

॥ Om Gurave Namah ॥

A for Astrology - II

Introduction to Horā and Zodiac

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Obeisance to Mahārishis

The Maharishi's of past rarely 'spoon feed' when they are teaching. They expect the students to undergo their own self learning process to reach the answer. Or in case of Upanishads (Question and Answer session on Guru's feet) the student has to reach the level of asking the questions. Hence, most astrological texts do not directly give away the core principles directly. They give many dictums, but explain in detail rarely. It's with the advent of Kali yuga, where human intellect is clouded (due to many desires) that a need to explain in detail is needed. Self experiment is more essential to understand these principles.

Thus, the core method of ancient vedic teachings is to make the student struggle and learn. This process burns the various negative Karma clouding the intellect of the student. The student achieves this by hard work put in research of various dictums, constant pondering on the dictums and regular saadhana (with mantra etc). These are qualities which inculcate satva (nature of light) in a person.

In these pages attempt will be made to bring out the teachings of Jyotish as taught to me by my Guru and Acharya's of the past. Pardon is requested for any mistakes herein due to my any limited or incorrect understanding.

Jyotish Definition

Jyotish is the study of time (Kaal). It's the study of time on a personal level. Time as measured and studied by Physics are in a physical level, they do not delve in personal matters. To give an humorous example, Newton's law of gravity teaches why a stone falls, But should the stone fall on your head it does not explain why you had to be at that time and at that spot. The reason why it fell on a native is explained thru higher law of Karma. Time is measured in physics using various physical oscillations like pendulum or a atomic vibration etc. Thus the time indicated clocks becomes independent of the individual. It really does not effect the native directly if the clock shows 12PM or say 11PM. What effects the native is whether it's night or day Or whether he is working or not a given point of time, Suffering or enjoying etc.

Jyotish texts say the time measured thru physics is quite untrue, since the individual is not related to timeⁱ. In Jyotish time is measured in various ways. It measures it based on Sunrise, Sunset, Day's and Night, Summer, Winter etc. Jyotish relates time and light very closely, hence the name even Jyotish. Jyoti means light. The method used by Jyotish to understand the personal effects of time is called Horā. Jyotisha measures time in terms of Horā.

Horā

Horā is ancillary subject in Jyotish. In Sanskrit, Horā is derived from **Aho-Rātra**ⁱⁱ. Aho means day or existence and Rātra means night and signifies inexistence. Thus the kind of oscillation observed in jyotish is of day and night, light and darkness, breath in and out and existence and in-existence etc. Rātra, this scribe views, can be phonologically¹ composed from rā+tra. rā is Agni beeja (Fire Seed) and Hence Solar Dynasty Rām is called by that name. traⁱⁱⁱ is for protection or covering, Symbolically the night is said to cover(tra) the light(rā), Hence called Rātra(night). In Sanskrit, Aha is a particle used for affirmation, The day is nothing but affirmation of light.

In short Horā measures rates of change of days and nights etc. Rapid changes means an event is fast and slower changes means an event is slow. Hence, Speed is a factor of time. In Jyotish the speed of grahas play a very important role. The clock used by Jyotisha is the zodiac around us and the graha moving on them indicating time.

If you order the speed of the planets starting the slowest Saturn first you get,

1. Saturn (Slowest ~30 Years for whole cycle)
2. Jupiter (~12 Years)
3. Mars
4. Sun (~1 Year)
5. Venus
6. Mercury
7. Moon (~27 Days for zodiacal cycle).
8. Lagna (horizon which indicates Sun Rise and set) (1 day/zodiacal cycle).

¹ Related Vedic Subject is called Chandas and Shiksha, Or the science of Sound, Tunes and metre. This is the subject which relates how tunes and sounds in forms of mantra effect humans.

Now, A bit of explanation for the addition of Lagna or the Eastern Horizon. The fastest indicator of the time is Horizon, It's due to this movement of Horizon, which makes the sun seem to travel at a fast pace from East to West. It's seems Sun is moving, Hence it's told that Lagna's Kaaraka is Sun. The Dawn, Noon, Evenings and Night are created by Sun due this Lagna's Movement.

The speed of the grahas is used in many aspects of Jyotish, In the naming of weekdays as Sunday(Sun's day), Monday(moonday), Tuesday (Mar's day) etc^{iv}.

