

# Introduction

'Veda' is a Sanskrit word which means 'knowledge'. 'Vedic' means 'of the knowledge'. This word was used in ancient India to describe the original culture, the original knowledge given to humans at the beginning of creation. It was passed down orally since the time of creation, then eventually in written form to the present. 'Vedic' refers to original knowledge given by God to humankind.

Please understand right from the start that by "God" we are referring to the Vedic Vaisnava conception of Divinity which is vastly different from the Christian conception most Westerners are familiar with. By "God" we are referring to the Supreme Vedic Deity, Sri Krishna, who is always accompanied by his female counterpart, Srimati Radharani. Together they are the Supreme Couple, and they are represented to us through many layers of spiritual and material reality within each of which they are reflected as other deities such as Brahma and Saraswati, or Siva and Parvati.

So, when we say "God" anywhere in this book, we are referring to the revealed Vedic conception of God, which is a far cry from the vague ideas of a bearded old man who judges from a throne. We are using the English language, and we accept its limitations, but ask you the reader to have an expansive and broad understanding as you read. For more information on the Vedic Vaisnava conception of Divinity, please read our book "Vedic Spirituality". It is rather essential for a proper Vedic Astrologer to have both devotion to and understanding of the proper conception of Divinity or God since astrology is studying the direct working of God in our lives.

Vedic Astrology comes from the Vedic scriptures of ancient India. The centerpiece book on Vedic Astrology is the 'Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra'. This is the great scripture on astrology by Sage Parashara.

Parashara Muni and his illustrious son Veda Vyasadeva were both friends of Lord Shri Krishna and the Pandavas. It was the son of Vyasadeva, the grandson of Parashara, known as Shukadeva Goswami, who spoke the Bhagavat Purana to Parikit Maharaj, the grandson of Arjuna. This great work, the Bhagavat Purana, is the cornerstone of personalism in Hinduism, also known as Vaishnavism. It is easy to understand that Parashara Muni, his son Vyasadeva, his grandson Shukadeva and the Pandavas who are also the grandchildren of Vyasadeva- all of them knew

Lord Krishna. All of them were personalists, or Vaishnavas.

The Bhagavat Purana teaches that at the beginning of creation, an expansion of Krishna known as Vishnu creates the material universe. Precisely the way it is created is more or less described in various Puranas. The creation includes a description of the breathing of MahaVishnu, wherein universes are breathed out like bubbles. Within each universe another Vishnu appears, and a lotus flower sprouts from his navel upon which Lord Brahma appears. At this time the universe is empty. Brahma receives knowledge from Vishnu lying below him in the form of the Gayatri Mantra, which contains all knowledge. Infused with knowledge from Vishnu, Brahma then creates the planets and people and all other manifestations within the material universe. Within the span of only one breath of Vishnu, the universal bubbles go out and then during inhalation are again retracted. During this one breath, Lord Brahma appears, lives his life and then dies during the inhalation or disappears as it were.

Lord Brahma's life span is equal to millions and millions of our years. Our current bodily life exists within a fraction of a second of one of Brahma's days. Therefore in truly universal or Brahma-Vishnu time, our lives are considerably insignificant. Because Vishnu breathes out bubbles and then breathes them back in, there is motion upon the bubbles. They are in a sense spinning in cosmic space. Within the bubble Brahma appears and creates everything. Again there is motion. It is said in the Puranas that when the bubbles are out, Vishnu glances upon them and infuses them with life. During Brahma's lifetime which is millions and millions of our years, we small and marginal little living entities go through innumerable lifetimes.

The aim of life is to achieve liberation- attachment to God and detachment from matter- so that we can be elevated to the more eternal spiritual worlds to participate in pastimes with the Lord and all his liberated devotees.

This material creation which is a bubbly dream of Lord Vishnu is created for our perfection, training and liberation. What this really means, especially to an astrologer, is that the material world is a great school created by Vishnu for the elevation of new souls to the status of participating in 'Lila', or the pastimes of God and His liberated devotees. When Brahma creates the universe under the guidance and knowledge of Vishnu, he does so with incredibly divine mystic power and artistry. There is great artistry and wonderful magical formations built into the material nature. Part of that magical mystical artistry is the

illusion that we are all on a spatial ball encircling a sun with other balls; when in fact there are actual personalities in charge of, responsible for and carrying out the interactions of all things in this material universe. These personalities who are factually existing and who are of a much higher caliber than us are known as demigods.

The planets are actually physical representations of humans on a much higher plane. What we see as 'the balls' is a representation of their potency to our material eyes. There are other planes of existence that perceived correctly would enable us to see the planets as demigods, just as if we could see souls, we would see one within each living body.

In the Bhagavad-Gita, Krishna says that He regularly comes to re-establish religious principles on earth so that at all times there is a chance for the complete liberation of those souls who are ready. It is always therefore the plan of the Lord that sufficient knowledge be brought down to the waiting devoted sincere spiritual aspirants. Therefore, part of the artistry and magical systems used by Brahma in designing everything was taught to his sons who then taught these things to their disciples. Parashara, the so-called father of Vedic Astrology, claims that he learned astrology in this way, ultimately from Brahma, the creator of everything in this universe, who is known as Aja the unborn, because he has no parents within the universe, but rather sprouts directly from the navel of Vishnu.

The proper student of Vedic knowledge understands that ultimately Vedic Astrology, like all Vedic knowledge, is revelation- not the creation of meditation by sages and not the speculative empirical discovery of scientific humans. Vedic Astrology is revelation. It is partial knowledge only of some of the systems of control put in place by Brahma under Vishnu. If a Vedic Astrologer is also a very sincere Vedic spiritualist, they can see and realize new and more full aspects about the science than is currently revealed in the standard books on the matter. This is true of all Vedic and spiritual subjects. Further revelation is possible and available to the sincere, humble and devoted spiritualists, who by sincere practice draw the attention of their invisible guardians and receive gifts from them.

In the Parashara Hora Shastra, where most of the science of Vedic Astrology is taught, at one point Parashara Muni tells Maitreya Muni that "I am revealing to you what the people of Kali Yuga will be able to understand and no more". In other words, there is of course more to be known, and it may not be all in the books. We may or may not find out this 'more' that exists out there in cosmic reality. It is

enough for us to be sincere spiritualists, try to learn what is available to us and go on happily.

The main business of life is not astrology. Shri Krishna describes in the Bhagavad-Gita that the main business of life is to become His devotee and a detached but sincerely hard-working dutiful servant through whom things are done. Krishna describes that everyone should perform the regular matters that are a part of their everyday life, but this should be done with detachment from the fruits or the outcome of those endeavors. Instead, attachment to relating with Krishna (the Supreme Lord and source of Divinity) should be cultivated, thus attaining maximum satisfaction for the soul. This is more the aim of life than becoming a great astrologer.

My realization is that the reason the Lord has revealed Vedic Astrology to humankind through the agency of the sages and the scriptures is because astrology can confirm the *spiritual* teachings of the scriptures to a large degree. Astrology is one of the strongest material proofs of certain principles given in the spiritual sections of the Vedic scriptures.

One of the cornerstone points of Vedic spirituality is the principle of karma and reincarnation; karmic control of us by the demigods. Vedic Astrology proves that at the time of birth, the entire life of the individual is already largely if not fully planned. This proves that we are being controlled, and that free will is just that- it is *will* alone; but that the actual events are controlled outside of and beyond us by God as it were.

As Shri Krishna states in the Bhagavad-Gita that the demigods are His agents, and that they carry out the granting of both good and bad results to us according to our karma, Vedic Astrology gives us a profound way to see and realize that this statement is indeed fact. Anyone who studies Vedic Astrology even just a little will begin to see that it works. There will then be profound realization that indeed the planets are God's agents for controlling our lives or delivering our karmic reactions to us.

Vedic Astrology reveals a profound spiritual and philosophical truth to us: that our lives are fully controlled from the moment of birth to the moment of death. Realizing this can be catastrophic to some people who are not yet ready to accept that they are living in the benevolent cupping hands of the Supreme Lord at every moment of their lives. In modern times, especially in the west, it is vogue to think of ourselves as masters of our lives, as the creators of our destiny. This may be argued in philosophical terms as fact, but Vedic Astrology

shows that there is another side; a side where we can see that we are fully controlled.

One of the world's greatest philosophers, Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (early 1500's, India), has stated that to understand the Absolute Truth is to know that we are simultaneously both fully controlled and independent. In other words, full determinism and free will exist simultaneously for us. What this means is that while our lives are fully controlled by God through the universal demigods, at the same time His power and majesty in creating us is so amazingly great that we experience free will at every moment even though we are controlled. We feel as though we are choosing. We feel the emotional results of our choices.

