

ALL GLORY TO SHRI GURU AND SHRI GAURANGA



The World Acharya

**-His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder Acharya: International Society for Krishna Consciousness**

“It is said that service to a *mahatma*, or elevated devotee of the Lord, is the royal road of liberation. Rendering service to the materialists has the opposite effect.” From *Teachings of Lord Kapila* (20)

THE ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

**Mithuna Twiins Astrological Services
“Home of the Bhrigu Project”**

In this issue:

**Prophecies for Kali Yuga
from the Bhagavata Purana**

Chant this mantra:

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

...and your life will be sublime

14 Apr. 2012 (#28) Vaishakha *krishna ashtami*, 526 Gaurabda Era, corresponding to the 8th day of the waning Moon of the Gaudiya month of Madhusudan. Also, Mesh *sankranti*, the 1st day of the Solar Year when the Sun enters Aries.

The Astrological Newsletter (Please e-share it with your friends)

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Dear Prabhus,

Dandavats to the Vaishnavas and welcome to the issue. Shrila Prabhupada once said that whenever a person comes into one of his centers, it is because Krishna has brought that person by the hand. Back in the winter of 1967 when I first entered the Western World's premier Hare Krishna Temple, there were only a few dozen devotees in the whole movement. Yet each devotee knew and preached that Shrila Prabhupada was (is) an eternally liberated pure devotee of the Supreme Personality of Godhead Shri Krishna. Now as then faith in

the Lord's representative is the crux of continued advancement in Krishna consciousness.

But then, one may ask, if the Founder-Acharya is a *nitya-mukta jivan*, then why has he taken birth? As an answer, Prabhupada once told one of his disciples, "Oh, the *acharyas* don't actually become liberated, they continue to be re-born in the material world for the deliverance of fallen souls." Therefore, there is no adequate gift that the disciple or grand disciple can offer to the World Acharya. We can never repay His Divine Grace for the blessing of becoming engaged after millions of births in the divine service of Shri Shri Radha-Krishna. We must completely and unhesitatingly offer our very selves.

To each one of you: thanks very much. Enjoy the issue.

Always wishing you the very best in Krishna consciousness,

Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Ed

A Determined Reporter Meets Shrila Prabhupada Narada Muni Das



There is a wonderful story from the Memories series, the volumes and DVDs of Shriman Siddhanta das Adhikary www.prabhupadamemories.com. Our gurubhai Shriman Narada Muni Prabhu recounts:

"In New York a reporter asked Shrila Prabhupada, 'How old were you when you realized God?' Shrila Prabhupada didn't want to glorify himself, but rather to praise his spiritual master and Krishna. So His Divine Grace said, 'God is a person like you or me. The difference is that we are many and God is one, our leader. Now what is the difference between the one and the many? He maintains all these many, he maintains us. But He is also a person like you and me. Do you follow?'

The reporter persisted, ‘Yes, I appreciate your answer, but at what age did you realize the highest truth? At what physical age...?’

Prabhupada explained, ‘There is no question of age. Realization of God should be from the very beginning of life.

The reporter countered, ‘I understand that, Swamiji. My question to you was at what age did you yourself realize the highest truth?’

Shrila Prabhupada replied, ‘Of course we were born into a very nice family. Practically from the very beginning of our lives my father educated us in this way.’

Now, the reporter wouldn’t give up, ‘I understand that. I mean at what time did you have your own personal realization, Swamiji? At what age?’

Prabhupada answered, ‘From age four or five years.’”

Narada Muni Prabhu continued: “In the *Bhagavatam* Shrila Prabhupada wrote about some of his childhood pastimes and he also narrated the histories of Maharaja Parikshit and others who displayed symptoms of God consciousness. Shrila Prabhupada has always been God conscious. He came into this world God conscious and he left this world God conscious. And now he’s undoubtedly giving Krishna consciousness to others on another planet. My hope is that all of us can eternally be with him and somehow serve him in this mission.” ♪

Horoscope of the World Acharya

Patita Pavana das Adhikary

Tirupati 1977: \$1.50 a day is all Gargamuni, then the head of the BBT Library Party out of Bombay, would allow me for food, travel, and shelter. So on a budget of \$50 a month I was traveling third class and alone throughout India to collect reviews of Shrila Prabhupada’s books. I would introduce scholars to the “Library Encyclopedia of Vedic Knowledge” (as we members of the BBT Library Party called the collection), and they would all oblige with letterheads of glowing

praise. Today, looking back, none of those intellectual leaders sticks in my mind as does the renowned scholar Dr. D. Arkasomayaji.

He was a strict *brahmana*, an author, a past college principle and a Government of India award winner in Sanskrit. He was also the head of the Tirumati-Tirumala Devasthanam which oversees the world's most opulent temple of the Lord of Lakshmi at Tirupati. Since he was also a *pandit* I showed Dr. Arkasomayaji Shрила Prabhupada's horoscope. Immediately he noted that His Divine Grace had been liberated from birth. He declared, "This is the chart of a *nitya-mukta jivan*."

