

An Introduction to Hindu Predictive Astrology*

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Introduction: Purpose of this article is to introduce the subject of Astrology to non-astrologers (i.e., who are new to the subject) Astrology is an age-old subject prevalent all over the World in some form or the other. Hindu system of Astrology is considered as a part of Vedas. A detailed study, in a formal way, is well advised for a comprehensive approach.

Purpose of Astrology: Astrology is required for everyone like mathematics. Even an illiterate is aware of mathematics. Similarly everyone is having a sense of planets and their effects on human life and on himself more precisely. Hence every one can also understand Astrology. But only learned Astrologers are able to express, in words, their findings. Knowledge of Astrology is essential to understand intricacies of life to plan for remedial actions. Planetary rays have effect on human life as evident from the effect of Sunrays on human body. The cosmic energy modifies bio-energy in a human being.

Human activities are qualified by satwic, rajasic and tamasic qualities. The output of human activity is classified as dharma, artha, kama, moksha. Human life is like a coin with two sides' i.e., materialistic and spiritualistic sides.

Every day / night is good for human life. Good and bad are relative terms. A day suitable for materialistic purpose may not suit for spiritual purpose. Astrology helps to make use of time in a best way with proper planning for material / spiritual goals. Any life guided correctly is like a nourished garden.

Influence of planets on each individual is studied with the help of planetary configuration at his birth time interpolated with the transitory influence of planets on the life of that individual from time to time. A common doubt, in this, is when two human beings are born at the same time how the individual fate is differing and how it can be read from the same horoscope.

Once own activities are causes of his destiny. Human being is bestowed with higher intelligence. With the acceptance of concept of rebirth and doctrine of karma it is clear that every one carries with him the memories of previous life. Those memories qualify the activities in present life. This is explained as – Sanchita (i.e., what is brought forward from previous life); Prarabdha (i.e., activities in present life); and Agami (i.e., what is to be carried over to next life).

A common doubt, again, is when cosmic rays control human activity at large how the sanchita, prarabdha and agami differing. Here it is to be observed that every one is bestowed with ichha sakti (will power); gnana sakti (intelligence) and kriya sakti (human effort). Human being with his dominating ichha sakti, gnana sakti and kriya sakti is modifying sanchita karma / defining prarabdha / qualifying agami karma.

Knowledge of Astrology is needed to understand the intricacies involved and plan human activity for better results in materialistic / spiritualistic goals. Although one need to work for materialistic goals in middle age ultimately every one has to work for spiritualistic goals. Hence suitability of time is to be seen from Astrology for timely achievement of different goals.

What is Horoscope ? - Method of Casting of Horoscope is not dealt with, in this article, for brevity and it is essentially recommended to every reader to learn detailed techniques of casting of a horoscope for comprehensive approach. Horoscope is a map of heaven at a given time, say birth time or query time, indicating the longitudinal positions of planets in natural zodiac. A broad belt of 9° on each side of the Sun's apparent path around earth is called natural zodiac (Bhachakara). This is divided into 12 parts called signs or rasis each spreading to 30°. They are named as Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces.

In making a horoscope there are two schools of thought i.e., Fixed (Nirayana) zodiac and Moving (Sayana) zodiac. Hindu system mostly follows fixed (Nirayana) system. Astronomical theories followed by different astrologers resulted in different systems.

The mathematical difference in fixed and moving zodiac is called as Ayanamsa. Among the duration of Ayanamsa also Astronomers and thereby Astrologers differ in the time of coincidence of

moving zodiac with fixed zodiac. Prominent among the followed are Lahari ayanamsa, B.V.Raman ayanamsa, and K.P.ayanamsa.

Solar system : Planets move around Sun in their orbit in the sequence of Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. Moon moves around Earth. Rahu and Ketu are not planets. They are formed with the inter-section of planetary rays – They are called shadow planets and are, however, given planetary status by classical astrologers.

Stars : According to ancient astrological cannons the zodiac is divided into 27 lunar mansions each extending to 13° 20'. They are also called as Asterisms or Stars. These mansions are grouped as triads and a planet is said to rule each triad. The names of stars, the planets that rule them and planets' respective periods in Vimshotari dasa are as follows. No. of the star indicates its sequential place in natural zodiac i.e., 1. Aswini 2. Bharani and so on.

1. Aswini, 10. Makha, 19. Moola, -Ketu-7 years; 2. Bharani, 11. Pubba, 20. Purvashada, Venus- 20yrs; 3. Kritika, 12. Uttara, 21. Uttarashada, Sun-6yrs; 4. Rohini, 13. Hasta, 22. Sravanam, Moon-10yrs; 5. Mrigasira, 14. Chitta, 23. Dhanishta, Mars-7yrs; 6. Arudra, 15. Swati, 24. Satabhisham, Rahu-18yrs; 7. Punervasu, 16. Visakha, 25. Purvabhadra, Jupiter-16yrs; 8. Pushyami, 17. Anuradha, 26. Uttarabhadra, Saturn-19yrs; 9. Aslesha, 18. Jyestha, 27. Revathi. –Mercury- 17 yrs.

