

Chandra-deva (The Moon Planet)



In Sanathan Dharma (Hinduism) Chandra (meaning "shining") is a lunar deity and a Graha (planet). Chandra deva is one of the 9 main Planets in Vedic Astrology. Chandradeva is also identified with the Vedic Lunar deity *Soma* (lit. "juice"). The Soma name refers particularly to the juice of sap in the plants and thus makes the Moon the lord of plants and vegetation.

Chandra is described as young, handsome, fair complexioned; two-armed and having in his hands a club and a lotus. He rides his chariot across the sky every night, pulled by ten white horses or an antelope. He is connected with dew, and as such, is one of the Deities of fertility. He is also called Rajanipati (lord of the night) and Kshuparaka (one who illuminates the night), Indu (lit. the bright drop). As Soma, Chandradeva presides over Somvar or Monday. Chandra is the father of Budha, (the planet Mercury) the mother being Tara. He is married to 27 Nakshatras (constellations), who are known to be the daughters of Daksha. His main consort (spouse) is called Rohini who is a constellation.

The following is from the Shani Mahatyama:- The Moon is the mind of all, the lord of the senses and the emotions and those who worship him faithfully lose their diseases and become happy. Because Lord Shiva wears the crescent Moon on his forehead, it is said that the Moon is one-eighth of an incarnation of Lord Shiva. Being the Lord of the night, the Moon schedules rituals and is a haven for the ancestor. The Vedas declare that the moon is none other than King Soma, the food of the devas. Whenever a sacrifice is completed, the essence of its offerings goes up to the Moon. As the Lord of plants and their growth, the Moon pours the nectar of Soma into the world's vegetation, so that it may be nourished and that it, in turn, may nourish others. The Moon is the master of the world's water, and rules the salty taste; he controls the tides and stores and controls the rain. He wears white clothes and white flowers, his metal is silver and his gem the pearl. He rules the blood in the body, and because he is of the nature of semen he is passion-filled. Whoever seeks sexual satisfaction should worship the Moon. While the Sun's rays are scorching, the Moon's beams soothe, cool and nourish. Thereafter, the devas drink the Soma beverage from the Moon during the dark half of the fortnight, while the forefathers drink that Soma on Amavasya (new Moon day). The Moon, who is of the nature of Soma, was born from the tears of joy which flowed from Atri Rishi, (one of the 7 main Rishis and a son of Lord Brahma). It is due to Anasuya Devi (the non-spiteful one), the wife of Atri Rishi, that the Moon took birth in our world. The chief devas once tried to test Anasuya's purity by coming to her as guests and imprudently demanding that she feed them naked. When thus challenged, that intelligent woman changed those devas into little babies and, removing her own clothes,

nursed them from her own breasts before returning them to adult status. Immensely pleased and impressed with Anasuya, the Devas blessed her to enjoy unprecedented children. Hence Lord Brahma's boon caused the Moon's birth in this way; Atri Rishi once stood with his arms upraised without moving for 3000 years. Then, when his body became thoroughly perfused with Soma, he himself became Soma, and rose up into the sky. The soma juice filled him so much that he overflowed, and Soma oozed from his eyes, filling the heavens with luminosity. The goddesses of the ten directions gathered to receive that Soma into their collective womb, but they could not hold it for very long. The foetus then dropped to the ground and assumed the form of the Moon, whereupon Lord Brahma placed him in a chariot. The Moon was then worshipped by all the celestials. He later married all 27 Nakshatra Devi's, beginning with Krittika, and this was almost his undoing. Although he had 27 wives, all of whom were sisters, the moon preferred Rohini devi, and remained always with her in her mansion. Anyone who looked up into the skies in those days would have seen the Moon forever full, each night, stationary in the sky in the constellation of Rohini. The Moon's other 26 wives were not at all pleased with this situation, for they too wanted to enjoy regular sport with their husband, and they pleaded with him to visit them as well. When the Moon, in his great infatuation ignored all of their entreaties, they ran crying to their father, Daksha, who twice warned his son-in-law to behave. On the 3rd complaint Daksha lost his temper and cursed the Moon with consumption (decay), thus day by day the Moon waned, losing his glow and his juice. No sacrifice could cure him. All the world's plants stopped growing, and soon, bereft of nourishment, all living things developed consumption. The celestials, alarmed at the possibility that all life on Earth would succumb to this wasting disease, then interceded for the Moon, and Daksha was shocked somewhat by this supplication and promised the dwindling globe that if the Moon behaved himself he would be free of consumption for half of each month. Chastened, the Moon now waxes and wanes as he visits each wife – once a month, for one day and one night at a time.