It is true however that even our choice is controlled. Even our choices flow from our mental condition from birth and from the mold with which we were individually created. So the cosmic super-reality is that we are simultaneously free and controlled. Astrology focuses on one side of this equation, while other sciences and perceptions focus on the other side. A Vedic Astrologer must be a genius in such a way that he or she can walk this razor's edge in-between these two realities, deftly going between the two according to the nature and needs of the situation at hand in both their personal and professional lives.

## History

We begin our study of Vedic Astrology by first pronouncing to which version of history we subscribe. I have in my hand a book of Indian Astrology by a modern author in which what has become the traditional version of history of India is recounted for the reader. This accepted version of Indian history includes things such as what are known as the Indo-Aryan tribes from Afghanistan and so forth. This kind of history where the Puranas are completely ignored was established by scholars many decades ago, the last century in fact, and it has become standard in text books and universities and it is taught and taught and taught ad nauseam.

This version of history taught in Western universities does not at all concur with the Puranas which are the version of history that India offers and believe for themselves. This other version of history where the Puranas are thrown out the window is completely cast upon India by outsiders basically to patronize the Christian view of world history and the Darwinian view of world history. However, any serious follower of Hinduism or any Vedanga (a Vedanga is a limb of the Vedas such as astrology and Ayurveda) should believe the Puranic version of Indian history

rather than the modern speculative view of Indian history.

So we shall now quickly recount the real history of India, very briefly. In the Bhagavad-Gita Krsna says that in each of Lord Brahma's days he re-creates the entire material creation including all the universes and all the inhabitants. Many millions of years of our time pass during the one day of Lord Brahma. Krsna states that everything that Lord Brahma knows he gives to his sons and disciples.

Else where in the Puranas it is taught, as it is in the Bhagavad-Gita, that knowledge such as astrology is taught by Lord Brahma to his sons and other sages that he creates and manifests, and they in turn teach it to all the other humans and it is passed down through the ages. The vedic version is that all of this wonderful knowledge is God given and it appears at the beginning of creation, it is passed orally down through the ages until Kali-Yuga at which time books are invented and used.

The Brihat Parashara Sastra, the great scripture of astrology by sage Parashara, was written when books were newly invented in this age that we are living, roughly 5,000 years ago. That is very recent history according to the Puranic view which goes back millions of years. The Puranas are the only source of truly ancient primeval history and information. There is no other scriptures outside of the Vedas and Puranas for truly ancient histories and primeval information such as Vedic astrology.

Sage Parashara states that he received this knowledge through the disciplic succession coming from Lord Brahma the creator. A true follower of the Vedas believes such statements literally and does not attempt to bring any kind of modern understanding of history upon this wonderful ancient wisdom. The scholars who invented this made up version of Indian history, and world history for that matter, are all atheists in the eyes of the Vedic understanding of religion, even if such scholars and scientists call themselves Christians or theists. According to the Vedic view they are atheists because they do not have humility towards the words of Lord Krsna, the Vedas and Puranas.

Astrology has been augmented by the realizations and discoveries of sages and various humans throughout the ages. Nevertheless, the original science is coming from the creator who created the planets and their orbits and karmic patterns- namely Lord Brahma working under Lord Vishnu.

So the history of astrology is that it comes from the brain of Lord Brahma. He creates the universe with

wonderful artistry, full of mathematical patterns and beautiful, colorful symmetry. These patterns and symmetries are partially taught to his sons and disciples and passed down through the ages orally until Kali-Yuga when they are written down, roughly 5,000 years ago. Today we receive astrology through the same books which have been translated over and over down through the ages. We also receive astrology through the teachings of living humans who practice it, who learned it from other living humans. In this way, through Guru, Sruti and Smriti, or through teachers, hearing from others and from scriptures we learn of astrology and thus the original teachings of Lord Brahma are still available today, however, diluted and vitiated they may be due to the natural course of time.

In the Bhagavad-Gita Lord Krsna says that he comes to this earthly plane from time to time to re-establish religious principles. To get rid of the atheistic types and to enliven the devotee types of humans. Since Vedic astrology is a sub-division of the Vedas, it is also dear to Lord Krsna since He also states in the Bhagavad Gita that He is the knower of the Vedas, He is the compiler of the Vedas and that by all the Vedas He, alone, is to be known.

So from time to time, Vedic astrology, like all other parts of the Vedas, get a boost by the presence of an incarnation of the Lord on earth. This happened 5,000 years ago with the advent of Lord Sri Krsna on earth. At that time, Parashara Muni, his son Vyasadeva (the compiler of the Vedas) and many other great personalities were all manifest on earth. At that time, books were invented, the Vedas were recorded in writing and for the very first time in this creationary cycle, Vedic astrology was written down so that it could be passed down through the ages to this very present day.

What you are about to receive is a gift from Lord Brahma, from Lord Vishnu through their devotees like Parashara Muni, Vyasadeva and in a much smaller and less significant way, this humble author, who is also a part of the Lord. You are a child of God. You are receiving this valuable tool so that you can become more enlightened, more illuminated within.

The purpose of Vedic Astrology is simply to know. The word Veda means knowledge. Lord Krsna states that the purpose of all Vedic knowledge is to come to know Him. So this science of Jyotish or Vedic astrology has the chief purpose of increasing your enlightenment and awareness of God's presence in this universe and in the lives of every one as the Supreme Controller.

One of the chief names of Lord Krsna is Param Isvara which means Supreme Controller. A real student of Jyotish will, in a very short time, come to see that all living beings are controlled, and that free will is will only, but that the external facts or events are coming from somewhere other than just our will. As Lord Krsna states in the Gita, the lives of all living beings are formed from combinations of what they desire as well as what they deserve in order to right them in their progressive path of life.

Vedic Astrology shows us the actual fact of what each person is born with in terms of gifts, talents and attributes. Further more it allows us to understand how events will unfold in the life of the living being. In other words, Jyotish reveals the karmic path that lay ahead both in it's splendorous hill top successes and it's miserable, fearful, dark valleys.

The knower of Jyotish or Vedic astrology carries a massive burden of responsibility. A true Vedic astrologer should be a brahman because they receive so much knowledge, they have so much vision. A Vedic astrologer can know so much about their own and other persons lives, therefore, the responsibility is upon them to be excellent persons so that they can show the correct way to others.

Most persons allow themselves much leeway in their understanding of various items. For example, many persons delight in drinking even though it brings out the worst in them. Knowing that alcohol has a tamasic or "mode of ignorance" nature, the real brahman avoids it because alcohol, especially in excess will pollute and color his vision, his aura and his ability to emit positive words and vibrations to other living beings. Similarly, having rotting flesh within ones belly is not something we would expect from an enlightened Vedic astrologer.

The real enlightened Vedic astrologer seeks to walk in total harmony with nature which he knows is simply a manifestation of Supreme Divinity. Being one with Divine Nature, being able to read the cosmos and thus give comfort and wisdom and direction to other persons is the real nature of the true Vedic astrologer. This is ultimately not a material science. This is the science of how God teaches the souls in this creation lessons. This science is not the possession of humans, it is on loan to humans. Abusing this science causes more serious karmic reaction. Using it correctly elevates one to a superior spiritual position.

Therefore, with all humility, sincerity and submission to all the gurus both seen and unseen, we now approach and in the proper mood begin our study

of the most ancient science of karma known as Vedic astrology or Jyotish.

## Beginning

In the beginning of the Parashara Hora Sastra, we find that first the sage offers his obeisances to Lord Ganesh because Ganesh, the son of Lord Siva and Sri Parvati Devi, is the holder and protector of the secret Vedic sciences. Lord Ganesh really exists, and therefore the all-knowing sage Parashara offers him his humble and sincere praises and respects, known as pranams or dandavats which means folding hands or lying like a stick before the superior person in respect.

The Parashara Hora Sastra is a conversation between Parashara and Maitreya Muni. Maitreya Muni is also found in many other Puranas. He was another great sage at the time of Lord Krsna 5,000 years ago. You can find the activities and teachings of Maitreya and Parashara being discussed further in such great Puranic and Vedic works as the Mahabharata and Bhagavata Purana.

In the very beginning of the work, Parashara says that the teaching of this science is to be given only to students who are good and peaceful, who honor the gurus or preceptors and the real elders who are completely truthful and fully faithful in the science of God. He says that only if this is done will goodness follow. This science is not for unwilling students, atheists or cheaters.

Parashara Muni first starts by describing the creation, the various Gods such as Vishnu, Brahma, Siva, and Mother Bhumi who rules over the earth. In this way we can understand the true approach to all Vedic knowledge. First recognition is given to the Supreme Lord, the source of everything, who is known as Sarva Karana Karanum which means the cause of all causes, or the source of even the sources. These early verses of the Hora Sastra are not to be overlooked as simply "Hindu mythology". Rather they are to be taken as fact indeed. No human can say and prove that God does not exist- that Vishnu and Krsna do not exist, and the humble Vedic Astrologer should be of the type that welcomes the faith of their existence, stands up for such theology, and sees it's brightness above all other conceptions.