Rasi Tatwa - in general. Each sign has certain natural qualities as given below.

Aries: Fiery, Movable, Odd sign, Prishtodaya, Rasi lord –Mars; **Taurus**: Earthy, Fixed, Even, Prishtodaya, Rasi lord – Venus.; **Gemini**: Airy, Dual, Odd, Ubhayodaya, Rasi lord- Mercury; **Cancer**: Watery, Movable, Even, Prishtodaya, Rasi lord- Moon; **Leo**: Fiery, Fixed, Odd, Sirshodaya, Rasi lord- Sun; **Virgo**: Earthy, Dual, Even, Sirshodaya, Rasi lord – Mercury; **Libra**: Airy, Movable, Odd, Sirshodaya, Rasi lord – Venus; **Scorpio**: Watery, Fixed, Even, Sirshodaya, Rasi lord- Mars; **Sagittarius**: Fiery, Dual, Odd, Prishtodaya, Rasi lord- Jupiter; **Capricorn**: Earthy, Movable, Even, Prishtodaya, Rasi lord – Saturn; **Aquarius**: Airy, Fixed, Odd, Sirshodaya, Rasi lord – Saturn; **Pisces**: Watery, Dual, Even, Ubhayodaya, Rasi lord- Jupiter.

Bhavas – Bhava Tatwa : Natural zodiac marked with planetary positions is divided into 12 parts called bhavas- this is within the natural division of 12 signs. Planets marked in various signs, are thus, seen in different bhavas. The first bhava is called Lagna or Ascendant. Ascendant is the raising sign, in natural zodiac, on eastern horizon at the time for which horoscope is made. Lagna is a benchmark to commence the reading of a horoscope. Various bhavas indicate different aspects of human life as detailed below. Classical astrologers also suggest to commence reading the horoscope from the strongest among Lagna / Sun's rasi / Moon rasi.

1st Bhava / Lagna / Ascendent – Body, soul, general temperament.; 2nd- Money, speech, family, eyes, ears, face, education, longevity.; 3rd - brothers, sisters, courage, anger, idea, friends, longevity.; 4th- Mother, education, vehicles, lands, immovable property, houses, face, wells, water tanks, agriculture, cattle, crops, relatives; 5th- Progeny, Education, Intelligence, Skills, Tantric skills, Speculation; 6th- Enemies, debts, diseases, service matters, competitive exams., 7th - spouse, Marriage, Lust, adultery, Comfort, longevity., 8th- Longevity, Death, Hell, Sorrow.; 9th - father, comfort, meditation, devotion, pilgrimage, kindness.; 10th - Profession, Power, Fame, Business; 11th - Gains, elder sisters, and elder brothers, Monetary gains, success, longevity; 12th - Expenditure, loss, Wasteful expenses, hell.

Graha tatwa – in general: By virtue of planet(s) ownership of rasis, stars, and mutual friendship among planets they transit in own signs, friendly/inimical signs, or exalted /debilitated signs or moolatrikona signs. The strength of a planet differs as per their transitory position. Quality of planet-graha tatwa- in general is as follows.

Sun: Rajasic, Atmakaraka, Pitrukaraka, Profession, Courage, Power, Eyes, Pittam.; **Moon**: Rajasic, Mother, Mind, intelligence, beauty, water comfort, truth, silver, Cold; **Mars**: Tamasic, Brothers and sisters, land, Courage, anger, logic, skill of using weapons, inimical, heat, leadership, small pox ; **Mercury**: Satwik, Maths, astrology, business, medicine, skills, sculpture, cousins, philosophy,

intelligence, tantric, devotion to lord vishnu ; **Jupiter:** Satwik, Money, Education, progeny, Astrology, Vedas, Acostics, Gold, House; Vehicle, religion, wealth, relatives, charity. Devotion to god, truth; **Venus:** Rajasic, Spouse, marriage, music, art, pleasures with women, lust, adultery, comfort, vehicle, wealth, power, humour; **Saturn :** Tamasic, Longevity, education of mean subjects, worship of mean deities, death, bondage, small pox, illegal, bad behaviour, hell, mean life, huna vidya (i.e., education of foreign language.) **Rahu:** Tamasic, Tanks, Maternal grand parents, Father, Poisonous medicine, mean life, mean education.; **Ketu:** Tamasic, Salvation, Paternal grand parents, Philosophical thinking, devotion to God, Renunciation, Knowledge.

Dasa system - Dasa/bhukti/antara periods : Dasa system is followed for timing of an event as per bhava indications. Among different systems Vimshotari system is widely followed. In dasa system each planet gets a leading role as Maha dasa (main period). Within the Main period of a planet all other planets get sub-periods in a definite proportion. Within sub-period of a planet all others planets are allotted sub-sub-periods. Main period is called Mahardasa and subsequent periods are called bhukti, antara, etc. Aggregate of maha dasas of all planets is 120 years. The starting maha dasa and balance thereon at birth time is arrived from the lord of the star where moon is posited at birth time i.e. birth star.

