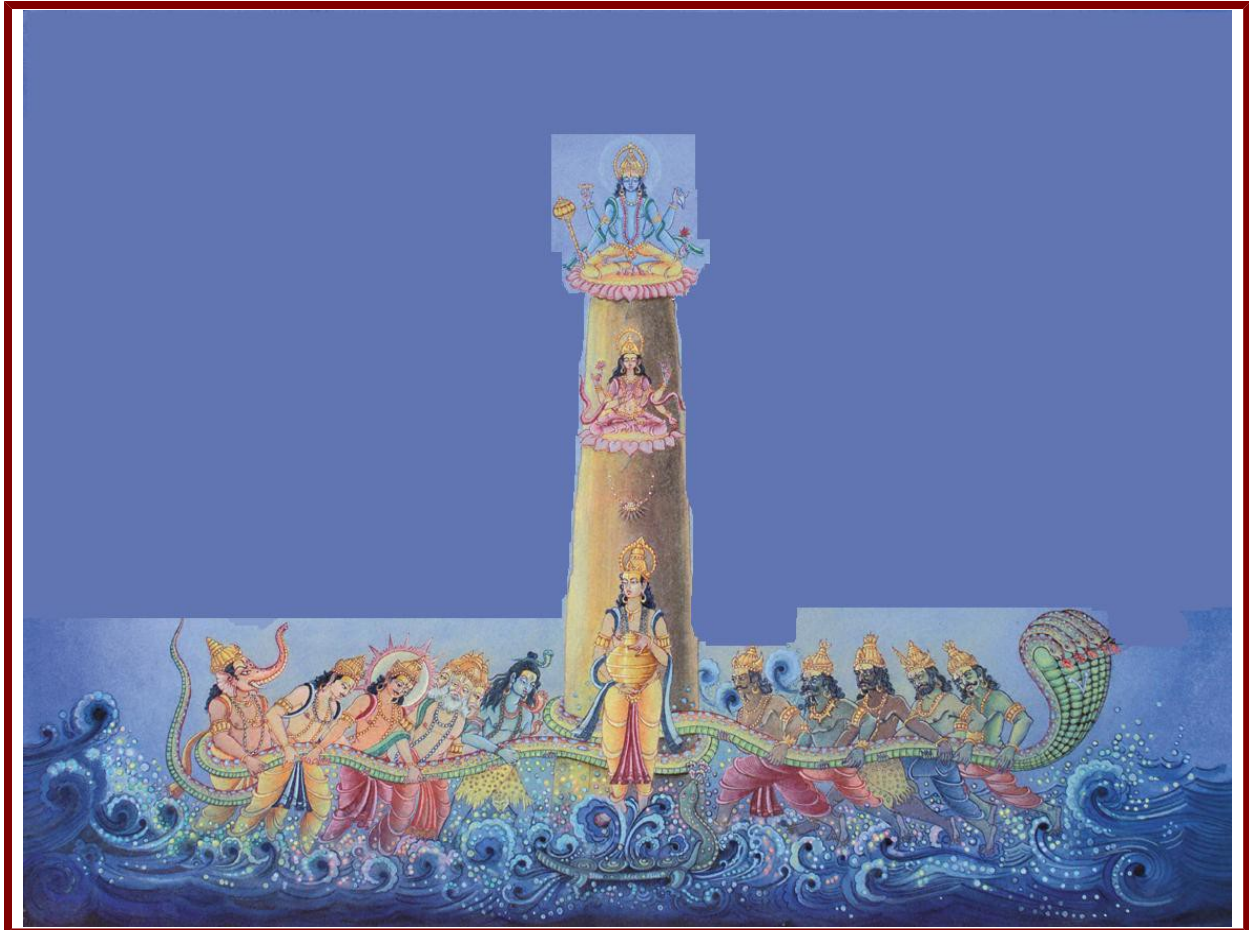


## Understanding the Devas-Asuras Mythic Model of Vedic Astrology[VA]:



Most people (even in India) consult Vedic astrologers because of some pressing unfulfilled desire or fear, *but rarely with the intention of enquiring and understanding, 'How the Divine has actually structured their consciousness, body and destiny'.* In this consultation the emphasis is not on belief, or faith in Vedic astrology. Rather it is on actually understanding our 'destiny', and discovering 'who we are', in terms of the Divine architecture.

On the surface, each of us have a 'mask' composed of many personalities. This mask is 'a kind of alloy' forged in the Cosmic cauldron, through a certain fusion (a specific permutation and combination) of the Cosmic **Benevolent** and Cosmic **Malevolent** Life Energies of the Divine [God]. At the deepest level, we are of course, *the Atma, the Universal Soul*, and one with the Divine. The 'mask' creates the illusion of individuality.