Dr. Arkasomayaji (who hailed from a long family line of astrologers and whose name means "yagna to the deities of the Sun and Moon) quickly spotted some of the rare horoscopic combinations of the liberated pure devotee. He observed, "There are separate *yogas* for Lord Vishnu (**Hari Yoga**), His wife (**Lakshmi Yoga**), the creator (**Brahma Yoga**) and the creator's wife (**Saraswati Yoga**). That means that there are two sets of Husband / Wife *yogas*, an unheard of rarity in any horoscope."

After scanning the stars of His Divine Grace, Dr. Arkasomayaji took out his pen and wrote the most spectacular review for Prabhupada's books out of the hundreds I collected. He considered Shрила Prabhupada to be "the world's greatest spiritual force in the Twentieth Century." Naturally all the state's college libraries purchased complete sets of the BBT publications. I sent Dr. Arkasomayaji's horoscope reading and review to Shрила Prabhupada who much appreciated the good devotee-scholar's understanding of his position as the World Acharya. Dr. Arkasomayaji wasn't long for the world after that, but when he left here he was surely blessed by the pure devotee.

From our Bhṛigu Project's *Yoga Dictionary*, we give the explanations of the four *yogas* Dr. Arkasomayaji spotted above.

Hari Yoga is formed by benefic planets in the 2nd, 12th and 8th from the 2nd lord. Since Prabhupada's *lagna* or ascendant is Sagittarius, the second from there is Capricorn, so the 2nd lord is exalted Saturn. Exalted Moon is in the 8th from Saturn and Venus and Mercury are in

the 12th from Saturn. As a result, “one enjoys wealth, is happy and is blessed with children.”



Lakshmi Yoga in this case is caused by the mutual association of the lords of *lagna* and the 9th. Of course this combination achieves a new dimension in Shrila Prabhupada’s chart since the combination takes place in the 9th house of *dharma* itself and the lord of the 9th Sun is in his own sign of Leo. *Shastra* says, “One born under this combination grows quite wealthy, owns vast lands, and rises to the post of a king. He is widely renowned, blessed with numerous comforts, and has many good children.”

Brahma Yoga: Prabhupada has a strong permutation of this combination which links to the head of the Brahma *sampradaya*, and of which His Divine Grace is the most recent *acharya*. As seen in Lakshmi Yoga, he appeared when his lord of *lagna* was in the 9th with the lord of the 9th. Further Mercury is exalted in the 10th as the 10th lord. And Venus as the 11th lord is conjoined the 10th lord in an angle which also cancels the debility (*nicha bhanga raja yoga*) of Venus. *Shastra* says, “The native will enjoy pleasures and luxurious foods; he will be respected by *brahmanas* and learned men, will be highly learned, long-lived, charitable, religious and ever intent on performing pious activities.” In other words, one born under this combination is like a Brahma of this earth, with all facilities for material and spiritual pleasures and a long life to realize them.



Saraswati Yoga: This is a combination for learning and scholarship. When the benefics (Mercury, Jupiter and Venus) are in their own / exalted / friendly signs and occupy the 2nd or *kendras / konas*, then the native is not only “intelligent and learned, but is praised by the learned.” In Shrila Prabhupada’s chart Venus is debilitated but due to conjunction with exalted Mercury in the 10th the debility is cancelled

and Venus becomes exalted. Another cancellation is caused by the *gaja-keshari yoga* since Jupiter rules Venus' *uccha-stan*. It is noteworthy that Venus is often found to be debilitated in horoscopes of genuine saints. Venus is the planet of sense desires and luxuries, things that a true renunciate eschews.



A few other auspicious combinations include *sadhu*, *jaya*, *mridanga*, *bhadra*, *chaamara*, *kalpadruma* and *mridanga yogas* among others. Together, these combinations speak an astrological language that Shrila Prabhupada—though he walked amongst us—was actually the appointed messenger of the Supreme Lord Himself. ♪

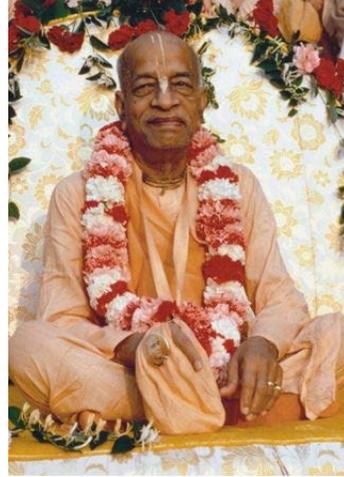
Who Gave Us Astrology?

Patita Pavana das Adhikary

London, 1973: Pt. Wijay Ranamukhadeva, the mystic astrologer, was teaching me the basics of *jyotish shastra*, a process that Shrila Prabhupada called “the subtlest of all material sciences.” I put forward an argument I had heard many times from Godbrothers, that astrology is not necessary if we simply rely on Krishna. He replied sharply, “Who has given you astrology, this science of light?”

He continued excitedly, almost chastising, “When the very father of Shrila Vyasadeva, the great Parashara Muni, is called ‘the father of *jyotish*’, is there any question that this science was presented to a world blinded by lust and ignorance to help them serve Krishna better?” He pointed out that astrology like any other material thing can be either misused or used properly in the service of the Lord for the benefit of devotees. Noting the calendar and the day’s fast I was undertaking, he clinched the lesson with the words, “Even your observance of Ekadashi and other *tithis* depends upon astrological calculations.” That was the end of the argument and I have never looked back.

