

MYTHOLOGICAL STORIES OF ASTROLOGICAL PLANETS

As per the scriptures written by our revered sages & rishi's, the hierarchical system of education has been divided into the following categories in the descending order. They are as follows: -

- The highest level of the education hierarchy was aimed at the enlightened souls such as researchers, scholars, Sages and the Rishis. They studied the Vedas and wrote commentaries on them in order to explain the logic and intricacies of the philosophy to the less educated masses.
- The second level of education was aimed at the scholars and the preachers, who by way of making use of the religious texts such as Puranas ; Upanishads; Ramayana; the Mahabharata etc vis-à-vis conducting Kathas & discourses, taught the masses and the householders about the importance of adoption of the directions/ instructions / principles defined in these scriptures.
- The lowest ladder of the hierarchy included basic education, which was focused on imparting knowledge to the masses in the form of simple stories like Panchatantra so as to imbibe the moral, ethical, religious & social values among the masses.

In the earlier times, Education was considered to be as the privilege and only accessible to the limited class of people i.e. higher caste & affluent people. Even in today's times also, it is very difficult to gain quality education. It was imperative to touch upon the background of the hierarchical system of education because the same is having direct link with the mythological background of the various planets that will be explained in the following sections. This will greatly helps us in understanding the significance of the planets on our day-to-day life.

THE SUN

The mythology comprises of the trinity of Gods represented by Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver) and Shiva (the Destroyer). According to Classics, Brahma, the prajapati, had a son named Marichi, who had the famous sage Kashyap as his son. The rishi Kashyap married Daksha's daughter Aditi, who was the mother of the Gods. Her sons, the Gods, were completely defeated by the demons, so much so that they lost their power and respect. She prayed to Sun requesting Him to be born to her and rishi

. Sun heeded to Aditi's prayers and was born to her as Aditya. He completely annihilated the demons and got back the kingdom of Gods. He also taught his brothers the art of administration and defense of their kingdom. It is believed that Sun is not malefic but cruel. He was born to Aditi and Rishi Kashyap in answer to Aditi's fervent prayers. Sun has Brahma as his grandfather and Gods as his brothers. He was born with the mission to destroy the demons and get back the lost glory of the weak but righteous Gods. Sun is the king among all planets; an able administrator as well as giver of boons and blessings.

Sun married Sangaya, who was the daughter of Vishvakarma, the celestial architect and artisan. Sun nourishes the world and is the time-keeper as he causes Day and Night, the Seasons, as well as the time of sowing and harvesting of the grains. He is the father of Manu, the Lawgiver; Yami (river Yamuna) and Yama, the messenger who is responsible for our evolution from one form of life to another. Sun is also the father of Shani or Saturn, who controls the span of our lives, and also the Ashvini kumars, who are the celestial physicians controlling the illnesses and promoting healthy growth and well - being. Therefore, Sun's strength in a horoscope indicates soundness of physical and spiritual health. Being a king of all the planets, also imparts separative tendencies to it. Generally, It has been observed that exalted Sun in one's horoscope gives scanty or thinning hair. Moreover, Planets get combust when they are at closer degrees to the Sun.

THE MOON

In Harivansha Purana, there is an interesting account of the birth of Moon. Lord Brahma, the creator created seven sons by the concentration of his Manas. These seven sons are called the Manas putras of Brahma. One of the seven Manas putras was the sage Atri, who desired to have the Moon as his son. He prayed hard and concentrated so intensely on the Moon god that his body became like the moon and a moon like creation flowed out of his eyes, which was accepted by the ten directions (dishas) to be nurtured in their wombs and be given birth on completion of the conception period. However, they could not retain this creation and it fell on the Earth as the cool and lustrous Moon. Lord Brahma picked up this Fallen moon, which was a weak and premature baby. He put this weak child on his Chariot and directed his Manas Putras to strengthen the ten dishas by chanting of Vedic Hymns. This gave Moon a new lease of life.

Brahma took Moon on its chariot for a round of the earth around 21 times, during which the Moon dropped the seeds for herb and medicinal plants, which would sprout and become life-giving plants for all types of living beings.

