

WHEN GOOD PLANETS GO BAD:

VENUS & JUPITER AS FUNCTIONAL MALEFICS IN VEDIC ASTROLOGY

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Throughout the centuries, Western astrologers have viewed the planets Venus and Jupiter as benefic influences, both natively and by transit. In Vedic Astrology, however, the two can function as malefic entities, creating havoc in the lives of people with certain rising signs. Despite the assertions of Western astrology, Venus and Jupiter are not the universal benefics they are claimed to be as this article will clearly show. If certain rising signs are present, Venus and Jupiter can be the most damaging and destructive planetary forces, along with the two universal malefics: Rahu and Ketu, the north and south nodes of the Moon.

DETERMINING FUNCTIONAL NATURE

In Vedic Astrology, it is imperative to determine which planets are acting beneficially and malefically for an individual. What is required is an accurate record of the birth place and birth time. It is necessary to remember that ANY planet can function as a malefic influence, both natively and by transit. According to Professor V.K. Choudhry, chief expositor of the Systems Approach to Vedic Astrology, the rule for determining functional malefic planets for a given rising sign is simple. If a mulatrikona sign falls in the 6th, 8th, or 12th houses, then the planet ruling that sign becomes a functional malefic for that person. These houses are known as the dusthana, or evil, houses as they each have rulership over problems that people face in life.

6th House: Diseases, litigation, enemies, debts, financial instability, losses from theft or fire.

8th House: Chronic ailments, death, accidents, betrayal from others, failed joint financial ventures, things that create agony in life.

12th House: Losses and expenses, depression, places of confinement, prisons, hospitals, obstructions in life.

It should be noted that any planet placed in the 6th, 8th, or 12th house, either natively or by transit, becomes weak by the house placement. An exception would be malefic planets placed in their mulatrikona or exaltation signs. In these instances, the functional malefic planet will still afflict, but because of its strong sign placement, will act as a protector in the areas of life and health that it governs. For example, if a person has Aries rising with an unafflicted Mercury in Virgo away from the Most Effective Point (1), the person will have a keen and analytical mind, as well as protection from the dangers associated with the 6th house.

The mulatrikona signs and their associated planets are as follows:

Sun--Leo
Moon--Cancer
Mars--Aries
Mercury--Virgo
Jupiter--Sagittarius
Venus--Libra
Saturn--Aquarius

The various rising signs and their functional malefic planets are as follows. Rahu and Ketu, as noted earlier, act as functional malefics for all people, even though they themselves do not rule any signs.

Aries: Mercury, Rahu, Ketu
Taurus: Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Rahu, Ketu
Gemini: Rahu, Ketu
Cancer: Jupiter, Saturn, Rahu, Ketu
Leo: Moon, Rahu, Ketu
Virgo: Sun, Mars, Saturn, Rahu, Ketu
Libra: Mercury, Rahu, Ketu
Scorpio: Venus, Mars, Rahu, Ketu
Sagittarius: Moon, Rahu, Ketu
Capricorn: Sun, Jupiter, Rahu, Ketu
Aquarius: Moon, Mercury, Rahu, Ketu
Pisces: Sun, Venus, Saturn, Rahu, Ketu

If a planet is not listed above, then it functions as a benefic for that person. There are no "neutral" planets in Systems' Approach to Vedic Astrology. It is imperative to remember to avoid the colors and gems associated with one's functional malefic planets as their energies are attracted by and transmitted through certain hues and stones. Wearing the stone for a functional malefic planet is an open invitation for that planet to affect one's life more powerfully.

VENUS & JUPITER

As the chart above shows, Venus acts as a functional malefic for the rising signs of Taurus, Scorpio, and Pisces. Jupiter acts as a functional malefic for the rising signs of Taurus, Cancer, and Capricorn. Before examining individual charts, it is necessary to take a closer look at the two planets to see how Vedic Astrology views them.

Venus represents one's sense of beauty, the arts, the ability to love and receive it, the kidneys and lower back, the neck and throat, sexual love and happiness, the reproductive system, and capacity to enjoy life. When strongly placed, Venus confers joy and money. When it is weak, it confers unhappiness, restricted finances, and a stunted love life. It may also lead to problems with the kidneys and reproductive system.

Venus' colors are light blue and variegated colors. Its stones are diamond, white sapphire, clear crystal, and turquoise. Venus rules the signs of

Taurus and Libra. It is exalted in Pisces and debilitated in Virgo. The mulatrikona sign for Venus is Libra.