Astrology in the right hands is part and parcel of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness as instructed by Shrila Prabhupada. This is the verdict of his books.



Take for example the value of astrology in building a solid *grihasta ashram*. The fact is that ISKCON's record of marital harmony needs improvement as a Society. We cannot preach one thing to those who are lacking in morality if our track record reflects their example. Problems have arisen due to the fact that marriages for the purpose of convenience have been haphazardly arranged. The social order founded upon the four-tier system of *varnashram* requires *grihastas* for the support of the other three *ashrams*. Marriages intelligently arranged must incorporate astrology and without astrology there is no intelligence in building *varnashram*.

In the *Bhagavat* Lord Brahma instructs Kardama Muni in the importance of marriages that are astrologically aligned. Lord Brahma said:

“Therefore, today please give away your daughters to the foremost of the sages, with due regard for the girls’ temperaments and likings, and thereby spread your fame all over the universe.” (SB 3.24.15)

BHAKTIVEDANTA PURPORT: “The nine principal *rishis*, or sages, are Marichi, Atri, Angira, Pulastya, Pulaha, Kratu, Bhrigu, Vashishtha and Atharva. All these *rishis* are most important, and Brahma desired that the nine daughters already born of Kardama Muni be handed over to them. Here two words are used very significantly—*yatha-shilam* and *yatha-ruchi*. **The daughters should be handed over to the respective *rishis*, not blindly, but according to the combination of character and taste. That is the art of combining a man and woman.** Man and woman should not be united simply on the consideration of sex life. There are many other considerations, especially character and taste. If the taste and character differ between the man and woman, their combination will be unhappy. Even about forty years ago, in Indian marriages, the taste and character of the boy and girl were

first of all matched, and then they were allowed to marry. This was done under the direction of the respective parents. **The parents used to astrologically determine the character and a taste of the boy and girl, and when they corresponded, the match was selected: ‘This girl and this boy are just suitable, and they should be married.’ Other considerations were less important.** The same system was also advised in the beginning of the creation by Brahma: **‘Your daughters should be handed over to the *rishis* according to taste and character.’**

“According to astrological calculation, a person is classified according to whether he belongs to the godly or demoniac quality. In that way the spouse was selected. A girl of godly quality should be handed over to a boy of godly quality. A girl of demoniac quality should be handed over to a boy of demoniac quality. Then they will be happy. But if the girl is demoniac and the boy is godly, then the combination is incompatible; they cannot be happy in such a marriage. **At the present moment, because boys and girls are not married according to quality and character, most marriages are unhappy, and there is divorce.**

“It is foretold in the Twelfth Canto of the *Bhagavatam* that in this age of Kali married life will be accepted on the consideration of sex only; when the boy and girl are pleased in sex, they get married, and when there is deficiency in sex, they separate. That is not actual marriage, but a combination of men and women like cats and dogs. **Therefore, the children produced in the modern age are not exactly human beings.** Human beings must be twice-born. A child is first born of a good father and mother, and then he is born again of the spiritual master and the Vedas. The first mother and father bring about his birth into the world; then the spiritual master and the Vedas become his second father and mother. According to the Vedic system of marriage for producing children, every man and woman was enlightened in spiritual knowledge, and at the time of their combination to produce a child, everything was scrutinizingly and scientifically done.” R



Prophecies of the Bhagavata:



The Terrible Swift Sword of Lord Kalki

In the Shrimad Bhagavatam the following prophecies are given by Shrila Shukadeva Goswami in the 12th canto, 2nd chapter. Each time we read them we see how daily they are becoming more fulfilled. Following are BBT translations.

“Lord Kalki Rides Devadatta” by Abhaya Mudra Dasi

[Shrila Shukadeva Goswami said to King Parikshit]: Then, O King, religion, truthfulness, cleanliness, tolerance, mercy, duration of life, physical strength and memory will all diminish day by day because of the powerful influence of the age of Kali. (1)

In Kali-yuga, wealth alone will be considered the sign of a man's good birth, proper behavior and fine qualities. And law and justice will be applied only on the basis of one's power. (2)

Men and women will live together merely because of superficial attraction, and success in business will depend on deceit. Womanliness and manliness will be judged according to one's expertise in sex, and a man will be known as a *brahmana* just by his wearing a thread. (3)

A person's spiritual position will be ascertained merely according to external symbols, and on that same basis people will change from one spiritual order to the next. A person's propriety will be seriously questioned if he does not earn a good living. And one who is very clever at juggling words will be considered a learned scholar. (4)

A person will be judged unholy if he does not have money, and hypocrisy will be accepted as virtue. Marriage will be arranged simply by verbal agreement, and a person will think he is fit to appear in public if he has merely taken a bath. (5)

A sacred place will be taken to consist of no more than a reservoir of water located at a distance, and beauty will be thought to depend on one's hairstyle. Filling the belly will become the goal of life, and one who is audacious will be accepted as truthful. He who can maintain a family will be regarded as an expert man, and the principles of religion will be observed only for the sake of reputation. (6)

Notes: Shрила Prabhupada once commented that people from Bengal will go to Hardwar to bathe in the Ganges, not considering that the same sacred waters are running nearby.

