

Planets



SUN:- (Surya or Ravi) The Sun god has two arms, he is seated on the pedestal of lotus; both of his hands are embellished with lotus flowers. There is a beautiful golden crown, on his head and a garland of gems around his neck. His radiance is just like the interior part of a lotus flower and he is mounted on the chariot pulled by seven horses.

The Sun god is also known as 'Savita', which means - one who creates, 'SAVITA SARVASYA PRASAVITA' (Nirukta -10/31). According to the Rigveda the Sun god situated at the centre of the solar system is an inspirer of all, pervader of the internal parts and an embodiment of almighty god. According to the 'Markandeya Puran' Sun is the embodiment of Brahma, the world originates from the Sun and is established in it. The Sun is the appearance of all the matters and elements and is the eternal almighty. This very God 'Bhaskar' creates nurtures and annihilates the world respectively in the form of lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu & Lord Shiva. Sun is the supreme deity amongst all the nine-planets.

When Brahma manifested himself by breaking the egg, then he pronounced 'OM'. This Omkar itself is the supreme soul and the very physique of Sun god. The four Vedas emerged from all the four mouths of lord Brahma, which were glowing by their own radiance. The powerful radiance emanating from the 'Omkar' covered the radiance of the Vedas and ultimately all of them unified. This very Vedic appearance of 'Omkar' is the sun god. This radiant sun was the first manifested during the times of creation, hence it was called 'Aditya'.

Once the demons, the titans and the monsters unitedly fought with the deities and snatched their power and authority after defeating them. 'Aditi'— the mother of the deities did worship of sun god to get protection from this calamity. Being pleased with her the sun god took incarnation as her son and established the eternal path of the Veda after defeating the enemies of the deities. He is called Aditya also for this reason.

The complexion of Sun god is red. His vehicle is a chariot. There is only one wheel in his chariot which is called 'Samvatsar'. The wheel of his chariot has 12 spokes, which symbolise the twelve months. The wheel has six circumferences, which symbolize the six seasons, and three 'Naves' which is symbolise of the three four-months.

The sages (rishi) and all the celestial supernatural beings like 'Gandharva', 'Apsara', 'Nag' yaksha and the deities' move along with him doing his worship. The wheel, power, a loop and a hook are the weapons of sun god.

His great-phase (Mahadasha) last for six years. The Sun is considered as a high planet, till the tenth degree, in the zodiac of Aries. Lord Shiva is considered to be the deity of the Sun. To get his blessings and for his pacification, performance of 'Arghya' (pouring water facing the sun in the morning should be done and also the text of Harivansh purana should be listened to. Ruby should be worn on the body and donation of wheat, cow along with a calf, raw-sugar (gur), copper, gold and red-clothes should be made to the brahmins.



MOON:(Chandra or Soma)The Moon god is of fair complexion. He is attired in white apparels. The colour of his chariot is white and so are the colours of horses pulling it. He is seated on the pedestal of lotus placed in a beautiful chariot pulled by seven horses. He possesses a golden crown on his head and a garland of pearls on his neck. He has a mace in one hand and the other one is raised in the posture of

showering blessings.

According to the 'Srimad Bhagawat' Moon-god is the son of Maharishi Atri and Anasuya. He is considered to be all pervading. He possesses all the sixteen phases (Kala). Lord Krishna was the descendant of moon god, combined with all the sixteen phases like him. He is the one from whom all the deities' ancestors, yaksha, human being, animals-birds and trees get life.

Lord Brahma made him the seed, medicine, water and the king of the Brahmins. He was married to the twenty-seven constellations i.e. 'Ashwini', 'Bharani', 'Krittika', 'Rohini' etc. These constellations were the daughters of 'Daksha'. (Harivanshpuran)

According to the Vanparva of Mahabharata all the wives of moon god are chaste and beautiful. While moving along with the constellations in their respective orbits. The moon god nurtures the living beings and classifies various festivals, combinations and the months.

