

VEDIC ASTROLOGY

I INTRODUCTION TO VEDIC ASTROLOGY

Vedic Astrology, also known as Jyotish Shastra, is an ancient system of astrology that originates from the Indian subcontinent. It is deeply rooted in the Vedas, the sacred texts of Hinduism, and is considered to be a holistic science that seeks to understand the influence of celestial bodies on human life and events. Vedic Astrology is renowned for its intricate calculations, detailed analysis, and spiritual insights. It has been practiced for thousands of years and is deeply rooted in the Vedic texts, which are a collection of ancient scriptures that form the foundation of Hindu philosophy and culture.

Unlike Western astrology, which primarily focuses on the positions of the Sun, Moon, and planets at the time of a person's birth, Vedic astrology places great importance on the positions of the Moon and the Ascendant (rising sign) along with the positions of the planets at the time of birth. Vedic astrology also incorporates the concept of "nakshatras," which are 27 lunar constellations that divide the zodiac into smaller segments.

History:

The roots of Vedic Astrology also known as Jyotish Shastra, is deeply intertwined with the cultural, religious, and philosophical developments of ancient India, can be traced back to the Vedas (1500 BCE - 600 BCE), the oldest sacred texts of Hinduism. In the Rigveda, there are references to celestial bodies and their significance, although the systematic study of astrology as we know it today was not fully developed during this period.

Vedanga Jyotisha:

Vedanga Jyotisha (Around 1400 BCE) is one of the earliest texts specifically dedicated to astrology. It's considered a foundational work that provided calculations for determining celestial positions and times for rituals. This text introduced the concept of nakshatras (lunar mansions), which later became a key element in Vedic Astrology. The Vedanga Jyotisha focused on lunar and solar movements and their significance in various religious rituals and human life.

Siddhantas:

During 5th to 10th centuries CE, several astronomical treatises known as "Siddhantas" were composed. These works laid the groundwork for accurate calculations of planetary positions, eclipses, and other celestial phenomena. The *Surya Siddhanta* and the *Brihat-Samhita* are notable examples of such texts.

Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra:

The Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra(6th to 8th centuries CE), attributed to the sage Parashara, is a seminal text in Vedic Astrology and a monumental work that covers various aspects of astrology, including planetary influences, chart interpretation, and predictive techniques. It also comprehensively explains

interpretation of planetary positions, planetary periods (dasa) systems, and the effects of planets in different signs and houses. Other significant texts include the Brihat Jataka by Varahamihira and the Laghu Parashari Siddhanta.

Medieval Period:

Vedic Astrology continued to evolve during the medieval period(10th to 17th centuries CE), with many astrologers contributing to its development. Works like the Jataka Parijata and Phaladeepika further elaborated on the techniques and principles of astrology.

Colonial Era and Modern Times:

With the advent of British colonial rule in India, there was a decline in the practice and promotion of traditional sciences like astrology. However, some scholars continued to preserve and pass down astrological knowledge. In the 20th century, efforts were made to revive and promote Vedic Astrology, both within India and abroad.

Contemporary Practice:

In the 20th and 21st centuries, Vedic Astrology regained popularity in India and gained interest among people from various parts of the world. Numerous books, courses, and practitioners emerged, and the accessibility of astrology software like 'JyothishaDeepthiPanchanghom' facilitated complex calculations and chart interpretations easy. With the advent of technology, astrology became more accessible to a wider audience, both in India and around the world.

Throughout the historical journey of Vedic Astrology, reflects its deep connection to India's cultural heritage, religious beliefs, philosophical and spiritual practices and systems, and reveal the pursuit of understanding the relationship between celestial phenomena and human existence. Vedic Astrology remains a living tradition practiced by many individuals who seek guidance and insight into their lives through the study of celestial patterns.

Key components and concepts of Vedic astrology include:

1.Planets (Grahas):

Vedic astrology considers nine main planets, which include the Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu (North Lunar Node), and Ketu (South Lunar Node). Each planet is believed to influence different aspects of an individual's life.

2.Zodiac Signs (Rashis):

Vedic Astrology uses the same 12 zodiac signs as Western astrology, but the alignment is often based on the actual positions of the constellations. Each sign is associated with specific traits, characteristics, and planetary rulerships. However, the signs have the same names but different starting points due to the precession of the equinoxes. The Moon sign is considered highly significant in Vedic astrology, as it reflects an individual's emotional nature and inner self.