Since we are in the humble position of being controlled by the nature in which we were born, we should remember that we have no right to discount the ancient Vedic and Puranic histories. After describing the incarnations of the Lord and a general brief description of the creation, Sage Parashara

finishes the first part of his book by saying that one who knows and believes all these things can become versed in the knowledge of the past, present, and future. No one else, without believing in this way, will truly be able to understand this science. He further says that one who correctly understands this can be a Brahman (a first class person), and those who do not correctly understand this will most likely be reborn (not liberated) and the abusers of this science will be reborn without eye sight (blind from birth).

## Basics

The basic paradigm of Jyotish is that we are children of God and we are being lovingly and carefully carried through a very large set of lessons which takes a number of life times to accomplish. The lessons begin in lower forms of life and end in higher stages of human development. At a certain point when we have learned the lessons of this material creation, we are lifted to spiritual worlds beyond the material creation. While in human life in this material creation, we are sometimes promoted to heavenly planets. Sometimes demoted to lower planets than earth, while at other times we reside on earth which is in the middle of the range of possibilities.

While we are here, we are controlled by our loving older brothers and sisters, also known as the demigods. The demigods, although mortal, live much longer than we do. They have material bodies, but we cannot see them as they live on higher material planets. Their bodies are more closely related to a thought than our earthen bodies. Therefore, it is appropriate to say that the bodies and lives of the demigods are more subtle than our own.

Just as we control and take care of our pets, similarly, the demigods control and take care of us. The ant living in our garden may not know that we control the garden because we are so large and completely not present in their little world. Never the less, their ignorance of us does not make us less real, or less potent and capable. Indeed, with a single stroke of our spray bottle, we can wipe out an entire colony of ants who never knew it was us who did this to them. Similarly, the demigods can with a single stroke or thought annihilate an entire continent on our teeny dust ball in space known as earth.

The planets which revolve within our solar system are physical external representations of small parts of the personalities of certain demigods. For example, Saturn is an external representation of part of the personality known as Shanaischarya. Similarly, Venus is an external representation of part of the potency of Shukracharya.

Another way to understand the planets relationships with ourselves is to see that the guards in a prison did not put the prisoners in a prison, but once the prisoners are in the prison, it is the duty of the guards to keep them in the prison and administer various punishments and disciplinary actions, but also to protect the prisoners from each other to feed them and provide for them. This is exactly like our position. We live in Durga Dham which means we live in the prison. The demigods simultaneously provide for us and punish us, but it is not them who are doing it to us. They are only carrying out the will and order and need of the greater whole which they are also a part of. They are simply above us, but they also have their superiors.

Amongst the demigods, they have their own hierarchy, or rank and order, and ultimately they are all within the material creation except for Lord Brahma who is right on the edge. Sadashiva is beyond the material creation, but barely. Lord Vishnu's planets alone are securely above and beyond all material consideration and the highest of those is Krsna Loka or Goloka Vrndavana, the personal planet of the most personal and sweet form of the Lord, Sri Krsna.

So Vedic astrology is the science of the effects of the planets on all things on our world. Lord Brahma has taught that although what we see is his material creation and in a way an illusory cover to keep us in ignorance, still by studying the movements of the heavenly bodies, we can know the particular way in which the demigods have cast their will and effects upon a person. The positions of the various planets at the time of a person or thing dictate and control and reflects the way in which the demigods will control and manipulate the life of that person or thing.

All things whether they be humans or just thoughts are born and die within the great cycles within this universe. We are all creations of the great cycles and systems functioning within this universe. We are not separate. Vedic astrology is the science of reading the imprint of the universe upon the human or thing at the time of their birth and from that chart or imprint knowing and foretelling the nature and life events destined to be enjoyed or suffered by that person or thing.

When we study the birth chart of a human, we are studying their life. When we study the birth chart of a question, we are studying the outcome and answer. When we study the birth chart of a material item such as a vehicle, the christening of a house or boat for example, we are studying the lives of those things. Vedic astrology can apply to questions, things,

people, pets, etc. All things within this universe are subject to the controls of the Gods, and therefore, astrology applies to all things.

## Components

The most basic elements of Vedic astrology are the nine planets or heavenly bodies and the twelve signs of the zodiac and the twelve houses of the chart. When studying Vedic astrology, it is important to become familiar with the Sanskrit words for all the main components. Therefore, through out this book, we will often refer to these Sanskrit words. To begin with, let it be known that the words planets and "grahas" are synonymous. The twelve signs of the zodiac are called "rashis" and the houses are called "bhavas" or "sthanas". The nine planets used in Vedic astrology are the Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu. These are known in Sanskrit as Ravi or Surya, Candra, Mangal or Kuja, Buddha, Guru, Shukra, Shani, Rahu and Ketu.

Insert planet name table here.

The twelve signs are as follows:

Insert sign table.

There are twelve houses in a chart. The chart is also called the "Kundali Chakra". The twelve houses govern all the various parts of our lives. The houses are domains in space. When you stand anywhere on the earth, at that moment you are surrounded by space all the way around you. Space even surrounds the earth which is below your feet. You are standing on a ball floating in space so space surrounds you and your earth ball on all sides.

If you look directly East and point your hand at the Eastern horizon where the Sun rises, you are pointing in the direction of what is known as the first house. The first house governs the 30 degree span of space where the Eastern horizon is. Directly across from it, or on the Western horizon is the 7th house. From the first to the 7th are the 2nd through 6th houses.

Directly over your head is the 10th house. That is, straight up into space where the high noon Sun beams down on us is the 10th house. Straight below your feet covering the span of space on the other side of the earth from you, is the 4th house.

So the first house governs the Eastern horizon, the 2nd house is just below the Eastern horizon, the 3rd house is deeply below the Eastern horizon, the 4th house is directly underneath you, the 5th house is

underneath you and behind a little bit. The 6th house is underneath you and behind you quite a bit. The 7th house is behind you covering the Western or Sunset horizon. The 8th house is just over your shoulder when you turn your head around and look behind you. The 9th house is above the top back part of your head, the 10th house is straight over your head, the 11th house is what you see when you look upwards but not straight up. The 12th house is just slightly above the eastern horizon and this brings us back around to the first house which governs the eastern horizon.

In this way, the entire 360 degree circular span of space surrounding you and your earth are divided into 12 equal 30 degree sections, each of which has a number from 1 -12 and is known as a house. Studying the parts of life that these houses govern is a large part of astrology.

For example, the 10th house, i.e., the span of space directly over head, governs power, position and our career to a large degree. Any planets in this span of space at the time of our birth greatly affect our career, power and status in life. As you study astrology, you will find this to be unfailingly true and eventually you will become so familiar with the effects of planets that effect this house that you will be able to tell much about the success and failure of any one's career who's chart you glance upon.

In conclusion, the 12 houses are always present. At every moment the 12 houses are present surrounding you and your earth.

Insert House Table #1 here.

Besides the 12 houses there are 12 signs. It is important to differentiate in your mind between the 12 signs and the 12 houses. Let us examine this difference more closely and then ultimately bring the two together where they become one in Vedic Astrology.

First let us discuss the physical zodiac which is comprised of 12 main constellations also known as signs or rashis.

The zodiac is a band of stars that surrounds the earth like a ring. There are 12 main constellations that form this great ring around us. The stars that we see in the night sky are mostly very, very far away. Amongst the millions of stars in the night sky, the 7 planets and two invisible planets in Vedic Astrology exist also, although they are much closer and they move. Besides these few, very few, moving planets all the other stars are fixed out in space.

The zodiac is comprised of a band of these fixed stars, very far beyond the planets that form our immediate solar system. So you could say that the fixed stars of the night sky which includes the band called the zodiac altogether form the "back drop" of the sky or the back drop against which our solar system is moving.

For example, in astrology, we always speak of which sign a planet is in. The planets are not actually mixing in the stars at the sign, it is just that because the planet is circling with us around the sun, looking from earth towards the planet in question, we always see some sign of the zodiac as the back drop of that planet.

For example, picture yourself standing in the middle of a circular room. There are seven other people with you in the room. You yourself and the 7 other people are all walking in circles around in the room. Some of you are closer to the wall, some of you are closer to the middle. You are all walking at different speeds, but you are all walking around the central point of the room. Some of you complete your circles around the center of the room on your own path very quickly and begin again, circling again and again. While others, walking closer to the outer edge, and perhaps walking slower due to their own natures, take longer to complete their circle around the room.

