

## The Sun and the Moon in Vedic Astrology

excerpted from *Ancient Hindu Astrology  
for the Modern Western Astrologer*  
[Revised & Expanded 2020]

by James Braha



### RAVI-THE SUN



The Sun, because of its intense heat, is a malefic planet in Hindu astrology. It does not destroy its associations quite as badly as Mars and Saturn, but it is essentially a harmful influence. Also, because of its heat, any planet that is posited within 8 degrees of the Sun is burnt up or absorbed by its rays. This condition is called combustion, and it effectively spoils the conjoined planet and whatever houses it rules. Regarding the 8 degree orb assigned to combustion, individual astrologers may wish to determine their own orb of influence, but in any case, combustion must never be ignored.

While the Sun is considered the most significant factor in Western astrology, such is not the case in the Hindu system. The assigned significations for the Sun are basically the same in Hindu astrology, but the Moon takes top priority since it, more than anything else, is responsible for the overall happiness and general wellbeing of a person. The Sun, however, is very important since it governs a person's confidence, authority, power, and status. It also rules the father and has a great deal to do with career and the person's worldly activities.

The Sun rules the soul and is therefore called the *atmakaraka*, or indicator



of the soul. As such, the conditions and surroundings of the Sun will reveal tendencies and affinities which are extremely fundamental to the person. There are often references made to the *atmakaraka* in the Hindu scriptures, but it must be determined which one is being referred to, since there are two.

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The planet in the latest degree in a horoscope (i.e., a planet in 28-29 degrees) is also an *atmakaraka*, but this distinction actually comes from *Jaimini* astrology, not *Parasara*. It is fairly common for Indian astrologers to borrow techniques from other

systems. However, as mentioned in the Preface, I no longer consider using the *Jaimini atmakaraka* in the *Parasara* system a good idea.

The negative effects of the Sun are somewhat easily altered when the Sun is aspected by a benefic. Therefore, when aspected by Venus, Jupiter, Mercury, or the Moon, the Sun will produce rather beneficial results. Also, as all planets have certain house placements where their energy is more compatible, so it is that the Sun produces excellent results in the *upachaya*, or growing houses (3rd, 6th, 10th, and 11th), where malefics are welcomed. The best placement for the Sun is the 10th house, where it receives *dik bala*, or directional strength. The *dik bala* status means all of the Sun's significations (willpower, leadership, father, etc.) and the houses the Sun rules become stronger.

It also functions at its optimum in Aries, its exalted, or *uchcha*, sign. It is weakest in Libra, its fallen, or *neecha* sign. And it gives very good results in Leo, its *swakshetra*, or own house.

The Sun is of masculine gender. And, as has already been mentioned, it is hot, dry, and malefic. Another name for the Sun is *Surya*. The friends who welcome the Sun in their houses are the Moon, Mars, and Jupiter. Venus

and Saturn are enemies, while Mercury is neutral to the Sun. The gem to wear to strengthen an afflicted Sun is a red ruby. The metals gold and copper are also of benefit to a weak Sun.

Always bear in mind that the foundation of any horoscope belongs to the Sun, Moon, and ascendant. If they are all strong and well disposed, the person has great confidence and ability to function in the world. If these influences are weak and afflicted, worldly life is stressful and difficult.

## INDICATIONS OF THE SUN

- father
- the soul, ego
- power, ambition
- vitality, dignity, self-reliance
- authority or rulership position
- government
- vocation
- professional status, position, popularity
- physicians, chemists, druggists
- the eyes, vision
- the heart
- copper, gold
- eastern direction
- Sunday
- red ruby
- the color gold

## CHANDRA—THE MOON

☾ The Moon is the single most important "planet" in Hindu astrology. In significance it is equal to the ascendant. If one understands the reasoning behind the great emphasis on the Moon, then the gist of this system can be gotten, for the Moon rules peace of mind, comforts, and the person's general wellbeing and fortune. Unlike Western astrology, where the Sun is the most vital concern, the focus in this system is not so much on a person's deeply ingrained tendencies and affinities, willpower, authority, and ability; rather, it is on comforts, ease of life, affluence, charisma, luck, fame, etc.

This is the crux of Hindu/Vedic astrology. Therefore if the Moon is weak or afflicted, success becomes harder to achieve, and happiness and a comfortable life on earth may never be known to the person.

In terms of rulerships, the Moon governs, among other things, the mother, females, the emotional life, and the public. It also rules growth and, perhaps for this reason, has much to do with the health during childhood. People with an afflicted Moon are generally weak or sickly in their early years. The Moon also rules the mind, but more in the way of common sense and peace of mind versus intellect. Memory is also a function of the Moon. The most important point to remember is that the Moon contributes more to the overall tenor of the horoscope than any other factor except the ascendant.

It cannot be overemphasized that the Moon's house position must never be ignored or underestimated. The significations of that particular house are natural, comfortable, and vital facets of the life. The placement of the Moon is thus one of the most consistent indicators of where a person will play out his or her karma, and it is helpful when trying to determine what profession a person may choose.

***Jupiter seven houses from the Moon gives a lucky marriage with a religious, spiritual, or generous spouse, while Mars seven houses away causes marital fighting and friction.***

Because the Moon is such an essential factor, the next step after analyzing the horoscope in the traditional way is to review the chart considering the Moon's position as the 1st house. This is known as *Chandra Lagna* (literally Moon ascendant) and is not so much a separate procedure but something Hindu astrologers keep in mind while delineating the horoscope. This technique gives added weight or shading to what the actual horoscope indicates.