On the full moon day and during the rising of moon, offerings of the delicacies mined with honey in a copper-vessel is made to him then he gets satisfied. Being pleased he frees a man from all the pains and sorrows. By satisfying him one also satisfies the sun god, 'Vishvedeva' (ancestors), 'Marudgana' (deities controlling natural forces) and the wind god (Vayu).

The vehicle of Moon god is chariot. There are three wheels in his chariot. His chariot is pulled by ten powerful horses. All the horses are divine,

incomparable and are quick as the mind. The eyes and ears of the horses are white. According to the 'Matasyapurana' the horses are as white as a conch.

Mercury is the son of Moon god who took birth from 'Tara'. The presiding deity of Moon-god is goddess Uma. Moon-god is the lord of the zodiac sign Cancer and his 'great-phase' (Mahadasha) last for 10 years. He is also considered to be the lord of the constellations. He holds the second position among all the nine planets. The Moon is considered as a high planet, till the third degree in the zodiac of Taurus.

Unfavourability of the moon god causes various kinds of physical pains and diseases like mental tensions and diseases of breath. He is pleased if one fasts on Monday, or if one eulogizes and worship lord Shiva. He is also pleased if a person wears pearls. Donations of Rice, grains, Camphor, White-cloth, silver, conch, white sandal, white flower, sugar, bullock, curd and pearls should be made to please him.



MARS:(Mangala or Kuja)The deity mars has four arms. He has a hairy body. The small hairs of the body are red in colour. In his hands are mace and Trident and rest of the two hands are raised in the postures of bestowing fearlessness and blessings. He has a golden crown on his head and his vehicle is a lamb. He is attired in red coloured apparels and had red garlands in his neck.

In the 'Kalpa' of Varah' when Hiranyaksha, the elder brother of Hiranyakshipu had abducted the earth Lord Vishnu had taken incarnation as a boar and had rescued the earth by killing Hiranyaksha. Mother earth became very pleased after seeing lord Vishnu and had a desire to have him as her husband.

In his incarnation as a boar lord Vishnu's radiance was as dazzling illuminating and unbearable as crores of Suns. Lord Vishnu transformed his appearance into his enchanting form to fulfill the wish of the presiding deity of the earth and lived with earth for one year in aloofness. This way the birth of Mars took place (Brahmavaivarta Puran 2/8/29 to 43)

Mars is pacified by the worship of Shiva. Wearing a coral also pacifies mars. Making donations of copper, gold, wheat, red clothes, jaggery (gur), red sandal, red flowers, saffron, musk, red-ox, lentil and land also, pacified the mars. Fast should be observed on Tuesday and the Hanuman Chalisa should be read. The great phase of mars lasts for seven years. Mars is the lord of two zodiacs, i.e., Aries and Scorpio. Lord Kartikeya is considered to

be the deity of the Mars. The Mars is considered as a high Planet, till the twenty-eighth degree in a zodiac of Capricorn.



MERCURY: (Budha or Saumya) Mercury is attired in yellow apparels and wears a garland of yellow flowers. The radiance and glow of his body is like that of an oleander flower. He has a sword, a shield a mace in each of his three hands respectively and his fourth hand is raised in the posture of giving blessings. He has a golden crown on his head and a beautiful garland in his neck. His vehicle is a lion.

According to the 'Atharavaveda' Mercury's father is the moon and his mother is Tara. He was given the name mercury by lord Brahma because of his intelligence. According to Shrimad bhagawat he is proficient in all the scriptures and is as radiant as the moon.

According to the Shrimadbhagawat (5/22-13) mercury is situated about 2,00,000 yojans (2400 000 km above venus). Mercury is considered to be an auspicious planet but if by chance it transgresses, chance of natural calamities like draught storm and floods occur.

According to the Matsyapuram the complexion of mercury is yellow like an oleander flower. His chariot is of white colour and illuminated by light, Horses, which are as fast as the wind, pull the chariot. The names of the horses are Shweta, Pisanga, Saranga, Neel, Peeta, Vilohita, Krishna, Hairta, Prisha and Prishni.