The wall of the room surrounding all of you is painted with 12 different distinct colored sections. One section is orange, the next section is green, the next section is red and so on. You are walking on the 3rd or 4th ring out from the middle of the room. When you look to your right or left you see the other walkers within the room. Whenever you look at any one of them, you see a colored back drop behind them from your relative view point. For example, you may look at the person on the 5th ring from the center, and when you look at them you see that behind them is the green section of the wall which is 1/12 of the circular wall surrounding all of you. If you were to refer to that person, you might say the 5th walker is in the green section. Looking yet at another person, you may see an old man on the very most outer ring, walking very slowly against the gray 1/12 of the back drop wall. You could then say, the old man who is on the outer most ring is currently in the gray section as he walks around the room.

In this way the various heavenly bodies known as grahas or planets are always, in relation to our vision, situated in front of one of the signs of the zodiac which is behind them. Thus we say that the planet is in a certain sign. It does not mean that the planet is actually in those stars at this time, but simply that that constellation (sign) is the back drop far away

behind the planet as we gaze upon it. Apparently it is the will of the Lord that these relationships of the planets to signs and the houses in relation to us, is how the effects of the Gods can be read.

Our universe is so dependent upon the higher controlling demigods that what we see as our planet, the 12 divisions of space surrounding it (the houses) and the other floating planets in our solar system, are all actually a reflection of the dance of various demigods during the minute fraction of their day that passes while we have an entire lifetime. Their thoughts at a moment reflected in the planets, control our entire lives.

A real astrologer looks at the planets in a chart and having already become familiar with the nature of the demigods that each planet represents, can immediately tell the mood and effect upon the person whose chart it is. Vedic Astrology is actually a system of reading the effects of the demigods based on their positioning within a chart.

These three elements, the planets, signs and houses are the most important fundamental building blocks of Jyotish. One must become intimately familiar with the nature of these 33 items. Namely, 9 planets, 12 signs and 12 houses. After this there are 27 special stars or Nakshatras. The 27 Nakshatras are the most important stars in the zodiac. They are spaced roughly evenly around the zodiac and they control 13 degrees and 20 minutes of the zodiac each. Studying the Nakshatras or special stars will come later. First one must become familiar with the 33 main elements. Before we begin to study these elements in detail and individually, let us first take a brief over view of the process of actually reading the chart or practicing Vedic Astrology.

Vedic Astrology works like this. You take an exact moment in time, such as 4:42 a.m. for example, and a date, such as May 18 1960, and a place on earth, such as Oakland California U.S.A. On that date, at that place, at that exact time, the heavens were in a certain position in relation to that spot on earth at that moment. In fact, that moment was the moment and place of my own birth.

At that time, the sign known as Aries was rising on the eastern horizon. Roughly 1/4 of the sign had risen above the eastern horizon when that moment in history flashed by. The planet known as Venus was in the 30 degree domain of space close to the Eastern horizon, which we earlier discussed as being the first house. The Sun and Mercury were under the Eastern horizon, and they would soon rise above the Eastern horizon and thus the dawn of that day, May 18th 1960, was soon to begin.

But at 4:42 a.m. it was still dark. It was very early morning, just prior to dawn. Therefore the sun and Mercury who always travels near to the sun were in the 2nd house which is the next house just under the eastern horizon. It is the next house to rise. It takes roughly two hours for each sign of the 12 to pass by the eastern horizon. Thus, roughly within every 24 hour period, the 12 signs of the zodiac each take a 2 hour turn rising on the eastern horizon. And as each one rises, it's opposite across the zodiac is setting on the western horizon. So at the time of my birth, there were no planets in the 3rd or 4th houses underneath the earth, but the shadow node of the moon known as Rahu was in the 5th house which is just under and towards the west a little, there was nothing in the 6th, 7th (western horizon) or 8th. Then we come to the 9th house which if we look towards the east is just above our heads and to the back a little bit. The 9th house rules religion in Vedic Astrology. It is interesting to note that many religions honor this angle through various customs. For example, Jewish men wear a small hat on that part of their head. Many Hindu men shave every part of their head except that part which they let grow into a long pony tail known as a sheeka. It is also taught in the Vedas that that crown of the portion of the head which faces the 9th house is where certain types of yogis of the past used to burst through at the time of their death and would actually leave their body through that spot which is known as the Brahma Rundrum. It is also interesting to note that the hair often curls in a swirling pattern on that part of the head as if the universal swirling pattern enters us at that point.

## The Lords of Houses

In vedic astrology, each of the twelve houses of the horoscope is considered to be the same as one of the twelve signs. In other words, one sign per one house. That is the vedic system.

In western astrology, there are a number of different house systems employed and most of them are not the equal house system that vedic astrologers use. Most of them do not exactly align the houses of the chart with the signs but rather, the houses start with anywhere within a sign and may end within that same sign or somewhere in the middle of the next sign. In this way the signs in the house are not aligned, but are two independent wheels discussed separately.

But in standard vedic astrology, whatever sign is rising no matter what the rising degree is, that entire sign is considered as the first house, and that the next

sign in the zodiac is the second house and so on. In this way there is an exact correlation between sign and house in vedic astrology. All of the twelve signs of the zodiac are ruled by one of the seven planets. The following table shows the ruling planet of each sign

Insert lordship table here

As you can see the sun and moon each lord over one sign only. Namely Leo and Cancer. Whereas the other planets each have two signs for which they are the lord. This is always the case. The signs never have different lords. In a horoscope, as mentioned, one sign is considered the rising sign and the other signs follow in their nature order and take control over the other eleven houses of the horoscope. Whatever planet lords over each of the signs becomes the lord of the house that that sign controls.

For example, if Taurus is the rising sign, then Venus is the lord of the first house since Venus is the lord of Taurus. The second house would then be Gemini and therefore mercury would then be called "The Lord of the Second." Then cancer would be in third house and therefore the moon would be called "The Lord of the Third." There are a number of words for Lord in Sanskrit and one of them is "Pati" (pronounced "puttee"). This is the most commonly used word when referring to the lords of the houses in Sanskrit. So in our example, Shukra would be the Thanupati. Which mean lord of the Thanusthana. Which means the house of the body or the first house. In this way the various lords are referred to by the main name that the house is called to in Sanskrit.

But the most important thing is to know the natural order of the twelve signs very fluently and to therefore know quickly which planets rule each of the twelve houses for each twelve possible rising signs. Thus if a particular sign is rising the student astrologer must be able to quickly ascertain in their mind which planet will be the lord of the ninth house, which planet will be the planet of the fourth house, which planet is the lord of the eleventh house, etc.

This process of instantly knowing the lords of the houses is very important and fundamental vedic astrology. If a very solid, graphical, picture is somehow learned, remembered and lodged in the mind of the twelve houses in their natural order. And the distances between each. Then this process becomes very easy. This requires that the astrologer have the kind of mind which can quickly determined distances between two points within a circle.

For example, the distance between Capricorn and Taurus is five signs. Because you start counting

from the first one. In this case Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus, that's five. What is the distance between Virgo and Aquarius?...Six houses. In this way one must be able to quickly know immediately the number of houses one sign is away from another sign. With experience and practice this becomes easy.

Now let us begin to examine the importance and use of the lords in vedic astrology.

The first house rules the body amongst other things. All things about the body can be determined from the first house and it's lord, aspects upon the first house and the lord of the first house, as well as planets that reside in the first house, etc. In this chapter we are concerned with the lords primarily so let us focus on that.

Each lord must be somewhere in the horoscope, so the lord of the first house or sign must be in one of the twelve signs. According to which sign he is in, that also determines the house. Lets take the example of cancer rising. The moon is the lord of Cancer. By seeing which sign the moon is in we then instantly know what house the moon is in as well. Let us imagine that the Moon is in Gemini, on a particular horoscope which has Cancer rising. Since Gemini is one sign before cancer, this would put the lord of the first in the twelfth house. Because cancer is rising, moon is the lord, Gemini is therefore the twelfth house and therefore we say " The Lord of the First is in the twelfth".

Primarily, two things happen when a lord goes to any house. Of these two things, by far the most important to know and understand and be able to read is that the house shapes the lord that comes to stay in it. For example, the eighth house is a seriously bad house. Of all the houses in the horoscope, the eighth has the most power to cause bad effects. Therefore, when the lord of the first house goes to the eighth house in a horoscope, then serious physical harm comes to the body. We never like to see the lord of the first house in the eighth house. Because it means serious difficulty will come to that person during their lifetime.

So the principle is the house that a lord goes to greatly effects the affairs of life ruled by the houses that that lord concerned rules.

Again for example, let us say that Taurus is rising. Therefore Venus is lord of the first house as well as the sixth house. If Venus is found in the ninth house then the highly benefic affects of the ninth house flow in a great way towards the first and sixth houses because the ninth house is holding their lord, passing

it's benefic affects onto the first lord who therefore passes them on to his own houses. Therefore, to have the lord of the first in the ninth house which is the most fortunate house in the horoscope, is a very positive lordship placement.

If the lord of the first is in the sixth house, since the sixth house is one of the more detrimental houses because it passes the effects of death, diseases and enemies onto the planets it controls, therefore these more negative aspects of life will be placed onto the first lord who will then pass them along to the first house, and the other house he rules (if he be one of the planets other than the Sun and Moon which rule only one house each).