A good example of how this works is to notice how any planet seven houses away from the Moon will give very noticeable marital results. Jupiter seven houses from the Moon gives a lucky marriage with a religious, spiritual, or generous spouse, while Mars seven houses away causes marital fighting and friction. Similarly, Saturn seven houses away from the Moon harms married life and might indicate an older spouse, the same way that Saturn in the natal 7th house would.

Another indication of the significance of this luminary is the effect of surrounding planets on the Moon. It is highly desirable, in fact, necessary, that the Moon not

be isolated in the horoscope. There should be planets either conjunct or in the house preceding or following the Moon, or both. It is, of course, better that these planets not be malefics, although even those are sometimes better than no planets at all. If the Moon is segregated, there will be disturbance of mind and less good fortune, and the ability to reap fame or recognition in life is marred. An isolated Moon is not hugely afflicted, however. It is more of an emotional initiation or stress factor.

***Always bear in mind that the foundation of any horoscope belongs to the Sun, Moon, and ascendant. If they are all strong and well disposed, the person has great confidence and ability to function in the world. If these influences are weak and afflicted, worldly life is stressful and difficult.***

It is crucial to determine whether the Moon was bright or dim at birth. Ancient texts generally say that the waxing Moon is considered a benefic, while the waning Moon is malefic. However, this is a misstatement. What is most important is the brightness of the Moon, not its waxing or waning status. For example, a Moon that is waxing or getting brighter may have just passed its new Moon (the sliver or dark Moon) and therefore still be quite dim. Likewise, a waning Moon that is on its way to darkness may have just finished its full Moon point and still be extremely bright. This is an extremely important issue, so discretion must be used in this matter.

Any planet or house that is aspected by a very bright Moon will benefit on a par with aspects coming from Venus or Jupiter, while aspects from a dim Moon are still beneficial, but not as intensely so. In general, a person born on a bright Moon will have more abundance, luxury, and charisma, while someone born on a very dim Moon has trouble gaining attention, abundance, and luxuries etc.

Therefore, the full Moon, which in Western astrology is a difficult influence (known as the Sun opposite Moon aspect), in Hindu astrology is one of the most favorable and auspicious of all astrological conditions. However, if the full Moon is too intense, by degree (say the Moon at 10 degrees Leo and Sun at 7, 10, or 14 degrees Aquarius), then the Moon will also be harmed by the heat of the Sun's malefic rays. Such a full Moon would still give charisma and great benefits, but it would also definitely produce problems.

To distinguish if the Moon is waxing or waning at birth is an easy matter. Since the Moon travels faster than the

Sun, simply note in the horoscope whether the Moon is moving towards its opposition point from the Sun. If so, then it is waxing, or getting brighter. If it has reached its opposition with the Sun and is moving towards the conjunction, then it is waning, or getting darker.

The Moon is cold, moist, and feminine. It is best placed in Taurus, where it is exalted, and most poorly placed in Scorpio, its fallen sign. The Moon rules Cancer and gives very good results in that sign. It receives *dik bala*, or directional strength, in the 4th house, where it gives excellent results. The friends who welcome the Moon in their houses are the Sun and Mercury. The rest of the planets are neutral to the Moon. There are no enemies. Another name for the Moon is *Soma*. Pearls or silver may be worn to strengthen a weak, waning, or afflicted Moon.

Always bear in mind that the foundation of any horoscope belongs to the Sun, Moon, and ascendant. If they are all strong and well disposed, the person has great confidence and ability to function in the world. If these influences are weak and afflicted, worldly life is stressful and difficult.

#### INDICATIONS OF THE MOON

- mother
- females
- the mind, common sense, memory
- the public, mass consciousness
- emotions
- general wellbeing (affluence, fortune, recognition and fame)
- fluctuations, moodiness, instability
- sensitivity, femininity
- milk, grains, liquids
- growth (health in childhood), fertility
- cooks, nurses, caterers
- eyesight
- breasts, brain, stomach
- pearls
- the metal silver
- northwestern direction
- Monday
- menstrual cycle

***James Braha presented "Ancient Vedic Astrology" at MEDICAL YOGA 2021.***



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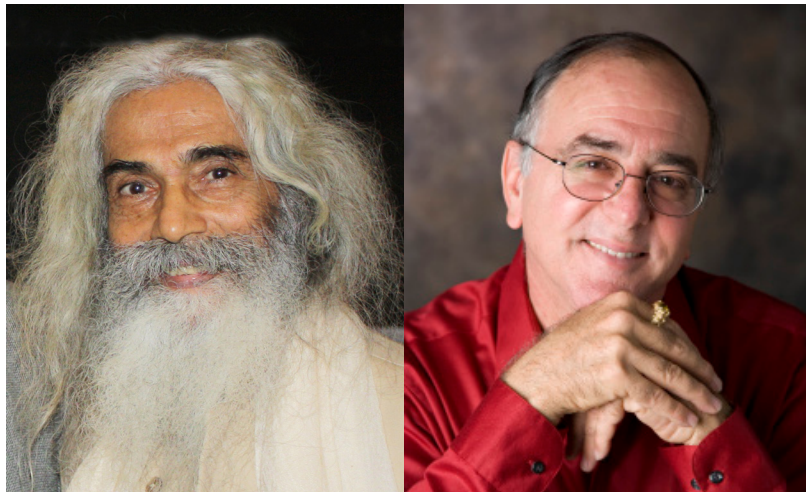
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