Interpretation of a Horoscope – Principles for Prediction:

Caution: Interpretation of horoscope is a matter of decoding divine qualities of zodiac and of planets. - Objective analysis is to be made and properly worded to prevent possible errors and ill effects thereto on native's psychology. - All efforts should be taken to see that this science of Astrology does not create wrong fears or undue confidence.- The duty of Astrologer is to follow a code of discipline to ensure that this divine science is useful to all.- Accurate and useful prediction is, in a sense, a gut feeling of a good practitioner with a divine blessing.

General reading : Bhava results are blended with rasi tatwa and graha tatwa of other planets associated in any way with bhava or bhava lord. No single planet works in isolation. At any given time, the native is bestowed with a package deal of all planets with leadership of a planet(s). Detailed reading of a horoscope is to be taken up after making divisional charts (shodasavargas) and arriving at the shadbala strength of planets. However, for the benefit of beginners the approach, in brief, for predictions from rasi chart is given below. A study in the following three directions is required.

1) A planet in a particular rasi e.g., Sun in Aries / Taurus/ Gemini etc., Moon in Aries, / Taurus/ Gemini etc., and so on. Sun in Aries – active, intelligent, famous etc., when in Taurus- slow and steady, hard worker, intelligent etc., Moon in Aries-likes travelling, impulsive, bold, aggressive etc., Moon in Taurus – Happy, good looking, weaving mind etc., and so on...

2) When a planet is in 1st bhava /2nd/3rd, and so on. E.g., Sun in Lagna – short tempered, lives in foreign land, courageous, wealthy etc., Sun in 2nd bhava – fortunate, poor eye sight, troubles from government etc., Moon in Lagna – if moon is waxing and that lagna is Cancer, Aries, Taurus or Libra – handsome, learned otherwise bad effects. Moon in 2nd bhava – happy, good friends, wealthy (if full moon), etc.,

3) When a bhava lord is posited in another bhava the results of two bhavas are blended. E.g., the lord of 1st bhava is posited in 1st bhava – healthy, long-lived, hard-working etc., if in 2nd bhava-Wealthy, respected, leadership etc., if in 3rd- good brothers, courageous, religious etc.,

Predictions are to be made by observing all the above three directions. For timing of results verify dasa/bhukti/antara etc., period. Also consider the Gochara transit of leading planets and of dasa/bhukti/antara lords to quantify and qualify (benefic/malefic) nature of events.

Gochara results: Transit results are studied with reference to lagna, or Chandra lagna. Chandra lagna is the rasi where moon is posited at the time of birth. Counting from Chandra lagna is in wider practice as we see daily / weekly / monthly / yearly forecasts in various journals. One school of thought counts from birth star to a star where planet is posited in transit. By this, the transit results are

known for shorter periods. The following tables indicate the results of transit of a planet in different stars counted from birth star in nirayana longitudes.

Count the number from birth star to the star where a planet is transiting. As per that number see col. 1 of table I and pick corresponding number of the respective planet from cols. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 of same Table . Use that picked number in col.1 of Table II to check the result of that planet from col.2 of Table II.

Table I						Table II		
No.of Star Where Planet is in	Sun	Moon	Mars	Mer. Jup. Ven	Sat. Rah. Ketu.	No.of Result.	Result.	
Col. (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	col.(1)	col (2)	
1	-	5	6	14	15	11	1	ill health
2	-	16	6	14	15	26	2	loss of wealth
3	-	16	19	7	15	26	3	illness, indisposition, loss of energy.
4	-	16	19	7	21	26	4	Serious illness, danger to life
5	-	16	19	7	21	26	5	Destruction of property, ill health
6.	-	17	19	7	21	12	6	fear and anxiety
7	-	17	20	7	9	12	7	Quarrels and misunderstandings
8	-	17	20	7	9	12	8	Journey to distance/ foreign places,
9	-	17	21	17	9	13	9	Untoward event and Calamity
10	-	18	21	17	9	13	10	Lose of money
11	-	18	22	17	9	13	11	Grief and Bereavement
12	-	18	22	15	9	18	12	Journey and Removals
13	-	18	22	15	16	18	13	Loss of money and position
14	-	2	22	15	16	18	14	Illhealth, danger to life, accidents
15	-	2	22	15	16	18	15	Loss of wealth, money &prosperity
16	-	2	7	18	16	27	16	Influence, increased earnings, gains
17	-	2	7	18	16	27	17	Success in undertakings
18	-	2	7	6	16	27	18	Financial gains
19	-	2	8	6	16	27	19	Safety and Well being
20	-	3	8	6	25	27	20	Success over enemies
21	-	3	8	6	25	28	21	Financial gains, Increased income
22	-	3	8	24	25	28	22	Mental happiness and Peace
23	-	3	8	24	25	28	23	Financial gains, increased income
24	-	21	8	24	25	28	24	Happiness and Well being.
25	-	21	23	24	25	28	25	Honor, Status, Fame, New position
26	-	4	23	8	25	1	26	Happiness and Prosperity
27	-	4	23	8	25	1	27	Enjoyment and Happiness
							28	Happiness and gains
