

ALL GLORY TO SRI GURU AND SRI GAURANGA!

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**THE ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER** 15 Jan. 2010

**Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>: Contemplations on Makara Sankranti Day**

Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Editor

*In the midst of that region of outer space [antarikña] is the most opulent Sun, the king of all the planets that emanate heat... By the influence of his own illumination, the Sun heats the universe, maintains order, and spreads light so all can see. While moving north, south or through the equator, in accordance with the order of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the Sun is said to move slowly, swiftly or moderately. According to his movements in rising above, going beneath or passing through the equator—and traveling through the various signs of the zodiac, headed by Makara [Capricorn]—days and nights are short, long or equal to one another. (SB 5.21.3)*

**MAHAPRABHU LEFT HOME ON MAKARA SANKRANTI:** Just a few days preceding our Divine Lord’s *sannyasa* initiation, Nimai had abandoned His household on the Makara Sankranti day. Makara Sankranti occurs when the Sun god enters into the constellation of Capricorn and *uttarayana*. *Uttarayana* is the six months when Surya moves in his Northern route or direction. Because Mahaprabhu chose Makara Sankranti to leave home for the salvation of all mankind, a significant date in the

Vedic/ astrological calendar has taken on a newer and more worshipful significance for us Gaudiyas. Those who wish to learn more about the Lord's *sannyasa-lila* may turn to issue # 9 of *Sri Krishna Kathamrita*, the world's best magazine, available from [www.gopaljiu.org](http://www.gopaljiu.org).

As we know from the evening *arotik* song of Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur that Srila Prabhupada taught the world, the demigods also celebrate this glorious movement of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. That would include the Sun god's honoring our blessed Lord's 500<sup>th</sup> Sannyasa Diksha Anniversary. The Lord was forced to accept the role of a renunciate because no one would heed a householder's instructions to become Krishna conscious. Because of that, His wife and Mother were left to pine for Him endlessly. Both Smt. Vishnupriya Devi and Shachi Mata passed their days absorbed in the Lord's divine name associating directly with Him through the power of *hari nama*. They also taught the world by their wondrous, loving displays of *bhakti-yoga*, associating with the Lord via His Holy Name. Thus even Mahaprabhu's family members set an example for each of us struggling devotees on the path back to home back to Godhead.

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> saw your astrologers from Mithuna Twiins greet the new, northern *ayana* with a silent recitation of Gayatri *mantra*. As the Sun came up over the Pirin Mountains that circle our Swargagrad Valley, the Sun god seemed to display a new diamond-like sparkle. As we know from the *Bhagavata*, the 60,000 sages known as the Vālikhilyas must have been singing his glories, welcoming Lord Surya Narayana once again into the celestial region.

**NORTHERN ROUTE / SOUTHERN ROUTE:** For the past six months (till Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010), the Sun has been in *dakshinayanam* or the southern course comprised of these six *rashis* or signs: Cancer (Karkata), Leo (Simha), Virgo (Kanya), Libra (Tula), Scorpio (Vrishchik) and Sagittarius (Dhanush). Those six signs of the Southern Course are numbered 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Signs 10, 11, 12, 1, 2 and 3 comprise Uttarayana. These are Capricorn (Makara), Aquarius (Kumbha), Pisces (Meena), Mesha (Aries), Vrishabha (Taurus) and Mithuna (Gemini).

**TIMELY ASTROLOGICAL LESSONS FROM THE BHAGAVAT:** The *Bhagavat* describes how—from Makara Sankranti onwards—the days grow longer while Surya moves in the region of *dev-loka*. This turning North by the Sun god, and the lengthening of days, has been celebrated not

only in Vedic India, but also in the Vedic-descended civilizations in Europe. Thus, many Vedic historians have concluded that this Sankranti festival is the source of the pre-Christian European Saturnalia festival.

The *Bhagavat* says: **"Until the sun travels to the south the days grow longer, and until it travels to the north the nights grow longer."** (S.B. 5.1.6)

From Makara Sankranti the days are already beginning to lengthen. Then, when the Sun becomes exalted in Aries from Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, the "solstice" or "equal length of day and night" will occur. After Aries, from Taurus to Gemini, days will become longer than nights until the beginning of *dakshinayana* when Sun enters Cancer on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Days will continue to shorten through Leo and Virgo. When the Sun goes into debility in Libra on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, the fall equinox will come to pass, and once again the time of day and night will be equal. Days continue to lose minutes through Scorpio and Sagittarius. From Makara Sankranti onwards days are growing longer, and this has been a cause for people all over the world to celebrate since time immemorial.

