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## Astrology in Relation to Astrologers

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### Role of Astrology

A commonly discussed question we come across now-a-days is the place of astrology in a man's life. Another interesting sequel to this question is of the role played by astrology in the life of an astrologer. Is it birth or training which shapes the destiny of an astrologer? Can anyone take up the study of astrology as in engineering, law or management or are any special skills or mindset required? I shall make an honest attempt to answer these questions in this paper.

### Karakas of Astrology

According to Parasara, Mercury is the significator of astrology. Some authors like Kalidasa have opined that both Mercury and Jupiter are the twin-significators of astrology. To understand astrology one requires proficiency in studies (denoted by Mercury) but to become intuitive, one should be blessed by Jupiter. Hence the twin significator theory of Kalidasa appears to be highly logical.

### Combinations for Astrologers

1) According to Kalyana Varma, in his treatise *Saravali*, the following combinations if present in a horoscope could make one an astrologer.

- a) Sun in Gemini
- b) Moon in Cancer
- c) Moon in Virgo aspected by Mercury.

What is the logic behind these combinations? When the Sun is in Gemini, it not only occupies the sign of a benefic planet Mercury but also gets linked to the Karaka planet of astrology. One might as well raise the query, that if the Sun obtains beneficial qualities being in Gemini, why is it not applicable also to Virgo? The difference between the Sun's placement in Gemini *vis-à-vis* Virgo is that in the former case, the Sun will be in his northern course, Uttarayana which is said to confer divine knowledge, whereas in his Southern course, the Sun is weak and also deemed inauspicious. Coming to the second rule, the Moon in Cancer is best placed as it happens to be his own house. The Moon in Virgo aspected by Mercury is good for astrology because in that case the Moon in a Mercurial sign gets aspected by the Karaka planet who will be aspecting his house of exaltation. Having said this, I must admit that we have to understand rules as they are and not waste time in trying to comprehend the reasons which led to their formulation.

*Saravali* gives other combinations also to show what makes an astrologer — (a) Moon – Venus – Saturn combination; (b) Moon (placed in Leo Amsa) aspected by Mercury; (c) Moon in Gemini or Virgo aspected by Mercury; and (d) Jupiter in Gemini or Virgo aspected by Mercury.

One becomes learned in the Vedas or Vedangas if a Mars-Jupiter or Mercury-Venus combination is present in a horoscope.

2) According to Manasagari, the following combinations could give proficiency in astrology.

- (a) Conjunction of Mars and Venus.
- (b) 2nd lord in 11th.
- (c) Exaltation of Venus.

3) Balabhadra in Hora Ratna seems to hold the view that the Moon in Sagittarius aspected by Mercury could make one an astrologer.

4) According to Bhavartha Rathnakara by Ramanujacharya which has been translated into English by Dr. B.V. Raman,

- (a) The Sun and Mercury together in the 2nd house makes one an astrologer.
- (b) If Mercury is in the 4th one becomes proficient in astrology.

5) According to Sarwartha Chintamani, one becomes proficient in astrology if:-

- (a) Lord of 2 is strong with Venus in 2 or 3 with benefic or
  - (b) If Venus is exalted in the second house;
- Further we note that

(c) One may earn livelihood out of astrology, if the Navamsa sign-dispositor of the 10th house is Mercury.

6) One can see in Mahadeva's Jataka Tattwa a fusion of both Parasara and Jaimini principles. According to it,

(a) One becomes an astrologer if Mercury and Venus occupy the 2nd and 3rd houses.

(b) When the 2nd lord is strong and Mercury is in a Kendra or Trikona or the 11th house, one becomes a renowned astrologer.

(c) If exalted Jupiter is in the 2nd, one becomes a renowned astrologer.

(d) If Jupiter occupies a Kendra or Trikona aspected by a benefic, the native may be able to predict the future course of events.

