

Brihaspati-deva (The Jupiter Planet)



Brihaspati (Lord of prayer or devotion) is also known as Brahmanaspati and Deva-guru (guru of the Celestials). Brihaspati is the personification of piety and religion, and the chief 'offerer of prayers and sacrifices to the Celestials', with whom he intercedes on behalf of humankind.

Brihaspati is the guru of the Devas and the arch-nemesis of Venus (Shukracharya), the guru of the Danavas (Demons). He is also known as Ganapati (leader of the group [of planets]), and Guru (teacher), the Deity of wisdom and eloquence, to whom various works are ascribed, such as the Barhaspatya sutras.

Jupiter (Brihaspati) is considered the greatest benefic amongst the Nine Planets, and only under unusual circumstances does he temporarily display malefic traits. Indra deva (the King of the heavens) and all the other Celestials are obedient to his command, respect him as their preceptor and mentor, and follow his counsel. Those who worship Jupiter regularly and sincerely lose their worldly miseries and can achieve all their (deepest/greatest)cherished desires. Jupiter is truly worthy of worship, for he is particularly merciful, and his wisdom is extraordinarily profound. Jupiter has a big-bellied body with a broad, prominent chest and a voice like a lion's. Jupiter is fond of sweets, he wears yellow clothes and wears a garland

made of yellow flowers. He is expert in the Vedas and all Vedic scriptures and all forms of knowledge. His mind and senses are disciplined and his intellect subtle. Attached to ritual, he follows the path of righteousness. His metal is gold and gem Yellow sapphire or topaz. Jupiter is the Lord of the body's fat.

Jupiter's father was called Angiras, the son of Lord Brahma (according to the Rig Veda 4.40.1). Once Lord Brahma grew passionate at the sight of some Apsaras (who are most beautiful, supernatural female spirit beings) and lost his seed (semen). He put that semen into fire and from that fire the great Maha Rishis Marichi, Bhrigu, Angiras and other Maha Rishis were born. Angiras was so called because he was born out of live coals (angara). It was the curse of this Angiras that caused the birth of (the greatest superhero of all time) Shree Hanumanji. Eight sons including Jupiter (Brihaspati) were born to Angiras by his wife Shraddha. Jupiter's difficult penances earned him his place as the Guru to the Celestials, and from this position he focused all his energies on advancing the cause of the Celestials by thwarting the strategies of the demons. Once Venus, (Shukracharya-deva) the guru of the Demons, went to the Himalayas to ritually worship Lord Shiva for 1000 years so that he may obtain a method by which to destroy the devas. While Venus was busy with his penances, Indra-deva sent his daughter Jayanti to obtain this method by deceit. She stayed for many years with Venus as his disciple and servant until he obtained the spell. Then, when he was about to return to the asuras, Jayanti accepted him as her husband. Because of his long-standing "familiarity" with her, he could not refuse her request. He therefore agreed to be her husband for 10 years, during which period both of them will be invisible to the world.

Jupiter in the mean time decided to make the best use of this opportunity. Disguising himself as Venus he went to the asuras, who gave him a loving sincere welcome after his supposed long penances. Jupiter settled in there and during the 10 years that he taught the asuras, he succeeded in removing the hatred and factionalism from them. At the end of these 10 years, Venus sent Jayanti away and returned home. When the asuras saw the two Venuses, they were stupefied, and in their confusion they declared that the real Venus was the one who had been teaching them for the past few years. The real Venus, dismayed at their ingratitude, left indignant, cursing them that they soon will be destroyed. Shortly thereafter Jupiter resumed his real form and returned to the heavens. The asuras, now like sheep without a shepherd, approached Venus again and begged his pardon. Eventually he relented and again became their guru, but his curse had already taken its effect, and for many an age the asuras were too weak to threaten the Celestials.

On another occasion the tables were turned, and it was Indra-deva who failed to give the proper respect to Jupiter. Insulted, Jupiter stalked out of Indra's court and couldn't be traced. When he came to know of this débâcle, Venus very quickly incited the asuras to attack and the Devas - severely wounded all over their bodies - humbly took shelter at the creator's feet. Lord Brahma-ji said "The asuras were weak when they rejected their guru Venus. Now that they have propitiated him they are again powerful and wealthy. You dare not try to confront them without a guru. You must get Vishvarupa to do your work" Vishvarupa was the son of the celestial architect Tvashtri and his wife Rachana, who was an asura (demon). Vishvarupa had three heads – one each for soma, liquor and food. Because of his mother (being from the demon race), Vishvarupa secretly made offerings for the prosperity of the asura race, using the head which drank liquor. When Lord Indra-deva discovered this he rather impulsively cut off all the three heads of Vishvarupa. Now this created a gargantuan problem, as Vishvarupa had been the guru of the Celestials (due to the absence of Jupiter). Indra was guilty of one of the worst sins ever - called Guru-murder.