**MORE ON SATURNALIA:** Makara or Capricorn is a sign owned by Saturn, hence the name "Saturnalia". For the Romans, when the Sun entered Makara, it was time for *Shani-puja* or Saturnalia. That day, when the Sun turns from the Southern route and heads North, is known as the solstice. "Sol" is Latin for Sun and is derived from the older "Surya" from Sanskrit, the mother of Latin and all other languages. The suffix "-stice" is from *stitium*, "to stand still". Therefore Saturnalia was a day of solstice, of the Sun's turning North, and moving through a sign of Saturn. Saturn is a planet ruling "restriction" so in ancient Rome, restrictions on the servants of the higher castes were relaxed during the week-long Saturnalia.

As mentioned, this originally-Vedic Saturnalia festival was supplanted by the Christians when they needed a convenient date for their savior's birth. Never mind that the chosen deep winter date did not fit Biblical descriptions for the autumnal birth of Jesus. Even the date of the Sun's entrance into each sign has been buried beneath ancient mis-calculations still prevalent in the totally un-scientific "modern astronomy" of today. Western astronomy's miscalculations have spilled over into the Western form of astrology, in which remains little of the original science of *vedanga jyotish*.

**LAHIRI'S AYANAMSHA PROVES UNSCIENTIFIC BLUFFING BY ASTRONOMERS AND ASTROLOGERS:** Today the *ayanamsha* correction is nearly -24 degrees according to the authority Nirmal Chandra Lahiri. What Lahiri has succeeded in doing through his *ayanamsha* is to debunk in one fell swoop the bogus mis-calculations for each and every one of the *sankrantis*. This means that the date of “revolution” (*sankranti*) for every planet entering into any given sign is the wrong date! Western astrology claims that the Sun enters Capricorn on Dec 23, but the actual date is three weeks later.

Especially culpable is the Vatican’s Gregorian Calendar which ignores lunar cycles as seen by the word “month” and its derivation from “Moon”. Along the way months have been arbitrarily added and rescheduled. They have even been named for ordinary men like Julius Caesar (July) and Augustus Caesar (August). Evidentially, the original lunar and solar calendars were hacked by the church for the specific purpose of obliterating Vedic (so-called “Pagan”) festivities. Through a reign of fear the church controlled huge portions of the known world.

But even the tyranny of totalitarianism, as we see again raising its ugly visage in America today with its aggressive wars, is nothing before the *sankirtan* movement of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. As Prabhupada has said, “Krishna can kick away ten thousand Rahunas”

**IF UTTARAYANA IS “GOOD”, THEN IS DAKSHINAYANA “BAD”?** The Southern six-month course is also known as the “route of the ancestors” or *pitri-ayanana*. Now during the “northern six months”—Uttarayana Lord Surya again moves towards the other side of the Universe just as waves move from one side to another of a slow moving river. All students of Vedic astrology and Vedic culture recognize Makara Sankranti as a holy event. It is our great fortune that this year that consecration is increased a million-fold due to Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu having left home on this day.

Some have written to ask us if the *pitri-ayana* (route of the ancestors) is bad. Perhaps that would be like asking if your ancestors were all bad. Most people I know find their relatives a mixed bunch. Some of them may even get liberated just by your becoming a devotee. For every direction, there is the opposite. For day there is night, for the Sun there is the Moon, for yin there is yang, for *devayana* there is *pitri-ayana*. The banks on both sides of the Kshipra at Ujjain are holy.

Great *maharishis* like Srila Prabhupada must sometimes even visit *mlecchadesha* for Bhagavan Sri Krishna-seva. Lord Vivaswan, the great devotee who spoke *Sri Bhagavad Gita* to Manu and who is the light of the Universe, is no different. Does the Sun lose his light when he traverses *dakshinayanam* for the deliverance of the ancestors?

Lord Brahmā prays: “I worship Govinda, the Primeval Lord and Supreme Personality of Godhead under Whose control even the Sun god, which is considered to be the eye of the Lord, rotates within the fixed orbit of eternal time. The Sun is the king of all planetary systems and has unlimited potency in heat and light.” (*Brahma-samhitā* 5.52):

-Completed 18 Jan 2010, or day of the Lord’s Sannyasa Initiation by Sri Keshava Bharati

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**“Sri Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu 500<sup>th</sup> Sannyasa Centennial”**

Srila Prabhupada Ki Jai! Sri Gaur-Nitai Ki Jai!  
Sri Sri 500<sup>th</sup> Lord’s Sannyasa Utsava Ki Jai!

Please always chant:

**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare  
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare**

Watch for the Next Issue of **The Astrological Newsletter: “Effects of Lunar Eclipse Surpanakha and Solar Eclipse Jagai In the Haitian Earthquake”**

**OM TAT SAT**