

The Navagraha/9 Planets In Vedic Mythology

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The Power of Mars

Mars is a masculine planet, extremely fiery in nature. It is said to be the commander-in-chief of the planets of our solar system and is personified as the God of War. Mars has the nature of a warrior. The position of Mars in the horoscope shows the amount of energy a person has and how this energy is utilized. Therefore Mars is the indicator of our physical and mental energy.



It rules over determination, courage and bravery as well as leadership, self-confidence, forcefulness and physical strength. Competitive spirit, athletics and the martial or military arts are all categories of Mars. Mars presides over those in the food business, such as cooks and restaurateurs as well as policemen, soldiers, officers and generals.

Mars natives are often short-tempered and may be argumentative. Mars stands for guns, explosives and all types of weaponry. Its natives have mechanical and technical talents that make them skilled as builders and engineers. Mars represents the real estate or land and housing business, including the areas of construction, buying, selling, renting or building.

Mars is orderly and likes things arranged properly. It gives drive and determination, as well as purposefulness.

Those ruled by Mars are generally fiercely independent and can react with violence when they feel it is right. It can also make a person rash, impulsive and insensitive to the opinions of others. Passion or sexual prowess is also shown by the position of Mars in the chart.

More often than not a powerful Mars will also make for selfishness. It can make for a willing participant to indulge in illegalities in business, as well as make him or her fond of secret or illicit sexual relationships.

Mars can cause physical harm, such as burns and bruises and is always capable of doing harm as it is a very malefic planet. A strong Mars gives stamina, courage and determination, making a person constructive and energetic. If it is well-placed, it makes those fortunate to be capable of leading others and it indicates success in all Mars categories. Mars shows his full effects between the ages of 27 and 32 years.

Mars is strong in his own signs of Scorpio and Aries, is exalted in Capricorn and debilitated in Cancer. It is also very powerful in its birth stars of Mirgisira, Dhanistha and Chitra. Mars is natural friend with Jupiter, Sun and

Moon, is neutral to Venus and Saturn and enemy with Mercury, Rahu and Ketu.

If Mars is afflicted, or ill-placed, it makes for a waste of energy on worthless things. It may indicate physical harm or debility or make a person angry, cruel or violent. It can make for aggressiveness and devoid of proper manners or social skills. A weak Mars means the person will not have ambition, motivation or the stamina it takes to achieve success. Anything beyond meager advancement becomes very difficult and the individual is usually relegated to a lower status in society, or in life in general.

Weak Mars may also make for weak characters, making them targets for mental and physical abuse. Physically, it causes a feeble immune system, poor appetite and a weak body in general. Wounds and injuries may be slow to heal and in men, it can cause lack of sexual desire and vitality. Blood diseases, ulcers and fevers, as well as excessive burns and / or bruises may also be attributed to the effects of this planet.

Myth

Some sources state that after separating from goddess Parvati, Lord Shiva was performing penance. During this time a drop of sweat fell from his forehead eye to the ground and assumed the form of a child. Other sources say that Mars was born directly from Lord Shiva's semen.



When Parvati and Lord Shiva were on their honeymoon they entered an embrace that lasted one hundred million years. Agni disturbed Lord Shiva's intense union and caused him to discharge his seminal fluid - the result of which was Mars.

While Lord Mars was deeply involved in meditation, a spiritual flame appeared on his body and elevated him to the status of a planet.

The Power of Mercury

Mercury, the planet of intellect, represents intelligence as well as communication of all kinds. It has a quick-changing and fickle temperament and being the lord of Gemini, can exhibit dual nature. It may make a subject detached and independent, or an extremist. It is known as a "mutable planet" as it reflects the attributes of planets it is associated with, being a "neutral" planet. It is representative of education and literary affairs

and the communication of ideas, such as in advertising, sales lecturing or teaching spiritual concepts. Its full effects are seen between the ages of 32 and 35.