As the earth thus becomes crowded with a corrupt population, whoever among any of the social classes shows himself to be the strongest will gain political power. (7)

Losing their wives and properties to such avaricious and merciless rulers, who will behave no better than ordinary thieves, the citizens will flee to the mountains and forests. (8)

Harassed by famine and excessive taxes, people will resort to eating leaves, roots, flesh, wild honey, fruits, flowers and seeds. Struck by drought, they will become completely ruined. (9)

The citizens will suffer greatly from cold, wind, heat, rain and snow. They will be further tormented by quarrels, hunger, thirst, disease and severe anxiety. (10)

The maximum duration of life for human beings in Kali-yuga will become thirty plus twenty (fifty) years. (11)

Notes: The predictions of both the *Bhagavat Purana* and the *Vishnu Purana* for the current age of quarrel and discord are very similar. From the *Vishnu Purana* (HH Wilson translation): "In the Kali age every one who has cars and elephants and steeds will be a king, every one who is feeble will be a slave. *Vaishyas* will abandon agriculture and commerce, and gain a livelihood by servitude or the exercise of mechanical arts. *Shudras*, seeking their subsistence by begging, and assuming the outward marks of religious mendicants, will become the impure followers of impious and heretical doctrines (6.10.9-10)

By the time the age of Kali ends, the bodies of all creatures will be greatly reduced in size, and the religious principles of followers of *varnashram* will be ruined. The path of the *Vedas* will be completely forgotten in human society, and so-called religion will be mostly atheistic. The kings will mostly be thieves, the occupations of men will be stealing, lying and needless violence, and all the social classes will be reduced to the lowest level of *shudras*. Cows will be like goats, spiritual hermitages will be no different from mundane houses, and family ties will extend no further than the immediate bonds of marriage. Most plants and herbs will be tiny, and all trees will appear like dwarf shamee trees. Clouds will be full of lightning, homes will be devoid of piety, and all human beings will have become like asses. At that time, the Supreme Personality of Godhead will appear on the earth. Acting with the power of pure spiritual goodness, He will rescue eternal religion. (12-16)

Lord Vishnu—the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the spiritual master of all moving and nonmoving living beings, and the Supreme Soul of all —takes birth to protect the principles of religion and to relieve His saintly devotees from the reactions of material work.(17)

Lord Kalki will appear in the home of the most eminent *brahmana* of Shambhala village, the great soul Vishnuyasha. (18)

Lord Kalki, the Lord of the universe, will mount His swift horse Devadatta and, sword in hand, will travel over the earth exhibiting His eight mystic opulence and eight special qualities of Godhead. Displaying His unequalled effulgence and riding with great speed, He will kill by the millions those thieves who have dared to dress as kings. (19-20)

Notes: From the *Bible*, “On that day the Lord will take his terrible, swift sword and punish Leviathan, the swiftly moving serpent, the coiling, writhing serpent, the dragon of the sea.” (*Book of Isaiah.27.1*)

After all the impostor kings have been killed, the residents of the cities and towns will feel the breezes carrying the most sacred fragrance of the sandalwood paste and other decorations of Lord Vasudeva, and their minds will thereby become transcendently pure.(21)

When Lord Vasudeva, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, appears in their hearts in His transcendental form of goodness, the remaining citizens will abundantly repopulate the earth.(22)

When the Supreme Lord will appear on earth as Kalki, the maintainer of religion, Satya-yuga will begin, and human society will bring forth progeny in the mode of goodness.(23)

When Chandra, Surya and Brihaspati conjoin in the constellation of Cancer or Karkata-rashi, and all three enter simultaneously into the lunar mansion Tishya or Pushyami—at that exact moment Krita Yuga will begin. (24)

Notes: This is Shrila Shukadeva Goswami’s exact prophecy which gives perfect astrological references from the spotless *Purana*. At least for this verse, the Sanskrit is easy to follow for any student.

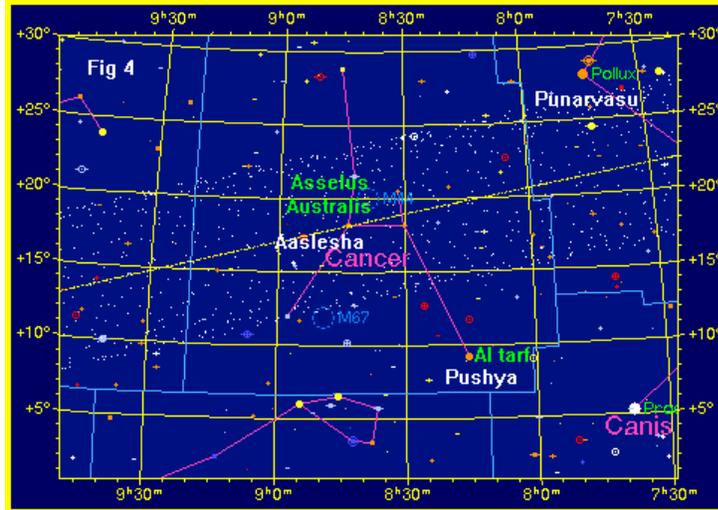
*yada chandras cha suryash cha तथा तिश्या ब्रिहस्पति
eka-rashau sameshyanti bhavishyatintada kritam*

