

Budha-deva (Mercury Planet)



When Chandradeva (the Moon) came of age, he conquered the three worlds and several times performed the Rajasuya sacrifice, which gives Lordship. Nine goddesses served him as well as many other deities. Then, having achieved rare glory, he became inordinately arrogant and overstepped the boundaries of propriety. Chandradeva was the chief disciple of Jupiter (Brihaspatideva), the guru of the celestials and was also the favourite of Tara (The Star), Jupiter's wife, who was attracted to him by his character, nature and beauty. Once it so happened - when Jupiter was away on an errand for the Devas, Tara and Chandradeva eloped. When Jupiter returned home, he found out that his wife was gone, and discovered her whereabouts, and several times sent messages to the Moon requesting his wife's return. Chandradeva, however, repeatedly refused to comply with these requests, maintaining that Tara had accompanied him on her own accord and would leave only when she was satiated with him. These replies so infuriated Jupiter that he communicated with them to his disciple Lord Indra deva, who sent an ultimatum to the Moon. When the Moon refused to yield, Indra deva then commenced a war. Venus and the asuras (demons) took the side of the Moon in this war, because of the ongoing enmity between Jupiter and Venus, while Lord Shiva took the side of the devas for his love and respect for his preceptor Angiras Maha Rishi, the Rishi who was Jupiter's father. As the battle was due to the desire (kama) for Tara, it was known as Tara-kaamayam. The war dragged on for so long that the Great Rishis began to fear that the end of the world was nigh. Maha Rishi Angiras therefore asked Lord Brahma to reprimand the Moon and order him to return Tara. This the Moon did, but he returned her pregnant. When Jupiter learned of this he was of course very furious and said to her, "you weak willed woman! Expel from your womb, which is my field to plough, this foetus which was planted by another. I am sorely tempted to reduce you to ashes for this lapse of morality, the only reason I do not do so is that I am myself eager to sow my

seed in you". Then Tara bashfully ejected the foetus, which was a male child (Mercury personified), radiant like gold. Seeing the child's splendor both Jupiter and the Moon hankered after him, and both claimed paternity, demanding that Tara declare the true father's name. But Tara kept silent. Budha himself got angry over this tussle and asked his mother to tell the truth. When Tara was eventually questioned by Lord Brahma she said the father is indeed the Moon. This child was accorded with the planet Mercury and thus called Budha-deva. It was after this abduction adventure that the Moon due to the wheels of his Karma could not bear any children with his 27 wives (the daughters of Daksha). Chandra gives the child Budha to Rohini and Kritika, two of his wives, to raise and thus Budha grows up under supervision of Rohini and Kritika. As he grows up, he feels angry and ashamed about his birth. He wants to rectify the sin of his birth and hence goes to Saravanavana in the Himalayas to do Tapas (austerities). Lord Vishnu, pleased with the tapas, revealed himself to Budha. By Lord Vishnu's blessings Budhadeva learns all the Vedas and arts. Later Budha-deva married Ila, the daughter of Vaivasvata Manu (the son of the Planet Sun) and fathered a son Pururava.

Budha is the name for the planet Mercury, the son of Chandra (the moon) with Tara. Budha presides over 'Budhavara' or Wednesday. He is represented as being mild, eloquent, and having a greenish complexion. He is represented holding a scimitar (a backsword or sabre with a curved blade), a club and a shield, riding a winged lion. In other illustrations, he holds a sceptre and lotus and rides an eagle or a chariot drawn by lions.

In Vedic astrology Budha is considered a benefic, unless he is joined with a malefic planet, in which case he becomes malefic as well. Mercury is also considered to be two-faced. Like a true politician, Mercury becomes very auspicious when he conjoins with auspicious planets, and when he conjoins with malefic planets he himself becomes malefic. Budha is friendly with the Sun and Venus, hostile to the Moon and neutral towards the other planets. Mercury is generally considered as the crest jewel of the Nine Planets because of his extraordinary prowess. He is the most intelligent of the 9 planets and he removes all the obstacles of those who worship him. As far as possible he causes no inauspicious events, but rather creates prosperity for everyone. By providing all living beings with supreme discernment he illumines their paths, both material and spiritual, through life. Budha represents intelligence, intellect, communication, analysis, the senses (especially the skin), science, mathematics, business, education and research. The written word and journeys of all types fall within his domain. Budha has the following associations: the colour green, the metal brass and gemstone emerald. The direction associated with Budha is north, the season is autumn and the element is earth.