Writers, lecturers, artists, sculptors (or people that use their hands in their profession) and teachers, as well as astrologers, accountants, office workers, traders and businessmen, more often than not, will have a prominent or well-placed Mercury in their charts. Playfulness, enthusiasm and talkativeness are the traits of Mercury's influence, in addition to independent thinking and appreciation of tradition. The ability to learn different languages, convince others, memorize and develop good business acumen come under Mercury's influence. Friendships and ability to learn things are due to Mercury's energies. It gives proficiency in the arts and the ability to do things quickly or several things at one time.



Mercury is the ruler of the signs Gemini and Virgo of the Zodiac and becomes exalted in its own sign of Virgo. It is debilitated in Pisces. Mercury is friends with Venus, Sun, Rahu and Ketu, neutral to Saturn, Mars and Jupiter. It is enemy with the Moon but does well in the birthstars of Ashlesha, Rohini, Revati, Jyestha, Shravan and Hasta.

A strong Mercury gives good intelligence and myriad of abilities under the categories mentioned above. Successful communicators of all types have a well-placed Mercury in their horoscopes, whether they be artists, business people, in the entertainment business, or involved with the media.

A weak Mercury may make subjects restless, fearless, fearful or neurotic. When Mercury is ill-placed or aspected, it may cause lack of intelligence or communicative skills, or a poor memory. It can make a person immature, foolish and childish. Feelings of insecurity and lack of self-control, leading to addictions and artificial dependencies, also manifest.

Physically it can show itself as weakness of the nervous system, anxiety, neural indigestion, or insomnia. It may cause bowel and elimination problems such as diarrhea or constipation, difficulty in digesting food, kidney disease, or respiratory problems.

Malefically disposed, it causes sufferers mental or physical pain, or undue anxiety. This may vary from being too fearful and nervous to having serious psychosis and lunacy.

Myth

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Jupiter's wife, Tharai, was impregnated by the Moon during an affair. After resuming her relationship with her husband Jupiter, a son was born. Tharai confirmed that the Moon was the real father. This was again confirmed by Lord Brahma, who made Mercury live close to the Sun. Mercury performed penance to Lord Shiva and was granted the boon of becoming a planet.



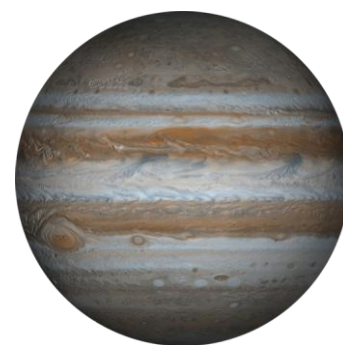
The Power of Jupiter

Jupiter, by nature, is the most wonderful and expansive planet that gives to the human race its most bountiful qualities. It is the most pious of all the planets, known as Guru or Teacher. A strong Jupiter will be found in the horoscopes of wealthy and influential persons. Jupiter signifies good luck and good fortune and indicates long distance travel. We understand the good karma earned in the previous lives by the placement of Jupiter.

Jupiter is also the ruler of religion and religious devotions and thus comes the name, Guru. He is the controller of all other planets, the revered spiritual master of the demigods. Philosophy and spirituality are under the auspices of Jupiter, as are financial affairs and wealth. Jupiter is also the indicator of children in the chart and in a woman's horoscope, it is the indicator of what kind of a husband she will attain in the present life and what their relationship will be like. A strong Jupiter indicates one whose opinions are valued by many; therefore teachers fall in this category.

Jupiter is noble, dignified, optimistic, of good humor and the giver of the fruits of labor.

Jupiter is the ruler of the Zodiacal signs Sagittarius and Pisces, is exalted in Cancer and debilitated in Capricorn. He gives especially beneficial effects positioned in the birthstars of Uttara Phalguni, Uttarashada, Punarvasu, Purvabhadrapada and Vishaka. Jupiter has friendly relationships with the Sun, Moon and Mars. Saturn, Rahu and Ketu are neutral to him; but Mercury and Venus are his enemies.



A strong or well-placed Jupiter can indicate many things, all of them positive, giving happiness. Subjects will be of an optimistic frame of mind, have dignity and a good sense of humour. It can make a person famous and gives many good qualities, such as honesty, compassion towards others and wisdom. Although a powerful Jupiter may give much wealth or influence, more importantly it makes for a happy and satisfied life.