Now let us briefly examine the main areas of life that each of the twelve houses controls and how this might effect a particular lord, namely the lord of the first.

If the lord of the first is placed in the first house, then we could say that the body becomes the focus of the body. In other words, the person focuses much on their own life, their own self and their body during this lifetime.

If the lord of the first is placed in the second house then the body, first lord, shall be greatly influenced by and focused upon the things the second house rules such as family and wealth. Thus people who have lord of the first in the second, are found often to be entangled with and coming from a strong family background and they are concerned with accumulating wealth in some way.

If the lord of the first is placed in the third house, then the body is found to be connected with ones younger bothers and sisters the acquisition of college degrees, spiritual initiations and other things that the third house rules.

Since the fourth house rules mother, home, heart and happiness, if the lord of the first is placed there then we find that the person will be greatly concerned with these affairs during their life. They will likely spend alot of time at home, since the first lord rules the body and the fourth house rules home, we find their body at home rather than on the road or at work etc.

At this point, let us take a small digression into greater complexity and note that since the fourth house is tenth from the seventh house, it therefore stands for the career of the spouse. So if the lord of the first is in the fourth, then we will find likely in the life that the person's body will have some connection with the career of the spouse. This means that the person might work for their spouse or work

with their spouse and since the fourth also rules the home of the person we may expect that they work for the spouse or with the spouse in their own home in perhaps a home-based business.

So the point here is to see that not only does each house rules something when counted from the Ascendent, but it also rules other things depending on it's distance from other houses. In this way the placements of the lords have their first level meanings and then second, third, fourth and deeper and deeper meanings depending upon the astrologers ability to read the complexity of the house relationships.

If the lord of the first is placed in the fifth house, then the concerns of children, creativity, romance and what one does to make others happy becomes the focus of their bodily activities to a large degree especially during periods ruled by the lord of the first house in the Vimshottari dashas.

To understand when things will take place we need to look to the dashas. That is of course the concern of another chapter of this book, but it is worth mentioning and always remembering that effects take place at certain times in the life according to dashas and transits.

If the lord of the first is placed in the sixth house, then the affects of deaths, diseases and enemies overwhelm the person at points in their life. Obviously that is not a good placement for the lord of the first.

If the lord of the first is placed in the seventh house, then the person is heavily focused on their partner, their spouse, etc., during their life.

If the lord of the first is placed in the eighth house, as already mentioned unforeseen difficulties and serious problems arise at life and overwhelm the lord of the first, or in other words, the person and their body in general.

If the lord of the first is placed in the ninth house then there is an overall fortunate protective cover on the person's body throughout their lifetime; because the ninth house stands for fortune and all general good things that simply come from the environment.

If the lord of the first is placed in the tenth house, then the person's body or the life in general in other words, is heavily focused upon the attainment of career, status position, and success are the domain of the tenth house.

Next the eleventh house controls desires, friends oldest siblings, and gains. If the lord of the first is

placed in the eleventh house, then the person is heavily focused upon the achievement of desires and certain gainful things in life.

If the lord of the first is placed in the twelfth house, since this house rules charity, donations, and losses, the persons body will therefore be used up in these ways throughout their life. In other words they may donate themselves to causes. They may live for some other purpose other than their own life. Or in general there just may be a lot of loss in their life.

These are brief examples of how the placement of the first lord in the twelve houses affects the body or the life in general, since the first house stands for the body and the life in an overall general way.

An astrologer must take each of the twelve lords and examine which house they reside in and predict the effects on each accordingly.

More examples: If the lord of the second is in the ninth then fortune will come to the wealth since the ninth is fortune and the second is wealth. If the lord of the third is in the second, then the younger siblings will have a connection with wealth either by giving or taking.

Since the second is twelfth to the third, it indicates loss to the younger siblings, and since that lord would then reside in the second house of the horoscope, it is likely that that person will take the wealth of the person of whose horoscope it is. Or could it be that the younger siblings loose their wealth and donate it to the second house of the concerned person? This is the kind of difficult question that an astrologer concerns themselves with in their on going years of study. The answer of course lies in the nature of each planet concerned since any of the planets could be the lord of the third house depending of the rising sign.

If the lord of the fourth house is in the twelfth house, since the twelfth house is ninth from the fourth house, and the fourth house rules the mother then we can understand that the mother will be strong in her religion. Because the fourth lord has gone to the ninth house from itself. That is similar to having lord of the first in the ninth for yourself. It indicates that the person in general tend to have strong faith, belief, spirituality or religion. So if the fourth lord is in the twelfth, that means that the mother of the person has her own strong religion and it causes a great impact on the life of the individual whose chart we are examining.

If the lord of the ninth is in the eighth, generally this means that there is loss to the ninth house, since the

eighth is twelfth from the ninth house. Since the ninth house stands for father, it often means that the father goes away. That there is loss of the father early in life. And indeed we see this lordship placement in many persons who were raised without a father present.

If the lord of the sixth house is placed in the fifth house then there is a draining away of the negative things in life such as death, diseases and enemies. This is good. We do not want the sixth lord to be strong or prominent. We want him to be weakened because he carries many negative properties. The fifth house is twelfth to the sixth house and represents the loss of the sixth house. This is one reason the fifth house is such a good house because it stands for the ending or termination of deaths, diseases and enemies.

If the seventh lord is placed in the ninth house, then since the seventh rules spouse and the ninth one's religion, one may find their spouse in their religion. Or their spouse will have an affect upon their religion. Similarly, their religion will have an affect upon their spouse.

When the seventh lord is placed in the tenth house, we find that the person works with their spouse because the tenth is work or career and the seventh is spouse. If the ninth lord is placed in the fourth, then fortune, ninth, comes upon their home, heart, etc., the things ruled by the fourth house.

If the tenth lord is placed in the eighth house, since the tenth rules career and the eighth rules troubles, we find troubles come within the career efforts of the person or because of the career of the person. Most people I know who have the tenth lord in the eighth house have great difficulty establishing a career. Or when they do establish one, there is some sudden or serious troubles that come and greatly harm their progress in their career.

Because the eleventh lord has much to do with gains and achievement of ones desires, it's placement in the various twelve houses tells us alot about how well this person will achieve the desires in life and where their desires lay.

For example, if the eleventh lord is in the ninth house, then fortune flows to the achievement of their desires. If the eleventh lord is in the eighth house, then great trouble comes in the achievement of their desires. In this way one of the twelve houses exerts itself upon the eleventh lord and the things he controls.

The twelfth lord rules loss and as we said, the house in which the lord resides greatly affects that lord and that lord's houses. So if the twelfth is in the ninth house then religion, spirituality, dharma and god above, have a great affect upon the losses in this person's life. What could this mean? It means that losses will come to this person because of their faith, spirituality, or acts of god. There will tend to be losses based upon the person's religion or by situations which are good and righteous but still cause "loss".

From my own life I can relate an example of the effects of the lord of the twelfth placed in the ninth: In my horoscope the ninth and twelfth lords is Jupiter and Jupiter is placed in the ninth house in Sagittarius. So I have lord of the twelfth in the ninth and lord of the ninth in the ninth. I began Jupiter major period around ten years of age.

Around the age of ten or eleven I was one day taken to our local Church where the priest told myself and all my many brothers and sisters that the church and my mother had reached an understanding whereby my father would for some time be placed in a veterans home for the disabled because he had a serious mental health problem. I was informed of the *loss* of my father *in a church, by a priest*.

This example neatly ties together the effects of the twelfth and the ninth houses. Namely, loss, religion and father. There was a loss, twelfth lord, of my father, ninth lord, and since the lord of the ninth and twelfth is in the ninth, I heard about it in the ninth house, or in other words, at a Church, by a priest.

So this is one example of the practical effects of the lords. So the most important thing that happens to a lord placed in a house, is that the house it is placed in greatly shapes how that lord will act. This is the first principle that must be fully understood and through studying real charts, learned; so that you can predict with this technique. In studying real charts of persons you know well, over a number of years, you will gradually see realistically the effects of the houses upon the lords.

The second thing that happens when a lord goes to a specific house, that lord brings his baggage to bear upon that house. This is different from what we were previously discussing. Previously we were discussing how the house affects the lord placed within it. Now what we are saying is that the lord brings effects upon the house he is placed within. This is the exact opposite principle, but it is also true. Both things occur simultaneously.

For example, in the example from my own life that I gave earlier, we saw that the twelfth lord brought his affect of loss upon the ninth house. But we also saw that the ninth house affected how the twelfth lord acted. In other words, there was loss of my father- that is the effect of the twelfth lord, but there was also the ninth lord, or the church and priest, involved in the loss- which was the ninth house bringing it's affects upon the twelfth lord.

