

Kāraḱas in Vedic Astrology - a different perspective

9th Bhāva

In this series of articles on kāraḱas for different bhāvas we shall now try to understand the kāraḱa for the 9th 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 again looking at what Sage Pārāshara says about the kāraḱa of the 9th bhāva.

The sage says:

सूर्यो गुरुः कुजः सोमो गुरुर्भौमः सितः शनिः ।

गुरुश्चन्द्रसुतो जीवो मन्दश्च भावकारकाः ॥ ३३।३४ ॥

sūryo guruḥ kujahḥ somo gururbhaumahḥ sitahḥ śaniḥ |
guruścandrasuto jīvo mandaśca bhāvākārahḥ ||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, Jupiter is kāraḱa for the 9th bhāva. The 9th bhāva is referred to as the Pitru bhāva. We know that Jupiter is variously described as Dhana karaka and Putra Karaka, but it is Sun who is called the Pitru karaka. So, one might think why is it that though Jupiter is the karaka for the 9th bhāva it is not called the Pitru karaka, and how come not being karaka for father he is still the karaka for the 9th bhāva?

Here we have to understand two principles one is the astrological principle of bhāvāt bhāva which applied here, means that 9th bhāva being 5th bhāva from the 5th bhāva is secondary indicator of what is represented by the 5th bhāva and therefore Jupiter, being Putrakāraḱa, also has the authority to give results connected with the 9th bhāva, though at a different or higher level.

In order to understand this complex concept, we should look at other Vedic sciences and texts so that the reason becomes much clear. Now if we also look at what “Guru-Geeta”, the instructions of Lord Shiva to his consort Pārṃvati, says about qualities of a Guru, the second principle would become clear. It would also show how Vedic astrology is connected with all other sciences, which were taught in ancient times to all students, in a different manner. Lord Shiva, while telling qualities of Guru (Preceptor/teacher) to his consort, says:

यस्य स्थित्या सत्यमिदं यद्भाति भानुरुपतः ।

प्रियं पुत्रादि यत्प्रीत्या तस्मै श्री गुरुवे नमः ॥

yasya sthityā satyamidaḁ yadbhāti bhānurupataḥ |
priyaḁ putrādi yatprītyā tasmai śrī guruve namaḥ | |

I salute the Guru who is truth incarnate, is splendorous like the Sun, and loves his student as if his own son.

So, we can see that when allotting the bhāva kāraḱa authority over 9th bhāva to Jupiter, the Sage has used the concept of Guru as a preceptor in different roles, where one who puts a student on

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path of learning is also considered a Guru, much like the one who actually instructs the student and also the one who might instruct in path of spirituality. Next is to understand the ancient practice of Upanayan which was performed while sending the student away to learn at Guru's place (called Gurukula). In Hindu system of education, a young boy undergoes a ritual called Upanayan (called thread ceremony in these times) before he proceeds for his education at Guru's place. At that time, the jātaka's father tells him Gāyatri mantra of Sun in his ears, so that he can be steadfast on his journey of acquiring knowledge, which is called his second birth (hence Brahmins were called Dwija or twice born only after their Upanayan). Thus, the jātaka's father is his first guru on the beginning of his journey on path to education. The jātaka then continues his studies with his Guru who would impart to him not only knowledge of his religion but other sciences too. That is why Guru is called the karaka for 9th bhāva.

However, when we talk of graha karakas, then we see that Sun is generally known as the Sthira-kāra (fixed karaka) for father, and the 9th bhāva is indeed called Pitru bhāva (bhāva indicating father), as indicated in chapter 9 of Brihat Pārāshara Horā Shāstra”, as under:

भानुः पिता च जन्तूनां चन्द्रो माता तथैव च।

पापदृष्टियुतो भानुः पापमध्यगतोऽपि वा। पितरिष्टं विजानीयाच्छिशोर्जातस्य निश्चितम्॥९।४३॥

भानोः षष्ठामष्टर्क्षस्थै पापैः सौम्यविवर्जितैः। सुखभावगतैर्वाऽपि पितरिष्टं विनिर्दिशेत्॥९।४४॥

एवं चन्द्रात् स्थितैः पापैर्मातु कष्टं विचारयेत्। बलाबलविवेकेन कष्टं वा मृत्युमादिशेत्॥९।४५॥

bhānuḥ pitā ca jantūnāṃ candro mātā tathaiva ca |
pāpadṛṣṭiyuto bhānuḥ pāpamadhyagato'pi vā | pitrariṣṭam vijānīyācchiśorjātasya
niścitam||9|43||

bhānoḥ ṣaṣṭhāmaṣṭarkṣasthai pāpaiḥ saumyavivarjitaiḥ | sukhabhāvagatairvā'pi
pitrariṣṭam vinirdiśet||9|44||

evam candrāt sthitaiḥ pāpaimātu kaṣṭam vicārayet | balābalavivekena kaṣṭam vā
mr̥tyumādiśet||9|45||

For one born, Sun is father and Moon is the mother. If Sun is hemmed in between malefic or be aspected or conjunct malefic, know that the father of the one born will have evil caused to him. If malefic/s, bereft of benefic/s, are placed in the 4th, 6th or the 8th bhāvas from Sun, similar results will ensue. In similar manner should one think of evil to mother. Having duly considered the strength or weakness of the planets one should indicate mere troubles or death to them.