The planet Mercury (Budha-deva) in Vedic astrology.

Mercury is the great messenger of the Devas. He is the planet which represents speech, communication and commerce on all levels. In his lower function he organizes and articulates material resources. On a higher level he connects us with our inner capacities, the powers of the mind.

As Jupiter generally represents the higher or abstract mind, Mercury indicates the lower or concrete mind, the intellect or informational mentality. However, Mercury is not limited to this. He also shows the higher mind in its discriminating ability and connects us with the Divine Word or word of truth. Mercury governs writing, education, calculation and thought. Mercury is the fastest moving of the planets and so is indicative of quick comprehension, facility, and ease in expression. Mercury provides for the quick correlation of ideas, the fast interchange of information or of things of value. He is mental and nervous energy in its

articulate activity. He shows our intellectual powers and the degree of mental development in life.

Mercury is a child and indicates the state of childhood generally, particularly in the period between infancy and adolescence. Afflictions to Mercury may mean health problems in childhood, troubles in the home life or difficulty at school. The mind and nervous system, as well as the lungs may suffer. As a planet of commerce, Mercury represents trade, or articles of trade, including money. Though not in himself a planet of wealth, he is helpful in both acquiring it and keeping it, as he helps us organize it. He is necessary whenever there is to be an exchange of ideas or commodities.

Mercury is an important factor for determining our vocation, as that is what we do in life to communicate with others - our interchange with society. Mercury shows how we appear and how we function in the network of transactions that makes up the world of things and ideas. In this regard, his representation of our education or training in life comes into play. He is the child that is the father of the man.

Mercury is the most mutable (capable of change) of the planets. As such he easily takes upon himself the nature of the other planets with which he is associated, for good or for ill. He may value communication and public opinion more than truth, and become dependent on and defensive of whatever is the strongest environmental influence.

A weak Mercury in one's chart makes one rationalize things to suit one's purpose. It creates immaturity, naivete and folly. It can create dishonesty, a lack of properly defined boundaries. This may make a person a thief, not because they are cruel, but because they do not respect anything as belonging to another. They take what they need according to a childish view of life that the world should provide for them. They have no objective perception and are caught in childish fantasies and may even believe that what they have taken was really given to them or merited by them. In this regard, Mercury is like the Moon. He is the child of the Moon. He is the mind which does not perceive but can merely organize ideas. If the mind orients itself towards the perception of truth, then it will see the falseness of the external world and the reality of the inner consciousness. If it orients itself to the images of the senses as reality in itself, then it will see the outer world as real and create a scientific view of life. If, however, it orients itself to our selfish fears and desires as reality, it will create illusion, a neurotic or even schizophrenic view of life.

In Sanskrit, Mercury is Budha, which means intelligence or cognisance, and relates to the Buddhi, the faculty of determination whereby we discern the real from the unreal thereby becoming fully awakened which leads one to become enlightened, i.e. a "Buddha"). When this faculty judges reality not by appearances then it functions rightly and the higher power of Mercury is revealed. When it discriminates names and forms we become caught in the apparent reality of the external world.

A well-placed Mercury in one's birth chart is of great importance in life. Our Mercury establishes our values in life. Material values, like prices and standards of measurement, artistic values, as well as spiritual values like seeing all life as sacred, are different aspects of the value sense of Mercury. A good Mercury also gives good humour and psychological balance. It imparts a mental adaptability that is also playful. He is the trickster but can become deceptive. When afflicted Mercury becomes the fool, the idiot. Sometimes, even when wise, he will play the fool to express his adaptability and wit and to learn what would otherwise be hidden from him. Under a strong negative Saturn influence Mercury can lose its power and show lack of intelligence. Afflictions to Mercury do not always give lack of intelligence or intellect, however. They may cause some other harm, like speech defects,

nervous system disorders or neurosis. Intelligence can be given by other planets, like Jupiter, but without a strong Mercury there will be difficulty in expressing it, particularly through the written word. Mercury determines our expression in life. Of what value is what we do or who we are if it cannot be in some way communicated, expressed or shared?