One of the effects of this evil karma was to incite Tvashtri to create the gargantuan demon Vritra-sura. Tvashtri ordered Vritrasura to avenge Vishvarupa's murder, and only with the greatest of difficulties did Lord Indra kill Vritrasura. Since Vritrasura was the son of a Rishi, his death was yet another very heinous evil karma, which required Lord Indra to perform many penances while spending 1000 years inside a lotus stalk blooming in a remote pond in some part of the universe. When after all these misadventures Lord Indra finally succeeded in placating Jupiter (Brihaspati), and welcomed him back to his place as the Deva's Guru (spiritual teacher), Indra's rule again commenced, and he gained ascendancy over his enemies.

Brihaspati is described as being yellow in colour and holding the following divine attributes: a stick, a lotus and beads. He presides over 'Guru-var' or Thursday. Unlike a regular Sanskrit compound, his name receives two accents in Vedic Sanskrit, brihas-pati "lord of prayer", like brahmanas pati "lord of prayer".

He has two brothers named Utathya and Samvartana. He has three wives. His first wife Shuba gave birth to Bhanumati, Raaka, Archishmati, Mahamati, Mahishmati, Sinivali, and Havishmati, his seven daughters. His second wife Tara gives birth to seven sons and a daughter. Through his third wife Mamata, he has two sons, Kacha and Bharadwaja.

He attained his position as the preceptor of the Devas by performing penances on the banks of Prabhas Tirtha. Lord Shiva granted him this position, as well as his position as one of the Navagrahas (Nine Planets).

There is a wide debate whether Kacha was Brihaspati's offspring or his brother. But the Mahabharata states that Kacha was his brother. All Brahmins belonging to the Bharadwaja Gotra are believed to be his descendants.

In Jyotisha (Hindu astrology), Brihaspati is the name for the planet Jupiter, which is one of the Navagrahas (the nine planets). It is also known as Guru, Cura and Devaguru. Brihaspati is considered to be the greatest benefic of all of the planets. Guru rules over the signs Dhanu (Sagittarius) and Meena (Pisces), he is exalted in Karka (Cancer) and in his fall in Makara (Capricorn). The Sun, Moon and Mars are considered friendly to Brihaspati, Mercury is hostile and Saturn is neutral.

Guru in Vedic astrology is considered to be of the element ether (space) or Akasha Tattva (i.e. Akasha = Space/Sky/Aether; Tattva = Essence/Category/Truth). This indicates vastness, growth and expansion in a person's horoscope and life. Brihaspati also represents the balance of past karma, religion, philosophy, knowledge and issues relating to offspring. He is concerned with education, teaching and the dispensation of knowledge. Humans with Jupiter dominating in their horoscope could grow fat as life progresses and their empire and prosperity increases; and diabetes is an ailment directly related to Jupiter. According to traditional Hindu astrology, worship or propitiation of Brihaspati or Guru (Jupiter) results in cure from ailments affecting the stomach and helps ward off sins.

Brihaspati is lord of three Nakshatras or lunar mansions: Punarvasu, Vishakha and Purva Bhadrapada. The following items are associated with Brihaspati: his colour is yellow, metal is gold and gemstone is yellow topaz and yellow sapphire. The season associated with him is winter (snow), direction is north-east and element is ether or space.

The Planet Jupiter (Brihaspati-deva) in Vedic astrology.

Jupiter is well known as the most helpful, generous and benefic of the 9 planets. His grace has always been sought by the votaries of astrology. In Sanskrit, he is called "Guru", the spiritual teacher or the guide. He signifies dharma, the law of our inner nature, which is the

law of creative evolution and self-realization. He shows our principles in life, our guiding light of truth. The extent to which one has this can be measured by the disposition of Jupiter is in one's birth chart. He is the planet that indicates such domains of principle as law, religion and philosophy. He is a spiritual and ethical (sattvic) planet, which insists upon the pursuit and support of the good. He establishes our good in life and through his influence that goodness comes to us.

Jupiter is the planet of intelligence; not intellect which depends upon information or refined discernment (indicated more by Mercury), but formless intelligence which goes back to eternal laws, ultimately to the sense of the eternal itself. He represents our sense of the enduring and the extent to which we are aware of, live according to, and manifest cosmic intelligence. He represents the Divine spirit which establishes and upholds even the laws of nature. He gives powers of expression through solid principles which can produce anything from philosophies to institutions (not so much art, however, which is under Venus). Creativity springs from our inner principles, which are determined by Jupiter. He is expansive and loves to share. Hence his constant delight is in greater unfoldment.

As Mercury tends to show our outer career in life, how we relate to society on a practical level, Jupiter indicates our inner career, where we really find our personal fulfilment and what we enjoy doing. He indicates our spiritual mission in life as Mercury represents our outer expression. With a good Jupiter but without a good Mercury, one may be wise inside but will outwardly appear unwise. Jupiter does not give attention to detail like Mercury and so may not allow us to articulate ourselves with clarity. His concern is more with doing the work right as opposed to explaining how it is correctly done.