The governing deity of the planet mercury is Lord Vishnu. Mercury is the lord of the zodiac Gemini, and Virgo. The great phase of mercury lasts for 17 years. The mercury is considered as a high planet, till the fifteenth degree, in the zodiac of Virgo.

For the pacification of this planet fasts should be observed on every Amavasya (moonless night) and emerald should be worn on the body.

Donations of ivory, green-clothes, Coral emerald, gold camphor, weapon, fruit and ghee to the brahmins also satisfies the mercury.



JUPITER:(Guru or Brihaspati) The preceptor of the Deities – Jupiter (Brihaspati) has yellow complexion. He is adorned with a golden crown on his head and a beautiful garland in his neck. He is attired in yellow apparels and is seated on the pedestal of lotus flower. He has four hands and holds a stick (dand), Rudraksha garland, receptacle in each of his three hands and his fourth hand is raised in the posture of giving boons and blessings.

According to the Mahabharat (Adiparva), Jupiter is the son of great sage **Angira** and the priest of the deities. The demons wanted to starve the deities to death by obstructing the oblation (Yagya) performed by them. Jupiter by the help of his profound knowledge helped the deities to get their due shares of the oblation. Jupiter the preceptor of the deities protected them by using the Rakshoghna mantra and driving away the demons.

In '**Skandapuram**' there is a description how he became the preceptor of the deities. Jupiter did a severe and tremendous penance in 'Dwarka' (prabhas area) to please lord Shankar. Being pleased by his penance lord Shiva gave him a boon to become the preceptor of the deities.

Jupiter remains in each zodiac for a year if he has a retrograded motion then this duration changes. (Shrimadbhagawat 5/22/15).

According to the **Rigveda** Jupiter is very pleasing to watch. He himself has constructed his abode. He is worth worshipping for the whole world. If he becomes pleased with his devotees he blesses them with prosperity and intelligence. He helps his devotees to be on a virtuous paths and protect them in every calamity. Jupiter is very affectionate towards people who seek his refuge.

His vehicle is a chariot, which is made up of gold and appears very pleasant. Eight horses pull his chariot, which have yellow complexions and which are as fast as the wind. His weapon is a stick made of gold.

Jupiter has two wives - **Shubha** and **Tara**. Seven daughters were born to Shubha – Bhanumati, Raka, Archismati, Mahishrvati, Siniwali and Havishmati.

Seven sons and a daughter were born to Tara. Jupiter also had a third wife whose name was **Mamta** and who gave birth to 'Bhardwaja' and 'Kacha'. The presiding deity of Jupiter is '**Bhrama**'.

Jupiter is the lord of the zodiac Sagittarius and Pisces. His 'great phase lasts till **sixteen years**. The Jupiter is considered as a high planet, till the fifth degree, in the zodiac of Cancer. Fast should be observed on dark

moon (Amavasya) and on Thursday for his pacification. He is also pacified if yellow topaz is worn. Making donations of yellow clothes, gold, turmeric, ghee, cereals of yellow colour, topaz, horse, book, honey, salt, sugar, land and umbrella to the brahmins pacifies the jupiter.



VENUS:(Shukra or Bhrigu) Venus the preceptor of the demons is of white and fair complexion. He possesses a beautiful crown on his head and wears a garland in his neck. He is seated on the pedestal of white lotus. He has four hands. In each of his three hands. He holds a 'dand' (stick), a rudraksha garland & a receptacle. His fourth hand is raised in the posture of giving boons and blessings.

Venus or 'Shukracharya' is the priest of the demons. He continuously showers his blessing on his disciples (demons). He is the supreme teacher of the 'yoga' After doing a tremendous penance he had pleased lord Shiva and received the 'learning' of 'Mritasanjivani' (bringing alive a dead person). By the help of this learning he used to bring back to life the demons that got killed in the battles with the deities. (Mahabharat, Adiparva 76/8)

According to the Matsyapuram, Shukracharya performed such a severe austerity and penance for the benediction of the demons which was incomparable and which has not been performed by anybody till date. Lord Shiva became pleased and blessed him with a boon that he would defeat the deities in the battle and also that nobody would be able to kill him. Lord Shiva also made him the secretary of all the wealth as a result he became the lord of all the wealth of all the worlds.