3.Natal Chart (Janma Kundali):

Central to Vedic Astrology is the Janma Kundali, a birth chart that maps the positions of celestial bodies at the time of an individual's birth. The positions of the Sun, Moon, planets, and other celestial points are depicted within the 12 zodiac signs and 12 houses.

4.Planets (Grahas):

Vedic Astrology considers seven primary planets (Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn) and two lunar nodes (Rahu and Ketu). Each planet is believed to have its unique energy and influence on human life.

5.Houses (Bhavas):

Vedic astrology divides the sky and the natal chart is divided into 12 houses, each representing different aspects of a person's life, such as personality, family, career, relationships, health finances and more. The positions of planets in these houses provide insights into various aspects of a person's life.

6.Aspects (Drishti):

Planetary aspects in Vedic astrology refer to the geometric angles between planets in the chart involve the influence of one planet on another based on their angular relationships. Certain planets cast special aspects on specific houses, which can affect the areas of life represented by those houses. The aspects formed by planets influence each other and can provide further insights into an individual's characteristics and life experiences.

7.Dasha System:

One of the distinctive features of Vedic astrology is the dasha system, employs a unique system of planetary periods which divides a person's life into specific periods ruled by different planets called "Dashas" that determine the major life cycles and experiences of an individual. Each planet rules a specific period in one's life, are believed to influence the events and experiences in an individual's life and the interactions between these periods are believed to shape one's destiny.

8.Combination (Yogas):

Vedic astrology recognizes specific planetary combinations known as Yogas, which indicate certain characteristics or life events. that indicate certain conditions or outcomes in a person's life. These combinations can be auspicious (positive) or inauspicious (challenging) and are used to interpret various life events.

9.Elective Astrology (Muhurta):

Vedic Astrology is also used to choose auspicious timings for important events such as weddings, business ventures, and ceremonies. The Muhurta or Elective Astrology System helps ensure that these events are conducted during favourable astrological periods.

10.Remedies(Upayas):

Vedic astrology also provides various remedies to mitigate negative influences, challenges indicated by the birth chart or enhance positive planetary energies. These

remedies can include wearing specific gemstones, performing rituals, chanting bajans, reciting mantras, or engaging in charitable acts.

It's important to note that Vedic astrology is deeply intertwined with Hindu culture, philosophy, and spirituality. It's important to note that Vedic Astrology goes beyond predicting future events; it also emphasizes spiritual growth, self-awareness, and understanding the karmic patterns that shape an individual's life.

II PARASHARA HORA SHASTRA

The "Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra" is a monumental text in Vedic Astrology attributed to the sage Parashara. It is one of the most important and comprehensive works on astrology and has greatly influenced the practice of Vedic Astrology for centuries. The text provides detailed explanations of astrological principles, planetary influences, chart interpretation and predictive techniques. Here are some key aspects of the "Parashara Hora Shastra": -

Authorship and Attribution:

The "Parashara Hora Shastra" is named after the sage Parashara, who is considered one of the ancient rishis (sages) and a revered figure in Hinduism. While there are multiple Parasharas mentioned in ancient texts, the authorship of this particular work is traditionally attributed to Maharishi Parashara.

Scope and Content:

The text covers a wide range of topics related to Vedic Astrology, including the significance of planets, houses, signs, planetary aspects, divisional charts, planetary periods (Dashas), and remedial measures. It offers insights into birth chart interpretation, predicting events, and understanding planetary combinations (yogas).

Planetary Influences:

"Parashara Hora Shastra" provides detailed descriptions of the nature and characteristics of each planet, including the Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn. It also discusses the influence of the two lunar nodes, Rahu and Ketu. It discusses how the planets influence various aspects of life and their interactions with each other.

Zodiac Signs and Houses:

Parashara explains the significance of the 12 zodiac signs and the 12 houses in a birth chart. He describes how the signs and houses relate to different life areas, personality traits, and experiences.\

Planetary Periods (Dashas):

One of the distinctive features of the text is its emphasis on the Dashas, a system of planetary periods that determine the major life cycles and events in a person's life. Each planet is assigned a specific period in a person's life, and the

interactions between these periods are believed to shape an individual's destiny and understanding the planetary periods is crucial for predictive astrology.

