mars. Mars also needs the Sun and is dependent upon the Sun for His life. For example, militias need the funding of their governments to exist. Also, when a soldier kills an enemy, he’s a hero. But if the same soldier kills a civilian (like the famous Timothy McVeigh example) then he is an outlaw. So, Mars derives his dispensation as the Commander in Chief from the Sun, who as the King gives Mars his importance. Without this blessing, Mars’s “thug qualities” or “get it done” abilities become misled easily. Mars follows orders and does heavy things for the cause of whoever is giving the orders. Soldiers who fight in battle are similar in that they are all soldiers, by they are separated by the ideals that drive their commanders or countries. Mars by nature is a follower of Power, and so he is close to the Sun, after the Young Prince and the Young Lady of course, being a chivalrous gentleman who lets “children go ahead”.

Next comes Jupiter. Now Jupiter and Saturn are “way out there” in terms of being quite a distance from the Sun. Jupiter doesn’t need the Sun. The classical Vedic Guru, while he may live in the palace of the King, is never *under* the King. If the King betrays his Guru, the Guru leaves, and no soldier will ever arrest the Guru, and by no means ever would a soldier (a *Ksatriya*) kill or in any way give trouble to the Guru of the king, or *any* Brahmin for that matter.

In classical Vedic literature, many stories are told of what great lengths Kings went to in order to satisfy and please the Brahmin class, and especially the leading Brahmins, who if they could, they tried to persuade through humbly submitting themselves to come live with them as advisors. Kings know that good advisors are the key to remaining in power. Guru’s, or real Brahmins, know what is what and who is who, and by using astrology and other means of divination, they can often know what is coming. Not caring for the Spiritual implications of such things, the Kings are simply concerned at harnessing such powers for themselves, to fortify their materially lucrative positions as Kings.

But, the Brahmins are very standoffish. They help *righteous* Kings not because they like the Kings so much themselves, but because the people in general, and all the creatures of the land, will be better served if a righteous King is in power. If a bad King is in control, then everyone suffers. Caring for the welfare of all, the Righteous Brahmins help the Righteous Kings to gain and keep power. The evil minded Brahmins help the evil minded Kings, and together these two dacoits team up and scheme it up.

So, Jupiter stands far away, because the principles He adheres to personally, and likes to teach, are based on *Dharma* or higher principle, which doesn’t care for the desires of any particular King or anybody else. In the eyes of Higher Dharma, a King is just a soul, like everyone else. The real Guru, like Brhaspati, is bowed to by all great Kings and DemiGods, and never the reverse.

However, Jupiter does appreciate the way the Sun gets things done. Like ‘em or not, Kings have power, and Jupiter recognizes this. Since Jupiter is also a male planet by behavior, and a grandiose thinker too, He likes to team up with the King to get things done in the Kingdom. So, Jupiter and the Sun are friends.

Saturn stands very far away from the Sun. This is because He rules the dirty and low, and the workers. The King does like to see these people because they are doing all the hard work of His many commands. They don’t get paid much, and they’re lives are pretty humble, possibly even miserable. For where there is material light, there must be material darkness. The kind of Light the Sun advocates is the kind where He is the center. Spiritual light

emanates independently from each object in the Spiritual World, but here, the Sun is in the Center. This mandates that there must be those who are “far from the center in the darkness of the outer regions”, and this is Saturn, and the people Saturn rules.

Offices of the Gods

The Signs are the offices of the Gods. Through these Signs the Gods do their works. When they are in their offices, they are able to work very well. When they are “looking at” their offices, which is called “aspecting”, then they can oversee and thus protect their offices. But when they are neither in their offices nor seeing them, then their offices may be plundered by enemies.

In Jyotish, the Signs are the Houses- the two are synonymous. There are twelve signs, and therefore 12 houses. However, they are separated by what they rule. For example, Sagittarius rules “High Ideals”. That’s true whichever House Sagittarius ends up being in. If Sagittarius is in the 4th house, then the person has high ideals in the areas of Emotions, which is something the 4th house rules, *independently* from whatever sign is there. The ninth house independently rules *religion*, so if Sagittarius is there, then the person will have *high ideals* in the area of *religion*.