Jupiter represents one's sense of benevolence, affluence, fame, luck, one's religious sense, optimism, faith, hope, belief in God, higher education, teaching ability, one's sense of honor, and morality. On a mundane level, Jupiter rules over legal matters, insurance, astrology, priests, and physicians. Physically, Jupiter rules the liver, gall bladder, hips, thighs, and arteries. A strong Jupiter results in a sense of the goodness of life, a generous nature, and faith in the future. A weak Jupiter leads to a pessimistic outlook, possible weight problems, selfishness, a lack of morality, and a lack of faith.

Jupiter's color is yellow and its stones are yellow sapphire, yellow topaz, and citrine. Jupiter rules the signs of Sagittarius and Pisces. It is exalted in Cancer and debilitated in Capricorn. Sagittarius is Jupiter's mulatrikona sign.

It is necessary to remember that, even if acting as a functional malefic, if the planet is well-placed by sign and house placement and unafflicted by other malefics, then it will serve the person well in the areas of life it governs, even though it still can afflict natively and by transit. Let's now take a close look at a number of charts where one or both of these planets functions in a negative way.

CHART ANALYSIS

JAMES

May 4, 1957; 7 AM

Rome, Georgia

85 W 09; 34 N 15

James was a secondary school teacher and athletic coach with a long and honored career. As can be seen from his chart, James has Taurus rising which makes Venus, Jupiter, Mars, Rahu, and Ketu his functional malefic planets. Venus is the lord of the 6th house of disease, litigation, and enemies and it is weakly placed conjunct Ketu in the 12th house of losses and obstructions. Furthermore, Jupiter is closely afflicting Venus and Ketu. Jupiter is the lord of the 8th house of scandals, agonies, and disputes. Given the weakness of the 6th lord, it is to be expected that James is vulnerable to 6th house affairs as Venus lacks the power natively to protect him.

On December 3, 2001, during his Mercury/Venus period (2), James was in front of a class of students before instruction began when one of them, a girl, complained to James that her back hurt. She asked if he would rub her back for a little while to help her. James did so.

Despite there being a classroom full of witnesses who all denied any

inappropriate touching, the girl told her parents that James sexually fondled her. The parents then complained to the school's administrators and threatened legal action if James was not fired. On January 4th, 2002, James took and passed a polygraph test about the incident. On January 7th, 2002, however, James was asked to resign his position at once or risk facing termination and a lawsuit. James complied and had to find new employment after a 20 year teaching career.

At the time of the incident in December, James was in a planetary sub-period of Venus (2), indicating that 6th house matters would be issues. Also, the transits at that time clearly indicate problems. Transiting Venus was conjunct James' 7th house and opposing his Ascendant. Transiting Rahu (nationally placed in the 6th house), was very close to James' Mars in the 3rd. Mars, a functional malefic for Taurus rising, is lord of the 12th house of loss. Transiting Jupiter was also closely conjunct James' natal Moon. For Taurus rising, Jupiter is the most malefic planet as it is lord of the 8th house of death, scandals, and agonies. For James, the Moon rules the 3rd house of self-efforts and courage. Jupiter's close aspect by transit temporarily weakened the planet as well as the affairs of the house it rules nationally.

At the time of his resignation, the transiting Rahu was still conjunct James' natal Mars. Transiting Venus was in Sagittarius, James' 8th house, and opposing James' Moon, lord of his 3rd house of self-efforts and courage. Transiting Jupiter was now almost exactly conjunct James' Moon. Transiting Mercury was opposing James' Mars.

All of these factors led to the end of James' teaching career. The weak sub-period of Venus plus the transiting planets at the time clearly indicated that James would not survive the bogus accusations of the student.

James' natal Saturn, however, is well-placed and strong and rules the 10th house of career. Despite it not being able to help him through that time, Saturn helped James keep going and he subsequently opened a successful business (not related to teaching). Because of his strong natal Moon, James recovered emotionally rather quickly. The strong Moon also helped ensure the success of his business venture as the Moon is lord of James' 3rd house of entrepreneurial pursuits.

DOTTIE

Jan. 9, 1962; 7:31 PM

Atlanta, Georgia

84 W 23; 33 N 44

Dottie's chart shows Cancer rising at 18 35'. As can be seen from the chart, all of Dottie's functional benefics are weak for one reason or another. Her chart shows a number of planets in the 6th house of disease and enemies. The functional malefics for Cancer rising are Jupiter, Saturn, Rahu, and Ketu. Jupiter is very closely opposing Dottie's Ascendant and is placed in the 7th house of marriage. Jupiter is the mulatrikona lord of the 6th house of

enemies.

With such an afflicted 7th house, marriage is a potential area for major problems and in Dottie's life, this was certainly the case. Dottie's first husband was physically and emotionally abusive. To "keep her in line," he routinely would beat her and choke her with the phone cord when she was near it. This is a clear manifestation of Jupiter being conjunct the 7th house Most Effective Point of 18 degrees. Remember that Jupiter is lord of the 6th house of enemies. In this instance, Dottie's marital partner (7th house) was her enemy (6th house).