Aspects and Yogas:

The book covers planetary aspects, which are the angular relationships between planets and various planetary combinations or yogas that indicate specific conditions or outcomes in a person's life. These specific combinations of planets can be auspicious (resulting in positive outcomes) or inauspicious (resulting in challenges) conditions or events in a person's life.

Remedies (Upayas) and Auspicious Timings:

"Parashara Hora Shastra" suggests remedial measures to alleviate the challenges indicated by the birth chart. These remedies can include wearing specific gemstones, performing rituals, reciting mantras, and engaging in acts of charity. Additionally, he explains the concept of "Muhurta," which involves choosing auspicious timings for important events.

Prediction Techniques:

The text provides insights into predictive astrology explaining how to analyze planetary positions in different houses, signs, and divisional charts transits, and Dashas to predict various life events, including marriage, career, health, and relationships.

Spiritual and Philosophical Insights:

The "Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra" is not solely focused on predictive techniques also emphasizes the spiritual and karmic dimensions of astrology, highlighting the importance of spiritual growth and self-awareness alongside astrological understanding one's life purpose.

Overall, the "Parashara Hora Shastra" is a comprehensive guide that has played a significant role in shaping the practice of Vedic Astrology. It has been widely studied and referenced by astrologers and enthusiasts seeking to delve into the depths of this ancient and intricate system of knowledge.

III JAIMINI HORA SHASTRA

"Jaimini Hora Shastra," also known as "Jaimini Sutras," is another important classical text in the field of Vedic Astrology, attributed to the sage Jaimini. The Jaimini system of astrology is distinct and it present a unique approach to astrological interpretation and prediction and it offers its own set of principles and techniques for analyzing a birth chart. The Jaimini system is known for its emphasis on spiritual insights, concise predictive techniques, and its focus on specific indicators in a birth chart.

Here are some key features and aspects of the Jaimini system as presented in the "Jaimini Sutras":-

Atma Karaka and Chara Karakas:

In Jaimini astrology, certain planets are considered "Atma Karaka" (soul indicator) and "Chara Karakas" (indicator of specific life areas). These planets provide deep insights into an individual's spiritual journey, desires, and life experiences.

The planet with the highest degree in a birth chart is known as the "Atma Karaka," which represents the soul or the self. Its placement and aspects provide insights into an individual's spiritual path and life purpose.

In the Jaimini system, planets are assigned specific significations based on their placement in the zodiac. These are called "Chara Karakas," and they represent different areas of life, such as career, marriage, siblings, and more.

Karaka Grahas:

Jaimini astrology emphasizes the concept of "Karaka Grahas," which are planets that indicate specific events or relationships. These include the Sun (father), Moon (mother), Mars (siblings), Mercury (maternal relatives), Jupiter (children), Venus (spouse), and Saturn (servants).

Jaimini Aspects:

Jaimini astrology uses a different set of aspects known as "Jaimini aspects." These aspects are calculated based on the degrees between planets and have a unique influence on the birth chart.

Rashi Aspects:

Similar to the Parashara system, Jaimini astrology also considers planetary aspects based on the signs they occupy in the birth chart.

Chara Dasha:

Jaimini astrology utilizes its own system of planetary periods, known as "Chara Dasha." It assigns planetary periods based on the position of the Chara Karakas and their relationships, providing a different perspective on timing events in one's life. This system provides insights into the timing of various life events based on the positions of Chara Karakas and their relationships with other planets.

Arudha Lagna:

The "Arudha Lagna" or "Pada Lagna" is an important concept in Jaimini astrology. It is calculated based on the position of the Ascendant lord and represents the perception of the individual by others.

Upapada Lagna:

This is another unique concept in Jaimini astrology, which relates to marriage and relationships. It is calculated based on the 12th house from the Ascendant and carries information about marital prospects and the nature of relationships.

Karakamsa and Swamsha:

The concept of "Karakamsa" refers to the sign occupied by the Atma Karaka planet in the Navamsa chart. It is an important point for understanding spiritual inclinations and purposes. "Swamsha" refers to the Ascendant of the Navamsa chart and offers insights into the soul's evolutionary journey.

Jaimini Yogas:

Jaimini astrology includes specific yogas (combinations) that are derived from the placement and relationships of the Chara Karakas. These yogas provide indications about various life events and circumstances.