As stated, all the planets except the Sun and Moon rules two houses. These planets “split up” their natures into these two offices. For example, in Aries and Scorpio Mars stores His tendencies. In Aries we find the brute force energy of Mars, and His warrior tendencies, whereas in Scorpio we find his nasty bite and secret spy tendencies.

Some of the planets are friends and some are enemies. So, if an enemy planet is in a Sign and the Lord of that Sign is off doing other business, and isn’t watching that office closely, then the enemy planet in the sign is free to harm the sign, and thus harm the house the sign is in. In the same way you would think of offices or bedrooms, and the protection thereof, so also you can think of Signs and Houses as the planets move around amongst them.

Affecting how planets feel and can act

As stated, planets have natural tendencies- for example, Mars is fiery, a soldier, and aggressive. Saturn, as another example, is slow, low, and a hard worker. So, these natural tendencies are either helped or blocked by the nature of the Signs as they move through them. We judge these interactions in the chart very closely.

Take Mars again for example. Mars is fiery and energetic. So think about water and fire. What does water do to fire? So when fiery Mars is in a water sign, His fire is “put out” to some degree. So, Mars does not *like* water signs

because he can't behave as fiery as he would like. This would indicate in a chart that the fire in the person is hampered. Signs are also designated as male or female, movable, non-moving or mutable, and other designations. All of these designations either help or hinder the planets depending on their natures as people with their various personalities.

Coloring parts of the body and life

The Signs convey their nature upon the parts of our life where they sit. For example, the Sign in the first house, which rules the body, will greatly affect the nature of our body. The sign in the second house will affect our saving of money and the way we speak, as the second house rules over these things. The sign occupying the third house will color our approach to younger siblings and college degrees, as the third house rules those things, and so on.

So, think of houses as ruling specific parts of life, whereas the signs are more *coloring agents* who add the specific character. Houses rule Things, Signs give Character. That's a good basic rule to remember.

As having karakas

Signs do have *Karakas* of their own- things that they rule over, and these things will manifest through the house the sign tenets, or occupies. So, for example, since Cancer, a sign, rules emotions, whatever house it occupies- those areas of life will take on an emotional nature in that person. Since Capricorn rules Jungles, wherever house it occupies will have some connection with Jungles, or dangerous places full of diversity where the law cannot reach or touch.

As combining with planets and aspects

Signs have a natural color or radiance for certain things. For example, Pisces radiates Peace and Calm. This wavelength or ray, is trapped by any planets in Pisces in a chart, and is *bent* or *combined* with that planet's own ray or wavelength, to form a combination ray. For example, if Saturn were in Pisces in a chart, we would combine Peace with Low work, and that person might find their peace in humble work. If Saturn was in Virgo, which rules over farming, then that person might find their work in dealing with agriculture in some way, depending of course, as always, on other factors in the chart.

The important point to remember is to blend the Sign's nature with the Planet's nature, to come up with a blended effect. This also goes for aspects. If a planet aspects a sign, it casts it's nature upon the house where the sign resides, and ultimately therefore matters governed by that house and sign combination take on some of the qualities of the aspecting planet.

Therefore, the key to Jyotish is to be able to mentally combine many factors into one cohesive reading. The learned Jyotishi combines the effects of planets, signs, houses, and aspects on a very regular basis.

The Signs Themselves

Aries

Aries is youthful and never mature. As the first sign, Aries carries all the qualities of youthfulness- quickness, agility, zest and energy. Because it is ruled by Mars, it has ties to aggression and force. As a fire sign it is best occupied by Mars, Jupiter and the Sun, who are the three planets who rule the three fire signs. The Sun is exalted in Aries, because the King is worshipped by the army there. A King feels really good amongst his army because first they do his bidding, and secondly they protect him, and third they kill His enemies. So, Aries is the Sign where the Sun is the strongest.