Synonyms: *yada*—when; Chandrah—the Moon; *cha*—and; Suryah—the Sun; *cha*—and; *tatha*—also; Tishya—the asterism Tishya (more commonly known as Pushyami, extending from 3° 20’ to 16° 40’ within the constellation of Karkataka or Cancer); Brihaspati—and the planet Jupiter; *eka rashi*—in the same *rashi* or constellation (as Cancer); *sameshyanti*—will enter simultaneously; *bhavishyati*—will be; *tada*—then; Kritam—Krita-yuga or Satya-yuga.

Pushyami (consisting of the stars Gamma, Delta and Theta Cancri) is a pious, *deva-gana nakshatra* ruled by the higher octave of Saturn, the planet of austerity, penance and piety. The next time the Sun, Moon and Jupiter meet in Pushyami, Satya Yuga will begin and goodness will expand. It is noteworthy that in India today Pushyami is the favorite *nakshatra* for purchasing gold because the value will increase and the gold will bring good fortune. Similarly, during the Golden Age, goodness expands unlimitedly. Note that Satya-yuga will begin on *amavashya* (since the Sun and Moon are conjoined) and auspiciousness will grow like the waxing Moon.

Thus I have described all the kings—past, present and future—who belong to the dynasties of the Sun and the Moon.(25)

From your birth up to the coronation of King Nanda, 1,150 years will pass. (26)



Of the seven stars forming the constellation of the seven sages, Pulaha and Kratu are the first to rise in the night sky. If a line running north and south were drawn through their midpoint, whichever of the lunar mansions this line passes through is said to be the ruling asterism of the constellation for that time. The Seven Sages will remain connected with that particular lunar mansion for one hundred human years. Currently, during your lifetime, they are situated in the *nakshatra* called Magha. (27-28)

The Supreme Lord Vishnu is brilliant like the Sun and He is known as Krishna. When He returned to the spiritual sky, Kali entered this world, and people then began to take pleasure in sinful activities. (29)

As long as Lord Shri Krishna (Who is Ramaapati the Husband of the goddess of fortune), touched the earth with His lotus feet, Kali was powerless to subdue this planet. (30)

When the constellation of the seven sages is passing through the lunar mansion Magha, the age of Kali begins. It comprises twelve hundred years of the demigods. (31)

Notes: 1,200 celestial years = 432,000 earthly years.

When the great sages of the Saptarishi constellation pass from Magha to Purvashadha, Kali will have his full strength, beginning from King Nanda and his dynasty.(32)

Those who scientifically understand the past declare that on the very day that Lord Shri Krishna departed for the spiritual world, the influence of the age of Kali began. (33)

After the one thousand celestial years of Kali-yuga, the Satya-yuga will manifest again. At that time the minds of all men will become self-effulgent. (34) ॐ

FROM BHAGAVAD GITA AS IT IS (3.10) PURPORT:

In the Age of Kali, the *sankirtan yagna* (the chanting of the names of God) is recommended by the Vedic scriptures, and this transcendental system was introduced by Lord Chaitanya for the deliverance of all men in this age. *Sankirtana-yagna* and Krishna consciousness go well together. Lord Krishna in His devotional form (as Lord Chaitanya) is mentioned in the *Shrimad Bhagavatam* (11.5.32) as follows, with special reference to the *sankirtana-yagna*:

*krishna-varnam tvish akrishnam sangopangastra-parshadam
yajnaih sankirtana-prayair yajanti hi su-medhasah*

"In this Age of Kali, people who are endowed with sufficient intelligence will worship the Lord, who is accompanied by His associates, by performance of *sankirtan-yajna*."

Rudrakshas

And their Relationships to the Nine Planets

Abhaya Mudra Dasi

The holy *rudraksha* tree (Elaeocarpaceae family) is found today in eastern slopes of the Himalayas in Nepal. Some diversions are also found in India, Indonesia and by human transfer on the island of Kauai in Hawaii. In Sanskrit the word *rudraksha* means "the eyes of Shiva". For this reason this tree is also very dear to the demigods.



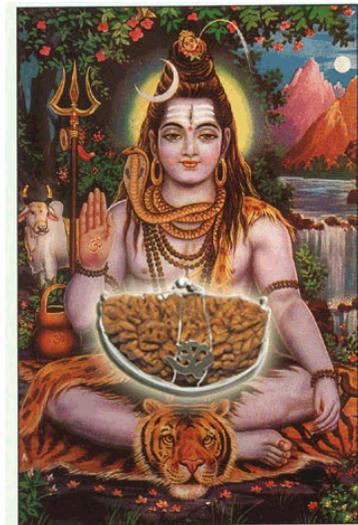
It is mentioned in *Shiva Purana* that Shiva, the great devotee of Shri Krishna, once went into meditation. His desire was to help all conditioned souls achieve *moksha* or liberation from the pangs of material existence through devotional service. He meditated on the Absolute Truth and emotion overwhelmed his heart. Tears fell from his eyes. They hardened and upon entering the soil produced the *rudraksha* trees. The beads of this special tree are famous for giving alleviation to all kinds of suffering. Different varieties of *rudraksha* beads (from 1 to 14 *mukhis* or faces) are described in *Shiva Purana*. Some of them have affiliation with the nine planetary deities and give alleviation to planetary afflictions as found in a horoscope. The faces of the beads are distinguished by the number of lines that they have on their surface. Miraculously, all *mukhi rudrakshas* are produced from a single tree.



