

INTRODUCTION

Astrology (Jyotish) is a branch of Vedas – it is a divine science

Astrology is called “**Jyotish**” (Indian, Vedic or Hindu Astrology) in India, **Sanskrit** word that is derived from two roots, ‘**Jyoti**’ and ‘**Isha**’, which respectively mean **Light** and **God**, it is the science of light, both the light of the celestial bodies and the internal light of the soul.

It calls “**Vedic Jyotish**” because it belongs to **Vedas**; Jyotish is a **Vedānga** (one limb or branch of Vedas). There are six limbs of Vedas. (1 Shiksha : phonetics, 2 Chandas : meter, 3 Vyakarana : grammar, 4 Nirukta : etymology, 5 Jyotisha : astrology and 6 Kalpa : ritual.)

Vedic Jyotish has three broad divisions, namely: **Siddhānta**, **Samhitā** and **Horā**. Siddhānta deals with the astronomical side of the science, Samhitā with the world events and Horā with horoscopy of human beings, animate objects and institutions.

Vedic Jyotish is divine science; in the ancient India sages (Rishi(s)) had developed by their untiring spiritual exercises (a divine eye), by which they could see the movements of planets and their effects on human beings. In those days all disciples of a Guru had to learn and it is through this media of instruction has been passed on from generation to generation in an oral and written form. It has come to us a gift that was bestowed upon humanity by the ancient sages (Rishi(s)). According to tradition, sages with their strength of spiritual power propagated (Spread) these for the benefit of humanity. What at present we have in our Vedic Jyotish we owe entirely to those sages and the principles laid down by them still hold good, as they were when they came from the mouths of those sages. It will be worthwhile for those who want to enter this divine field, to know the names of those great men who put these principles in writing for the benefit of others. They are Brahmā, Vashishtha, Atri, Aachārya, Manu, Paulasya, Romaka, Mārichi, Angirā, Garga, Vyās, Nārada, Shaunaka, Bhrigu, Chyavana, Kashyapa, **Parāshara**, Varāhmihira, Rāvaṇa, Satyāchārya, Kālidāsa, Kalyānavermā, Nipati, Gaṇesha, Bhāskarāchārya and many others.

Vedic Jyotish unfolds the knowledge of how the planets and stars influence an individual human life as well as the life of the nations, and the globe. As a technology of prediction, Vedic Jyotish can bring to light on the profile of an individual’s past, present and future. This light can shine a way to self-realization in unknown darkness then possible make life free from dependence on surroundings and circumstances, and mastery over one’s own destiny¹.

¹ Jyotish for person who believe that destiny can be change.

Ayanamsha

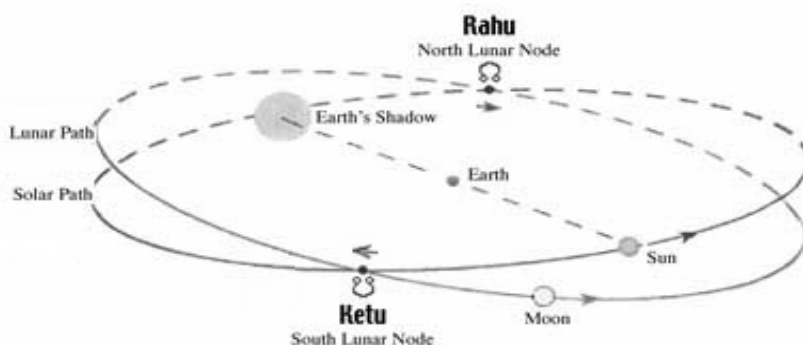
The Sidereal or Eastern system of astrology (Hindu Astrology) is based on the position of the belt of fixed stars and constellations in the heavens, whereas the Tropical zodiac or the Western astrological system is based upon the position of the Sun in relation to the Earth. The first degree of the Sidereal zodiac is measured from a point 180 degrees opposite the star Spica, whereas the first degree of the Western zodiac occurs when the Sun reaches the position above the equator known as the vernal equinox, on or about the 22nd of March each year.

Originally, the first degree of the zodiac was common to both systems. Due to the peculiarities in the Earth's orbit, however, the belt of stars and constellations appears to shift in relation to the Tropical zodiac. As a result, the two zodiacs are drifting apart. This is called the "precession of the equinoxes," and today the difference between the two systems is calculated at about 24 degrees. Thus, if a person is born on January 1, he will have the Sun in Capricorn according to the Western system, but according to the Sidereal system the Sun will be at approximately 16 degrees Sagittarius.

The Sidereal astrological system notes the strengths and weaknesses that a person will experience in life, and also recommends remedial measures for improving our future. The karma or destiny which we are born with has been accrued by pious and impious activities in previous births. The spiritual astrology of India opines that karma is not eternal and can be changed. There are several ways to strengthen our planetary karma.

Rahu and Ketu

In Hindu astrology Rahu and Ketu are known as two invisible planets. They are enemies of the Sun and the Moon, who at certain times of the year (during conjunction or opposition) swallow the Sun or the Moon causing either a solar or a lunar eclipse. In Sanskrit this is known as Grahaṇa or seizing.



To the observer on earth, the paths of the sun and the moon appear to be two great circles projected on the celestial sphere (see the diagram). The sun's path, the solar ecliptic, makes a complete revolution in one year. At the same time, the moon's circular path is completed in about one month. Every month the moon will overtake the sun which moves more slowly. This is called new moon or in Sanskrit, *amavasya*. Usually the moon's path passes above or below the sun's path and no eclipse occurs. But, periodically the moon overtakes the sun at the place where their paths intersect. This causes the sun or the moon to be hidden from the earth's view and is thus called a solar or lunar eclipse. These places of intersection are the north and south lunar nodes, or as they are referred to in Hindu mythology, Rahu and Ketu. Therefore, in the symbolic language of mythology, Rahu and Ketu are said to "swallow up" the Sun and the Moon. The ancient Hindu observers of the sky were aware of the cause of the solar and lunar eclipses and so described the process in the language of metaphor.

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