Because Aries is so passionate for life, quick, aggressive, happy, youthful, therefore Saturn hates Aries and is debilitated therein. Debilitation means that sign for each planet where He feels stripped of power. Since Saturn is into slowness, the quickness of Aries is a pain. Since Saturn is into old age, the youthfulness of Aries is a pain, and so on.

As stated, the two most sensitive points of any chart are the Moon and Lagna. We can know a sign very well by looking at the charts of person who have the Moon or Lagna in that Sign. Persons who have the Moon in Aries, for example, are quick thinking, quick to action, make sudden decisions, and leave things quickly too, as Aries has no endurance, only sprint-ability.

Taurus

Taurus is ruled by luxury loving Venus. Taurus is the sign of beauty, luxury, happiness, comfort and all things nice. Taurus is symbolized by the Bull, which is quite content to sit in his nice green pasture and eat grass. The scene with a happy bull in a field is a nice and pleasant scene, and a very settled one too. It's not easy to move a bull, and an angry bull is dangerous. So, Taurus rules the settled home, and Taurus affected people like to get things set up and leave them that way.

Taurus is one of the three Earth ruled signs. The Earth signs rule Earthy things such as pragmatism and material provisions. As the first of these three Taurus is the leader. With the beauty and grace of Venus behind it, Taurus goes about procuring or arranging for very Earthy circumstances and since Earth is solid, the things Taurus creates are also solid and lasting, not

fleeting, like things created by Wind signs (which are susceptible to being “blown away”).

Gemini

Gemini is a Mercury ruled Air Sign. Thinking and ideas “live in the air” so to speak as they have no Earthly form. Mercury is about thinking, speaking, deal making, carrying messages, and so on. Gemini is His first sign, and the first of the air signs. So, Gemini has a special kinship with messages which travel in the air, which could be gossip, or TV advertising, Radio and so on. Since Mercury is a very non-committed entity, so also Gemini has the tendency to be open to all ideas, and therefore is very good for study, learning, scholarship, education, teaching, repeating things learned, book publishing, and so on.

In Sanskrit Gemini is called Mithuna, which means “sex” essentially. The coming together of a pair of lovers for the exchange of love is a type of meeting, which Gemini supports very well. Gemini and Mercury are very supportive of talks, messages and negotiations, and not so much about *what* is being shared. Mercury and it’s signs are more about handling messages and information rather than *committing to* the specific content of any one message. There are many things which carry messages without concern for the content- such as computer disks, libraries, phone lines, colleges, mirrors, etc., and these things have a touch of either Mercury, Gemini or both, inside of them.

Wherever Gemini sits in the chart, there we will find intellectualism. If Gemini is in the first house, we will find an overall interesting but deal making person. If Gemini is in the seventh, the person will have a tendency to make deals with the spouse. If Gemini is in the ninth, the person will have a tendency to intellectualize about religion, but necessarily commit to any one religion.

Jnan, pronounced “gyawn” like “yawn” with a “g” in front, is a Sanskrit word that means “knowledge”. But it means “book knowledge” or just knowing facts, not *realized knowledge*, which is more like “wisdom”. Gemini and Mercury are more into *jnan*, than *vijnan* (vig-gyawn). A *jnani* is one who “knows alot of things”. This does not necessarily imply depth of character, or depth of wisdom, which requires positive help from Jupiter and Saturn. A soldier who teaches war at a college may *know alot about war* but may be “a chicken” when it comes to fighting. Gemini and Mercury are about *jnan*.

Cancer

Cancer is called Karkata in Sanskrit, which means both circle and crab (the sea creature). The example of the crab is significant because crabs live near water,

and Cancer is a Water Sign. Crabs are particular about protection. This is because they move somewhat slowly and their bodies are very soft. So, they employ hard shells and claws to help themselves survive. They tend to sit in holes in the rock for further protection when not scrounging about for provisions. They often inhabit the shells of other bygone creatures.

