

Rāhu (Dragon's Head)

Rāhu, along with Ketu his counterpart, is the army of the king in the planetary cabinet. He is possessed of Tamas Guna. He is said to be the one who creates illusion and also likes to delve deep into any subject. He acts like Shani, generally. When placed alone in a bhāva he acts like lord of the bhāva so occupied and Shani. When he conjoins another graha he gives results of that graha, in addition to the bhāva lord.

Mythology says that Rāhu was the commander of the Asura's (loosely translated as Devils) army. It is said that the Devas (Gods) and Asuras together churned the ocean to get 13 precious things (called Ratnas in Sanskrit), from the ocean. Amongst these was Amrita (nectar) that was capable of granting immortality to those drinking it. Rāhu, is said to have changed his appearance and sat with the Devas when the nectar was being distributed to make the Devas immortal. Surya (Ravi) and Chandra are said to have noticed this deception of Rāhu and brought it to the notice of Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu then cut off the head of Rāhu just as he was swallowing Amrita. Thus Rāhu though cut in two, having become immortal, could not die and both the halves survived. The head was then named Rāhu and the trunk was named Ketu. This is why Rāhu is said to want to swallow Ravi and Chandra and causes the eclipse. Needless to say, being headless they come out and the eclipse is then over.

There are differences amongst the sages about the rāshis owned by Rāhu and Ketu and also their rāshis of exaltation and debility. The degrees in which Rāhu attains deep exaltation and deep debility, find no mention in texts. I treat Kanyā as Rāhu's own rāshi, Karka as his moolatrikona rāshi and Mithuna as the rāshi where he gets exaltation. However, I treat Kumbha as own rāshi of Rāhu, when applying Pārāshara/Jaimini principles of Arudha and Rāshi Dashā concepts (these are complex concepts for advanced astrologers only and are not the subject of this article). This differentiation is necessary because the concepts given by Jaimini and Pārāshara are based on treatment of Kumbha as own rāshi of Rāhu, and then I treat Vrishabha as its exaltation Rāshi, as indicated by Jaimini and Pārāshara for the purposes of Ayur-dashā (period of influence for span of life). It is good to remember that Rāhu is able to deliver results (influences) of the bhāva placed 7th from the bhāva occupied by him.

Rāshi owned by Rāhu	Kumbha (Aquarius- per Pārāshara), Kanyā (Virgo – according to others)
Exaltation Rāshi	Vrishshabha (Taurus- per Pārāshara), Mithuna (Gemini- according to others)
Debilitation Rāshi	Vrishchika (Scorpio- per Pārāshara), Dhanu (Sagittarius according to others).
Moolatrikona Rāshi	Karka (Cancer)
Season	No season is allotted to Rāhu
Taste	No taste is prescribed for Rāhu
Metal	Lead
Colour	Smoky Blue
Time frame	He rules over a period of 8 months
Rising	Not prescribed, said to face south.
Resides in	Forests (per Pārāshara). Others indicate anthills as his place of residence. I think he resides in fissures and anthills.
Gem	Gomed (Hessonite)

Rāhu (Dragon's Head)

Clothes	Multi coloured (some opine old clothes).
Direction	Nairutya (South-West)
Directional strength	South that is the 10 th bhāva.
Trees over which he rules	Not prescribed, but could rule on poisonous roots.
Nature	Tamas (Cruel/Dark)
Shape	Lean and tall
Animal	Snake
Nature	Ashubha (malefic), shrewd, deceitful, deep thinker.
Humour	Kapha and Vāta
Hair	Rough and thick
Eyes	Deep set/sunken. He looks downwards.
Caste	Chāndala (those who help cremate bodies)
Height	Tall
Age	Old (100 years of age)
Element	Vāyu (Air)
Deity	Durgā
Vakra bala	He is always retrograde.
Trees and its parts	Not given by sages. However in my opinion he rules over shrubs, like Poppy, that produce hallucinogenic substance like opium and poisonous substances.
Names of Rāhu	He is known as, Rāhu, Saimhikeya, Ardhakaya, Ahi, Phanindra and many other names.
Diseases	Diseases related to Kapha and Vāta humor. Poisoning, snakebites, cholera, epilepsy, deep and festering wounds, hiccups etc.