The one and twelve *mukhi rudrakshas* are affiliated with the Sun. The difference is that the one *mukhi* gives the blessings of detachment pertaining to a king who has everything while the 12 *mukhi* fully empowers the person to shine like the Sun in his chosen field. A combination of these two beads is a good representation of Lord Surya, the demi-god of the Sun who has the ability to give life and control time. When the Sun's power becomes overwhelming he can also diminish life and create deserts.



The two *mukhi rudraksha* is associated with the Moon god or Lord Chandra. It gives the ability of the wearer to understand inter-personal relationships and helps the wearer to maintain control over his mind. A person with an afflicted Moon or who was born with the Moon in the 8th house is advised to wear this bead. As the subtle body is shaped after the mind, an afflicted Moon has the bad propensity to gradually form our future births. The future embodiment may not be as elevated as our present one and can lead to further degradation within this material world. Thus controlling the mind is of utter importance for gaining liberation from the material world.



The Hare Krishna *mahamantra* is the only sure method of attaining not only liberation but also loving service to the Supreme Lord Shri Krishna. At times when the mind does not allow one to start the chanting process, the two *mukhi rudraksha* is helpful. *Rudrakshas* work very well for corrections of bad planetary placements while gems can only enhance the power of a planet just like a radio transmitter that catches a particular wave and delivers it to the listener. Thus gems are not very appropriate for altering planetary influences while *rudrakshas* can effect changes without harmful consequences.



The three *mukhi rudraksha* is assigned to the planet Mars. It has the power of Agnidev and the ability to burn everything inauspicious, including accumulated sin. This bead is recommended for individual who have *mangalik dosha* (affliction of Mars to the 7th house of marriage) in their horoscope. The three *mukhi rudraksha* is effective for curing diseases that are associated with fire imbalance like fever and colds.



The four *mukhi rudraksha* is associated with Mercury. This bead is favored by small children as it helps them with concentration and development of intelligence. A person who wears this bead is found to improve his memory and communication ability. Mercury is the planet of intelligence and naturally has connection to Shri Vishnu or Paramatma from whom all remembrance and forgetfulness originate. This fact is mentioned personally by Shri Krishna in *Bhagavad-Gita* (15.15):

*sarvasya chaham hridi sannivishhto mattah smritir jnanam apohanam cha
vedaish cha sarvair aham eva vedyo vedanta-krid veda-vid eva chaham*

I am seated in everyone's heart, and from Me come remembrance, knowledge and forgetfulness. By all the *Vedas* am I to be known; indeed I am the compiler of *Vedanta*, and I am the knower of the *Vedas*.



The five *mukhi rudraksha* is the most common and for this reason most *rudraksha malas* are made from the five *mukhi* beads. This bead is governed by Brihaspati or Jupiter, the *guru* of the demigods. The five *mukhi*

bead feels weightier than the others because becoming heavy with wisdom and experience is an important quality of a genuine *guru*. The five *mukhi rudraksha* assists the wearer by making him take wise actions and in this way keeps him on the path of purity. Pandits recommend the five mukhi for one who was born under an afflicted or debilitated Jupiter.



The six and thirteen *mukhi rudrakshas* are associated with Venus or the crafty Shukracharya, the *guru* of the demons.

He not only favors the demons and guides them to victory at times but he has to apply a secret ability to lure them to *ajната sukriti* (devotional service to the Supreme Lord which is rendered without personal knowledge of its goal). Thus Venus, when well positioned, endows a person with abilities in arts. Applied devotionally, the arts are the most effective and subtle way of changing one's outlook whether of the individual or the world. The six *mukhi* gives the power of active application of artistic ability while the thirteen *mukhi rudraksha* turns the person into an object of art and attracts others to him or her. Ladies prefer these two beads.



The seven and fourteen *mukhi rudrakshas* are associated with the planet Saturn. Saturn is the strict master of everyone's fate. Of the nine planets, he is the most remote and distant. Saturn is the planet of

tapasya and he gives the highest fruit of material renunciation in the form of material gain as well as spiritual achievement. By wearing the beads of Saturn a person can come closer to achieving distant goals as specified in his personal portfolio. The seven *mukhi rudraksha* gives easy attainment of material desires and is a tool of security for the working class of men. The fourteen *mukhi* assists with granting spiritual aspirations in the form of *moksha* and devotion. Both beads are highly recommended in the case when a person is undergoing the 7 ½ year transit of Saturn over the Moon in the horoscope known as *sade sati*.