Those with a well-placed Jupiter in their chart are generally religious, philosophical and try to live a fairly pious life. They will engage in spiritual meditation and inquire as to the true purpose of human life in this world. This is the greatest boon. To attempt to uncover the true "self" or to become "self-realized" is the ultimate goal of life. The Vedas consider that the person who tries to solve the problem of repeated births and deaths in the material world, transmigrating through 8,400,000 species of life, is having the most developed intelligence and is greatly fortunate. The Vedic philosophy of karma is that a soul gets the reactions to his past actions, so a well-placed Jupiter indicates one who has been of a pious nature in previous lives. "As one sows, so he shall reap"; this is the immutable law of action and reaction.

A well-placed Jupiter gives compassion, benevolence, charity, morality, wisdom and truthfulness. Anyone with great ambition is influenced by Jupiter, as are priests, monks and spiritual teachers. It rules those in political and legal professions and those who have control over their external senses. Physically Jupiter rules the blood circulation in our arteries, the liver, thighs and "fat" in the body.

When Jupiter is weak in the horoscope, subjects may suffer from lack of happiness and enthusiasm. They will be weak-willed, have lack of faith both spiritually and in the good things and attributes of life. Life may seem meaningless and without any source of pleasure. A weak Jupiter will cause pessimism and depression, anxiety and self-pity. Ill-aspected Jupiter makes for lack of compassion and congeniality for other people.

It will also give rise to material, as well as financial difficulties. The person may be devoid of any creative abilities and in the case of a woman, may be unable to bear children and lack a good husband to properly care for her.

Physically, there may be a weak immune system and generally poor vitality. The body weight may be too low and the liver and pancreas may not function properly. It can give rise to problems like arthritis or jaundice and diseases of the respiratory system. An appearance of general physical debility is common when Jupiter is badly afflicted.

Myth

Jupiter is the son of Chitra Devi and Saint Angirasa - a favourite son of Lord Brahma.

Jupiter performed difficult penances for Lord Shiva for a period of 10,000 years. This pleased Lord Shiva so much that he declared him to be guru of the gods. Jupiter is therefore known as Lord of Worship and Guru.



The Power of Venus

Venus is a beneficial planet by nature and is also considered to be a teacher. Venus is the planet governing sensuality and is the embodiment of love. All attributes of love, romance, beauty, sensuality, sexual pleasures and passion are under the rule of Venus.



The Sanskrit name for Venus is "Shukra", which in one instance means "semen", making Venus the presiding deity of semen. Shukra is the son of the great sage, seer and astrologer "Bhrigu", who taught his son all spiritual sciences and the Vedic scriptures.

Venus is also very important in determining wealth and conjugal relationships. It represents marriage and the ability to gain a good wife. The privilege of having a comfortable home, luxuries, quality cars, furniture, and paraphernalia are also under the control of Venus. Like Jupiter, Venus also gives wealth and material prosperity, but Venus often concentrates on the material rather than the spiritual attributes, unless the subject has the ability to utilize its "higher" aspects.

Venus is connected to the chanting of mantras, Tantra, hypnotism, alchemy and the medical arts. Venus rules artists, actors, musicians, dancers and poets. Those that make a living dealing in the sensual things available on earth also usually have a strong, prominent Venus in their horoscopes.

In the physical body, it rules the reproductive system, kidneys, eyes, cheeks, chin and throat. In nature it especially rules over flowers, jewels and tropical places. Venus is the lord of the signs Taurus and Libra.

It is exalted in Pisces and debilitated in Virgo. Birthstars ruled by Venus are Bharani, Purvaphalguni and Purvashada. Friends are Mercury and Saturn; Sun and Moon are enemies and Mars and Jupiter are neutral, although Venus is hostile towards Jupiter.

When Venus is strong in the chart, subjects may be loving and charismatic, able to infuse others with a sense of happiness and well-being. It brings wealth, comforts and a beautiful face and body. It makes for mutual attraction between the opposite sexes. Venus may bestow a gentle and tender nature, having great consideration for others around them. It gives an affinity for fine jewelry, beautiful clothes, ornaments and perfumes. Those with a prominent Venus will usually enjoy both rich and delicious foods and have a love for the fine arts. They may have the inspiration

necessary to become artists, musicians or poets. Hopefully they may also be seekers of truth and the knowledge of the obscure, or secret sciences. Qualities of expression, appreciation and affection are apparent in those with a well-positioned Venus.