Rāhu is indicative of very low castes and foreigners. He is investigator by nature and suspicious of others. He is good at research. He rules over languages that are written from right to left. He is connected with perverted logic, gambling, going abroad, diseases of bones and joints, crawling animals and connections with widows or women of questionable morals. He also represents royal insignia and is karaka for grandfather. Rāhu is called illusion maker and as befits that description there are many opinions about his aspects. One edition of Brihat Pārāshara Horā Shāstra, called the Bombay edition, says he aspects the 5th, 7th, 9th and 12th bhāvas, but that he has no aspect when occupying own house. Others like Diwakar opine that he aspects the 5th, 7th, 9th, 3rd, 10th, 4th and 8th bhāvas. Many do not accept that he has any aspects and I tend to agree. Only when considering rāshi aspect will he get aspects and that should be applicable while applying Jaimini principles.

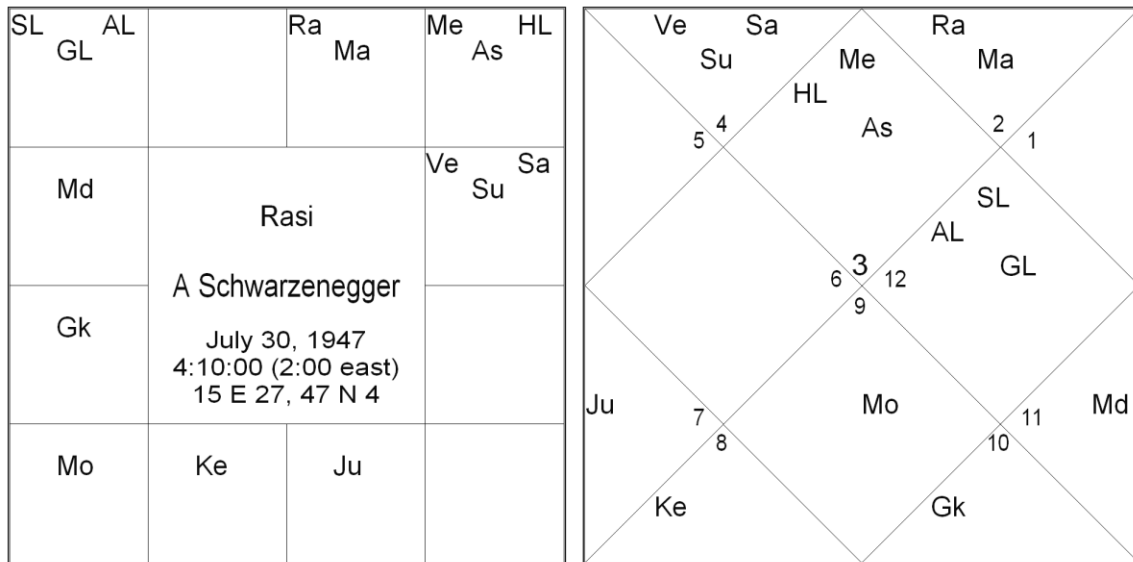
Rāhu is connected with desires and generally does not harm the bhāva occupied though he would create some illusion about how matter represented by that bhāva is perceived by others. When alone, Rāhu acts like Shani. When conjunct other grahas he gives results of those grahas and also the lord of the bhāva occupied in his own dashā, rendering those grahas incapable of giving results in their own dashā, to the full extent. One must remember that in case of Rāhu (and also Ketu) their nature of giving results of other grahas when conjunct, or occupying their rāshis, makes it difficult to judge their effects on a native's chart. One must be extremely careful in analyzing their results, more so regarding the 7th bhāva from themselves, as the 7th is always occupied by the other node and it is easy to attribute the result of one node to other's presence in 7th from that bhāva. Many astrological texts, including

Rāhu (Dragon's Head)

Brihat Pārāshara Horā Shāstra, say that Ketu is like Rāhu. This is incorrect and the way they manifest in bhāvas is almost diametrically opposite to each other. While Rāhu is a deep thinker, devious, of suspicious and investigative nature and desires various possessions, Ketu is spontaneous and easily trusts others and is giver up of his possessions. This must always be kept in mind while analyzing their effects.

