

# The Elements of Vedic Astrology

## Four main elements of Vedic astrology:

- The 12 signs
- The 12 houses
- The nine planets (which includes Rahu and Ketu, the nodes of the Moon)
- The timing of events in life (Vimshottari Dasha Sequence)

The Vedic astrologer will use these four elements to study your horoscope and let you know how the planets are operating in your life, when the planets are operating in your life and what you can do to improve the quality of your life.

## The Signs & Significations:

The first element of Vedic Astrology is the twelve signs in the zodiac and they are ruled by the planets, Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn.

**ARIES:** Aries is a fire sign ruled by Mars, the significator for energy. Those born under the ascendant Aries are not afraid to go places and do things. Aries rising sign people are good with their hands and always on the go; they are active, courageous and dynamic people. They tend to do well in military or police forces. They can be active in sports, construction, engineering, science and mathematics and can rise high to an executive position in life.

**TAURUS:** Taurus is an earth sign ruled by Venus, the significator for materialistic pursuits and comforts. Taurus-born people are nurturing and sensual. They enjoy comforts, beauty and luxury. Taureans are often cautious, stable, enduring and fixed in their ways, but can also be very adaptable and gentle. They are good planners, good communicators, analytical, straightforward, persevering, refined, attractive, patient, romantic, kind, sentimental, devotional, charming, passionate and pleasure seekers. Taureans make good business people, designers, engineers, administrators and industrialists.

**GEMINI:** Gemini is an air sign ruled by Mercury, the significator of communication and confidence. This makes those born under the sign of Gemini very powerful and persuasive with their speech and communication. They are energetic, ambitious, imaginative, creative and inventive, always looking for change. They are spontaneous, conscious, analytical, witty, talkative and have a sharp intellect.

**CANCER:** Cancer is a water sign ruled by Moon, which is changeable in nature and tender. Cancer-born people are caring and nurturing, intuitive, gentle and considerate. Cancer-born

persons become administrators, public relations managers, healers, nurses, hoteliers, restaurant owners, catering professionals, cooks, eating-establishment owners and baristas. They make good hosts, are capable of receptivity and adaptability, are generous and peace-loving and have a good sense of humor, wit and imagination. They are very sensitive and restless.

**LEO:** Leo is a fire sign ruled by Sun, the significator of vitality. Leo-born people are natural-born leaders. They are extroverts, organizers, patient listeners, decisive, art lovers, generous and authoritative. They are generally on the move to solve problems one after the other and can acquire top leaderships status or positions in the government, politics or medicine fields. Leo-born people are alert and very fast in assimilating into diversified activities and problems.

**VIRGO:** Virgo is an earth sign ruled by Mercury, the significator of communication and confidence. Virgo-born people are communicative, attractive, charming, prudent, cautious, protective, analytical, dependable, honest, truthful, practical, sincere and detail oriented. Virgos can become accountants, artists, craftsmen, teachers, mathematicians, engineers, traders and writers. They are good at jobs that involve detailed work and analytical problem-solving capabilities.

**LIBRA:** Libra is an air sign ruled by Venus, the significator for materialistic pursuits and comforts. Libra-rising-sign people are charming, have a strong sense of justice, strong will-power, are spontaneous, adaptable, idealistic, talkative, generally optimistic and highly sensitive. Libras become actors, financial advisors, legal advisors, managers, musicians and physicians. They often times enjoy public professions.

**SCORPIO:** Scorpio is a water sign ruled by Mars, the significator of energy. Scorpio-born people are very private, mysterious and quiet. They are straight-forward, determined, disciplined, fearless, highly active, fixated on success and generally keep good health. Scorpio-born people are intuitive, persevering, energetic and dynamic as well.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Sagittarius is a fiery sign ruled by Jupiter, the significator of fortune and knowledge. Sagittarian-born people are ambitious, eager to learn and have good judgment. They are usually nature lovers, goal-oriented, clever, generous, cheerful, quick-witted and organized. Sagittarius-born people are best suited for training or advisory roles due to their pleasant nature and analytical bent. Sagittarians excel at advisory roles and become businessmen, trainers for jobs, financial advisors, lawyers, legal advisors, teachers, physicians and religious leaders.

**CAPRICORN:** Capricorn is an earth sign ruled by Saturn, the significator of dutifulness and responsibility. Capricorn-born people are ambitious, hardworking and can be selfish when they do not have a spiritual practice to return to on occasion. They are also very flexible, adaptable, level-headed, thrifty, conservative, social, practical, protective, dependable and have good organizing ability. Capricorn rising makes a person a bit of a pleasure seeker and turns them on to more material things in life. They are creative, quick to learn and grasp new knowledge, as well as being excitable, lively and full of joy and enthusiasm.

**AQUARIUS:** Aquarius is an air sign ruled by Saturn, the significator of dutifulness and responsibility. These people are natural-born thinkers, creative and spiritual. They can be less flexible and more traditional in their approach to life. These people can earn money and acclaim slowly over time and have a greater chance of success in their lives. They are active, industrious, deliberative, courteous and natural-born leaders.