Dottie's health was always fragile and this is easy to see given the number of planets placed in the 6th house of disease. In June of 1996, Dottie came down with severe mononucleosis and, to date, she has never recovered from it. Unable to work and on public assistance, Dottie began an affair with a married man who has led her to believe that he would leave his wife for her. This, of course, has not happened.

At the time of her illness, Dottie had just entered her Saturn/Sun period (2). The Sun is an indicator of general vitality and it is weakly placed in the 6th house of disease. Saturn is lord of the 8th house of chronic illness. Saturn, when a malefic, can also engender long, drawn-out health conditions. In short, the planetary cycles clearly showed that Dottie was at risk for health problems. Furthermore, Dottie's Ascendant lord, the Moon, is weakly placed in the 8th house.

The transiting Jupiter during June 1996 was in Sagittarius, Dottie's 6th house, very close to 18 degrees. In other words, the planet that brings disease was in the house of disease, afflicting its Most Effective Point. The transiting Jupiter was also closely conjunct Dottie's Mars and Venus--both placed in the 6th house. Mars' affliction is particularly telling as it has much to do with the immune system. For Cancer rising, Mars is one of the planets that can help a person tremendously. When it is placed in the 6th house, though, as well as afflicted by transit, its ability to withstand attacks is limited. The transiting nodes were in Virgo/Pisces with Rahu closely afflicting Jupiter, the 6th lord. The lunar nodes are known for creating diseases or health conditions of unknown origin, or diseases that get misdiagnosed or mistreated.

To date, Dottie's condition has not changed. It is the unfortunate result of a very weak natal chart that a number of factors brought out several years ago.

RANDY

October 5, 1950; 2:30 PM

Columbia, Missouri

92 W 20; 38 N 57

Randy is a professional musician with tremendous health and financial problems. He has Capricorn rising which places Sagittarius on the 12th house

of loss. The other malefics for Capricorn rising are the Sun, Rahu, and Ketu.

Randy's Ascendant is 6:25 Capricorn, therefore, 6 25 becomes the Most Effective Point for all the houses in the chart. Randy's Jupiter is placed in the 2nd house at 5 degrees--within one degree of the most effective point. As Jupiter aspects the 5th, 7th, and 9th houses from its natal position, Jupiter also afflicts the 2nd, 6th, and 10th houses. The lunar nodes are at 5 09 Pisces/Virgo in the 3rd/9th houses. The nodes, too, aspect the 5th, 7th, and 9th houses from themselves in a chart so the nodes afflict all of the odd-numbered houses -(1, 3,5,7,9, and 11). in Randy's chart.

Since Jupiter is afflicting the 6th, health is a sensitive area for Randy, especially in light on the fact that his Ascendant lord, Saturn, is afflicted by Ketu in the 9th house. Randy has had a lot of ups and downs in his professional life (Jupiter afflicting the 10th and Venus, the 10th lord, conjunct Ketu in the 9th), various health problems such as asthma, sleeping difficulties, digestive disturbances, and severe allergies (Jupiter afflicting the 6th, Rahu in the 3rd). His Moon and Mars are strongly placed, though, giving Randy the needed strength to keep moving forward with life. Nevertheless, his chart shows the results of Jupiter when it is a functional malefic.

CANDY

Dec 16, 1962; 3:19 PM

Los Angeles, CA.

118 W 19; 34 N 03

Candy has 10 09' degrees of Taurus rising with the malefic Jupiter very closely conjunct the Most Effective Point of the 10th house and in opposition to the Moon in the 4th house. Although Jupiter is well-placed by sign, natively, it should be noted that it is debilitated in Capricorn in the navamsa divisional chart (3), rendering it weak. Jupiter also aspects/afflicts the 5th, 7th, and 9th houses from itself, therefore the 2nd, 4th, and 6th houses are also afflicted. Note that Candy's 6th lord, Venus, is well-placed in Libra, away from the most effective point. This means that Venus is acting as a protector of Candy's health, although Venus, by transit, can still produce problems for her. The nodes are also close to the Most Effective Point. Because of this, all of the odd-numbered houses in Candy's chart are afflicted.

Jupiter's placement near the Most Effective Point of the 10th house has created major problems in Candy's attempt to find a stable, satisfying job, despite her being a hard worker (Saturn, lord of the 10th house of career, is strongly placed in the 9th house in Capricorn, its own sign). Additionally, since Jupiter is afflicting the 4th house and the Moon, both signifiers of the mother, Candy's relationship with her was strained to say the least.

