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Mitigation of Harmful Planetary Effects

Dr. E. S. Neelakantan Ph.D.,

Planetary Vibrations

GENERALLY planetary vibrations fall into two broad categories – harmful and beneficial. When we use the term “harmful” it refers to the perceiver’s reaction to the planetary influences. A fur coat is beneficial to a person in a cold country but the same could cause harm to a person under tropical climatic conditions. An airconditioner is a boon to mitigate hot weather conditions but if the same is used in chilly season it could do immense harm. The planets themselves are capable of throwing certain specific vibrations. The recipient is destined to experience certain vibrations on account of Purva Janma Karma or the results of past births. So the ultimate reaction could be gauged only based on how these two forces interact. There is a Sanskrit adage

which states that when a lamp is burning in a feeble manner, the wind puts it out; however the same wind enables a bright lamp to glow even brighter. So it is not possible to say whether the wind is an ally or an enemy of the lamp since it depends upon the state of the lamp. This is equally true of planetary influences which can act both ways. Is it possible to neutralize or mitigate planetary influences when they appear harmful? The answer is in the affirmative. In certain horoscopes, the harmful planetary influences seem to get neutralized on account of another planet which thwarts the evil designs of the former planet. I shall take a close look on how these planetary forces operate in this paper.

Warding off Evil

The aspect of a benefic planet can neutralize the evil arising out of the presence of a malefic planet. According to Mantreswara, “Jupiter is the most powerful amongst all planets in warding

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off evil and augmenting good effects. The power of Venus is one half of that of Jupiter and Mercury is only one fourth as powerful as

Jupiter in this respect. The strength of the Moon is of fundamental importance in giving strength to other planets" (**Phaladeepika**, Chap IV-2). It is also important to note that for the Moon, Pakshabala or digital strength is more important than Stanabala (*ibid*, XIV-2). When

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the Moon is either at the junctional point between Pisces and Aries (in Revati 4th Pada or Aswini 1st Pada) or in the other two Gandantas such as Aslesha 4 — Makha 1 or Jyeshtha 4 — Moola 1, then it forebodes evil either to the child or its parents. In case the child survives, the Dosha is automatically reversed and the child goes on to become a king (*ibid*, Chap. XIII-9).

Balarishta Antidotes

Lots of Arishta Yogas are found in horoscopes. Do they all forebode evil? According to Bhattotpala, the answer is a firm "No". In sixteen stanzas he outlines fortuitous planetary positions which could ward off evil. They are:-

1. Jupiter in the Ascendant.
2. Strong Ascendant lord with benefics in quadrants.

Even Moon in the 8th ceases to be harmful if waxing and birth is at night.

3. Moon in the decanate of benefics.
4. Full Moon aspected by benefics, well placed.

* Sirshodaya signs are Gemini, Virgo, Leo, Libra, Scorpio and Aquarius (**Phaladeepika**, Chap I-8).

5. Strong benefics in quadrants.
6. Moon in the 6th is usually not a good feature in any chart. Even such a Moon becomes favorable while occupying the decanate of benefics. Bhattotpala offers the analogy of a child bitten by a snake capable of being saved by medicines of Siddhas to a Moon placed in a benefic decanate, while in the 6th place.

7. Full Moon hemmed between benefics.
8. Full Moon in 8th also becomes favorable provided it is waxing and the birth is at night.
9. Jupiter in a quadrant.
10. Jupiter, Venus, Mercury and Moon in beneficial signs in divisional charts.
11. Prayers addressed to Lord Mahavishnu protect devotees. Such protection is provided to a native in whose horoscope the Chandra Lagnadhipati or the Moon-sign lord is in a quadrant with benefics.
12. Benefics in benefic signs aspecting malefics placed in benefic signs.

A Raja Yoga can be generated merely by the Moon or Venus (under certain conditions) when aspected by a certain number of planets irrespective of their lordship over houses.

13. When a strong wind blows cotton gets blown away easily. Similarly all evil is blown away when Rahu occupies the 3rd, 6th, or 11th aspected by benefics.
14. When fire burns, ghee melts easily; so also all evil gets melted when planets occupy Sirshodaya* signs.
15. A violent storm uproots trees. So is the case of a benefic planet (having won a planetary battle) aspected by another benefic in uprooting evil.
16. A petty chieftain is very easily won over by a strong emperor. Likewise all evils are overcome by the Moon when aspected by all planets.

following measures are suggested as an antidote to Putra Dosha. (*ibid*, Chap XII - 24)

- 1) Taking holy bath in Rameswaram.
- 2) Recitation of holy stories.
- 3) Worship of Lord Siva.
- 4) Worship of Lord Vishnu.
- 5) Gifts.
- 6) Propitiating the manes.
- 7) Installing serpent as deity (Naga Prathista).

Holy Places and Auspicious Times

The universe is limitless in terms of time or space. Time is Eternal. Space is infinite. Vibrations can be enhanced by choosing favorable places (in space) or fortunate moments (in time). The word *Om* denotes Pranava Mantra. It is said it was given as an *Upadesha* at the holy place, now known as Swamimalai, by Lord Subrahmanya to His father. The word *Om* when recited at Rameswaram is equivalent to reciting the same Mantra about 1000 times in any other place. This is due to the sanctity of Rameswaram. Conversely, a sin committed in a holy place gets more power to cause harm on the same principle.

Anya Kshetre krtam papam Punya kshetre vinasyati;

Punya kshetre krtam papam Varanasye vinasyati;

Varanasye krtam papam Kumbakone vinasyati;

Kumbakone krtam papam Kumbakone vinasyati."

meaning, a) *sin committed in any place is mitigated if remedial measures are performed in a holy place. A sin committed in a holy place can be mitigated in Varanasi. If a sin is committed in Varanasi, it gets mitigated at Kumbakonam. Sins committed at Kumbakonam can only be mitigated then and there.*

This means Kumbakonam is the holiest of holy places and a sin committed there is incapable of being remedied anywhere else except by doing

a ritual for atonement there itself. It is significant to note that the Mahamakham festival which occurs once in twelve years is celebrated by large numbers of devotees and on that occasion, a dip in the holy tank at Kumbakonam is said to be capable of reversing the impact of sins committed earlier. Likewise Mantras chanted at the time of an eclipse have more potency than at normal times. The *Ganapati Atharva Sheersha Upanishad* states that when it is chanted at the time of an eclipse, it becomes a Siddha Mantra.

Planets and Purva Janma

Planets are mere indicators of events. They do not cause the events. The cause of every event is previous Karma. Suppose a person does lots of charity in this birth, the effects of these good deeds are capable of getting transferred in some invisible manner to a subsequent birth

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smaller and in a great house. • (67-09)

MITIGATION OF HARMFUL PLANETARY EFFECTS

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Panacea of Divine Grace

Instead of becoming mere puppets in the hands of planets, is there any way man can become the controller of planets? According to Dr. B.V. Raman, "Fools obey planets while wise men control them". Planets are neutral interpreters of man's Karma. They do not take sides, show any partiality and cannot be influenced in a manner contrary to Dharma. So the only way to win the support of planets is to obtain Divine Grace. To obtain grace of God, all acts (including thoughts) should fall within the matrix of Dharma. According to Mantreswara (*ibid* Chap. XVI-50) there are four major disciplines to obtain unconditional favor of all planets at all times. These are (i) pursuit of Ahimsa, (ii) self control, (iii) acquisition of wealth through honest means and (iv) observation of religious discipline in a systematic way. To such people, the passage of planets through various signs of the Zodiac will have virtually little or no impact at all. • 96/99