Cancer is one of the more sensitive signs therefore. All the water signs are sensitive, but this one is the leader. Water flows around your finger- it does not object if you stick your finger into it. Whereas, fire will burn it off, and Earth simply won't allow it in. But water is adjusting to others. Water doesn't mind "going around" obstacles and "assuming the shape" of wherever someone may pour it. So it is with this sign- it is adjusting, soft, sensitive, generally in need of protection, and a natural servant of those persons or places that give it shelter.

Cancer is ruled by the Moon, and as the Moon reflects the light of the Sun, so goes Cancer- always searching for that great light to reflect, or glorify, or serve. Cancer feels dependent and needy, and so has a natural tendency to depend upon others. If everything is safe, it is a very good sign, but if things aren't safe, it's likely to use it's little pinchers to pinch a wound or two into the threat.

As Cancer is the only sign ruled by the Moon, and Leo the only sign ruled by the Sun, much of the nature of the feminine and masculine principles are taken from these two planets and their two signs. The masculine principle is independence and control, whereas the feminine is dependence and submission. The masculine is strong in the material world, whereas the feminine qualities are more helpful for emancipation from this world, because what is needed in spiritual life is first and foremost a humble and submissive attitude towards the divine.

If you need someone to be concerned about setting up or protecting a home, or about nurturing and caring for dependent children, then Cancer is your woman!

Leo

Leo is the only Sign ruled by the Sun. It is a Fire Sign, and odd or masculine, and fixed, not movable or mutable. Therefore, Leo is the topmost excellent sign for masculine dominance. We find often in political leaders that they have either Leo Moon, Leo Sun or Leo rising. This is very common. Amongst person, those with these prominent Leo placements always have a hard time submitting to others, and therefore they rise to leadership positions because being a follower is foreign to them.

If you need someone to be brute and strong willed, never succumbing to opposition, then Leo is your Man!

Virgo

Virgo is called *Kanyain* Sanskrit. Kanya means “daughter” or “virgin”. Virgo is a Feminine Earth Sign. Virgo rules the bounty of nature when it is at it’s prime. In India, virgin daughters are considered much like the Earth itself- full of the possibility of producing the future needs of everyone. Virgo is innocent, beautiful, Earthy, and being ruled by Mercury, has connections with learning. In fact, Virgo is *the writers and editors* sign to be sure. Persons with significant mental planetary placements (Lagna, Moon, Sun or Mercury) in Virgo tend to be writers, editors, communicators, etc.

The symbol of Virgo is a young girl seated in a boat, carrying books and fresh cut grain from a field. These symbolize the nature of Virgo. Virgo rules agriculture because of the fact that agriculture is based first and foremost on the preparation of the soil. When the environment and soil are truly healthy and good, then good things are grown *in* that soil.

The young girl in the boat is healthy, happy and wholesome. She is young, and learning. Virgo rules that coquetish stage of learning where the person feels an abundance of knowledge, and is proud of it. This is why it’s good for writers and editors. They like to use their exacting knowledge. This leads to being “picky”. Virgo as a sign is known most for producing very picky people (which editors must be for example).

Cleanliness requires finding dirt and getting rid of it. Editing requires finding mistakes and getting rid of them, and good farming requires finding things which foul the process and getting rid of them. A beautiful young girl is something easily polluted. A virgin is no longer a virgin after one sexual encounter, so, Virgo as a sign is very particular about seemingly small things. If you need somebody to be “anal” about something, then get a Virgo!

Libra

Libra is called Thula in Sanskrit, which means “scales”. Thula is used in Sanskrit verse to mean “how heavy do you weigh in”, or “what is your position”. It is a bit deeper than just “scales”. Libra is the only Movable Air Sign. Libra is ruled by Venus and is the exaltation of Saturn, and the debilitation of the Sun. All of these things tell us alot about Libra.