Having learnt the basic nature of Rāhu, let us see how it manifests in our three standard charts that we have been following in our articles on grahas, so far. One must remember that in analysis of the three standard charts, shades of other grahas that conjoins Rāhu and the lord of bhāva occupied by Rāhu shall also, naturally, be seen as Rāhu gives their results too.

Arnold Schwarzenegger



As: 25 Ge 59	Su: 12 Cn 58 (PK)	Mo: 9 Sg 47 (GK)	Ma: 26 Ta 59 (AK)
Me: 24 Ge 56 (AmK)	Ju: 24 Li 52 (BK)	Ve: 3 Cn 15 (DK)	Sa: 18 Cn 28 (PIK)
Ra: 5 Ta 54 (MK)	Ke: 5 Sc 54	HL: 0 Ge 54	GL: 29 Pi 08

Rāhu (Dragon's Head)

GL		Me Gk	As Ju	Mo	
Ra	D-9			Ve	
Md	A Schwarzenegger			Ke	
SL	Sa	HL	Su	AL Ma	

As: 25 Ge 59	Su: 12 Cn 58 (PK)	Mo: 9 Sg 47 (GK)	Ma: 26 Ta 59 (AK)
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We observe that in Arnold's chart Rāhu occupies the 12th bhāva in Vrishabha (Taurus) rāshi of Shukra and in Navāmsa it is occupying the 10th bhāva in Kumbha (Aquarius) the rāshi of Shani. We are aware that Rāhu gives the results of the lords of bhāvas occupied and those he conjoins and in Rāshi chart he conjoins Mangal. This effect of Rāhu is referred to as affliction of those grahas by Rāhu. This means that it will not allow those grahas to express themselves fully.

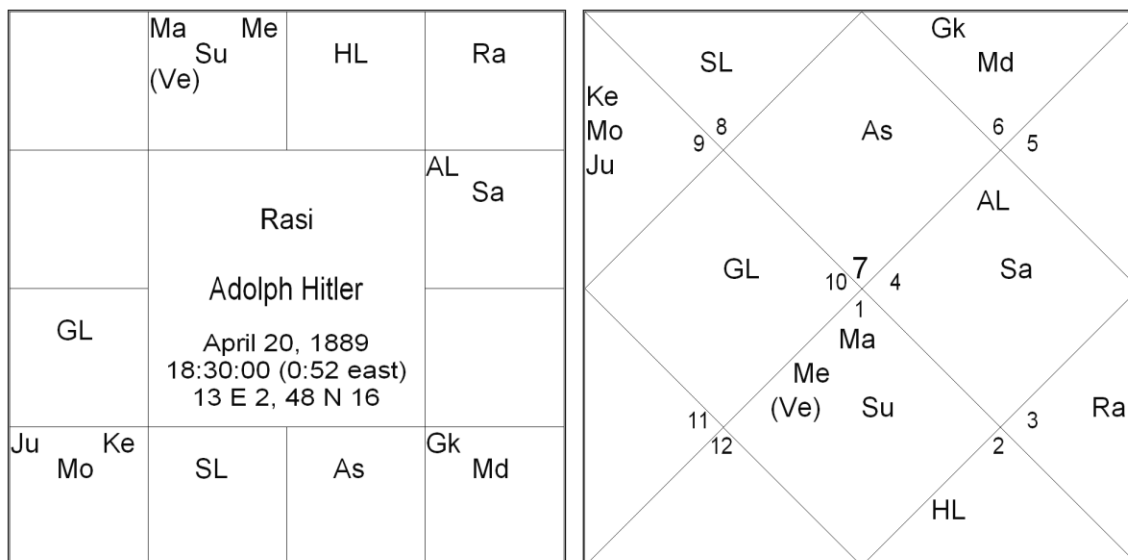
Rāhu, as we see is occupying the 12th bhāva of bed pleasures and distant lands. This placement of Rāhu (in the 12th) is said to cause thieves to set upon the jātaka or he making his fortune abroad. As we know Arnold did make his fortune abroad. It is also interesting that his commercial peak coincided with onset of Rāhu Mahadashā in his chart in 1991. This is so because besides Rāhu in 12th giving income from foreigners, it occupies the rāshi of Shukra who is a trine lord and so a functional benefic for Arnold. Therefore with Rāhu occupying its rāshi, results of Shukra the trine lord are realized in the dashā of Rāhu. We also know that Rāhu can cause some illusion or secrecy by his very nature and in Arnold's case we see that he caused Arnold to keep his relationship with his nanny a secret for a long time. It is interesting to know that his illegitimate son was born in Rāhu dashā around October 2nd 1997 in Rāhu- Shani (Saturn)-Shukra (Venus) period. Shukra being his 5th lord perhaps led him to hide this fact as Shukra is afflicted by Rāhu, who allowed the progeny to remain in a shroud of mystery. We also observe that Shukra being karaka for spouse this secrecy led to break up in his marriage.