If Venus is weak or afflicted in the horoscope, problems in marriage often result. The subjects may be lacking in physical beauty, as well as grace and charm. Insensitivity may be seen along with lack of love and affection. A weak Venus can result in coarse and vulgar behavior. Romantic affairs will be seen to be tumultuous and short-lived. There appears to be difficulty in expressing feelings. In men, relationships with women are extremely difficult and in women, it may be seen to bring about lack of feminine qualities.

Physically, it may cause weak kidneys and reproductive system, or even infertility. Energy may be low and the immune system may also be feeble. Chronic urinary tract infections may manifest. Even if Venus is strong, if it is in an undesirable position, it may cause an overindulgence in sex, eating or drinking, bringing on innumerable physical disabilities.

Myth

Venus was the master and teacher of the demons. The demons harassed the gods greatly and during one such war, Venus angered Lord Shiva while using his powers to revive demons that had perished. Shiva captured and swallowed Venus in order to turn the tides of the war. Venus wandered and meditated in Shiva's stomach for 1,000 years. When Shiva ejected Venus back into the world, Venus immediately paid obeisance to Shiva without delay. This so impressed Shiva that he granted Venus the status of planet.



Power of Saturn

Saturn is a slow-moving and very powerful planet, malefic in nature. Shani is the Sanskrit name for Saturn and he is also called Shanaishchara (slow moving) as Saturn takes 2.5 years, or 30 months, to pass through all signs of the Zodiac. It is the ruler of longevity of life, death and the aging of the body. It controls the practice of yoga and renunciation, or detachment from this material world. Therefore, it rules over ascetics, monks and spiritual renunciates. It also indicates foreigners and foreign lands in the chart. Saturn is also the ruler of the people dealing in the black market, as well as thieves and robbers.

Said to be the greatest teacher, Saturn is a hard task-master. The lessons learned should help a subject to gain spiritual perspective on life and the

realization that full satisfaction can never be possible while transmigrating from one birth to another within this material world.

Coincidentally transport, machinery and prisons are also ruled by Saturn and, in a way, this whole material stratosphere of innumerable planets, planetary systems and forced birth and death is viewed as a large prison. The reason this allegory is used in the Vedas to describe the material planetary systems is that we are not truly "free" until liberated from its confines. This can only happen when man becomes self-realized and renounces the temporary pleasures (and pains) of this world.



Manual laborers are represented by Saturn, but its position in everyone's horoscope will indicate the type of employment in which they engage. This may also be interpreted to indicate the trials and tribulations to undergo to attain success in the chosen field.

Saturn rules over carpenters and construction workers, laborers, mechanics, miners, masons, vendors, hunters and social servants. Saturn also rules over products such as gasoline, iron, wood and all black colored items. Deadly substances also come under Saturn's direction.

Saturn is the lord of the signs Capricorn and Aquarius. It is exalted in Libra and debilitated in Aries. Its friends are Mercury, Venus, Rahu and Ketu. Enemies are Sun, Moon and Mars. Jupiter is neutral. It is ruler of the birthstars Pushya, Anuradha and Uttarabhadrapada. Saturn is most powerful during the waning of the Moon and shows its greatest effect between the ages of 36 and 42 years. Physically Saturn rules the bones, nails, teeth, and hair. It also has to do with the nervous system, as it will give a body constitution dominated by "Vata" (air or wind) and nerve impulses are related with the element of air. It is also an indicator of psychological problems.

If Saturn is well-positioned, or aspected in the horoscope, it gives long life, the ability to be a leader and an organizer with integrity, sincerity and honesty. If well positioned, it can also give wisdom, fame and patience, along with a sense of justice, or knowing right from wrong. It can help spiritualists become unattached for advancement in their spiritual goals.