Argala and Bhava Arudha:

The concept of "Argala" involves the planets' influence on specific houses from their positions, and "Bhava Arudha" refers to the point in a house from which it is influenced. These concepts add depth to house analysis and predictive techniques.

Spiritual Emphasis:

Jaimini astrology places a strong emphasis on spirituality and the soul's journey. The techniques and indicators in this system often provide insights into a person's karmic path, lessons, and potential for spiritual growth.

Symbolic Interpretation:

Jaimini astrology uses symbolism and imagery to interpret the effects of planets and aspects. This approach adds a layer of depth to chart analysis.

The Jaimini system is known for its concise and cryptic style, which requires a deep understanding of astrological principles. The Jaimini system is considered more esoteric and specialized compared to the mainstream Vedic Astrology as outlined in texts like the "Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra." It requires a thorough understanding of Vedic principles and terminology, as well as specific Jaimini techniques. As with any astrological system, it's important to approach it with respect for its cultural and historical context while acknowledging its potential for offering valuable insights into the human experience.

Overall, the Jaimini system of astrology offers a unique perspective on interpreting a birth chart and provides astrologers with additional tools for predictive analysis. Just like the Parashara system, the Jaimini system has been studied, interpreted, and practiced by generations of astrologers.

III VARAHAMIHIRA

Varahamihira, also known as Varaha Mihira, was an ancient Indian astronomer, mathematician, and astrologer who lived around the 6th century CE. He is considered one of the most prominent figures in the history of Indian astronomy and astrology. Varahamihira's notable contributions to astrology are mainly found in his work "Brihat Jataka," a significant text that discusses various astrological concepts and techniques. Varahamihira's work covers a wide range of topics, including astronomy, astrology, mathematics, and general science.

Here are some key features and concepts associated with Varahamihira's "Brihat Jataka":

1. Planetary Influences: Similar to other astrological texts, the "Brihat Jataka" discusses

Planetary Influences:

Similar to other astrological classical texts, "Brihat Jataka" elaborates on the influences and significations of the planets in different houses and signs. It discusses the influences of the planets on various aspects of life, including personality traits, career, relationships, and health.

Zodiac Signs and Houses:

The text elaborates on the meanings and attributes of the 12 zodiac signs and the 12 houses in a birth chart. It explains how the positions of planets in different signs and houses influence different life areas.

Aspects and Yogas:

Varahamihira's work also includes discussions on planetary aspects (angular) and yogas (combinations). Yogas are specific combinations of planets that indicate certain conditions or events in a person's life. These can be auspicious (positive) or inauspicious (challenging).

Dasha Systems:

Varahamihira's work presents different dasha systems for predictive astrology. One of the notable dasha systems described in the text is the "Vimshottari Dasha," which is widely used in Vedic Astrology to determine planetary periods and predict life events.

Yogas:

The "Brihat Jataka" includes discussions on various yogas, which are planetary combinations that indicate specific conditions or events in a person's life. These yogas can be auspicious or challenging and play a significant role in predictive astrology.

Transits and Timing:

The "Brihat Jataka" provides insights into the predictive aspects of astrology, including the effects of planetary transits on a person's life and the timing of events based on planetary positions.

Horary Astrology:

Varahamihira's text covers the practice of horary astrology, where specific questions are asked, and astrological charts are drawn for those questions. This system provides insights into answering immediate queries.

Transits and Lunar Eclipses:

"Brihat Jataka" touches on the interpretation of planetary transits and lunar eclipses and their impact on individuals and events.

Nakshatras:

Varahamihira discusses the Nakshatras (lunar mansions), which are divisions of the zodiac based on the Moon's position. Nakshatras are important in chart analysis and timing events.

Gemology and Remedies:

The text provides information on gemstones and their effects on individuals based on their astrological charts. It also discusses remedial measures to mitigate challenging planetary influences.

Muhurta and Auspicious Timings:

Varahamihira emphasizes the importance of choosing auspicious timings for various activities through the concept of "Muhurta." This involves selecting favorable planetary configurations for events such as marriages, starting businesses, or other important life activities.

Rajayogas:

The "Brihat Jataka" discusses the concept of "Rajayogas," which are planetary combinations that indicate success, wealth, and power in a person's life. These combinations are believed to confer specific benefic results.

Varahamihira's "Brihat Jataka" is considered a foundational work in the field of Vedic Astrology. It provides insights into various astrological techniques, calculations, and interpretations that have been passed down through generations of astrologers. His contributions to both astronomy and astrology have had a lasting impact on the development and practice of Indian astrology.