Next, we find that the Sthira-kāarakas are defined by the Sage Pārāshara, and he says:

अधुना सम्प्रवक्ष्यामि स्थिराख्यानं कारकग्रहान्।

स पितृकारको ज्ञेयो यो बली रवी शुक्रयोः ॥ ३२।१८॥

adhunā sampravakṣyāmi sthirākhyān kārakagrahān |

sa pitṛkāraḥko jñeyo yo balī ravī śukrayoḥ ||32|18||

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Now I shall tell you the grahas that are called Sthira Karakas. Know that the strongest amongst Sun and Venus is the Karaka for father.

So, a student of astrology must wonder, what is the relevance of Venus here, when the Sage talks of stronger between Sun and Venus having to be considered as the karaka for father? And why Jupiter the Guru is karaka for the 9th bhāva and not Sun/Venus is another thing that might perturb a student, since Sun/Venus are told as Sthira karakas for father.

So, let us try to understand where the role of Sun/Venus arrives. Sun represents not only father but is also karaka for the “Tanu” bhāva (bhāva for body) and for Ātma the self-confidence, since it is the father who gives not only body to the jātaka, but confidence too. That is why we can find young children bragging about their father when involved in tiffs. Venus comes in as it rules over semen whose connection with birth of the jātaka is crystal clear. This distinction between Sun and Venus as karakas for father in connection with the 9th bhāva is clarified by the Sage when he tells Maitreya, his disciple, how to know additional bhāva that is karaka for different relatives, based on its placement which is dependent on a bhāva at a certain distance from the Sthira-kāraḱa:

अथाऽहं कारकान् वक्ष्ये खेटभावशाद्विजः।

रवितः पुण्यभे तातश्चन्द्रान्माता चतुर्थके ॥ ३२। २२ ॥

*athā'ham kārakān vakṣye khetabhāvavaśāddvijah|
ravitaḥ puṇyabhe tātaścandrānmātā caturthake||22||*

Now I shall tell the (secondary) bhāva karakas that can be seen on the basis of their distance from grahas (planets). Analyze the 9th bhāva from placement of Sun as (additional) bhāva karaka for father and the 4th bhāva from Moon for matters related to the mother (of the jātaka)

Here, Sage Pārāshara is telling that in case of father (as a physical body/concept) should also be seen from the 9th bhāva from the bhāva occupied by Sun, making it clear that for matters connected with father as indicated by the 9th bhāva Sun is the karaka.

However, father also has another function in a family, and that is setting rules or behavior in accordance with the tenets of his family and in this capacity it is Sun who is the karaka for 9th bhāva. That again is why Sun is also the karaka for king or boss or anyone who sets rules. Therefore, we can now say that Jupiter and Sun are the primary karakas for the 9th bhāva, whereas Venus can be indicator of strength of the father in matter of reproduction only.

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

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inauspicious bhāva, either in natal chart or in the navāmsha chart. As a matter of fact, it occupies a trine in the natal chart and navāmsha lagna (a square) in the navāmsha chart where he also gets directional strength (in navāmsha). In natal chart being lord of squares it occupies a trine (owned by Venus) giving rise to a Rājyoga. So, as we look at his Gurus or coaches we find he had very good relations with them and they too helped him achieve success, going out of their way.

It is said that Charles "Wag" Bennett, one of the judges at the 1966 competition, was impressed with Schwarzenegger and he offered to coach him. As Schwarzenegger had little money, Bennett invited him to stay in his crowded family home above one of his two gyms in Forest Gate, London, England. Yorton's leg definition had been judged superior, and Schwarzenegger, under a training program devised by Bennett, concentrated on improving the muscle definition and power in his legs. In 1966, Schwarzenegger had the opportunity to meet childhood idol Reg Park, who became his friend and mentor. The training paid off and, in 1967, Schwarzenegger won the title for the first time, becoming the youngest ever Mr. Universe at the age of 20. This pattern of preceptors/Gurus helping Arnold achieve success is evident in his life. It is interesting to note that Jupiter aspects the 9th bhāva fortifying it and his fortune really shone through help of his Coaches /preceptors/Gurus.

Having, thus understood how Sun and Jupiter the kārakas for 9th bhāva play out in our standard chart, in the next article, we shall look at the karakas of the 10th bhāva.