In Astrology, moon is supposed to be in a good strength during Shukla Paksh (S.P) Ashtami to Krishna Paksh (K.P) Saptami for a period of 15 days. It is believed that the chanting of proper Mantras can strengthen a weak Moon in a horoscope. Since Moon signifies mind, therefore, having great importance and placement of moon appropriately in the horoscope along with beneficial aspects makes the native strong headed and blessed him/ her with the impeccable fighting abilities and never say die attitude. According to the legend, the mind wanders because Moon spread to the Ten Dishas/Directions, which is the entire universe. Even the ten Dishas were not able to contain him, thus, the mind finds it extremely difficult to concentrate and efforts are required to train it.

Moon married the 27 daughters of the Daksha prajapati. The names of these 27 wives of Moon are the 27 nakshtras of the zodiac. Moon visits ~~& stays~~ each wife for one day in rotation. There is another nakshatra namely "Abhijeet" which is mainly used for muhurat purpose. Tithis, Lunar Months, as well as all kind of festivals pertaining to different religions are also being directly linked to the Moon.

Classics reveal that Moon committed two major indiscretions. Firstly, he showered special attention on Rohini, one of the 27 wives. Secondly, he also abducted Tara, the wife of Devaguru Brihaspati. Both these indiscretions were handled divinely. For his first indiscretion, his father-in-law, Daksha cursed Moon to suffer from consumption, a gradual decay, which is termed as "Kshaya" in Hindi language. "Kshaya" means that the Moon wanes gradually, decaying each day until it reaches its end on the Amavasya day. Thus, ailments like TB, pleurisy, chronic chest ailments are caused due to a weak moon in a horoscope.

The second indiscretion committed by Moon was the abduction of Tara, the wife of the Devaguru Brihaspati on a Chaturthi day of (4th Tithi) of Bhadra month in the shukl paksha. For this reason, it is believed that that 'Chauth ka chand' should not be looked at on this day because it may induce improper thoughts in the mind and commit misdeeds.

MARS

Mars (Mangal in Hindi) is also known as the "Bhumi-putra" since he is the son of Prithvi (Earth). There are various stories regarding the birth of Mars. Many years ago, Prithvi was lying submerged in the vast expanse of the seas, God in his incarnation of Boar the "Varaha" avatar lifted the earth and brought it out of the seas. He also placed it in a suitable, stable orbit. The earth was grateful to the God and further asked Him a feminine boon for a child to be borne to her. God obliged and the union between the God and the rescued Prithvi resulted in the birth of Mars.

According to another legend, Lord Shiva was feeling penitent and sad over the untimely death of his wife, the Daksha putri Sati. The aggrieved Lord Shiva was inconsolable, and he went into a Samadhi (meditation) on the Mount Kailash, which lasted for many years. When his agitated mind felt quietened, Lord Shiva broke the Samadhi. It is believed that a drop of his divine sweat fell on Prithvi, which turned into a beautiful child. Prithvi accepted this gift and as a result, Mars came into the world. Shiva blessed this child that he will be an active "Doer" of things, and he will be the personification of action and energy, and that all the earthly gifts will be granted by him.

Thus, Mars/Mangala denotes good and worthy acts. Mars being a Bhumi-putra, is benefic as it grants the worldly gift of house to man, look after his shelter. Mars signifies purposeful action, quick execution and self-confidence bordering on arrogance and despicable vanity. Mars is also the celestial Commander-in-Chief, who is a winning warrior. Since Mars is man and Venus is woman, thus, Mars also gives the qualities that separate men from the women. It plays a significant role in the man-woman relationship, as it is this planet that starts the attraction, leads to its consummation and then brings it to an end.

MERCURY

The planet Mercury has an impressive lineage, which includes Moon and Jupiter. Moon stands for mind; Jupiter for wisdom and Mercury signify intelligence. When Mind is applied wisely, it denotes an intelligent person; on the other hand, wise application of the mind defines intelligence.

According to the legends, Brihaspati or Jupiter is the Dev-guru. His wife was Tara, who was the embodiment of beauty and virtue. The Moon representing Mind was besotted with her and in a perverse fallen state, abducted the virtuous Tara. Jupiter/Brihaspati appealed to his fellow Sages and his student Gods to bring his wife back. They reasoned with Moon, who was, however, not ready to return Tara. Moon devised a clever plan and sought refuge with Shukracharya, the guru of Asuras. The Gods appealed to Moon to let good sense prevail over him. When the Mind controlled by the Moon regained its equilibrium, it realized the shameful act committed and became remorseful, and returned back Tara, who was now carrying his child. The child was duly delivered, and Brihaspati was ecstatic on the birth of such a beautiful child, who was named Budha or Mercury. When Tara disclosed the paternity of the child to Brihaspati/Jupiter, he, like a true Brahmin, forgave accepted the inevitable.