Where is that place, where King’s feel in danger, and workers feel really good? Well, the open marketplace in the street. Libra is there in that market. There we have the scales of commerce, the workers showing their goods, collecting cash for their wares, and having fun talking to each other. So here

comes the King. He's surrounded by those whom he overtaxes, he's surrounded not by his army, but by workers. They taunt him, throw things at him, and he has to run away in fear. In Libra, we're all equal. Libra is about cloth, and goods, and talking, and being friendly, not taking sides, but somehow just getting through the day. Libra is very practical and real.

Nobody can move around like Libra. As a movable air sign, it's "out of here" constantly. Don't try to lock down Libra. As the exaltation of Saturn and the Debilitation of Sun, it's not about being "strong, responsible, conservative and stable". No, forget those uptight qualities. Libra is a marketplace full of hippies, who set up on one corner one day, and a different corner the next. It's a confusing array of colors, cloth, decorations, smiling painted faces, clowns, music, balloons, honking horns, bullock carts, pickpockets and all the things that an uncontrolled happy crowd of desperate living and breathing beautiful humans can offer each other. No heavy decisions, no heavy organization, just "lets do something, lets make some money, lets have some fun, can we go now?"

Scorpio

Ah Scorpio. Are you ready for this? You enter a cave where water is dripping everywhere and it's hot and steamy. Down you go. You come to a cavern, and there is a den of thieves. Rough, tough, grimy sweaty men with intense looking haircuts and spike collars like bulldogs. You think your finished. But just then, in a very sensitive and humble voice, one of them starts to talk about his inner child, and the other one offers you his milk biscuits.

So here we have the 8th sign of the Zodiac. Not an enviable number at all, as you'll eventually realize from studying Jyotish. Scorpio is a Mars ruled water sign ("Oh brother"). That's a paradox in itself, but then on top of that it's a Fixed Sign (non-movable nature).

So how does this all stack up. Well, how do you feel about large underground gasoline tanks? They are watery, yet full of Mars potential, yet fixed in the Earth. Perfect. Scorpio is dangerous, that's true. That's why it's the debilitation point of the sensitive Moon. The sensitive Moon feels very threatened and frightened in Scorpio. In Sanskrit Scorpio is called Vrishchika, which by no surprise means "Scorpion".

Scorpio is mysterious and frightening to us all. All the things that Scorpio rules are the things we love to fear- like spiders, serpents, scorpions, holes in the ground, caves, crevices, cracks and dark places. When you take deadly force, and give it a covering, and make it mysterious, you've created Scorpio.

Scorpio is also the genital and anus of the Kala Purush, or the Universal Form of God. In the Bhagavat Purana, and other Vedic Scriptures, the Virat

Rupa (Universal Form) of the Lord is described. There it is said that Scorpio rules over the private parts region of the His body.

Nobody likes to show their anus to other people, and none of us want to look at each other's anus's. It's just not a pleasant subject. Yet, having one is essential and we use it every day. The genital is another thing, also a part of the picture of Scorpio. We "love each other" through the Genital, but we cover it with cloth, and don't show it openly. It's a private, erotic, secret area.

So Scorpio is about secrets, and private pleasures, and deep issues, and eroticism, and fear, and danger, and all kinds of things we love to hate, or love to fear, or love to lust, and generally remain really bewildered about. Some of the most odd and unique personalities have Scorpio placements.

If you want someone who believes in things nobody else believes in, or to listen to you babble really fast about all your muddled emotions, then you need a Scorpio.

Sagittarius

In Dhanus (Sadge), we have a Mutable (that means it's either moving or non-moving- depending) Fire Sign. Dhanus means the Bow as "Bow and Arrows". So here we have a Fire Sign ruled by the Priest, or Jupiter.

Many wars have been fought for religious reasons. In fact, it's still going on. In fact, in one sense, they're all about some type of "we're better than you". Of course, the Gulf War was just about who gets the old dinosaur goop, but most wars are about "We're better than you, and you just don't get it". So wars are fought over beliefs and money. Jupiter rules both beliefs and money. So, in Dhanus we find the arms of Jupiter, ready to stand up for what is right, and fight for it.