When Saturn is in a poor position, it brings disappointments, sorrow and miseries. It may cause delays and difficulties, disputes and disharmony. It may cause subjects to feel despondent or dejected, and cause destruction or death. A weak position can cause enmity, theft, lawsuits and

imprisonment. Accidents and premature aging are also possible effects of a poorly positioned Saturn, which can make its subordinates lonely, sadistic, greedy and fearful. Dishonesty, irresponsibility and addiction to drugs are also traits of those with a poorly positioned Saturn.

These people may be agitated and unable to handle stress. They are not practical and have a warped perception of reality. Some may suffer problems from the government and have a hard time earning a living. They give up easily and have no endurance or drive, over a long period of time.

Physically, there may be weakness of nerves and the bones, lack of vitality, and a short life. Ear disease or deafness, gout, colic and asthma may also be caused by the malefic influence of Saturn. Resistance to infectious diseases may be extremely weak and in severe cases, cancer, epilepsy, paralysis and severe mental debility or insanity may manifest.

Myth

The Sun married Sanchigai, the daughter of Dhusashta and gave birth to three sons. When Sanchigai went to visit her parents without the knowledge of her husband, she left behind her shadow Chaya Devi. Saturn is one of the three children born to the Sun and Chaya Devi. When Saturn was born it was said that his gaze fell on his father the Sun, and caused vitiligo. His gaze then fell upon the Sun's charioteer who fell and broke his thigh. Next his gaze fell on the seven horses that drive the Sun's chariot and they all went blind. It was only when Saturn's gaze left them that the Sun's skin cleared, his charioteer's femur healed, and his horses regained their eye sight.



When Lord Shiva's son Ganesha was born, his mother Parvati wanted to show the boy to Saturn. Saturn advised her not to, however she insisted and Saturn gazed upon the child with one eye. Instantly Ganesha's head was burnt to ashes. To prevent Parvati's anger from destroying the universe, Lord Vishnu, cut the head off a bull elephant he had found, and joined it successfully to Ganesha's body. This is why Lord Ganesha has the head of an elephant!

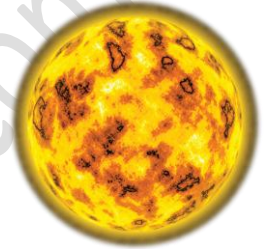
The story goes that one of the sons of the Sun named Yama (god of death), was angry with his step-mother Chaya Devi and in a fit of rage hit his step-brother Saturn on his legs. This crippled Saturn, who became lame. Thus Saturn confers a general slowness in all aspects of life. Disappointment, incompatibility, sorrows, imprisonment, stubbornness, servitude, and difficulties in life are associated with Saturn.

In order to be granted the status of planet, Saturn established a Linga (a form of Shiva) at Benares and performed penance for a very long period to time.

The Power of the Sun

The Sun is the ruler of the sign Leo in the Zodiac. It is exalted in Aries and debilitated in Libra. Sun rules the birth stars/nakshatras/constellations of Krittika, Uttara Phalguni and Uttarashada. Natural friends are the Moon, Mars and Jupiter. Natural enemies are Saturn, Venus, Rahu and Ketu.

The Sun's position in one's horoscope will indicate in a variety of traits of an individual, both physical and psychological. First, we should understand what the Sun represents in an astrological horoscope. The Sun is considered the ruler of our entire solar system. All the other planets orbit around it and are dependent on the Sun's energy for the existence of most life forms living on them.



From the position of the Sun in a horoscope, we can understand a lot about the person's physical appearance, although it is not the only factor. It represents the basic behavioural traits of a person as well, but again there are other factors that must also be taken into consideration. The Sun is the representative of father, so a competent astrologer should be aware of the parental status, traits and the relationship a person has with one's father. Even the length of the father's lifespan can be seen by the position of the Sun at the time of the person's birth. It can also be representative of the husband in a woman's chart.

The Sun gives us power through the vitamins contained in its rays; so the level of a person's physical power, or energy, is also determined by the Sun.

The Sun will also determine the amount of influence to be gained over others during his or her lifetime. The Sun is the king of all planets and is the supplier of light and heat to the universe, and therefore has more influence over life than any other planet.