When Candy was growing up, her mother frequently told Candy that her birth

was "a mistake" and that she should have been aborted. During her formative years, Candy was running a 20 year Venus cycle and Venus is a malefic planet for Taurus rising. Additionally, in her adult life, Candy's mother framed her for welfare fraud, tried several times to have her child taken away from her, and refused to help her when Candy was down on her luck and living out of her car. Since the 4th also rules ownership of fixed assets as well as general happiness, Candy was constantly dissatisfied with her life and owned very little. The 4th's lord, the Sun, is weakly placed in the 8th house in Jupiter's sign. All of this does not bode well for the 4th house affairs. The affliction to the Moon also is not conducive to emotional stability.

Jupiter's affliction of the 2nd house of finance and family happiness has created difficulties in these areas as well. At the time of the reading, Candy was without a place to live.

I suggested remedial measures for Jupiter without delay to help mitigate its influence and away from influencing her life so badly. I also gave her a Vedic-quality 5 carat garnet to help strengthen her weak Sun. Hopefully, she will follow up on the suggestions I gave her and improve her life. The one thing going for her in her chart is her strongly placed Saturn which for Taurus rising is a major benefic planet.

SHIRLEY

February 22, 1938; 7:54 AM
Chico, CA.

Shirley has 4 32 Pisces rising. Pisces places Libra, Venus' mulatrikona sign, on the 8th house so Venus becomes the most malefic planet for this rising sign. Natally, Venus is weakly placed in the 12th house of losses, closely conjunct another malefic planet, the Sun. The Sun and Venus are, therefore, mutually afflicting each other. Since the Sun rules the 6th house of disease and enemies and since the Sun is a general indicator of one's physical vitality, the natal placement does not bode well for Shirley's health in general.

During her Venus/Rahu period in 1970, Shirley had a number of accidents which severely damaged her neck. She was unable to work for several years, but rebounded nicely when she opened a successful jewelery store. Mars, the lord of her 2nd house of finance and gems, is well-placed and unafflicted in Pisces in the 1st house.

Many years later, during her Moon/Venus period, Shirley reinjured her neck and, once again, had to stop working and live off her savings. By the time she was well again, her "nest egg" had dwindled down to practically nothing. Venus rules the neck area and Shirley's Moon is debilitated in Scorpio, although it is placed in the 9th house. Remember that Venus is lord of the 8th house of accidents--the very things that took Shirley's livelihood away from her.

Despite the great losses in her life, Shirley remains optimistic for the future and is, basically, happy. Her strong Mars has undoubtedly helped her through her life.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

When Jupiter and/or Venus are acting as functional malefic planets, it is imperative for the individual to avoid the colors and stones associated with them (noted above). Additionally, certain remedial actions can be suggested to help pacify the malefic planets. Regular performance of the remedies should produce considerable benefit to the person, depending of course on the location of the malefics. Remedial actions also help with mollifying the transit effect of the malefics.

Venus can be propitiated by one of the following remedial actions:

1. Helping distressed women.
2. Donating nice clothes to the poor.
3. Being extra considerate of one's wife.
4. Meditating to the Hindu chants for Lakshmi, the goddess of love and beauty.

Jupiter can be propitiated by one of the following remedial actions:

1. Offering service to one's guru/teacher.
2. Offering yellow-colored food to the birds in the morning before breakfast and after bathing.
3. Offering bananas or yellow apples to poor people.
4. Meditating to the Hindu chants for Ganesh, the god of knowledge and remover of obstacles.

Remember, however, that remedial actions will not strengthen weakly placed or afflicted benefic planets. Separate measures must be taken to bring energy to weakly placed benefics. Gem and color therapy are a standard here.

CONCLUSION

Far from being benefic planets for all, Venus and Jupiter can and do act as malefic forces for several rising signs. Knowing how to identify and deal with them is essential for one's happiness.

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For more information on the Systems' Approach to Vedic Astrology, see the book, *Astrology For Life* by David Hawthorne and V.K. Choudhry, available from <http://www.astroview.com/> or by calling 641-472-3799.

NOTES

1. The Most Effective Point is the degree number of the Ascendant. It is the most sensitive point of any house in a chart. Planets that come within 5 degrees of the Most Effective Point, either natively or by transit, can impact a person for good or ill, depending on their functional nature.
2. In Vedic Astrology, one's life goes through certain planetary cycles, determined by the Moon's position at the time of one's birth. These cycles are called mahadashas. During a mahadasha, one will go through sub-periods of other planets for varying lengths of time. The first planet named is the mahadasha planet, with the second planet named being the sub-period planet. The house placement and strength of the second planet, as well as the house of its mulatrikona sign, will tell an astrologer where the focus is in someone's life at any given moment. Bear in mind, however, that current transits of the planets also factor into this judgement.
3. Vedic Astrology divides up a natal chart into various charts called vargas, or divisional charts. Divisional charts are a way to closely analyze a specific area of life.