In Astrology, Budha is the celestial prince that represents youthful looks and intelligence. Mercury's lordship and control over logic, discrimination, wit and speech stem from this wise mind. Mercury is "Mimamsak", who can understand the nuances of intricate matter easily and then explain it in simple language. Thus, it comes as no surprise that Mercury treats Moon as his enemy, is neutral to Jupiter and friendly with Venus. The Moon representing Mind does not treat Mercury representing intelligence as his enemy, on the other hand, Jupiter representing wisdom is not favorable to the intelligent and quick acting Mercury and treats him as an enemy. Interestingly astrology treats Mercury as a eunuch, and its influence in a horoscope is linked to impotence or as being the cause of debilitation sex. Mercury also has impressionable nature, since it is one planet that takes the nature of any planet that is influencing him. But then this is just what intelligence maybe.

JUPITER

Jupiter, also called Brihaspati, is the Guru of the Gods. According to legends, Jupiter's father was Mahrishi Angira. It is believed that Angira's wife desired for a son, and she was told to perform Vrata by the Sanat Kumar. She performed the Vrata with great devotion, which appeased the Gods, who granted her wish for a son. Therefore, Jupiter, the lord of wisdom, was born to Mahrishi Angira and his wife. Jupiter is the owner of a chariot called Nitighosh, which has eight horses of a yellowish color. This chariot travels through the Zodiac in about a year i.e. Jupiter stays in a zodiac sign (rashi) for about a year.

The Brihaspati/Jupiter composed the "Brihaspati Samhita", a treatise dealing with the procedures and the intricacies of various Daans (donations) and the Dharma (the path of moral righteousness). The Devguru presented this treatise to Lord Indra. Jupiter is also the father of rishi Bharadwaj.

According to another interesting legend about Jupiter, the Asuras and the devtas were constantly fighting with each other. Shukracharya, the guru of Asuras, knew the Sanjeevani Vidya, which was the science of making the dead come alive, which was zealously guarded by the Asuras. Infact, Kach, one of the sons of Jupiter, tried to get this knowledge but was not fully successful. Then the Devguru Jupiter organized Tapas and Yagnas in order to reduce the effect of the Sanjeevani Vidya, which resulted in a conflict between the two Gurus - Shukra (Venus) and Brihaspati (Jupiter). It is due to this reason that these two planets are inimical to one another, but since they are the Gurus, hence they are benefic too. Jupiter is fattish, yellowish colored, and his appearance is bright and glowing with the luminescence of continuous Tapas. Jupiter also exercises control over astrology and its proper use. The right placement of Jupiter in one's Ascendant in the horoscope leads to the cancellation of "Sava-lakh" (a lakh and a quarter) doshas in it.

VENUS

Venus, also known as Sage Shukracharya, was the son of the renowned Sage Bhrigu. Shukracharya was also known as Ushana, and he was the preceptor of the demons. According to legends, Shukra was the only one who was considered worthy of being granted the knowledge of Mrit-Sanjivani Vidya by Lord Shiva. It is believed that Sage Ushana constructed a Shiva-linga known as "Shukresha" and prayed to Lord Shiva for a long time. Lord Shiva was happy with his devotion and appeared before him. Sage Ushana greeted the manifestation of Shiva with a specifically prepared *AshJa-MURTyashJakStotra*, meaning that the steadfastness and the discipline shown by him, his total surrender, faith and absolute devotion make him an apt devotee who can be given the Mrit- Sanjivani vidya. This knowledge would permit him to bring the dead to life. Lord Shiva was very happy with this salutation, and conferred on the sage the following distinctions:

- Venus will be the foremost amongst the planets. It is more commonly known as the "Planet of Pleasure". Strong or exalted Venus in one's chart makes the native super rich with all kind of luxuries; comforts & sexual pleasures.
- Venus is supposed to be more powerful & knowledgeable than Jupiter. Thus, strong & well placed / aspected Venus indicates a person is a truly blessed.
- PAC connection of Jupiter & Venus signifies that the native is a highly learned person.
- His Lustre and shine will surpass even that of the Sun and the fire.
- If men and women commence any task when Shukra is "Sanmukh" or in front, they will not succeed in completing it. Venus is "sanmukh" in the East when it is transiting the seven constellations (Nakshtras) - Krittika to Ashlesha; in the South, when it is transiting Magha to Vishakha, in the West, the seven constellations are Anuradha to Shravana, including Abijit nakshatra; and in the North, the constellations are Dhanista to Bharani. Thus, auspicious tasks, such as marriages and religious ceremonies would be undertaken only when the Venus has risen in the skies.
- The Nanda tithis that is 1,6 and 11 will be called auspicious, as they are associated with Venus.
- Anyone who prays to Venus will become virile and beget lots of children.