The eight *mukhi rudraksha* is associated with the north node of the Moon or Rahu. Rahu is famous for creating obstacles in one's life in the form of all-

consuming desires. Rahu is never fully auspicious in one's horoscope and for this reason the eight *mukhi rudraksha* is a desirable augury in fighting the obstacles created by self-sabotage. Some say that the fifteen *mukhi rudraksha* is also associated by Rahu but here we would stick to the *rudraksha* beads (up to 14 *mukhis*) mentioned in *shastra*. It is noteworthy that there have been findings of *rudrakshas* which have even the rare 31 *mukhis*. By personal experiences some *rudraksha* experts associate those beads with different deities and demigods.



The nine *mukhi rudraksha* is associated with the south node of the Moon, Ketu. Ketu is the headless and the most spiritual *graha* in the pantheon of the nine planets. Ketu creates insurmountable problems in the person's life, especially when he is not completely surrendered. From practice we know that nobody is fully surrendered in the material world. The lesson of Ketu is that this material world is a malefic place and can never be comfortable. Thus Ketu is never seen as fully auspicious in anyone's horoscope though his goal is to break material attachment. The nine *mukhi rudraksha* bead is very desirable in gaining the favors of Mother Durga, who is the controller of material nature and a dedicated devotee of Shri Krishna. Mother Durga, or Vaishnavi, is the one who opens the door to liberation once the living entity is fully surrendered to the Supreme Lord.



There are two other beads that are worth mentioning. The ten *mukhi rudraksha* is associated with Lord Vishnu and is the favorite of the Vaishnavas. This bead is simultaneously associated with the *dashavataras* (ten incarnations) of the Supreme Lord and the nine *grahas*. Whoever wants to get rid of bad planetary influences and all kinds of fear is advised to wear this bead. Shri Vishnu controls all planets and deities in the universe. Those who are His devotees do not fear even death.



The second bead worth mentioning is the eleven *mukhi rudraksha*. It is associated with Shri Hanuman, the ultimate servant of Lord Ramachandra. Hanuman has shown the ability to control different planets, including the most severe of all amongst them, Saturn. Saturn does not touch those who follow in the footsteps of Hanuman and worship the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Saturn promises that whoever is engaged in

the service of Shri Krishna during their *sade sati* will never experience the usual bad results associated with this period, but instead will be favored by the master of fate Saturn.

Some scientific research has proven that the *rudraksha* beads vibrate to *alpha* waves of the sound spectrum. The alpha waves are beneficial for meditation and ultra experiences bordering with the subtle dimensions. Powders ground from the different *rudrakshas* reportedly have miraculous effects and can even combat snake poison and other extreme emergencies. Thus we may not fully understand the power of *rudraksha* and how the bead works but we can count on the authority of Lord Shiva who himself wear *rudrakshas* and who has described for our benefit the miraculous effects of the different beads.

That Lord Shiva is the greatest amongst of the Vaishnavas is confirmed in many places in *Shrimad Bhagavatam*. See these:

“We have many times mentioned the names of twelve selected authorities (*dvadasha-mahajana*), of which Brahma, Narada and Lord Shiva head the list as the first, second and third in order of merit of those who know something of the Supreme Lord.” (From the Bhaktivedanta Purport to SB 2.6.37)

“One must follow in the footsteps of great authorities like Brahma, Shiva, Narada, Manu, Kumara, Kapila, Prahlada, Bhishma, Shukadeva Goswami, Yamaraja, Janaka, etc. By mental speculation one cannot ascertain what is religion or self-realization.” (From the Bhaktivedanta Purport to Bg 4.16)

“Of all the Rudras I am Lord Shiva”. (Bg 10.23)

Devotees who wear *rudrakshas* may sometimes be accused of being mere Shaivites and indeed Shaivites are fond of Rudrakshas, though exclusive worship of Lord Shankar is never the intent of the Vaishnava *pandit*. The desire of Lord Shiva in creating the Rudrakshas was to offer a means to all as an aid on the path of liberation. The Shaivites do not understand that Shiva is the best of Lord Krishna’s devotees and that he accepts Shri Hari as the Supreme Lord. Only the Vaishnava has a correct attitude towards Lord Shiva. With a right attitude a devotee of Shri Krishna can use the *rudraksha* to further his service to Shri Krishna by alleviating karmic burdens that interfere

with his chanting and devotional activities. Even the head of the Gaudiya Vaishnava *sampradaya* Lord Brahma is seen to wear *rudraksha* beads. In a similar regard, Shrila Prabhupada mentions in his book Krishna the Supreme Personality of Godhead that the *gopis* of Vrindavana worshiped goddess Katyayani but their actual intent was to gain the favor of Shri Krishna:

“The *gopis*, for example, worshiped Katyayani, a demigoddess, but the only benediction they wanted from the goddess was to have Krishna as their husband.” (Bhaktivedanta Purport to SB 4.12.9)

“Lord Shiva drank poison to the extent of swallowing an ocean, but if any common man tries to drink even a fragment of such poison, he will be killed. There are many pseudo-devotees of Lord Shiva who want to indulge in smoking *ganja* (marijuana) and similar intoxicating drugs, forgetting that by so imitating the acts of Lord Shiva they are calling death very near. Similarly, there are some pseudo-devotees of Lord Krishna who prefer to imitate the Lord in His *rasa-lila*, or dance of love, forgetting their inability to lift Govardhana Hill. It is best, therefore, that one not try to imitate the powerful, but simply follow their instructions; nor should one try to occupy their posts without qualification.” (Bhaktivedanta Purport to Bg 3.24)

