

Mundane Astrology- Natural Calamities – Earthquakes *

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Synopsis: Introduction-Types of Earthquakes-Earthquake prone areas - Effects of Earthquakes- Timing of Earthquakes- symptoms around the occurrence of earthquakes-

Earthquakes are known from ancient times and our ancestors took considerable interest in describing the causes. Earthquake is a cosmic accident where the four elements viz., Wind, Fire and Water along with Indra cause the earth to shake. Discussion on causes of earthquakes had been a perennial topic in ancient Indian literature. Classical texts concerning natural phenomena are to be carefully interpreted. Brihat Samhita (B.S.) of Varahamihira (5–6th century AD) and Adbhuta Sagara (A.S.) of Ballala Sena (10–11th century AD) are notable books about earthquakes. Parashara was of the opinion that eclipses and planetary aberrations could also cause earthquakes. Recent research studies on the subject from eminent scholars from India and abroad are also contributing in this area.

Types of Earthquakes - Depending on the time of occurrence and the ruling stellar configuration the earthquakes are classified into four groups. An earthquake which occurs from north in the last quarter of the night or in the first quarter of the day under any a star group belongs to the *Wind* group (vayavya). Similarly, earthquakes of the *Agni* (fire), *Indra* and *Varuna* (water) group originate from south, east and west, respectively and are governed by specific star groups. So far the effort has been only to group the earthquakes after their occurrence, according to some recognizable attributes.

Earthquake prone areas – Areas are given in classical texts like Brihat Samhita which are to be carefully identified with their present-day equivalents. Ancient writings indicate that *Vayu-type* earthquakes are most destructive and the *Agni*, *Varuna*, and *Indra-type* earthquakes are comparatively less harmful. The extent of ground shaking indicated is 200 yojanas during Vayu-type earthquake and 90,80 and 70 correspondingly for *Agni*, *Indra* and *Varuna* (one yojana=6miles). Varaha Mihira agrees only with the vayu-type value and for the other three, his values are Varuna-type 180, Indra -type 160, and Agni-type 110 yojanas. Varahamihira's approach of describing earthquakes in terms of the extent of ground shaking is refreshingly scientific.

Effects of Earthquakes-*Vayu-type earthquakes* lead to extensive destruction of houses, towers and forts followed by windstorms within a week after such an earthquake. *Agni-type earthquake* induces surface fires engulfing villages and towns. Rivers and water sources dry up. *Indra -type tremors*, lead to rains and elimination of colonies. *Varuna-type* earthquake kills people living along river and sea coasts.

Earthquakes were also supposed to indicate the impending death of kings, outbreak of wars

and epidemics. Buddhists believe that important persons will die at the time of earthquakes. Buddha himself said to have interpreted the earthquake occurred before his Nirvana at Kushinagara in 483 BC as the sign that he would soon pass away into Nirvana.

Timing of Earthquakes- Some remarkable events like the time of eclipses, bad aspects of malefic planets, Sun's ingress, full moon, new moon etc., can be mathematically calculated in advance – where as the exact time of earthquake cannot be so calculated. These mathematical calculations are based on the rotation and revolving of planetary bodies. The occurrence of earthquakes, tsunami etc., are the results of the sudden disorders of the five elements (pancha bhutas) due to the changes in gravitational forces among the planets in certain configurations. Nature has yet to reveal to the humanity the results of the disorderly changes in gravitational forces. However, earthquake prone areas are getting identified from centuries. Hence certain areas are getting thinly populated or suitable infrastructure is made to withstand the tremors of lower/ certain higher order. However, heavy tremors are causing damages.

Classical writers and research observations reveal the following symptoms around the occurrence of earthquakes. -

- (1) Earthquakes generally follow or precede the eclipses they happen near about the time of eclipse. The country/place in which the eclipse occurs may not be free from danger. ;
- (2) At the time of earth-quakes, adverse connections between Mars and Saturn (conjunction, opposition, aspect etc.) have been noted.;
- (3) Earthy signs (Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn) (some refer to fixed signs i.e. Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius) and the planets therein also matter with regard to occurrence of earth-quakes. Saturn in a fixed sign at the distance of 45 degrees from meridian, it is stated that the earthquake will occur in that part of the world which is at the same distance from Greenwich, east or west-depending on the position of Saturn.*(This is to be verified with past events)*;
- (4) The timing of occurrence of earthquakes has been noticed between mid-day and sunset or between midnight and sunrise.;
- (5) A major planet has been noted to be 'Retrograde' at the time of earthquake.;
- (6) The Ruling Nakshtra has been found to belonging to earth or air. ;
- (7) Moon and Mercury must conjunct and come in the same Nakshtra.;
- (8) Earth-quakes generally happen when there are many planets in or near the movable (Cardinal signs) i.e. Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn.;
- (9) Frequent happening of earthquakes is indicated when the planets like Uranus, Saturn, Mars, or Jupiter occupy Taurus and Scorpio.*(this can be verified with past events in the earthquake prone areas like Japan)*;
- (10) In Brihat Samhita, reference has been made to bad omens for causing earthquakes. Other principle is that the Moon be stretched like the yoke of a carriage from the south to the north, there would be earthquakes. An eclipse is heralded by some usual occurrences such as earthquake and terrific thunder. If the earthquake is after an eclipse there would be death of a leading king.