If the grahas are sequentially assigned rulership of time starting from Sun as per the above given speed (Exclude Lagna, as it's the indicator of the Horā)

Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me
Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju
Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve
Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa
Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su
Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo
Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma	Su	Ve	Me	Mo	Sa	Ju	Ma

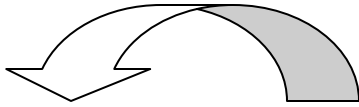
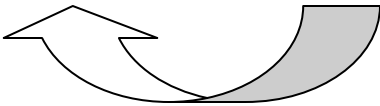
The first column now indicates the Weekday order of the grahas. This is normal way to order the planets. Rahu and Ketu are added at last to give, Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu. Thus, the speed of the planets forms the basis for measuring time in Horā shastra. Time is further is said to have 5 limbs, called Panchanga². They are called tithi, Yoga, Vaara, Karna and Nakshatra. Except Nakshatra all the others assign rulership based on the above derived weekday order.

Anther such principle is the ownership of various Rashi; Aries by Mars, Taurus by Venus etc.(Refer BPHS). Circular motion traversed by a graha is referenced with a stationary reference, The stationary reference is called Zodiac.

Speed involves both time and space. Horā is used to demarcate both time and space. Above was to measure time and now the space. But, for space the Mahārishi's have given small variations.

² Another article elaborating each element of time will be written by the Scribe.

Zodiac

	Pisces Meena Jupiter-Lord	Aries Mesha Mars-Lord	Taurus Vrishab Venus-Lord	Gemini Mithuna Mercury-Lord
Moon Half ←	Aquarius Kumbha Saturn-Lord	 Arrow indicates speed of sign owner		Cancer Karka Moon-Lord
Sun Half ←	Capricorn Makar Saturn-Lord			Leo Simha Sun-Lord
	Jupiter-Lord Sagittarius Dhanur	Mars-Lord Scorpio Vriscika	Venus-Lord Libra Tula	Mercury-Lord Virgo Kanya

The above diagram shows the Zodiac in Jupiter chakra (called also as south Indian style). If you note the order of the planets from Cancer and Leo junction (called Bhu loka and Bhuva loka junction). The planets are ordered as per the speed. The ordering keeps Sun and Moon together, they do not follow the speed order. But, if you read Lagna (it's kaarka is Sun) in place of Sun the speed order fits right. Sun and Moon signifies the Soul and Mind or in another allegory it represents the Father and Mother from whom the creation happens. (Note: Night and Day Signs are different, in which Saturn and Jupiter houses change roles)

In the above given speed order, Removing Sun we get the order as Sun rules the Zodiac. But in ownership we cannot give Lagna as it signifies self.

1. Saturn (Slowest)
2. Jupiter

3. Mars
4. Venus
5. Mercury (Fastest)
6. Moon
7. Lagna (It's kaarka is Sun)

Every thing in nature has 2 aspects An aspect derived from father and another derived from mother. Thus the Zodiacal space also are given two ownership. One towards Lunar side and other to Solar side. Now, Refer again to the diagram above to understand the ownership. At this level ignore Rahu and Ketu, for now.

Zodiac and Human

Now, there is a dictum which states that whatever is within(inside) is also without(outside)^v. As, all these in nature including our self is created from same basic principles. This is the basic reason due to which charts for all humans, even also all living and non-living beings can be made. The chart of any entity can be made once knowing to which as a sub-entity it belongs to. Each of the major entity will have all those basic parameters, which the sub-entity is part of. But basically all this world, all this moving and non moving objects are part of Narayana, Super persona of all. We in this earth are just a smaller elements of our solar system.

Grahas speed and Chakras

Now various vedic texts say the human being is said to have 7 (or eighth) Chakras or centers of energy thru which a person gets various abilities and performs various actions and enjoys them.

1. Sahasra chakra- Top of Head- Seat of ultimate light
2. Angya Chakra –Between Eyebrows Region- Controlled by Mind
3. Vishuddhi Chakra – Throt- Saturn (Controls Vayu/Air to speak^{vi})
4. Anahata Chakra – Heart (Chest)- Jupiter
5. Manipura Chakra – Navel-Stomach-Region- Mars (Seat of energy)
6. Swadishtaana Chakra – Reproductive and Sexual Region – Venus
7. Mooladhara Chakra – Base of Spine buttocks region- Mercury

If you note the planetary the base chakra (7) is ruled by Mercury and the speed reduces in upward manner. Just as the zodiac is divided in left half and right half the body is also divided in left and right half. Called Ida and Pingala naadi in vedic texts which study the body.

Zodiac and 14 Lokas

To be continued

References and Notes:

ⁱ Refer 'Hora Ratnam' by BalaBhadra on Time.

ⁱⁱ Brihat Pārāshara Hora Shastra

ⁱⁱⁱ Students may note other such words Man+tra = mantra, Yam+tra = Yantra, Tan+Tra = Tantra etc

^{iv} Refer to calculation of Vaara and Hora in standard Jyotish texts.

^v 'Jo brahmande soi pinde' (Guru Granth Sahib:695) and such teachings from various vedic and other scriptures.

^{vi} Speech and sound itself is ruled by Jupiter which Author opines comes from whole throat to Chest Region