Success in maintaining a healthy body, vitality, immune system, and the willpower to achieve greatness in society are under purview of the Sun. It gives life force, intelligence and prosperity. It is indicative of wealth, wisdom, good fortune and success in all worldly affairs. Our ambition and the ability to understand the physical and the phenomenal worlds all come under the Sun's control.

The Sun represents kings, government officials, people in government service and leaders. It represents wealthy or famous people, as well as those living in or connected with a church, temple, or religious institution. It also represents creative people like artists, actors, jewellers, gemologists, and gold merchants. Doctors, nurses and those connected with the healing field are also ruled by the Sun.

The Sun, if well placed in the chart, can give great abilities in the categories mentioned, making a person cheerful, fortunate, and wise. If ill-placed in the horoscope, it can indicate in myriad of physical as well as possible mental or emotional problems, pessimistic attitude, humiliation at the hands of others and impoverished conditions of life. A strong Sun can bring fame to an individual in their area, or field of work, that can even be world-wide. An individual would be virtuous, full of vitality and have the potency to instruct or command others in proper way if the Sun is beneficially disposed. The Sun can indicate how a person's status in society increases steadily during his lifetime to a place far above what he/she was born in.

If the Sun is afflicted in the horoscope, it may make a person too proud or egotistical. It may also indicate excessive arrogance or boastfulness. The Sun will reveal its full influence between the ages of 12 and 24 years.

In the physical body, the Sun is the ruler of the heart, head, lungs, liver, nervous system and skeletal structure. It indicates the right eye in a male and the left in a female. To fast on a Sunday is recommended if the Sun is weak in the horoscope.

Myth

When the universe was bathed in darkness, Lord Brahma - the God of Creation - split it off the centre and the sound "AUM" reverberated. This incident resulted in the creation of the Sun. The Sun is thus known as being "self-created". In Vedic mythology, worship of the Sun brings redemption.



The Power of Rahu

Rahu is a malefic planet - actually, a node of the Moon by nature. It brings chaos generally, causing difficulties, frustration, anxiety and suffering. It can cause ignorance, enmity and insatiable sensual or worldly desires, robbing those so influenced of the ability to ever feel satisfied. It can indicate infectious disease, unclean or irreligious habits and use of intoxicants. It generally intensifies the effects of any house in which it is situated.

Rahu represents snakes, fear, suffering from sinful actions and persons of lower character. It rules over travellers and navigators, as well as criminals, spies, anarchists, revolutionaries and terrorists. Persons of violent and aggressive natures are also ruled by Rahu. It causes people to go underground, losing contact with people they had previously associated with in life.



When situated in a powerful position, Rahu can give great riches, or the ability to use the media to sway the opinions of the public. It can give power and fame, political success, as well as physical beauty. However, Rahu's planetary period will never allow a person to feel satisfied, regardless of any material gains. Whatever is gained in Rahu's period is usually lost. It shows its full effects between the ages of 42 and 48 years.

Rahu is said to be exalted in Taurus in most references, but some give Gemini or Virgo as the exaltation sign. Nevertheless it is powerful in any of these signs. Mercury, Saturn and Venus are friendly to Rahu, but Mars, Sun and Moon are his enemies. Jupiter is neutral. Rahu is especially powerful in giving artistic and communicative talents, or knowledge of mystical arts when conjunct with Jupiter or Venus.

When badly positioned, Rahu makes for poor judgment. Those so influenced are usually illogical, insensitive and selfish. It can cause fears and suicidal tendencies. Hallucinations and usage of drugs are some of the effects of Rahu, which in turn lead to moodiness, fantasies, or imagined problems. Rahu can even induce a person to commit murder. Those powerfully under its rays can be swayed by any influences, regardless of the dangers and are usually unpopular, with very few friends. They are generally self-destructive and easily lose control of themselves, often ending up in detention or prison.

Physically, Rahu can cause a weak immune system, thereby contracting diseases easily. Subjects are nervous, with an unhealthy pallor to their appearance. Disorders include constipation or dysentery, rheumatism, skin diseases, cholera and piles, to name but a few, together with many diseases difficult or impossible to diagnose easily. People so influenced may lose control of bodily functions and steadily degenerate with nervous and mental disorders.