If we first manage to decipher and understand this ‘Divine architecture’ in our own case, this is likely to automatically lead to our further understanding of the ‘Divine architecture’ of ‘other people’ as well, those who may have an important role in our destiny- for they too are only different kinds of ‘alloys’ like ourselves. *Once this deep understanding has settled well, then we will succeed in abandoning the long cultivated habitual human error of trying to correct the Divine architecture in ourselves and in others!*

Then alone relationship can possibly have a different meaning. Then, ripping asunder the outer mask of the personality, composed of the **Benefic** and **Malefic** Life energies, we shall by degrees be able to perceive the hidden Divine in all- *though even then, the mask may sometimes quickly veil the hidden Divine and give us once more that old illusion that no one is the Divine, but that all are only ‘personalities’ which may be sometimes good, sometimes bad and sometimes even ugly!*

For this reason, much of our spiritual life and sadhana, must be in this direction-of putting aside the personalities, and uncovering the hidden Divine, within ourselves and within all. This we may hold is the true function of Vedic astrology [VA].

In the attached mythic model of Vedic astrology, ‘the sea in turbulence’ is the field of our human life, the strife, the pain and pleasure, the excitement, the uncertainty, the endless agony and feeling of sorrow. On one side are arrayed the **Cosmic Benefic Life Energies in Anthropomorphic forms [called the Devas (Angels)]**, whereas on the opposite side are arrayed the **Cosmic Malefic Life Energies, also in Anthropomorphic forms (darker ones)[ called the Asuras(Demons)]**. *In Vedic astrology, we quantitatively study this mythic model of the Devas and Asuras- the Devas are represented by the FBs, the Asuras by the FMs.*

The ghastly Serpent both groups are working with, is the mythic representation of ‘Time’ itself. ‘Time’ is portrayed in a ghastly form, because ‘Time’ is always the ‘mischief maker’[to use the appropriate words of the Master J Krishnamurti]-‘Time’ makes Saints into sinners, and sinners into Saints. ‘Time’ makes paupers into Kings, Kings into paupers, ‘Time’ creates the havoc of disease,

of death even, 'Time' steals happiness, breaks families, creates ambition, crime and perversity. Thus, because of the vicious, unreliable and poisonous nature of 'Time', 'Time' has always been dreaded and compared to a deadly Serpent. The Hindus call it, 'Kaala Sarpa'[the Serpent of Time].

The central axis is of course 'Eternity' [beyond Time], and the Lord of this Eternity is perched in Heaven, the All Mighty, whom Hindus call 'Parabrahma' or Parameswara or Mahavishnu[beyond the infinite Manifestation]. The Christians call this Source, Father in Heaven, Muslims, Allah.

*The Divine, does not belong to this visible world, it is always Unknowable, Unseen, but orchestrates the whole of creation through the various Natural Laws. Here then, the Divine is the Unknowable and Unseen Power driving our lives and our destiny, incessantly filling it with misfortunes and sometimes with good fortunes, withdrawing good and planting the bad and vice versa[alas, all according to Karma].*

This is also then a mythic 'Time Machine'. And in VA, the ticking of the clock is according to the Vimshottari Dasa Bhukti system of major [Dasa] and sub [Bhukti] periods. You see this displayed clearly as a vertical Table on Page 1. As 'the wheel of Time turns'[ in this mythic model, the **Devas** and **Asuras** churning the turbulent sea of human life by means of the Serpent], pleasures and pains, emerging from the deep fly into our life making us happy or unhappy!

*Very significantly, the function of Vedic astrology is the decipherment of this mind boggling Divine drama, which is happening in every human life, a drama, which is sometimes a tragedy, and sometimes a comedy. To understand our place in this Divine drama, if possible to escape the seemingly endless sorrow, and to find peace within ourselves, as we are relentlessly churned by these Cosmic **Benefic** and **Malefic** Life Energies; if possible to effect some healing, as a result of our understanding-these are the multiple functions of Vedic astrology and those interested in these burning Qs, should be the ones to turn to a Vedic astrologer.*

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## The Mysterious Role of 'Planets' in Vedic Astrology:

The 'Planets' in Vedic Astrology [VA] are not the Physical Planets of Astronomy. Rather they represent the Cosmic [Benevolent or Malevolent] Life Energies, which Hindus perceive to be sourced in the Divine. These Cosmic Life Energies are called, for this very reason, not 'Nava Grahas' [namely, Nine Planets], but rather, as 'Nava Graha Devatas' [Living Deities, which are Benefic and Malefic aspects of the Divine. The Functional Benefic Planets [FBs], bring in the Blessings of the Divine, and the Functional Malefic Planets [FMs] bring into life the 'Wrath' of the Divine.

Thus the FBs are not 'Planets' but Cosmic Benevolent Life Energies. Likewise the FMs are not 'Planets', but the Cosmic Malevolent Life Energies.

-Sankara Bhagavadpada

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|| Jyotiṣāmayanam Cakṣuḥ ||  
(Vedic Astrology is the Eye of Wisdom)

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