**PISCES:** Pisces is a water sign ruled by Jupiter, the significator of fortune and knowledge. Pisces-born people are romantic, imaginative, compassionate and generous. They are gentle, cheerful, empathetic, caring, devoted to duty, emotional, enthusiastic, idealistic, impressionable, intuitive, mystical, philosophical, sentimental and tolerant, vulnerable, highly sensitive, emotional, and ease loving. Pisceans are restless, and are always on the move. They are generally devoted to duty, have strong moral value and are good advisors. They are here to learn their final lessons in life and can gain enlightenment in this lifetime.

### **The Houses & Significations:**

The second element of Vedic Astrology is the twelve houses. Each house is ruled by a planet and each planet sits in one of the houses at the moment of birth.

**First House:** Represents the person, their enterprises, health, longevity, name, fame, reputation, personality, general disposition in life, desires and their fulfillment in life.

**Second House:** Represents the person's wealth, status, family, continuation of married life, speech and male child.

**Third House:** Represents the person's entrepreneurial activities, independent projects, self efforts, younger siblings, courage, short journeys, writing and communicative capability, communication, independence, mental development.

**Fourth House:** Represents the person's happiness at home/home life, mother/parents, property, vehicles, fixed assets, childhood, early education,

**Fifth House:** Represents the person's higher education, children, investments, creative projects, mind and emotions, spiritual pursuits.

**Sixth House:** Represents the person's health, finances, legal matters, medicine, alternative medicine, but also conflicts, debts, disputes, health and financial issues

**Seventh House:** Represents the person's partnerships, relationships, joint ventures, marriage, wife, living in foreign lands, comfort abroad, travel, comforts and pleasures.

**Eighth House:** Represents windfalls, easy gains, inheritance, the marital bond, deep research, language, mystical and occult knowledge, ancient knowledge but also setbacks, delays, obstructions, accidents, vulnerability, transformations, disappointments and death like experiences.

**Ninth House:** Represents the person's father, spiritual learning, dharma (work in life), foreign travel/study abroad or pilgrimages, good luck, divine grace, general fortune, teachers, guru, spiritual learning/progress, inclinations, past deeds and mediation.

**Tenth House:** Represents the person's career, professional life, status, karma in life, character, ambition, next birth and happiness from male children.

**Eleventh House:** Represents the person's income, gains, friendships, fulfillment of desires, and older siblings, prosperity and elder brothers.

**Twelfth House:** Represents life in foreign lands, ashrams, spiritual journeys, sleep, intimacy, but also losses, expenses, separations, hospitalizations, isolation, depression, insomnia, and end of life, separation from family and imprisonment.

### **The Planets & Significations:**

**The Sun** signifies father and vitality and is known as king in the planetary cabinet. It signifies highly placed persons, a male child, intelligence, leadership, power, social status and is the secondary significator for husband. It also represents the soul of a person.

**The Moon** signifies the mother as well as our peace of mind and ability to emotionally connect with others. It is the queen of the planetary cabinet and a secondary significator for wife.

**Mars** signifies courage, high energy, younger brothers, property, sports, military, leadership, and executive positions.

**Mercury** signifies communication skills/speech, sharp intellect, analytical, power of discrimination and confidence.

**Jupiter** signifies teachers, religious advisors, generosity, good luck, wisdom, and morality. It also represents husband, elder brothers, children, wealth, morals, sincerity, friends, divine grace, father and, in fact, all good things in life.

**Venus** signifies wife, romance, luxuries and comforts in life and worldly knowledge such as the fine arts, performing arts, and healing arts. The nature of Venus is generous and benevolent.

**Saturn** signifies accomplishments, dutifulness, loyalty, service to others, and hard work. The nature of Saturn is selfish.

**Rahu and Ketu** are shadowy “planets”. The two points where the orbit of the Moon crosses the ecliptic are known as Rahu and Ketu. In Western astrology Rahu and Ketu are called the north and south node of the Moon, respectively.

The influence of Rahu and Ketu in the natal chart is very significant for the person. Rahu and Ketu are unfavorable planets as they can bring challenges and make the person vulnerable to anxiety, over-ambitiousness, sudden setbacks, undiagnosed health problems, loss of reputation, losses through cheating, professional setbacks, depression, strains in business relationships, persisting infections and losses through risky or speculative ventures. They make one vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases, problems with litigation, sudden mishaps and challenges in marital relationships.

If, however, Rahu and Ketu are well-placed in a chart and are not causing any afflictions to any houses, signs or planets, then they can promote their own significations. Rahu gives ambition, fame, fortune, charisma and magnetic personality; Ketu gives profound spiritual progress and experiences.

### **Timing of Events (Vimshottari Dasha Sequence)**

Based on the longitude of the Moon at the time of birth, the Vimshottari Dasha is calculated. The planets each have a main period with all 7 planets totaling 120 years. During the main period of a planet all other planets share sub periods proportionate to their main period in the Vimshottari Dasha Sequence. The first sub-period in a planet’s own main period is always its own followed by other planets in the order shown below. The planets give results of their own significations as well as the houses they rule during their sub periods.

The following is the order of the main periods of planets under the Vimshottari Dasha system.

#### **Planet - Dasha length**

Sun - 6 year dasha length  
Moon - 10 year dasha length  
Mars - 17 year dasha length  
Rahu - 18 year dasha length  
Jupiter - 16 year dasha length  
Saturn - 19 year dasha length  
Mercury - 17 year dasha length  
Ketu - 7 year dasha length  
Venus - 20 year dasha length