Again we know that Rāhu is connected to poisons and is able to influence the bhāva that is placed 7th from itself and can indicate some self imposed health issues through use of poisons. His use of what are called performance improving drugs and resultant break of his leg are well known. At another time he suffered breakage of six ribs. Obviously the conjunction of Rāhu with Mangal led to harm to the bone marrow that Mangal rules.

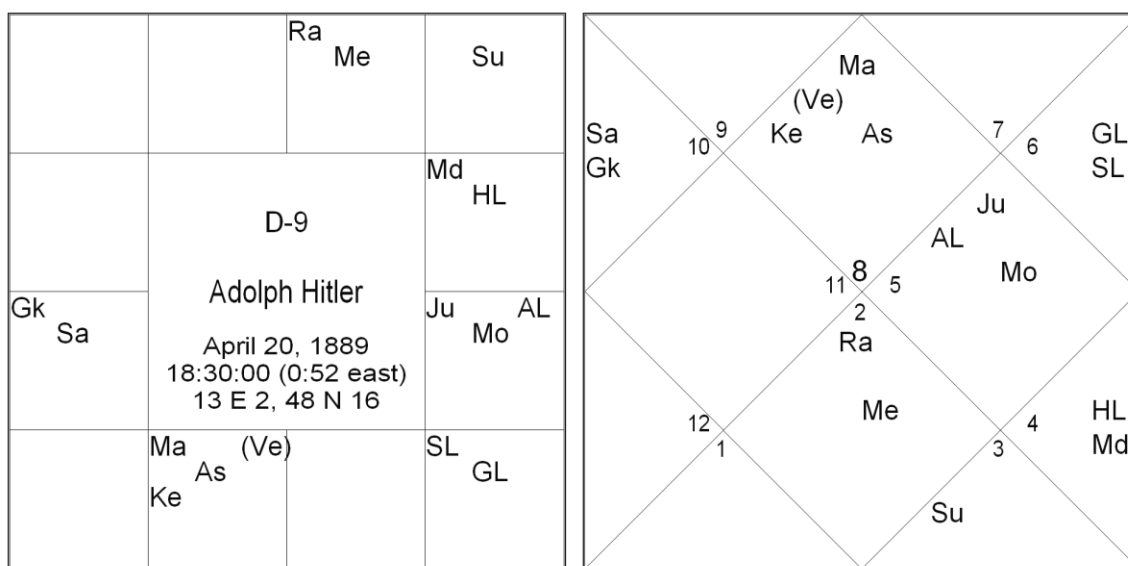
Rāhu (Dragon's Head)

Adolph Hitler

We shall now try to look at the role of Rāhu in Adolph Hitler's chart, the second of our standard charts.



As:	4 Li 22	Su:	8 Ar 30 (PK)	Mo:	14 Sg 37 (PiK)	Ma:	24 Ar 04 (AmK)
Me:	3 Ar 22 (DK)	Ju:	15 Sg 56 (MK)	Ve (R):	24 Ar 23 (AK)	Sa:	21 Cn 09 (BK)
Ra:	23 Ge 45 (GK)	Ke:	23 Sg 45	HL:	22 Ta 38	GL:	29 Cp 39