Varahamihira's contributions extended beyond astrology. He wrote extensively on various branches of science and mathematics, and his work had a lasting impact on Indian intellectual and scientific traditions.

It's important to note that while the "Brihat Jataka" is a significant text, interpretations of its teachings may vary among different astrologers and schools of thought. As with other classical astrological texts, understanding the "Brihat Jataka" requires a deep study of Vedic astrology and its terminology.

IV KERALA JYOTHISHAM

"Kerala Jyothisham," also known as Kerala Astrology or Kerala Vedic Astrology, is a regional form of astrology that originates from the Indian state of Kerala. It's a unique and distinct branch of Vedic Astrology that has evolved over centuries with its own set of principles, methodologies, and interpretations.

Kerala Jyothisham draws heavily from various Nadi Granthas, which are ancient texts containing astrological insights and predictions. These texts are believed to have been written by sages and seers who had intuitive knowledge of the past, present, and future.

Key Features of Kerala Jyothisham:-

Nirayana System:

Kerala Jyothisham primarily follows the Nirayana system, which uses the fixed zodiac, unlike the Sayana system that accounts for the precession of the equinoxes. This

means that the positions of the planets are calculated based on their actual positions in the constellations.

Dasha System:

Kerala Jyothisham uses a specific Dasha system called "Kerala Vimshottari Dasha," which is different from the commonly known Vimshottari Dasha used in other parts of India. The Kerala Dasha system calculates planetary periods based on specific numerical cycles and is said to provide detailed insights into a person's life events.

Nakshatras:

Kerala Jyothisham places significant importance on the Nakshatras (lunar mansions). The system uses unique calculations for determining the ruling Nakshatra at birth and the timing of various events in a person's life as they are integral to the calculation of planetary positions and the interpretation of birth charts.

Significators and Bhavas:

Kerala Jyothisham emphasizes the role of certain significators (Karakas planets) for each house in a birth chart. These significators are crucial for predictions and analysis. The houses and their significations are interpreted with a regional flavor, considering the cultural and social aspects of Kerala.

Aspects and Yogas:

Like other Vedic astrology systems, Kerala Jyothisham also considers planetary aspects and yogas (combinations) for predicting events and outcomes in a person's life.

Graha Shanti:

Kerala Jyothisham places emphasis on appeasing or pacifying malefic planetary influences through rituals, remedies, and offerings. Graha Shanti rituals are conducted to mitigate the negative effects of certain planetary positions.

Sarpadosha:

Sarpadosha refers to astrological afflictions related to the influence of certain malefic planetary combinations. Remedies are prescribed to address these afflictions and to bring about positive changes.

Prasna Jyothisham:

Kerala Jyothisham also encompasses Prasna Jyothisham, which involves answering specific questions using astrology. A horoscope is cast for the moment the question is asked, and insights are drawn from that chart.

Astrological Houses and Yogas:

The system recognizes 12 astrological houses and various yogas (planetary combinations) that indicate specific outcomes in a person's life.

Regional Differences: Kerala Jyothisham has developed its own set of astrological practices and interpretations that may differ from those of traditional Vedic Astrology. It reflects the unique cultural and historical context of Kerala.

It's important to note that while Kerala Jyothisham has its followers and practitioners, its practices and techniques are not universally accepted or recognized within the broader Vedic Astrology community. Like any astrological system, its accuracy and effectiveness are subject to individual interpretation and belief.

If you're interested in exploring Kerala Jyothisham, it's recommended to consult with knowledgeable practitioners or astrologers who specialize in this regional system to gain a better understanding of its principles and applications.

Traditions and Practices:

Kerala Jyothisham has its own set of rituals, practices, and traditions. It is deeply rooted in the cultural and spiritual traditions of Kerala.

It's important to note that while Kerala Jyothisham shares some common principles with classical Vedic Astrology, it also has its own distinct methods and interpretations that have evolved over time. Practitioners of Kerala Jyothisham study and apply these regional practices to provide insights and predictions specific to the people and culture of Kerala.

As with any form of astrology, accurate interpretation requires in-depth study and expertise. If you're interested in exploring Kerala Jyothisham or seeking guidance, it's advisable to consult with a knowledgeable and experienced practitioner of this specific tradition.