Research studies in this aspect of the last century are revealing the following from a chart drawn at the time of Sun's ingress into Aries sign:

(1) For an earthquake to happen in the year, severe affliction of 8th house or its lord must be indicated (8th house denotes mass deaths and mass tragedies which do happen in earthquakes also).

(2) Eclipses falling at quadrants to Jupiter, Saturn or Mars also produce earthquakes.

(3) The area of the occurrence is generally indicated by the zodiacal sign in which the above combination occur. -Further studies are to be made in this.

Examples from Earthquakes caused in India and China -

(1) Massive earth quake occurred in Bihar on 15th Jan, 1934. It was a New Moon day and seven planets were in Capricorn (Movable and Airy sign). The Sun, The Moon and Mars were in exact conjunction in Uttarashada ruled by the Sun, lord of 8th from the Moon.

(2) The earthquake caused in airy sign-Gemini ascendant - in Tangshan, (China) - Estimated death toll was as high as 655,000. Five planets in 2nd house (moveable sign). New Moon on 27th July, 1976 was in Pushyami star of Saturn. The Moon and Mercury have a significant role to play in causing earthquakes. Except Jupiter and Nodes (Rahu and Ketu) all planets were clustered within an arc of 45 degrees.

(3) On 11th October 1737, about 4 to 5 lakh people died due to earthquake near Kolkatta. That time Saturn was in Gemini Ascendant and Mars in 4th house with Sun and the 12th lord Venus with Rahu in 3rd house from ascendant and 4th from 12th Taurus.

(4) On 15th Jan 1934, on a new moon day, earthquake occurred in Bihar when 7 planets were in Capricorn -earthy sign. Mars was exalted with its 8th aspect on Leo.

(5) On 26th January 2001 in Gujarat strong earthquake caused when Saturn -12th lord (Aquarius lagna) was in 4th and 4th lord Venus was in lagna aspected by Saturn. This was preceded by two eclipses – solar eclipse on 25th Dec. 2000 and lunar eclipse on 9th Jan 2001.

(6) There was a configuration of 8 planets in the movable sign Capricorn on 4th Feb.1962. Rahu in cancer, Uranus and Pluto in Leo, Neptune in Libra - all other planets in Capricorn a moveable sign. No serious incidents reported to have occurred from the earthquake prone areas. But on February 3, 1962 at 12:44 a.m. on Saturday, there was an earthquake at Fayetteville, Arkansas- It was also felt in Missouri, Kentucky, and Illinois .The earthquake was followed by a minor tremor about an hour and a half later. Saint Louis University reported a magnitude of 4.2 earthquake that was located about 150 miles south of Saint Louis, Missouri.

Example from Earthquakes caused in Japan:

The earthquakes of Japan - in 1923 there was a very devastating earthquake followed by frequent occurrences till 2011. By this Japan was considered as an earthquake prone area. Besides the earthquakes the country was also subjected to severe bomb blasts in Second World War. Yet, Japanese are known for their productive skills.

Example (1) The 1923 earthquake is also known as Great Tokyo Fire of 1923 as the fire spread from the charcoal or wood burning stoves when the many people were preparing their lunch at 11.58 local time – mid day. Many of the stoves were toppled over due to the shaking

of earth and the fire spread over. A tsunami was also generated resulting into a loss of 1.5 lakh people and much property.

Example (2) Earthquake of 2011-This time earthquake and tsunami was preceded by Lunar eclipse on 21st Dec.2010 and Solar eclipse on 4th Jan.2011. This year in addition to the bad planetary configuration the position of SUPER MOON reappearance after about 18 years caused an increase in its gravitational pull upon the Earth leading to higher tides with consequential earthquakes. As a result of the frequent earthquakes, Japanese construction standards for public buildings were changed suitably. Tokyo was reconstructed with better transportation services and more parks were created as areas of refuge. Hence, in spite of the vast damage in 2011 tsunami - Japan is able to withstand in World Map. This indicates the man's intelligence in making use of the natural benefits despite natural calamities. Japanese are known for their productive skills round the clock.

Hope that all other countries should try to follow the Japanese dedication in building strong infrastructure with sound will power for a global prosperity.