As:	4 Li 22	Su:	8 Ar 30 (PK)	Mo:	14 Sg 37 (PiK)	Ma:	24 Ar 04 (AmK)
Me:	3 Ar 22 (DK)	Ju:	15 Sg 56 (MK)	Ve (R):	24 Ar 23 (AK)	Sa:	21 Cn 09 (BK)
Ra:	23 Ge 45 (GK)	Ke:	23 Sg 45	HL:	22 Ta 38	GL:	29 Cp 39

We find Rāhu occupying the 9th bhāva in Mithuna (Gemini) rāshi in rāshi chart where as in Navāmsa it occupies the 7th bhāva in conjunction with Mercury in (Vrishabha) Taurus Navāmsa. Thus primarily it afflicts Budha and Shukra and is capable of giving results of Budha, as 9th lord in own dashā. It will also harm or afflict his marital relations, Shukra being karaka for spouse and there would be issues with religion, father and also perhaps his preceptors (9th bhāva).

Rāhu (Dragon's Head)

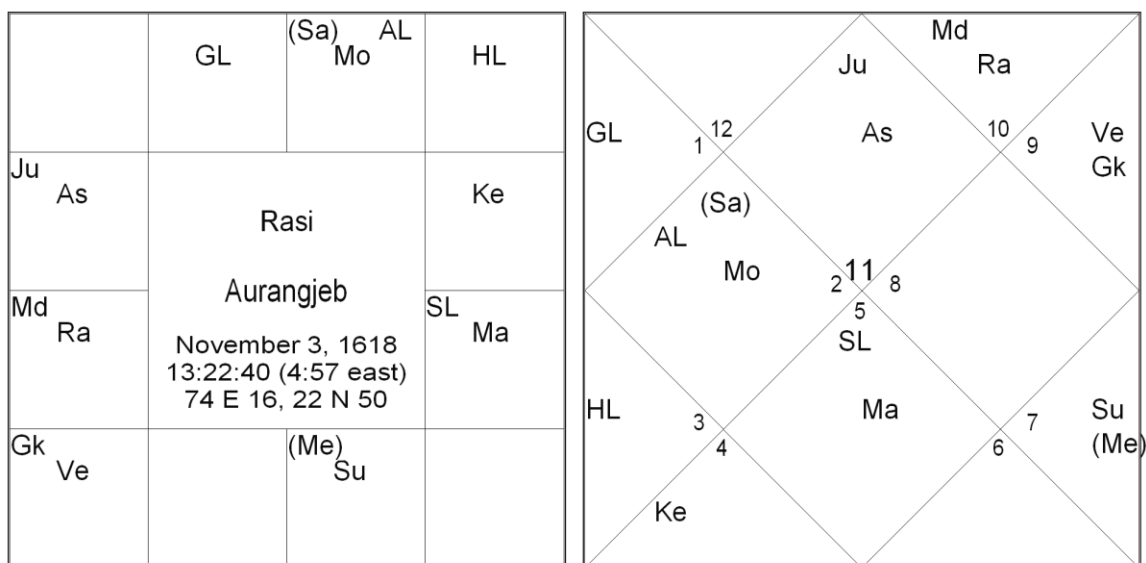
That Hitler did not have lasting relationships represented by the 7th bhāva is well known. However it is interesting that Rāhu the creator of illusion led to his hiding all his relationships, till he finally married Eva Braun at the moment of his death/suicide, bringing it open at the last moment and then entering a suicide pact with her. His earlier girl friends are also said to have committed suicide. Rāhu afflicting both Shukra and Budha who occupy the 7th bhāva of spouse does seem to have disastrous consequences for the women in his life and what is interesting is death of all of them are still shrouded in mystery as befits the creator illusion, Rāhu.

Shukra is both the lord of 8th leading to death and lagna indicating self and is interesting to know that Hitler ended his life in Rāhu-Surya-Shukra-Shani-Chandra- Rāhu dashā. It is also said that he consumed cyanide a poison, before Hitler shot himself dead, as is in line with Rāhu ruling over poison.