SATURN

Saturn is "Surya-putra" as he is the son of Sun. He is also called "Chhaya-putra" since his mother is Chhaya. In Vedic astrology, Saturn is seen to be the initiator of all actions that affect human life. He needs to clear a house by aspect or positioning before that house can give any result, which was the gift granted to him by the celestial mother, Parvati, who is Lord Shiva's consort. It plays an important role in one's life because major portion of the life i.e. more than 50% is governed by Saturn in form of Mahadasha; Antardasha; Sade Sati; Dahiya; Transits etc. It is one such planet, in absence of which, life doesn't have any meaning to it. It is totally a misconception / fear among masses that Saturn is a bad planet. It is not completely true in a sense that Saturn or for that matter any other planet(s) gives results according to its lordships; placements; strength & aspects etc. A person having strong Saturn in his / her chart provides leadership qualities, hardworking nature; wealth; name & fame; disciplined; No nonsense person etc. It is a general impression among the people especially astrologer's community that Saturn wherever sits will empower the significations of that house and whichever houses it aspects will decrease the significations of such houses.

Mata Parvati, granted Shani with various boons as the gift of detachment, a Tapasvi & Yogi, a great devotee of Lord Shiva & Vishnu; a long life and prime position in the fraternity of the planets. This planet is also having separative cum depressive tendencies. Will give results according to the karma of the native.

RAHU AND KETU

In astronomy Rahu and Ketu are two diametrically opposite points. They are a set of sensitive points in the zodiac and should be handled as two planets fully capable of giving their designated results. Rahu is known as north node whereas Ketu is known as south node. These two nodes are being created as the intersection points of ecliptic (apparent Sun path) & Moon orbital path.

Hiranyakashayap, the son of the venerable Sage Kashyapa, was the first asura of his line. In fact, the same sage Kashyapa was also the father of Sun and this lineage of Asurs came from his wife Diti. Hiranyakashayap was the father of Simhika and Dhruva. Simhika married Viprasiddhi and the couple had Swarbhanu as their son. According to legend, Swarbhanu had almost got admitted to the order of Devtas when the great churning of the Ocean was undertaken. When the Amrit was being distributed, Swarbhanu took the form of a devtaa and positioned himself between Sun and Moon. When his turn came, he also received Amrit from the disguised Lord Vishnu in his Mohini form. However, before Swarbhanu could swallow the drops of the Amrit, the Sun and the Moon revealed his true identity. Mohini in form of Vishnu severed his head with her ladle known as "**SudarshanChakra**".

However, some drops of Amrita had gone down hence the immortality is guaranteed to the head called Rahu and the body called Ketu. The severed head was taken by the mother of Simihika and nursed patiently. Over a period of time, the head got the body of a snake and was named Rahu. On the other hand, a Brahmin named Mini took the severed body and he brought it up as his own son. Lord Vishnu granted a serpent's head to this body named Ketu, who in due course of time became a revered seer.

Rahu and Ketu never forgave the Sun and the Moon for their action in exposing the disguise of the Asura Swarbhanu. In order to take their revenge, they cause solar and lunar eclipses. Rahu is further classified as Nitya and Parva Rahu. As Nitya, Rahu keeps tugging at the Moon causing it to wax and wane, while the Parva Rahu swallows the moon causing the lunar eclipse. On the other hand, Ketu travels in a chariot that has a flagstaff higher than that of the seven-horsed Chariot of the Sun. Ketu causes the Solar eclipse and one of its names is "Dwaja" meaning a flag. Thus, Ketu is considered Moksha (salvation) giving planet especially when it is in the 12th house of the horoscope.

Normally both Rahu and Ketu are considered to be as malefic & shadowy planets. They generally used to give results depending upon their PAC connection with other planets. Rahu is like Saturn while Ketu takes after Mars i.e. shani-vat-rahu and kuja –vat-ketu

In a nutshell, it can be said that the real value of astrology is in gaining strength to rise above pain and overcome it. Astrology does not imply seeking means to avoid pain because karmas cannot be avoided and the results are inevitable.

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