Both of these principles have to be used in prediction. Let us take another lordship example in practical life.

I know a couple who have two children.. When we examine the charts of the husband and wife we find the husband has lord of the fifth in the second house while the wife has lord of the fifth in the first house. What in general does this say each of their involvement's with their two children? Overall which of them has more involvement with raising the children?

The correct answer would be the mother because she has lord of the fifth in the first house, which means that the fifth lord or children, has a great effect upon her first house, or her body. Whereas, the husband has the fifth lord in the second house which means that he may speak to the children more than anything else, since the second house rules ones mouth and speech.

Also he will pay for the children's way in life often, since the second house is also wealth, especially at the children's time of rise in career. The father will shell out some money at that time in their lives because the second is tenth (career) from the fifth (children).

When you look at the realistic day to day lives of this family I'm referring to, the mother does most of the physical parenting, while the father mostly works on his career and talks to the children as their father, and he has a very good effect on them in that way. But when it comes to outings, bedtime readings, playing games, and just being with the kids, it is usually their mother who does these things and not their father. The father does however concern himself with making money and supporting the family.

What does Vedic astrology have to say about mothering? The answer is implied in every chart simply by the layout of the houses. The first house is tenth from the fourth house. In other words, our first houses, which represent our early lives, also represent the career, or tenth angle, from our mothers, or our fourth houses. So, the layout of the houses implies that during our early lives our very bodies *are* the careers of our mothers. It is simply a fact of

nature that mothers raise kids and the chart implies that this is their path or proper karma.

Karma means "work" and the tenth house or tenth angle from any house rules karma. Karma is not a bad word. It simply refers to our actions. The tenth house also rules power and position. Our charts imply that our mother's power and position should have been found in raising us as strong, healthy, good children. If the lord of the fourth and first houses in our charts are not nicely placed, then it says something about how our mother's raised us.

Hopefully the above examples show how realistically the lords can be tied directly to real life. By learning what the houses stand for, placing those effects upon the lords, and then going further to understand the "houses from houses" principle (like the 2nd is 10th from the 5th and thus stands somewhat for the rise of the children's career), then we can see life itself unfold before us in every person's chart.

## The Houses and Signs

Each person is a product of the universe at the time of their birth. There are two dials and nine hands on the universal clock. The two dials each have twelve compartments. One dial is the 12 houses, the other dial is the 12 signs. The 9 hands on this clock are the 9 planets. The houses rule actual things in our life.

In the classic scriptures, the houses have single word names, for example, the first house is Thanu Bhava which means the house of the body. The 2nd is Dhana Bhava, the house of wealth. In this way every house has its single word name that describes the main thing that it rules over. An astrologer gradually gains realization into what the houses govern, and as this realization becomes deeper and deeper through actual practice in real life, one's perception and appreciation of an individual house becomes very broad and, therefore, based on the planets effecting that house, one can render many detailed and accurate predictions and revelations.

The houses are always situated in space in relationship to the earth in the same way. The first house is always on the eastern horizon and the 7th house is always in the western horizon and so on. So the dial of the houses is fixed in space. The houses are sections of space surrounding us at all times and they are always the same.

The dial of signs of the zodiac however, appears to be moving in relation to us, but this is because our planet is spinning. The zodiac is stationary and the

earth is spinning. So the zodiac signs appear to move- one sign every two hours across the eastern horizon up into the sky. The sign that is crossing the eastern horizon is known as the ascending sign, the ascendent, the lugna, or the rising sign.

The signs of the zodiac are always in the same order because they represent sections of the stars of space that never change. At any given time of the day, one of the twelve signs will be on the eastern horizon and since they are in the same order, then we can easily recite their names in order and know which sign is filling which house.

For example, when Aries is rising, since Taurus is always the next sign, we know that Taurus is in the second house when ever Aries is rising or in other words, when Aries is in the first house. Similarly, since Sagittarius is always 9 signs from Aries, we know that Sagittarius is in the 9th house whenever Aries is in the 1st house. If Capricorn is rising, or in other words, tenanting the 1st house, then we know that Taurus will be in the 5th house since Taurus is always five signs from Capricorn, always and forever.

So there are two dials in space, the houses and the signs. The houses rule actual things in the life like the body, the wealth and the religion, the mother, the career, etc. of the person. The signs are like "colored glasses". If you are wearing the red colored signs in your 9th house of religion, then when it comes to religion, you are red colored, or in other words, rather passionate and fiery.

If you are wearing a rainbow colored sign in the house of the spouse or the 7th house, then you will have a natural tendency to seek spouses or partners who are beautiful or who move in beautiful ways.

In this way, the signs represents natures or modes of existence, or flavors, and depending on the houses they are in at the time of the birth, they color the aspects of the life governed by the houses. So one of the early duties of a student of astrology is to learn the areas of life governed by the houses, and then learn the ways in which the twelve signs do their coloring and then begin to combine these two. Never mind the planets at first.

So the first thing to find out about a person when looking at their chart is what is the sign that was rising on the eastern horizon at the time of their birth. In other words, find out their rising sign. Their rising sign will determine where all the signs fall in their twelve houses and right away just based on this, you can say quite a bit about them.

Of course there are only 12 signs, and everyone must have only one of them as their rising sign. So basically there are only twelve types of people when it comes to rising signs because, again, in case it is not already clear, if some one has Cancer rising, then they have Leo in the 2nd house, and so on around. The person who lives next door to them who also has Cancer rising will also have Leo in the 2nd house. These two people may be very different so obviously you cannot make huge sweeping judgments based just on the rising sign and the sign placements in the persons 12 houses. But even though that is true, you can say many things that are true about these two people, just based on a their rising sign.

Also, we don't care so much about the rising sign to make predictions as much as we do about the fact that it sets up the base of this person's being upon which the artwork of the planets is drawn. For example, for Cancer rising people, since Cancer is the only sign ruled by the moon, and Cancer is a watery sign and the moon is a very sensitive planet, we, therefore come to realize that Cancer is the sign that rules emotions- and scripture confirms this. Cancer is an emotional sign because being watery, it is fluid and easily changes and moves and adjusts itself to fit its surroundings. Ruled by the sensitive Moon gives it a sensitive nature.

The Moon reflects the light of the Sun, therefore, people with Cancer rising are like the Moon. They like to reflect the light of some greater Sun whom they hold very intimate to themselves. Why is that? Because the Sun rules the 2nd house for a Cancer ascendent and the 2nd house rules those people who we hold very near and dear- like our family and other intimate persons. So Cancer people like to have some intimate near and dear person who is like a light for them. And they, being like the Moon, want to reflect that light. This is true in general for all Cancer ascendents, and this kind of generalization is possible, permissible, and works well, once you learn the things that are true for each of the 12 ascendents.

For all Cancer ascendents, Mars rules the two signs (Scorpio and Aries) which occupy the 5th and 10th houses. Thus, Mars rules 2 important houses for the Cancer ascendent. The 5th house governs how we deal with creativity, romance, and all types of projection that we put forth into the environment- all the creativity that we engage in in order to please other people. That is why the 5th house deals with romance because romance is what we do to attract others.

Therefore, the 5th house would also deal with trying to please a boss doing creative things to please a boss at a job. So all types of creative projection in order

to satisfy the desires and wishes of other prominent people in our lives is the domain of the fifth house. The 5th also rules children because children are a creation of us in partnership with another person. The 10th house deals with status, position, our rise in life, our career, etc. The 10th house is that section of space straight over head and, therefore, at high noon when the Sun is straight over head, every one is at the peak of their daily actions, performing their daily work and their career.

Mars rules these two all important houses for a Cancer ascendent. So although Cancer ascendent people may be emotional, watery, and changeable, they are also extremely aggressive in action, because in regards to their creativity and rise in life, they apply Martian qualities because the two Mars ruled signs are the filters they feel on their houses of creativity and career- so they can be aggressive artists. They can be aggressive people in general.

In this way we can judge the way each rising sign personality type will behave in regards to the 12 main areas of life governed by the signs in their houses. So once again, in a succinct formula form, this principle works as follows:

Take any rising sign and take any one of their 12 houses, look at the sign that governs that house for that rising sign and know that the person with that rising sign will perform the activities governed by that house in the way that the sign filter dictates.

In this way, if you study each of the 12 house and sign combinations for one rising sign, you will understand the overall nature of the people who have that rising sign.

For example, let us examine the 12 houses and their filtering signs for the Aries ascendent. First of all, Aries rising people have Aries in the 1st house. The 1st house governs the body and the over-all nature in life, and how one begins things because the first house also rules "beginnings".

Since Aries is a sign that represents passion in its jittery-most form, Aries rising people begin things quickly and with a bang. In other words, they are better sprinters than long distance runners. Because Taurus rules their second house they are fond of having money because the 2nd house is the house of wealth and Taurus is the sign of pleasure. So they like to have enough money to spend on pleasures.