According to the Mahabharat (AdiParva (78/39) Shukracharya was not only the lord of wealth but he is also the master of the medicinal herbs, the mantras and all kinds of taste. His capabilities are wonderful. He had donated all his wealth to the demons and had accepted the life of a hermit.

By the inspiration of lord Brahma he became a planet and started to protect the lives of all the living beings of all the three worlds. In his form of a planet he attends the assembly of lord Brahma. He is very favorable planet for the worlds because he pacifies such planets, which obstruct rain.

His presiding deity is 'Indra'. According to the Matsyapuram (94/5) the complexion of Shukracharya (Venus) is fair. Chariot is his vehicle, which is pulled by eight horses, which are like fire. Flags keep fluttering on top of the chariot. He has a dand (stick or mace) as his weapon.

Venus is the lord of the zodiac of Taurus and Libra and his great phase

lasts for **twenty years**. The Venus is considered as a high planet, till the **twenty-seventh degree**, in the zodiac of **Pisces**.

For the pacification of Venus, the worship of cow should be done and a diamond should be worn. Venus is also pacified if donations of silver, gold, rice, ghee, white clothes, white-sandalwood, curd, sugar, cow and land are made to the brahmins.



SATURN:(**Shani or Shanaishchar**)The complexion and radiance of Saturn is as brilliant as a blue diamond. He has a golden crown on his head and wears a garland and blue coloured apparels. He is seated on the back of the vulture. He possesses a bow, an arrow and a trident in each of his three hands respectively and his fourth hand is raised in the posture of giving boons and blessings.

Saturn is the son of **Sun** god and **Chaya** (Sanvarna). He is considered as a cruel planet. The cruelty, which he possesses in his sight, is due to the curse he received from his wife. The narration which has been mentioned in the Brahma Puran goes as follows:

The deity Shani (Saturn) was a great devotee of **lord Krishna** right from his childhood. He used to be immersed in the love for lord Krishna. After he grew up, his father married him with the daughter of '**Chitraratha**'. His wife was a chaste woman full of radiance.

One night she went to him after having a bath when her menstruation periods were over, with a desire of having a son, but her husband Shani (Saturn) was immersed in the meditation of lord Krishna, he was unconscious of his surroundings. She became tired of waiting and she became angry . She cursed him that from today onwards whoever gets seen by him would be destroyed. After he came out of his meditative trance 'Shani' (Saturn) tried to make up with her by cajoling her. His wife too felt sorry for her mistake but she was powerless in neutralizing the ill effects of her curse. From then onwards Shani has been keeping his gaze downwards because he did not want to cause harm to anybody.

According to the astrology if the Saturn pierces and passes through the constellation of **Rohini** then it is considered to be very inauspicious and causes draughts for twelve years making even the survival of the living beings impossible. This combination was about to come during the time of Dasharatha. He was cautioned by his astrologers against its consequences. To protect his subject from 'Shanis' wrath Dasharatha went up in the

constellation-zone. First of all he made salutations to the deity 'Shani' but when he refused he fought with him, using his most destructive weapon.

'Shani' became pleased by his sense of duty and asked him to demand any boon. Dasharatha requested him not to cross the Rohini-constellation' till the sun and constellation exists. Shani agreed to his request.

Lord Yama is the presiding deity of the Saturn. His complexion is dark, his vehicle is a vulture and his chariot is made up of iron. Saturn remains in each of the twelve zodiacs for thirty months. The Saturn is considered as a high planet, till the **twentieth degree**, in the zodiac of **Libra**.



RAHU or Sharpa: (Dragon's Head) The face of Dragon's head is very ferocious and terrifying. He has a crown on his head, a garland in his neck and wears apparels of black colour. He holds a sword, a shield, a trident in each of his three hands respectively and his fourth hand is raised in the posture of giving boons and blessings. He is seated on a lion, which is his vehicle.