Dhanus is idealistic. Dhanus thinks "Let us set our goals and go for them. Let us aim high with our bows and fling our arrows into the beyond. Let us transform from what we are to what we want to be." These sentiments and emotions are found in the Barracks of Armies, and in the Churches and Ashrams, and sometimes in businesses. Wherever we find Preacher types who are kindof in control, and conveying a message rich with high goals, and others are following it with fire and zeal, there we have the influence of Sagittarius, or Dhanus.

Capricorn

Capricorn is pragmatic and real. Ruled by Saturn, and being an Earth sign, Capricorn is about what's really going on right here right now, or at least, that's how it feels and seems. When important personality shaping planets

are in this sign in someone's chart (that's the Sun, Moon, Ascendent and Mercury) then they became pragmatic, good workers, hard workers, have lots of endurance, and serious.

Capricorn is the exaltation sign for the Mars, and the Debilitation sign of Jupiter. The reason Mars is exalted in Capricorn is because Capricorn is where simple forest dwelling, hard working people live who don't follow the King. Mars likes to go and fight there. Also, in forests and jungles, there's lots of shrubbery and trees for fire to consume. So, both the soldier and the fire can really go nuts in the jungle and live out their Martian desires. Jupiter is debilitated there because the simple jungle people have no interest in his high talks and rituals for material advancement. They just give him a blank stare and then walk away. He hates it- nobody listens to him there.

This is why America had such a hard time in Vietnam. They are the "ant people", devoted to being small, working humbly, underground, with less tools and weapons. We preferred to not touch the ground, thinking we could fight from the air, or standing straight up, and we were wrong. Capricorn is humble- it's "the people sign" and it's not especially fond of the fire-trine buddies Sun, Mars and Jupiter. If you want workers, you need Capricorns.

The Sanskrit term Makara means Alligator. Actually, the descriptions in the scriptures of the "Makara Beast" is a combination creature, not just an alligator or crocodile. Capricorn doesn't so much need anything else. This is the nature of Saturn. We've conquered the world, but it's hard to conquer the jungle. Similarly, if a crowd gets big enough, no government can control it, and why should it, if the crowds of people are against it? Saturn is powerful in its humility, size and sheer distaste for the controlling mood of the Fire Trine.

The downside of Capricorn is that it can blunt and dull. The sign does not promote intellectualism or finery in any way. It is more about brute strength, strength is lowness, and being "totally real". But by "real" Capricorn means to say, the lower classes, the masses, the worker, basic provisions, hard work, doing what's necessary, not being proud or loud.

Aquarius

Aquarius is a Fixed Air Sign, ruled by Saturn. It is neither the exaltation nor debilitation of any planet. Air signs promote thought because air can move quickly, like the mind. Saturn rules old things and the is a Fixed Air Sign, so, the combination of these two makes Aquarius well suited for old things, things that don't change, and things which are idea based. Because scriptural revelation is old, unchanging, and coming from the sky, or air, as it were, therefore Aquarius is associated with these things.

Every twelve years when Jupiter is in Aquarius, called "Kumbha" in Sanskrit, the *Kumbha Mela* takes place in North India. This is the largest gathering of humans in one place on Earth at any time ever. It's a big event- millions of Hindus gather at the meeting place of the Three Main Holy Rivers of India, the Jamuna, Saraswati and Ganges. It is called Kumbha Mela because that is where the nectar fell from the sky oh so long ago. Kumbha means "waterpot". Occasionally good things pour down from above, and because of this happening once long ago, the Kumbha Mela still happens every twelve years. If you want to see Yogis, that's the time and place to do it. They come down out of their hiding places to all hang out together for a few days.

Aquarius is a good sign for understanding gadgets, science, electrical things, and so on. Many researchers and scientists have Moon or Mercury in Aquarius. This sign is known for causing seclusion and depression. Fixed in the air and ruled by Saturn, it is unreachable and old. When the Moon is in this Sign the person is ever universal and detached. Aquarians do not make good friends or lovers in some ways because they are so detached. If they love, it is for all. They always seem aloof.