Because Gemini, an intellectual, Mercurial sign rules their 3rd house, the house of courage and communication, they are good communicators and would rather think or communicate their way out of a

confrontation than face it physically. Also they are very fond of learning because the 3rd house rules degrees and writing and Gemini is a natural sign for this house. These two go well together to make Aries rising people fond of books and learning.

The 4th house rules mother, home, real estate and Aries rising people have Cancer in the 4th house. Therefore, they are fond of living near water since Cancer is a watery sign. They may change residence often because Cancer is a moveable sign which is also very responsive to other impulses. Since Cancer rules emotions they have a soft spot for mother, and home.

Aries rising people have Leo in the 5th house. The 5th house rules creativity and romance. Leo is the sign or filter of independence, freedom, dominance. Therefore, Aries rising people are independently creative and aggressive and dominant in their romance or affections. They are not shy in approaching others in romance- in fact, they feel fearless, like a Lion, since such a filter is ruling that house.

Aries rising people have the Virgo filter upon their 6th house which rules enemies, debts and diseases. As a filter, Virgo is a sign ruled by Mercury whose symbol is the virgin or young girl holding grains seated in a boat. Because the over all nature of the Aries person will be passion and fire, they have a natural distaste for that sign ruling their 6th house or Virgo. Virgo is an intellectual, rather nit-picky sign (according to an Aries person). The pragmatic, detailed-oriented nature of a Virgo person aggravates the passionate, quick action oriented nature of the Aries, this is why we find Virgo in the 6th house of "enemies" for an Aries ascendent.

Libra rules the 7th house for an Aries ascendent. This Venus ruled sign rules the market place and the scales of commerce. It is the sign of exaltation for Saturn which means that it is a sign very dear to the working class. Libra rules the market place. The best way to understand it is a beautiful shop full of nice things, ladies, where the workers are happy and working hard. Therefore, Aries rising people with their passionate nature tend to bond and partner up with those who are fond of beautiful things and business, trade and bustling activity. People with Libran moons are very expert at most things in regards to making nice arrangements while we are in this material world and Aries rising people find this to be an attractive and workable relationship, hence, Libra rules their 7th house.

The 8th house for an Aries ascendent is ruled by Scorpio which is ruled by Mars, the lord of the 1st house. Aries rising people have the Scorpio filter

applied to their 8th house which means that 8th house affairs are run through the filter of this most difficult sign of all. The 8th house is difficult, this sign is difficult, so Aries rising people can at times of their lives know the worst. But because the same Lord rules the 8th as well as their first, the 8th house troubles are somewhat familiar to them by nature- in other words, they have the grizzle to take what life dishes out. We would expect this from a Martian rising sign since Mars is, after all, an aggressive planet ruling a rather intense lineup of difficult matters such as cutting, killing, police, military, the red color, precision, etc.

The 9th sign of Aries holds the sign of Sagittarius which governs religious ashrams, military fields and other place where there is a lot of virtue and regulation applied for the sake of achieving high ideals. The symbol for Sagittarius being the arrow pointed up in the air, symbolizing the desire to attain high ideals. So when discussing the 9th house affairs for an Aries rising person, we can assume that they have a natural affinity for organized religion such as movements, ashrams and churches, and that they are goal oriented in the areas of the 9th house- religion, father, faith, God's grace, fortune, etc.

The 10th house runs through the filter of Capricorn for them. Thus, the house of career is ruled by the sign of hard work, so aries rising people can be very hard workers in their careers. When motivated, you can count on an Aries rising person to have a natural affinity for hard work. Because Capricorn as a sign likes being appreciated and recognized, and is not at all humble, Aries rising people liked to be recognized for their work. Wherever Capricorn is for someone's rising sign, that's a good place to pay compliments to the person.

The 11th house contains Aquarius which is a Saturn ruled air sign telling us that Aries rising people have ideals and desires governed either by darkness or ancient solid truths, depending on the disposition of Saturn in their chart. This sign of Aquarius can be very high and spiritual, or very low and mundane.

Lastly the 12th house for the Aries rising person is colored by the sign of Pisces. Pisces is a watery sign representing either liberation or the return to this world. Because the 12th house rules such things such as loss of all types, then there is a dissolving nature placed upon this house of loss for Aries rising people, so depending on the placement of the Lord of Pisces or Jupiter, either their losses dissolve away, or dissolve the person.

In this way by examining the effects of the signs or filter upon the houses we can understand the nature of

people born under each of the 12 different rising signs. Advanced and experienced astrologers speak about each rising sign with great ease and accuracy. Overall, the sign that is rising in the first house has the greatest effect of all upon the person. The other sign that is most important in understanding a person is the sign which holds their Moon. In actual practice we find that both of these points are very sensitive and important- that is, the rising sign and the Moon sign.

Many classics recommend that a chart be judged from its ascendent or rising sign in totality. Then, they say, it should be again judged using the Moon sign as the rising sign. When the Moon sign is used as the rising sign, that chart is called the Candra Lugna Chart. It means you simply take the Rashi chart, or the main chart, and rotate it so that whatever sign the Moon is in becomes the first house. So judging the Moon sign as the first house, we look at all the houses and planets. Rasi means signs and the rasi chart means the chart of our signs. The Candra Lugna or Moon chart is simply the Rashi chart rotated so that the sign the Moon is in becomes the first house.

In other words, our Moon sign is a lot like our ascendent. It is a very important, central and pivotal sign. To understand a person you need to examine both their rising sign as well as their Moon sign - and all other things- the houses, the lordship placements, everything, from both of these "ascendents". Both play a big part in determining the life and mentality of the person.

The rising sign in the rashi chart determines most about what will actually happen to the person in their life, whereas the Moon sign and the chart judged from the Moon sign determines more about the person's internal mental makeup. Since the Moon rules the mind, the sign the Moon is in says a lot about the overall nature of our mind and just as the 4th house from the ascendent rules happiness, the 4th house from the Moon sign rules mental happiness.

Since the rising sign, and the houses counted from it, rule our actual body and life, and since the Moon sign and houses counted from it have more to do with our mental world, therefore, anyone who has the Moon in any house other than the first house will naturally have a mental world that does not exactly match their actual world. This is true for most people since only about 1 in 12 people has Moon in the first house.

So most of us in the material world naturally have a mental world, or in other words, a world of perception and desire, which does not exactly match our actual life. Whereas people who have the Moon in the first

house are often found to be very realistic in matching their mental world with their physical life.

So when talking to someone about their chart, you predict from the rising sign and the houses counted from it, which is their natural rashi chart, and you talk about their mental or emotional world based on their Moon sign and the houses judged from it. So the persons who have Moon in the first house in one sense are more congruent overall than all other persons. Of course, this is subject to great modification based on other things, but this principle needs to be understood.

In review, we have examined in this chapter how the rising sign determines where the rest of the 12 signs fall within a chart. One sign occupies one house, therefore 12 signs occupy the 12 houses. The signs are always in the same order around the zodiac. By understanding the areas of life governed by each house and filtering those through the nature of the signs, we can understand the basic foundational nature of a particular rising sign. This is the foundation of any chart. Lastly, the chart judged from the ascendent rules more the external karma, whereas the chart judged from the Moon rules more the mental inner world of the person.

## Going House to House

Just as the 12 houses rule different parts of life, for example, the 2nd house is wealth, the 3rd house is younger brothers and sisters, the 4th house is mother and real estate and so on, similarly, these same houses from each house, rule these same things for the house in question.

For example, the 4th house is real estate and, therefore, the 4th house from any house is the real estate of that house. The 9th house is religion and also the spiritual master or priest or guru, therefore, the 12th house which is 4th from the 9th, rules the real estate of the spiritual master or guru.

Let's use a couple tables to make this point. Here's a single word or concept for each of the 12 houses in a chart. These are not the only or even the best or main descriptions of the houses, but let's work with these in our example:

- 1-Overall life
- 2-Money
- 3-Younger siblings
- 4-Vehicles
- 5-Intelligence
- 6-Debts
- 7-Spouse
- 8-Worries

9-Religion  
10-Career  
11-Friends  
12-Donations

Now, taking these concepts given above, let's apply them to the houses COUNTED FROM the 4th house, and see how we can read much about "mother" from our own chart:

4- *Mother's* Overall life  
5- *Mother's* Money  
6- *Mother's* Younger siblings  
7- *Mother's* Vehicles  
8- *Mother's* Intelligence  
9- *Mother's* Debts  
10- *Mother's* Spouse  
11- *Mother's* Worries  
12- *Mother's* Religion  
1- *Mother's* Career  
2- *Mother's* Friends  
3- *Mother's* Donations

Simple and clear right? And you can and should do this from each and every house. These are the "compound" or "secondary" things that houses stand for. If you know how to read a chart in this way, you can comment on almost anything a person asks about. You can usually describe their immediate family members quite accurately. I have had experiences in talking to people about their charts, using this system, where I was able to accurately guess the nature of their immediate relatives rather accurately.

