

## Kāraḱas in Vedic Astrology - a different perspective

### 8th Bhāva

In this series of articles on kāraḱas for different bhāvas we shall now try to understand the kāraḱa for the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva. Some of the kāraḱas are mentioned specifically in Jyotish texts, and some need to be understood by implication. As usual we shall begin by looking at what Sage Pārāshara says about the kāraḱa of the 8th bhāva.

The sage says:

सूर्यो गुरुः कुजः सोमो गुरुर्भौमः सितः शनिः।

गुरुश्चन्द्रसुतो जीवो मन्दश्च भावकारकाः ॥ ३३।३४ ॥

sūryo guruḥ kujah somo gururbhaumaḥ sitaḥ śaniḥ |  
guruścandrasuto jīvo mandaśca bhāvakāraḱāḥ ||33|34||

*Sun, Jupiter, Mars, Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn are the kāraḱas of bhāvas (from 1 to 12).*

Thus, Saturn is kāraḱa for the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva. The 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva is referred to as the Āyush bhāva and Saturn is also called the Āyush kāraḱa. However, it is also good to remember that besides life or Āyush, 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva also represents many other things and Saturn will naturally be kāraḱa for those matters too. So, let us see what else is attributed to the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva in order to understand the role of Saturn as the kāraḱa for the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva. As usual let us go to Sage Pārāshara and find what he says about the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva. The Sage Pārāshara in his “Brihat Pārāshara Horā Shāstra” tells us:

आयु रणं रिपुं चापि दुर्गं मृतधनं तथा।

गत्यानुकादिकं सर्वं पश्येद्रन्ध्राद्विचक्षणः ॥ १२।९ ॥

āyu raṇaṁ ripuṁ cāpi durgaṁ mṛtadhanam tathā |  
gatyānukādikaṁ sarvaṁ paśyedrandhrādvicakṣaṇaḥ ||12|9||

*Life span, war, a deceiver, cheat, rogue, an enemy, an adversary, a foe, wealth of the dead (legacy), forts/castles, as well as the previous life are to be seen from the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva.*

Here I would like to point out that, in the ancient classics, the 6<sup>th</sup> bhāva is also called the “Ripu Sthāna” and amongst its attributes, the word “Shatru” is used. Generally, the words “Shatru” (शत्रु) and “Ripu” (रिपु) are used as synonyms.

Thus, we find that while describing the attributes of the 6<sup>th</sup> bhāva the Sage Pārāshara says:

मातुलान्तकशङ्कानां शत्रुंश्चैव व्रणादिकान्।

सपत्नीमातरं चापि षष्ठं भावं निरीक्षयेत् ॥ १२।७ ॥

mātulāntakaśaṅkānām śatruṁścaiva vraṇādikaṁ |  
sapatnīmātaraṁ cāpi ṣaṣṭha bhāvaṁ nirīkṣayet ||12|7||

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*Maternal Uncle, fear of death, enemies, wounds, scars etc. mistress/second wife (or stepmother) should be seen from the 6<sup>th</sup> bhāva.*

An astrologer, especially one understanding Sanskrit, must now wonder as to how is it that the Sage refers to enemy as attributes of both the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva? In order to clarify the difference between enemy as envisaged with respect to the 6<sup>th</sup> bhāva (Shatru-शत्रु), and enemy as understood with reference to the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva (Ripu-रिपु), I would like to dwell a bit more on this at the cost of diverting a bit from the kāraka for the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva.

Let us understand that “Shatru”, attributed to the 6<sup>th</sup> bhāva means: an over-thrower (of the reign of the king), an enemy, foe, rival, a hostile king (esp. a neighbouring king as a natural enemy). Now let us see what is meant by “Ripu”. “Ripu” attributed to the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva means: 1) deceitful 2) treacherous 3) false, meaning a deceiver, a cheat, a rogue, an enemy, an adversary, or a foe.

The next question that must strike an astrologer is what exactly the difference between the two. The key is provided by attributes of word “Shatru”, where it means a hostile king who is from neighbouring country. This means that Shatru as referred to with respect to 6<sup>th</sup> bhāva refers to those who are near to us or rather those with whom we interact, as a matter of course by reason of some pre-existing conditions, and whom we can't wish away. That is why 6<sup>th</sup> also refers to maternal uncle, disease (fear of death), wounds and so on. In such case, it is obvious that the enmity here could also arise, to some extent, as a result of our own action.

It is therefore obvious that in case of 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva the enemy referred to, is not someone with whom we have to interact by default, but someone who might wish us ill without any fault on our side. So, a cheat whom we never have met, or an adversary who might not be close to us, someone whom we might trust but not one near to us, even our competitor whom we view more as our adversary and not mere competitor etc. would be indicated by the word “enemy”, with reference to 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva. Other matters referred to, like legacy etc. are clear as Saturn is described as old and one who is conservative. Being long lasting his being kāraka for 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva representing forts is also not very difficult to understand. Saturn is also known to be deceptive, as we have already seen in the article on Saturn earlier. Thus, Saturn being the kāraka for the cheat referred to in attributes of 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva, and represented by it, is pretty clear.

Having understood the logic behind Kāraka, so far, let us find out how this played out in our standard chart of Arnold Schwarzenegger.



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forts/castle. For those interested, here is the link to youtube video of his house Brentwood Mansion. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kV1VmOD6PQ>

It is also interesting that he became Governor of a state which could be akin to a king of ancient times and lives in a king's residence, though originally an actor. Since this is a lesson on the kāraka for the 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva, we are not going into other aspects of Saturn's position in 2<sup>nd</sup> bhāva, its weakness and strengths and their results, for Arnold, here.

Having, thus understood how Saturn the kāraka for 8<sup>th</sup> bhāva plays out in our standard chart, in the next article, we shall look at the karakas of the 9<sup>th</sup> bhāva.