Mercury is very important in the modern culture and one of its most beneficial powers - the need to establish open communication that must lead to a world culture. Telephones, radios, televisions and computers are products of Mercurial needs aligned with the engineering capacity of Mars. Yet so far we remain caught in the lower domain of Mercury and are only sharing superficial wealth and information, not communing with our deeper Self. We are swamped with massive and usually trivial data through the development of the lower Mercury principle through the mass media. Astrology itself requires a strong Mercury in one's birth chart for its needs of calculation and communication. As our principle of balance, Mercury is often the point at which we can change our lives for higher purposes.

IN YOUR CHART MERCURY CONTROLS (IN YOUR LIFE):- accuracy, analytical, adjustment, not original, averse to love/devotion, communications, editing, comprehension, research, computer knowledge, convertible nature, sexless, diplomacy, discrimination, elegance, eloquence, fun, liberal, general success, green things, idealism, averse to intelligence, knowledge, wit, intuition, memory, logic, journalists, mathematics, medicine, astrology, medium of truth, sciences, messengers, public speakers, polarization, its central quality, publishers, scholars, short distance day to day travel, skin, virility, speech, writing, study, books, education, Lord Vishnu.

WHEN MERCURY IS BENEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- one will be intelligent, has good humour, good psychological balance, analytical, one will be able to grasp subjects very quickly, very good retentive powers, reproductive ability, very good researcher into mysteries and learning, sharp witty, learning almost anything without even a teacher and ambitions of being exquisite in every science.

WHEN MERCURY IS MALEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- an afflicted Mercury in your birth chart will make the benefics given above negative in your life making one a cheat, liar, writing nasty things, a gambler, conceited, showy with vain statements extolling him/herself, talkative, perverted, eccentric, unprincipled, inconsistent, boastful, suffering from vertigo, lethargy, giddiness in the head, madness, diseases of the brain, T.B., stammering and imperfection of the tongue, defects of memory, dry coughs, gout of hands and feet, leprosy, cancer, indigestion, disorders of the nervous system, nervous breakdown.

If Mercury is afflicted by Mars in your chart then there will be disputes, litigation, loss through theft, risky ventures, hasty decisions leading to public scandal and criticism, loss through fraud, cheating and forgery.

If Mercury is afflicted by Saturn in your chart then all of one's efforts will be delayed and one may be disappointed & depressed. It may cause disharmony and dispute and lead to debts and diseases. One may have poor education, memory, finance, health and retentive power.

Kindly note:- Some the information above may portray the Celestials (like Budha-deva or Chandradeva) as adharmic, but you should know much information that one reads in our Shastras is totally inconceivable to us mere mortals. To truly understand our Vedic Scriptures can be quite an effort indeed hence It requires a Guru to explain the intricacies and the secrets it has in It. Every event conveys some noble secrets in some direct or

indirect way. You have to understand It with one's inner self and not like a novel. The personalities in our Vedic Scriptures are of course not worthy of comparison to the characters we come across in a novel. In each personality in our Vedic Scriptures, are there to convey message(s) to us. But let me state here categorically, when the Supreme Personality of Godhead Shree Krishna and His devotees like Lord Brahma, Lord Shiva, Mother Durga, Lord Indra, the 9 planets, and so forth performs an act, it should NEVER be questioned. Yes, this will not go down well with many so called "new-aged" "I want the truth" people out there, but honestly what right does one have to question the Lord and his elevated servants? God can do what ever He pleases and He is not accountable to no being... BUT His servants are. The Lord has a reason for everything He does, and who gives one the right to question our Dear Lord... His Lila (pastime) is beyond human comprehension but we humbly tried to explain a little (with my minuscule intelligence) above as to why the Lord or His devotee acted in this regard.

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