The 12th house rules loss, and therefore, the 12th house from any house is the loss of that house. For example the 7th house rules marriage and any other types of partnerships. Therefore the 6th house which is 12th from the 7th rules over loss of the partner or loss of the spouse. One way to know some of the good and bad things governed by a house is to judge the house that is 12 from it and that it is 12th from.

For example, take the 9th house which rules fortune, religion or Dharma, the father, the spiritual master and guru, and God's grace. The 9th house is 12th from the 10th house. This means that the house of Dharma or religion is the house of loss to our house of career, profession and position. Does this make sense? Does religion or Dharma drain away the energy of our career?

According to the Vedic system of philosophy, yes it does. The truth is that the creation itself is set up in such a way to say yes to this important question. The Vedic house system reflects the utter truth surrounding us on all sides. The answer is

automatically yes and so you can further deduce that until you understand that "religion" drains "position" you have not understood either these words, or the real nature of these houses.

The 10th house rules not only career, but mainly it rules rise and status in *material* life. It rules standing up tall and straight and getting some *position*, some *fame*, some *power* in this *material* life. The 9th house is definitely detrimental to this because it is the aim of *real dharma* or *real religion* to *end our pride in this our material lives*, to bring us to a point where we see ourselves as servants of God, humble, dependent, and so forth. This is definitely contrary to a rise in power and position in this material life.

To even *want* to be powerful in this material life means to *identify ourselves as our material body*. Vedic religion comes and tells us as it's first lesson that *we are not this body* and thus immediately deals a pretty serious blow to our *material* ego. To make progress in spiritual life, one begins by understanding that they are not the body. This very first lesson is detrimental to the 10th house, or the house of "pratishta" (material position).

Later, as we progress in spiritual life, our material ego is replaced with a spiritual ego. The 9th house, the house of true fortune and grace from above, can easily replace and give more to us than anything that we can hope to receive from the 10th house.

So, to continue with the "12th house" relationship examples:

The first house is 12th from the 2nd, meaning that our body drains away our money, and indeed, paying for our bodies shelter, food and medical bills, are some serious wealth drainers- so the 1st house (our body) is a serious cause of loss (12th) to our wealth (2nd).

The 2nd house is 12th from the 3rd house. The 2nd house rules, amongst other things, our family members and the 3rd house amongst other things rules courage. Therefore, it would not be incorrect to say that our family drains away our courage. Indeed, it is often said that a great person is not recognized in their own land. Perhaps this is because of another saying, "familiarity breeds contempt." The people who know us best all our lives are the ones who are most likely to put us down and tell us we won't achieve something. Often our own family members work to our great detriment in life. So in this way, the 2nd house is 12th from the 3rd house showing that according to nature and reality, family often drains us of courage. Due to their attachment for us also, they often don't want to see us venture out to

"take on" life. Rather, they want us to stay home (in the 2nd house), and thus they drain away our courage.

Next, the 3rd house is 12th from the 4th house. The 4th house amongst other things rules mother and the 3rd house amongst other things rules younger siblings. Is it true that younger siblings drain away the energy of our mother. Yes, indeed, especially in relation to us. As soon as there is born a younger brother or sister, the mother's attention turns to them and away from us. Often times we find the child who *was* the youngest baby beating up on the new baby because the new baby is responsible for taking away the mother's affection. So in this way, our third house is inimical to our fourth house.

Next the 4th house is 12th to the 5th house. The 5th house amongst other things rules romance and the 4th as already mentioned, mother. Is our mother often inimical to our romance? Indeed. We are least comfortable displaying our romance in front of our mother, and often our mothers are not exactly immediately friendly towards those who we pick to be romantic with.

Next, the 5th house is 12th to the 6th house. Amongst other things, the 5th house rules winning at the lottery and the 6th house rules debts, therefore, it is easy to understand that if we win at the lottery, we can cure all our debt problems. So, the 5th house which is a money house, puts an end to the 6th house, the house of debts.

The 6th house is 12th to the 7th house. The 7th house rules the other people in our life, our partners, our spouses mainly. The 6th house ruling enemies, diseases and debts is naturally 12th to the 7th house. In modern life there is a saying, "Until debt do we part" as a replacement to "Until death do we part," because, indeed, it is often debt that drives marriages crazy and ultimately to the brink of divorce. So our debts (6th) are one of the worst things we can bring to our partner, and therefore, our 6th house has a very negative effect on our 7th house affairs.

The 7th house is 12th to the 8th house. The 8th house rules the base of the spine, the genital and the seat of mysticism or the kundalini chakra, the lower chakra. The 7th house ruling the spouse drains away the energy of the 8th house, because the spouse offers us unlimited sex life which drains away the vital source of energy which is seated within the 8th house. It is said that the 8th house rules mysticism. This is referring to the mystic processes of yoga such as Kundalini Yoga. Most of the Yoga systems of India, especially the serious mystic processes, all assume the position of brahmachari or celibacy because of the great need for the seminal energy

regardless of the practitioners gender, in order to begin and sustain the mental concentration required for these yogic processes.

The 8th house also rules longevity and the 7th house which amongst other things governs our love life, drains away our vital energy decreasing our life span. This is the opinion of the Ayurvedic and other Vedic scriptures that deal with the energies within the body. This does not mean that Vedic wisdom is anti-sex life exactly, but there is a price for every action. If you want one thing, you have to give up those things opposed to it. For 8th house style Kundalini Yogic processes, retention of the sexual energy is essential.

The 8th house rules independent endeavor to achieve mystic power. It is 12th to the 9th house. The 9th house rules the receiving of power through the process of grace, revelation, or in other words, gifts from God. Therefore, the 9th house rules really very pure religion because of its basis being dependence upon the supreme power, whereas the 8th house rules our own individual, empirical endeavor to achieve mystic power through yoga and other difficult processes. So, since the 8th house rules the approach to mystic power which is opposed to simply receiving grace from God, it is, therefore, 12th from the 9th.

Also, on another level, the 9th house represents father. The 8th house, therefore, represents loss of father. Therefore, if we find the 9th lord in the 8th house in a chart, it is often found that the person lost their father.

As mentioned earlier, the 9th house is 12th to the 10th house and indeed, true religion attempts to end our pride of existence in this material world. It is said that *pratishta*, which means the attainment of position, name and fame in this world, is one of the main enemies of the real spiritual seeker. So, when our 10th house comes under the control of our 9th house, it becomes purified. If the 10th house and its lord are stronger than the 9th house and its lord, then our attempt to gain position and status in this life will be stronger than our spirituality.

The 10th house is 12th to the 11th house. The 10th house rules the attainment of position, status and eminence and our career. The 11th house is called *labha stana* which means the house of desire. It rules friends, because we all desire to be with our friends. It also rules hopes, wishes and dreams that we have. It also rules gains, so it is the house of the material incoming current- the house of desire.

How is it that the 10th house then is 12th to the 11th house? Don't we work in order to fulfill desires?

Indeed, the 11th is 2nd from the 10th, meaning it is the place where the money of the career is stored. So we work in order to fulfill the 11th house. But how is it that the 10th drains away the 11th? It is because when we want to go to attain status and eminence, we must leave the comfortable place of our lolly-gagging dreams and hanging-out. We must stand up and work and go away from our friends. Simply have desires (11th) is not the way to actually attain your goals (10th). It takes work (10th) and people who are simply wanting to hang out with their dreams and wishes never seem to actually get to work. Therefore, for judging if someone will actually do what they want, see if the 10th lord (doing) is stronger than the 11th lord (wanting). In general, those planets which are hanging out in the eleventh house represent departments of life (the houses they lord) which will always be "in a state of want" (11th), or in other words, "unfulfilled", indicating a lot of unfulfilled dreams or desires in life- not a truly happy or successful way to live.

The 11th house is 12th from the 12th house. As mentioned, the 11th house is the house of desire and gains. The 12th house is the natural house of losses. So, naturally, getting our desires fulfilled is the opposite of losing out. Fulfillment of gain is the opposite of fulfillment of loss. Picture in your mind "Rudolph the red nosed reindeer". When they didn't let him into any more reindeer games he was experiencing the 12th house energy- losses and disappointments. Later, when he became appreciated and loved by one and all for being the "guiding light" on Santa's sleigh, he was experiencing a large dose of "satisfaction", or 11th house energy. Often, what people "want" is not actually "good for them", if judging from the perspective of their bodily health or spiritual growth. The eleventh house can be a killer in that it can drag us down the path of slothful indulgence.

Lastly we come to the 12th house, which is the house of loss for the 1st house, which is our overall life. So, the 12th house is the "overall" house of loss- not governing a particular type of loss, but rather, his signature is often required in a chart to "seal the deal" regarding other losses.