No true Vaishnava would ever equate Rudrakshas to wearing *tulasi* beads. These two different beads signify two different worlds. For a Vaishnava there is nothing dearer than wearing a *tulasi* bead and this practice should never be abandoned. A *rudraksha* bead is an optional remedial measure for mitigating planetary influences that interfere with devotional practices. Those who choose to wear a *rudraksha* should do so with the attitude and understanding that the great devotee of Shri Krishna, Shiva, intended. ♪



***Brahma bole chatur mukhe Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Mahadeva pancha mukhe Rama Rama Hare Hare***

-Bhaktivinoda Thakur

Top Heavy Karma



Are the effects of lingering past karma pulling you down? Then just chant Hare Krishna!



Letters to the Editor

(Edited for brevity)

“Great Service to Grihastha Ashram”

Dear Abhaya Mudra & Patita Pavan Prabhus,
Please accept my humble obeisances All glories to Shrila Prabhupada! Thank you for your service to the devotees and your support of *grihastha ashrama*, which is truly a useful *ashrama* for sharing the message of the Lord. A faithful *grihastha* couple can support the spiritual growth of every member of society of whatever gender.

Again, thank you for your service to the Vaishnavas! Jaya Shrila Prabhupada!
Your humble servant,
VD (Canada)
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

“East vs. West”

Hare Krishna Prabhuji,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Shrila Prabhupada!!! All glories unto you!!! I had a discussion with a devotee regarding the issue of marriage between Indian born devotees with those born in west. That devotee is of the opinion that in India the decision for marriage is taken by the family of the brides and the bridegroom. And in such a case the families might be a bit apprehensive of those from west.

Prabhuji, I am a foolish person, you please guide me regarding this issue. Whatever you would say I would follow. Thanks once again for your blessings.

Your servant,

DR (Delhi)

Once age, status, income, and other practical details are settled, then qualities of the candidates and not physical birth are the decisive factor for marriage. Family orientation is an important consideration for karmis, but for devotees it is less so. Especially now in the depths of Kali-yuga, who can boldly declare that all Indians make great spouses? Or that Westerners are all lax in the marriage department? Krishna consciousness is the great science of individuality and each situation is unique. As you will read in the Bhaktivedanta Purports given above, marital harmony hinges upon (1) whether both husband and wife are sold-out devotees of Shri Guru and Shri Hari and (2) their charts enjoy ample astrological compatibility. That is the simple formula, one that nonetheless appears elusive to many who feel they know better than Brahma himself (who created astrology simultaneous to his creation of the planets). - Ed.

“Perfectly Satisfied”

Dear Shri Patita Pavana Prabhu and Shrimati Abhaya Mataji,

Please accept my most humble obeisances. All glories to Shrila Prabhupada and to your esteemed selves. I am perfectly satisfied with my horoscope that you have so carefully prepared. Your work is concise, to the point and very self-explanatory to me. I am very thankful for this, and wish to express to you my deepest gratitude for your time and efforts.

Your ever well-wisher,

SM (South Africa)

Dear Prabhu, as you know we spend many long hours on each chart. We are pleased that our time invested has paid off. According to us, a proper astrological reading should not be mere entertainment. It should be nothing less than life saving advice. Thanks for your kind appreciation. -Ed.

“Love, Respect and Gratitude”

Dear Prabhu and Mataji,

Please accept my humble obeisance. All glories to Shrila Prabhupada.

I'm very grateful for the chart you done. Though I'm still digesting it, it has made a lot of things clearer. I'm so flattered and grateful to find out that I have been born on such an auspicious day as Gour Purnima. My life changed forever when I met devotees. I was never satisfied with the life people around me lived. I always knew there's something more. Then I went to festival of India with HH Indradyumna Swami in 1995. It was like I came home.

With Krishna all is possible. When we put our lives in His hands miracles happen. I'm so grateful. Thank You so much! This chart really inspired me to venture deeper into my spiritual life.

With love, respect and gratitude,
All Glories to Your service, Guru and Gauranga,
Your servant
JH (Australia)

It is our good fortune that by the potency of the World Acharya we have all been brought together to celebrate Krishna consciousness. –Ed.

“ISKCON Devotee Marriage Mail”

Dear Prabhus,

I have seen the ISKCON Devotee Marriage Mail letter you have recently sent out and this is certainly a great service to devotees. The alternative, marriages based upon Kamikaze hormone rage is a flop. Let the Krishna conscious astrologer help people make lasting stable families that are nurturing...and which will help the children remain sane. One should never jump out a plane without a parachute. And never get married without consulting a qualified astrologer!

As for me, I'm all set, an old buzzard whose next date is going to be with the Grim Reaper!

OB (USA)

Dear Old Buzzard, You will be pleased to know that our Marriage Mail has succeeded in finding the gentleman a possibly suitable candidate after only three days! As far as the Grim Reaper is concerned, it appears that you and I are presently tied in this race, one in which the one who comes in last is the winner!

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