Myth

Rahu was born to the Demon Viprasitthi and his wife Simmikai. Lord Vishnu took the form of a beautiful maiden and brought out the nectar of

immortality by churning the Milky Ocean. Lord Vishnu wanted to offer this nectar to the Angels, however the demons wanted it as well. While the nectar was being offered to the angels, Rahu disguised himself and sitting between the Sun and Moon, managed to drink a drop of the nectar. After seeing this deception the Sun and Moon snatched to Vishnu.

Vishnu immediately severed Rahu's head with his discus. Rahu's head survived because the nectar of immortality at that point had reached his neck. Rahu's body was later revived and became Ketu. They live on to torture the Sun and the Moon for betraying them by causing both lunar and solar eclipse.



The Power of the Moon

The Moon represents the mind and accordingly, it indicates a person's thinking, feeling, and other mental processes. It represents all things that have to do with one's mother, as well as motherhood in women.

It is representative of interaction with the public, or public businesses, water, liquids and the tides of the sea, over which it rules. It also has dominance over the waters and liquids within our bodies.

Emotions and sensitivity may be understood by the position of the Moon in a person's chart. The Moon's nature is tender-hearted and wise. It rules peace of mind and gives a general sense of comfort and well-being. The Moon reflects understanding and sense of purpose, intuitive ability, sensuality, and love for fine arts, music and jewels. It also rules our moods, emotions and sensitivity.



The Moon is also responsible for growth, fertility and impregnation or conception. It influences childbirth and memory and has great influence over travel.

A strong Moon in the chart will indicate a happy mental state, good mother, opportunities for travel over water and success in businesses that has to do with the day to day needs of the public. It may bestow a wonderful social life and pleasure from different modes of enjoyments if the Moon is beneficially disposed, or well aspected. A powerful Moon gives emotional strength, makes for good relations and love for others. It will give good intuition, purpose to life, an attraction for the fine arts and make a person attractive to others.

If the Moon is weak in the chart you may be subject to mental anxiety. There may be emotional instability and an inability to relate well to others. If badly aspected, the Moon can make one unfriendly and unable to share intimacy, or will cause you to lack contentment or peace of mind.

An ill-placed Moon may make for inclinations to moodiness and feelings of depression, with an unclear mind. Depending on how severely afflicted it is, there may be a tendency towards neurosis, hysteria or insanity. It can make a person feel lack of joy or satisfaction, there by bringing about acute realization of the sufferings felt in this material world. There may be indications towards ill health of the mother, or difficulties in social advancement.

Physically an afflicted, debilitated, or otherwise ill-disposed Moon may indicate anaemia, lack of body fluids or body weight, constipation and dryness of the skin. It can cause colds, fevers, bronchitis, intestinal problems, or even susceptibility to cancer. Organs, such as the lungs and kidneys may also be weak and there may be menstrual or infertility problems in women.

The Moon is ruler of the sign Cancer of the Zodiac and it is strong in its own sign. It is most powerful, or exalted, in Taurus and fallen, or debilitated, in Scorpio. Jupiter, Sun and Mars are the Moon's natural friends. Moon is very strong in its birth stars of Rohini, Hasta and Shravan. It is still quite strong in Jupiter's birth stars of Punarvasu, Vishakha and Purvabhadrapada. It also gives good effects when in Karttika, Uttara Phalguni, Ashlesha, Jyestha, Uttarashadha and Revati.

The Moon is auspicious for those born during the waxing of its cycle but causes difficulty if born during the descending cycle. It is always a benefic planet and is strongest from the tenth day of waxing to the fifth day of its waning. Its effects are powerfully felt in childhood, as Moon rules over this period of life.

Myth

It is believed that the Lord Moon was born out of the divine chest of Lord Vishnu (the Generator or Maintainer God). Some say that the Moon emerged from the "Holy Ocean Of Milk". Others claim that it was born to a saint.