Pisces

The final Sign of the Zodiac, Pisces rules the end of all things. There is nothing left to do, except be peaceful. Pisces is called Meena, which means Fishes, because this symbol represents being merged in the ocean of truth or finality. This is a Water Sign, ruled by Jupiter. Think of the quiet inner grounds of a monastery, and you have Pisces. There is monks walking about very serenely and there are fountains, and gardens, but everything is quiet, very controlled, very balanced, one with God, surrendered to Divinity, and there is Pisces.

When Pisces affects a person greatly, say because it is their Moon or Rising Sign, then they will have a quality of Peace and equanimity in their personality. Pisces folks like this are kind, sensitive, but fairly passive- they seem to do more staring at you than domination. It is not an ideal sign for being a leader, as water is too responsive to others. It is a good sign for serving, for counseling, and for private or protected lives. It is sometimes called a "weak" sign because it has so little material "umph".

Pisces is the exaltation of Venus, and the debilitation of Mercury. Venus, the planet of happiness and pleasure does well in Pisces because in her Vanity she totally stands out there where She is not at all wanted. Jupiter, the owner of Pisces, and Venus, are enemies because they preach in opposite directions. So when Venus is in Pisces, we find in the person some trace of something holding them back, or interrupting their meditation. Venus rules the 3rd and 8th houses from Pisces, and you'll find that these are "malefic" angles from any point. So, we know that Pisces does not want Venus to come inside. It is

like Mars in Capricorn, it's an exaltation built more on rudeness and confrontation than welcoming.

As for the debilitation of Mercury in Pisces, this is because in the final chapter of truth, which Pisces rules and carries, there is no place for lively *jnan* (Gyan) or knowledge. Knowledge, mental speculation, thinking about things, not being sure, switching sides, making deals, negotiations- all these things are not necessary once "one is there". Pisces represents "being there". It's final, and spiritual. The Vaisnava leaders in the line of Sri Caitanya make it very clear that gyan is inferior to Bhakti, and that in the final stages it is not welcome nor necessary. It is replaced instead by spontaneous loving affection and intimate pastimes and exchanges based on love and divine relations. The things Mercury rules have faded away. Everyone is too peaceful in Pisces, so Mercury feels that His ample talking, discussions, readings, studying and so on is not welcome, and He's right!

1. What is Jyotish

Article-the very basic introduction

2. How to learn Jyotish

About math and mechanics and software, types of books and authors, practice and application and depth of study, science verse vision and understanding,

3. History of Jyotish - As it is

Overview article - God in Vaikuntha in Lila ever expanding, souls and material world, descent of Veda and Jyotish, passage through time, comment on other present day opinions, what scriptures give as requirements, what is a brahmin,

4. Acintya Bhedabheda Tattva

First explain what it means, what it refers to, implications in life, perfect mix with Jyotish, free will remains, maya and mahamaya, then the history of sidhanta in India through the Acaryas, most modern groups as Sankarites, Sri Caitanya. The slant for or against is found everywhere.

5. Comments on India

Roots and present very different, the pyramid of understanding, the fewness of real followers, no such thing as Hindus, the different main sects, the acarya factor in history and sidhanta, the caste system-divine roots, vitiated current application, ever present naturally, present day Indians and white Hindus, weird practices, poverty, keeping a perspective.

6. My history briefly

Overview article - Interest in God, the Hare Krishna days, meditating on Gita and finding Jyotish as the proof for Gods control, undertaking providing an excellent learning tool, present goals.

7. Intro to Chart, Dashas, Readings, "Other Stuff"

Overview article - What are charts, the zodiac and stars, east vs west, what dashas are and how they're incorporated in the picture, about the books of readings and yogas,

links to the divine, the typical astrological session these days, scriptural examples, stories from India and other amazing things,

8. Planets

Introduction - as large moving bodies in our area, as their patterns, so all smaller dependent entities and natures, Veda doesn't use the outers, as dictators of most natural patterns such as music, color, cycles, natural phenomena, about motion-speed-stations-retrogrades.