### Trikalagnana Yoga

Trikalagnana Yoga is a highly misleading term in astrology. The Trikalas are the past, present and future. So a person who knows the past, present and future must be a great scholar in astrology, is it not? The answer is No. Trikalagnana Yoga means not prognostication of the future through astrology, but through clairvoyance. This Yoga requires any one of the two under-mentioned conditions to be satisfied.

a) Jupiter in Mridwamsa, having attained Gopuramsa. Technically speaking for this, Jupiter should be in Gemini, Libra or Aquarius within 9 to 9.5° only (Jupiter will then occupy Sagittarius in Navamsa which is his own sign).

b) Jupiter, having attained Gopuramsa, should be aspected by a benefic.

### Duties and Responsibilities of an Astrologer

*An astrologer should always engage himself in austerities and fasts. He must be engaged in astrological research and study. He should be humble with his subject and if he is arrogant and haughty, it merely reflects his immaturity. Astrology, being a subject of great depth, can easily transcend all calculations and erudition. An astrologer is not greater than God and his role is simply to encourage the subject to face problems with courage, earnestness and enthusiasm and thereby earn for himself good Karma. A correctly cast horoscope and an experienced astrologer with the gift of intuition are akin to a torchlight with its cells fully charged and his forecasts never fail. An astrologer should console the subject with soft and soothing words or else the latter may reel under the fear of an approaching setback. An astrologer should prepare the subject psychologically to meet the situation with courage and fortitude.*

*An astrologer's personal life is important as otherwise his study and understanding of the science become imperfect and incapable of helping others. He acts as a channel from God and his advice cannot be effective if the pipeline is blocked or kept unclean by leading an immoral life.*

*The A.M., Jan 1998, page 134*

*Note:* A planet is said to be in Gopuramsa if it occupies its own house or exaltation sign in at least 4 out of the divisional charts such as Drekan, Saptamsa etc.

There are two ways in which one can comprehend the future, namely, through clairvoyant powers and through the study of astrology. In many cases, clairvoyance is a "hit or miss" affair. Some scholars opine that a good astrologer can divine the future far more accurately than a clairvoyant. The main difference between an astrologer and a clairvoyant is that in astrology the future is understood by analyzing the placement of the nine planets in the 12 houses by applying the various rules codified by the great masters of the science. In clairvoyance, the future is revealed through intuition or by the acquisition of psychic powers either through the blessings of an enlightened Master or through the blessings of a deity in whose Mantra one should have attained *siddhi*.

### Learning the Science

One should first of all see the student's birth chart and verify whether the Daivagna Yogas discussed earlier exist. If so, then the student can be initiated into learning on a day when the ruling asterism is Aswini, Punarvasu, Pushyami, Hasta, Swati, Moola or Revati. Saraswati and Vidya Yogas are both equally auspicious for the commencement of the study of astrology.

Saraswati Yoga is formed on (a) (i) Wednesday coinciding with Hasta, (ii) the Ascendant is Gemini or Virgo and (iii) Sun, Moon and Mercury are in the Navamsa of Mercury. It is also formed when (b) Mercury is in clear exaltation at sunrise. (c) Mercury in the Ascendant (in Hasta 3rd Pada) on a Wednesday and (d) Jupiter is in deep exaltation on days other than Saturday and Sunday.

Vidya Yoga is formed when (a) On a Friday Pisces is rising and Venus occupies 27° of Pisces, (b) Jupiter is in deep exaltation and

Cancer is rising, on Thursday, (c) Sun is in his own Hora on a day when the day lord and constellation are auspicious.

### Conclusion

Astrology is a divine science. Astrologers should be very careful either while demanding a fee or accepting a fee from clients. Orthodox astrologers never put a price tag on their services and merely accept that which the client is willing to offer. That way, their own Karma is protected from impurities. When powers of speech (Vaksiddhi) are utilized for commercial purposes, the risk of failure of predictions becomes very high. Hence budding astrologers must maintain the highest standards of purity in thought, word and deed and also abide by the tenets of Dharma Sastras. When their behaviour and attitude conform to the highest standards of Dharma, invariably their words turn out to be true. • (37.10)

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