'Rahu's' mother is 'Sinhika' who was the wife of 'Viprachitti' and was the daughter of **Hiranyakashipu**. Rahu is also known as 'Sainhikeya', which is based on his mother's name. Rahu had one hundred brothers, but he was the most capable and powerful among all of them. (Shrimadbhagawat 6/6/36).

During the time of churning of the sea, when lord Vishnu in his appearance of an enchanting woman (Mohini) was giving ambrosia to the deities for drinking, Rahu sat among the deities in disguise. Rahu also was able to drink the ambrosia but the moon and the sun made the secret open about with real identity. Lord Vishnu killed him with his Sudarshan Chakra' by severing his head. The drinking of ambrosia had made him immortal and lord Brahma transformed him into a planet. (Srimadbhagawat 8/9/26)

According to the Mahabharat (Bheeshma Parva 12/40) the shape of the dragon's head is circular. He too sits in the assembly of lord Brahma along with the rest of the planets.

According to the Matsyapuram (28/61) the shadow of the earth is circular and Rahu rotates around this very shadow.

He is the presiding deity of this shadow (Chhaya). According to the rigveda (5/40/5) when Rahu – the son of Asuya or Sinhika covers the sun and the moon with his darkness, then it becomes so dark that the people became

unable even to identify their places.

Even after being transformed into a planet Rahu attacks the moon on full moon day and the sun on dark moon day out of his enmity towards them. This event is called an eclipse or Rahu Parag.

According to the Matsyapuram the chariot of Rahu appears in the form of darkness. His chariot is pulled by eight horses, which are black in color.

The presiding deity of Rahu is 'Kaal'. It is symbolised by a black flag in north west direction among all the nine planets.

The great phase of Dragon's head lasts for 18 years. Barring few situations it is generally considered to be an inauspicious planet. According to the astrology if 'Rahu' is situated unfavorably in the horoscope then it causes many types of physical illness. It also causes obstacles in accomplishment of works and accidents.

Chanting of the Mrityunjay mantra and wearing a turquoise pacifies the dragon's head.

Making donations of mica, iron, sesame, blue clothes, receptacles made of copper, horse-beans, oil onyx, blanket, horse and a sword, to the brahmins too pacifies the dragon's head.



KETU or Shikhi: (Dragon's Tail) The Dragon's tail or Ketu has two arms. He possesses a crown on his head and is attired in black-clothes. The complexion of his body is smoke-like and he has a deformed face. In each of his two hands he holds a mace and the other hand is raised in the posture of giving boons and blessings. He is seated on a vulture which is also his vehicle.

'Ketu' is the headless trunk of the demon 'Rahu'. After the killing of Rahu, when lord Vishnu severed his head by his sudarshan chakra. The head portion was called Rahu and his trunk was called Ketu. Both Rahu and Ketu became planets. According to the matsyapuram there are numerous Ketus out of which 'Dhoomketu' is the main.

According to the Indian astrology dragon's tail is a shadow planet. It has a tremendous impact on human lives and also the whole creation. It's area of influence is considered to be in the north-west direction. According to some scholars Ketu is Somber and mild as compared to Rahu and is beneficial for a man. In some special circumstances it helps a man to achieve the zenith of fame. The shape of Ketu is considered to be of the shape of a fluttering flag. Its length is only six angul (six inches).

Although both Rahu and Ketu originated from the same body but after being transformed into the planets and considering it as their rebirth, new names of lineages were given to them. Rahu was considered to be of 'Paithinas' clan or lineage and Ketu was considered to be of 'Jainini' lineage. The complexion of Ketu is like a colour of the smoke. In some places there are mentions of pigeon as his vehicle.

The great phase of Dragon's tail lasts for **seven years**. If there is a Ketu situated in an inauspicious house of a man's horoscope then it causes inauspicious and misfortunes. The man gets inflicted with disease like leprosy itches and ringworm.

Making donations of the following things pacifies the Ketu Lapis- Lazule (gem), oil, black sesame, blanket, weapon, musk and flower of blue colour. Wearing of a cat's eye and chanting of 'Mrityunjaya Japa also pacifies the Ketu.