Rāhu occupying the 9th bhāva also resulted in Hitler having an illusion of what represents religion. Hitler tried to keep his being born in a family which is said to have had Jewish origin, always under the wraps and denied his religious ties. He once wanted to be a monk and though of Jewish extraction, he turned away from Jews going to the extent of ruthlessly putting them to death in hundreds of thousands and denying his own roots. It is also perhaps not entirely a coincidence that he poisoned Jews by gas looking at the nature of Rāhu. Rāhu conjoining Budha also gave him nervous disorders as Budha also rules the nervous system and 12th bhāva of sleep (which indicates one being at peace).

Aurangjeb, the Mogul Emperor

Now we turn to last of our standard charts that belongs to the last powerful Mogul emperor, who ruled India.



As: 6 Aq 39	Su: 22 Li 19 (AmK)	Mo: 3 Ta 27 (DK)	Ma: 16 Le 19 (PiK)
Me (R): 25 Li 09 (AK)	Ju: 9 Aq 30 (PK)	Ve: 5 Sg 45 (GK)	Sa (R): 18 Ta 03 (MK)
Ra: 8 Cp 33 (BK)	Ke: 8 Cn 33	HL: 0 Ge 18	GL: 27 Ar 43

Rāhu (Dragon's Head)

Md Ra	Su	Ve (Me)	SL (Sa)	GL Ju	HL	Ke Gk
Mo	D-9 Aurangzeb		AL	As	7	6
	November 3, 1618 13:22:40 (4:57 east) 74 E 16, 22 N 50		Ma	Mo	11	8
GL Ju	As	HL	Gk Ke	2 Ve	5	Ma
				(Me)	4	AL
Ra Md				12	1	
				Su		(Sa) SL

As:	6 Aq 39	Su:	22 Li 19 (AmK)	Mo:	3 Ta 27 (DK)	Ma:	16 Le 19 (PiK)
Me (R):	25 Li 09 (AK)	Ju:	9 Aq 30 (PK)	Ve:	5 Sg 45 (GK)	Sa (R):	18 Ta 03 (MK)
Ra:	8 Cp 33 (BK)	Ke:	8 Cn 33	HL:	0 Ge 18	GL:	27 Ar 43

We find Rāhu occupying the 12th bhāva in rāshi of Shani conjunct Māndi, in rāshi chart while in the Navāmsha chart it occupies the 5th bhāva in Meena Navāmsha ruled by Guru. This leads to Guru and Shani being afflicted by Rāhu.

Going through the life of Aurangzeb, we find that though Guru is possessed of digbala occupying the Lagna, he did not have good relations with his family members and elder brother (whom he put to the sword) since Guru owns the 2nd bhāva or family and 11th bhāva of elder brother.

Rāhu occupying the 12th bhāva also indicates his earning money from foreigners or those of other religion and most of his income was from provinces to the south of Delhi ruled by other kings and satraps and he was amongst the only Mughal emperor who imposed Jiziya tax which was a tax imposed on citizens of religions, and even streams of Islam other than his own. Rāhu being deceptive by inclination or creator of illusions Aurangzeb lead his brother Murād Baksh to believe they are in unison against Dārā Shikoh (the heir apparent) their elder brother and then got Murād arrested by bribing his noblemen. He similarly deceived his other brother and put him to sword on trumped up charges. Guru also being the karaka for religion, its being afflicted by Rāhu led Aurangzeb to make destruction of temples as a state policy, even though he initially was a disciple of a Sufi saint and Sufis have tolerance to all religions.

Thus we come to the end of our analysis of role of Rāhu in our three standard horoscopes. In line with our practice, so far we shall now recite his stotra and Gāyatri mantra.

अर्धकायं महावीर्यं चन्द्रादित्यविमर्दनम् ।

सिंहिकागर्भं संभूतं तं राहुं प्रणमाम्यहम् ।

ardhakāyaṁ mahāvīryaṁ candrādityavimardanam |

siṁhikāgarbha sambhūtaṁ taṁ rāhuṁ praṇamāmyaham |

Rāhu (Dragon's Head)

Oh valorous one who has half a body, who conquers Chandra and Surya without fear, the one who is born to Simhika, I salute thee Rāhu.

ॐ नाकध्वजाय विद्महे । पद्महस्ताय धीमही । तन्नो राहुः प्रचोदयात् ॥

om nākadhvajāya vidmahe | padmahastāya dhīmahī | tanno rāhuḥ pracodayāt | |