Lord Moon married all the 27 daughters of Dakshin, who are star constellations in the sky. But the Moon did not evenly share his love with all his wives, preferring to spend more time with Rohini. This upset the

neglected wives and they complained to their father. Dakshan appealed to the Moon many times, however the Moon refused to listen. Dakshan therefore cursed the Moon that he would diminish in size and become diseased. Day by day the Moon waned and due to his sickness, all living things developed consumption.

A worried Moon (also known as Chandran) on the advice of Lord Brahma (the Creator God) then performed penance to Lord Shiva (The Destroyer God). Lord Shiva appeared before him and adorned his forehead with the crescent shaped Chandran. Shiva then came to be known as Chandrasekaran. He blessed Chandran to regain his beauty and brightness slowly day by day. This is the Waxing phase of the Moon until he is full again- Full Moon or Poornima. From Poornima onward it starts losing his beauty and brightness again until he is completely dark- New Moon or Amavasya.

The Power of Ketu

Ketu like Rahu, is a shadow planet and again is malefic by nature. It is actually a spiritual planet and an indicator of enlightenment. It gives spiritual tendencies and non-attachment to material ambition or worldly desires. It can give the wisdom to attain spiritual knowledge or knowledge of the self (self-realization). Accordingly it is considered a "moksh-karaka", or a force which can lead to enlightenment and freedom from the cycle of repeated birth and death.

To those so influenced it may give psychic potencies, giving them great abilities in the healing arts. Subjects may become adept in natural forms of healing body and mind, herbology, tantra and the way of dealing with those disturbed by forces on the astral plane. This may include ghosts and other malefic spirits. Ketu may also cause such severe physical illness in the body that, as a positive consequence, subjects become disinterested in material life and seek spiritual liberation.



Ketu is exalted in Scorpio (or as with Rahu some consider both Mercury's signs Gemini and Virgo to be exaltation), is debilitated in Taurus and is strong in either of Jupiter's signs of Sagittarius or Pisces, as well as (clearly) the signs of Mercury. It rules the birthstars of Ashwini, Magha and Mula.

One rule is that if Rahu is somehow favoring a person, then Ketu will be unfavorable. Ketu is basically a restrictive planet, in one way or another. It afflicts the body as Rahu afflicts mind. Its position may indicate things

concerning hands and feet, the relationship with mother and shows its greatest effects between the age of 48 and 54 years.

Ketu can force an individual into impoverished material situation and can generally afflict the house where it is positioned in the horoscope. When afflicted it can cause fear, anxiety, accidents and imprisonment. It can cause destruction in strange and terrible ways, starvation and even death. Poisons also come under Ketu's control. It may make people conspire to do terrible things and may give nightmares to those so influenced. Materially, Ketu is generally thought of as causing suffering.

When Ketu is poorly placed in the chart, the subject will have weak eyesight and concentration, be indiscriminate and lack confidence. They may be extremely accident-prone, or have self-destructive tendencies. Some will feel constricted without the freedom to do as they may like. A tendency to dwell on the past, or worry about things that are already beyond reparation may also manifest, and it can cause nightmares. When conjunct with another planet, it causes the planet to act in an erratic way, reducing or destroying its potency and the categories of the house in which it is situated.

Physically, it may cause the blood circulation to be poor, bad digestion, anemia, ulcers, too much heat within the body and muscular or nervous system disorders. It is also the cause of terribly disfiguring skin diseases, such as leprosy. Additionally, it is a cause of pains and disease in the joints and nerves. Like Rahu it can cause strange diseases that may be difficult to diagnose, as well as incurable problems like cancer or paralysis.

Myth

Rahu was born to the Demon Viprasitthi and his wife Simmikai. Lord Vishnu took the form of a beautiful maiden and brought out the nectar of immortality by churning the Milky Ocean. Lord Vishnu wanted to offer this nectar to the Angels, however the demons wanted it as well. While the nectar was being offered to the angels, Rahu disguised himself and sitting between the Sun and Moon, managed to drink a drop of the nectar.

After seeing this deception the Sun and Moon snatched to Vishnu. Vishnu immediately severed Rahu's head with his discus. Rahu's head survived because the nectar of immortality at that point had reached his neck. Rahu's body was later revived and became Ketu. They live on to torture the Sun and the Moon for betraying them by causing both lunar and solar eclipses.