Twelve articles - 9 planets - 10-the Lagna - 11-Midheaven and other angles - 12-Outers and Subtle - The Gods and their natures, karakas, approach to things, significance in the self, affects on the body and mind, dispositions towards each other, representations in society,

9. Signs

Introduction - as colorings, as bedrooms, affecting how planets feel and can act, as coloring parts of the body and life, as having karakas, as being affected by aspects/tenets,

Twelve articles - nature, karakas lists, ruler, each planet feels in,

10. Houses

Introduction - as being affected by tenets/aspects, as having karakas, body parts, relation to Earth at all times, Rashi verse Bhava types, Sandhis/Madhyas,

Twelve articles - list of governed matters, each planet within/aspecting,

11. Nakshatras

Introduction - mechanics of, actuality of, english names list, rulers, gunas, other indicators meanings, overview of use in astrology,

Twenty Seven articles - description of each

12. Dashas

Overview article - as timers of events, as like variable length progression of the West, construction of, as from Moon, validity of from Lagna, other dashas and cross referencing, combining of lords of dashas.

13. Vargas

Overview article - as secondary colorings by sign, surety of sign, questionability of house and beyond, list them with karakas, link back to Rasi.

14. Transits

Overview article - constantly occurring, affecting ones houses by sign placement, transit near natal sensitive points, frequency of each, combining with dashas for prediction.

15. Ashtaka Varga

One article - purpose, construction overview, application.

16. Reading a chart

Multiple articles

The Ascendent and Moon

 Their elements, natures, as lagnas, body/mind.

Learning the Lords

Seeing where the Lords have gone
See always from both Rasi and Candra
Combing the varga colors
Dashas-seeing the good and bad for Lagna
Seeing elemental distribution for making of people types
Seeing the mix of hopes, likes, opportunities, obstacles

17. Cookbook of Traits

Multiple articles, Depression, Energetic, Controlling, Sensitive, Agressive, Troubled, Lazy, Religious, Odd-Outcaste-Hippy-Drugs, Political, Straight, Dumb, etc., - identifying one's friends and enemies, understanding where one stands by their chart,

18. Where to go from here

Going from here, the Jyotishi is a real Brahmin, the Jyotishi is significant and real, the Jyotishi is a pillar, the result of knowledge is Peace and Devotional Service, awareness of death, rebirth, and spiritual evolution as a way of life.

Dear Vish

Verse

Neelanjana Sama Bhasham, Ravi Putram Yama Grajam, Chaaya Marthanda
Sambutham, Tam Namami ShanaiShwaram

Translation:

I offer my respects unto Saturn who's luster rivals the blue lotus, born of the sun god and his wife Chaya, he is the older brother of Yama, the lord of death.

Notes

I had a friend of mine who is a Sanskritist translate this for me.

I take the verse literally. That's one thing. There is Gods and this is a lineage statement verse. No big deal there.

But it also has deeper meaning as everything has significance, especially at that level.

The Sun is the Soul in us, in our charts. When we enter this world due to the Lord's will to train us, we must take on bodies to play the parts and learn the lessons. It is necessary to have hankara, ego, and it is usually ahankara, or false ego that beings here have.

This harms others, and that is our shadow. As long as we have a body and ahankara, we are depriving some other being of sunlight, and that is our shadow. The result of our false ego, or shadow, our dark side, must necessarily always be with us (be our wife as it were).

This gives rise to our pain, or Saturn. We the Sun, the Soul, and our "wife" or our shadow, give birth to our pain and privations, reactions,

Saturn, because of the fact of material life that one living being lives at the expense of others here.

This system requires that death be created next, because there is pain here, so there must be change and recycling of the souls and bodies, or the souls through material bodies, one after another.

So, first comes the soul with it's ahankara or false ego, then comes it's shadow upon others, then comes reactions and difficulties from others upon us, then comes death. This is the nature of the material world, and this verse esoterically represents these stoic and sober realities.

Peace

Das Goravani