Jupiter represents joy in life, joy in living, the positive spirit. He is the great optimist who always sees the good. In him all sorrow, depression and melancholy is overcome or turned into a learning experience. Jupiter is the planet of luck, grace, favour, and fortune and so forth. He gives wealth, abundance, prosperity and success. In the lower sense he gives fortune on the material plane, for it is the daring optimist who succeeds in the end. He also is indicative of good karma, unexpected rewards. Those who win at races or lotteries or have great inheritances usually have a well placed Jupiter in their birth chart. In the higher sense, Jupiter is the Divine grace which can fulfil all of our needs without our seeking. He gives religious merit and spiritual beneficence. When Jupiter is with us, all life - all the universe is with us, as he is that cosmic and Divine beneficence. On a physical level, he is the planet of health. He makes us active in a healthy way and attunes us with the joy of nature. He gives vigour, vitality and a strong immune system.

On the negative side, however, through the expansive Jupiter nature, when it is afflicted, we can become overly optimistic. We will imagine the best and not guard ourselves properly. We will be vulnerable to the deceptive schemes of others. We can over-extend ourselves, go beyond our resources, be overly generous or spend too much. Our speculations will prove incorrect. We will try to do too much and yet will succeed in nothing. We may suffer from unexpected bad luck, bad karma, trouble with authorities and institutions or loss in litigation. Too much of Jupiter in one's birth chart can make us too materialistic, too enamoured of wealth and caught in conventional values and beliefs. We may become self-satisfied, too content and caught within the status-quo. Jupiter is a fun loving and joyous planet but when wrongly placed can get us caught in the pursuit of pleasure and luxury much like Venus. Though the pleasure of Venus is largely sexual, that of Jupiter is largely of groups and crowds.

Jupiter likes music and can indicate musical talent. He likes shows, ceremonies, parades,

rituals. He can make us into a showman. On a lower level, he like parties and can make us self-indulgent. His influence can make a good entertainer, with his love of expansive energy and noise. His happiness is in sharing, even when unspiritually oriented, he will cause us to drink with our friends and pay for the drinks.

On a higher level, he indicates the priest and is concerned with propriety, formality and hierarchy. He can make us enamoured of ceremony, ritual and display. Hence in Sanskrit he is also called "Brihaspati or Brahmanaspati" the original priest or Brahmin. Jupiter is the great planet of aspiration. It shows our faith in life and can indicate the religion we follow or the form of the Divine we are naturally inclined to worship.

Jupiter shows our devotion and dedication in life. As such, for the woman, it signifies the husband. In her chart it will show his nature, health and her relationship with him. However, this is more true of the Hindu society where marriage has followed family and religious sanction. For westerners, where marriage is more owing to choice or passion, Mars often is more indicative of the partner for the female.

IN YOUR CHART JUPITER CONTROLS (IN YOUR LIFE):- protection, benevolence, affluence, fame, astrology, councillors, advisors, religiousness, belief in deities, priests, teachers, judges, children, guardianships, charity, generosity, contentment, laziness, fat, expansion, largeness, devotion, faith, hope, higher aspect of cosmic intelligence, fairness, justice, honesty, financial dealings, foreign affairs, God's grace in this world, honour, lawfulness, master of knowledge & wisdom, insurance, legal matters, medicine, occult science, physicians, liver (purification of blood), morality, conservativeness, optimism, peace, opulence, performance of sacrifices, perpetuation of established codes, philosophy, pilgrimage, religious vocations, reputation, trust, scriptures, Vedas.

WHEN JUPITER IS BENEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- makes one generous, candid, high reasoning ability, proper judgement, higher attributes of the mind, religious, study of religious scriptures, respect elders and preceptors, joy, one receives respect and reputation, has progeny, gain of wealth, prosperity in life, philosophic and philanthropic nature, good conduct and morals, peace and prosperity and good health.

WHEN JUPITER IS MALEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- an afflicted Jupiter in your birth chart will make the benefics given above negative in your life making one not a moderate rather an extremist, false hopes, carelessness, debts, disputes, failure in speculation, worry through children, false prestige, loss by relying on others, donations beyond one's capacity, cheap popularity, unusual girth, misjudgement, miscalculations, diseases caused by a malefic Jupiter include tumours, liver complaints, jaundice, dropsy, diabetes, cancer of the liver, dyspepsia, abscesses, hernia, cerebral congestion, catarrh, inflammation of the lungs, flatulence, diseases of the respiratory organs, asthma, discolouration of the body, rheumatic fevers, troubles in the right ears.

Kindly note:- Some the information above may portray the Celestials (like Brihaspati and 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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