Chandradeva is known for having a series of disastrous love affairs. In the Vishnu Purana the following is stated. Lord Brahma's son was Atri Rishi and Atri Rishi's son was Chandradeva (The Moon Deity). Lord Brahma made Chandradeva the ruler of the stars and herbs. Chandradeva once performed a Rajasuya Yajna (royal sacrifice), but, because he successfully completed a Rajasuya Yajna, Chandradeva became arrogant. The Guru of all the devas was Brihaspati (the planet Jupiter) and Brihaspati's wife was Taradevi. Chandradeva kidnapped Tara and despite Brihaspati's repeatedly requesting Chandradeva to return Tara, Chandradeva refused. A war began between the two sides. Since Shukradeva (the planet Venus) did not like Brihaspati, Shukra took Chandra's side. Also on Chandra's side were the danavas (demons). Lord Shiva and Lord Indra sided with Brihaspati. Since the war took place over Tara, it came to be known as the Tarakamaya War. It was a terrible war and it seemed as if the whole world might be destroyed. The entire world then requested Lord Brahma to mediate and stop the war. Lord Brahma did stop the war and returned Tara to Brihaspati. But Chandradeva and Tara did have a son and he was called Budha-deva (The planet Mercury - not to be confused with The Gautama Buddha). Because of how he was conceived, Budha hated his father, and their rivalry continues up to this day. For the sin of abducting another Deva's consort, Lord Brahma banished Chandradeva to the outer atmosphere. After that, Chandra, set out to marry the twenty-seven daughters of Daksha. Daksha allowed this on the condition that the Moon does not favour any of his daughters over the other. Well, the rest of the katha has been already explained above.

Indu, one of the other names for Chandra, is also the name of the first chakra (group) of Melakarta ragas in Carnatic music. The names of chakras are based on the numbers

associated with each name. In this case, there is one moon and hence the first chakra is Indu.

The Moon (Chandra-deva) in Vedic astrology.

As the Sun represents the cosmic masculine force, the Moon indicates the cosmic feminine force. The Sun is the God and the Moon is the Goddess; the Sun is the Deva and the Moon is the Devi. The Sun is the spirit and the Moon is its creative force, which becomes matter; the Sun is Shiva and the Moon is Shakti. Together, they represent the great primal duality as masculine and feminine, active and passive, mind and body, day and night, independence and relationship, will and love. As the Sun is the Divine Father and creator, the Moon is the Divine Mother and creatrix. As the Sun rules time, the Moon governs space; as the Sun rules fire, the Moon rules water. As the Sun is the Self, the Moon is the mind. According to the Vedas - from the Moon, the mind (Sanskrit manas) was born. Yet the Sanskrit term for mind has a different meaning than the usual western one. Mind includes emotion and means feeling; consciousness in general that reflects upon things. It means thought, care, consideration, as well as musing, dreaming, imagining. As the Sun represents who we are in ourselves (our individual consciousness), the Moon shows how we relate to others, our social consciousness. As the Sun represents character or individuality, the Moon indicates our personality. The Sun is said to be the generator of power whereas the Moon is considered to be the conductor of power lent by the Sun. The Moon dispels the darkness of the night on earth and the Moon rules over the lives of the beings on earth. The Moon is like the window we are looking through. Whatever affects the Moon, deeply affects our heart and emotions as well. The Moon shows our capacity to receive, to be affected, but it also indicates our capacity to be hurt. It is the most easily hurt of the planets and indicates our general vulnerability. The Moon is easily influenced by every other force and this planet is more sensitive than any other planets.

The Moon, like the Sun, is a Sattvic or spiritual planet. It gives faith, love, openness, surrender, devotion, peace and happiness. It imparts the grace of the Goddess, the Divine Mother. It makes us pliable, sensitive and contemplative. It causes us to do good for the sake of others and to be obedient to higher principles. People with such a religious or spiritual Moon often have a strong connection with a traditional religion and may have had many monastic past lives. They have a sweet, tolerant and humane disposition, which can even become saintly. They are often the easiest people to be around and the least critical. They will tend to see the good in all. The main weakness of the lunar type religious or spiritual mind is that it may cause people to be too orthodox. They may rely unquestioningly on an authority that does not represent the truth. They like organization, ritual and tradition and represent the best of it, but when that tradition has become negative, they are often unable to question it, much less break away from it. They may be too concerned about being good than about finding the truth.

As a very sensitive and mutable planet the Moon can be easily influenced and overcome by other planetary energies. Saturn can darken it, depress it or give it detachment. Rahu can cloud it or cause us to lose power over our minds which it rules. The Moon represents our impressionability, our capacity to become whatever influence we give ourselves over to. The Moon is our capacity to survive in any environment, which can become a negative factor, whereby we accept subordination, subservience or degradation.

As indicating the feminine nature, in general the Moon can give beauty and attractiveness. It can make for a good wife or homemaker as well as mother. On the level of human relationships, the Moon represents the mother. It indicates the home or how we feel at

home. It shows happiness and the state of the emotions. It shows where we place our love, care, general affection and friendship in life.

The Moon governs water; water as a psychological symbol, water in our own body, or water in the world. She sustains our fluidity of body and mind. She allows us to flow. As such she is the creative flow of life, the stream of awareness, the waters of creation from whose well we must drink to find contentment in life. The Moon is also called "Chandra", the giver of delight and rhythm as the great cycles of nature, like that of the tides, reflect her.

THE MOON CONTROLS (IN YOUR LIFE):- beauty, conception, childbirth, blood, calmness, mental condition, clothes, mother, emotions, feminine qualities, glandular system, groceries, commodities, basics, overall health, overall life (like the first house in your chart), nocturnal, navigation, nourishing, passion, romance, peace, thinking, vegetation, want of practicality, white, water, womb. The Moon shows one's personality and represents one's mother. The Moon governs over impregnation, conception, birth of children, the animal instinct, the union and the embryo.

WHEN THE MOON IS BENEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- gives one joy, enthusiasm, peace of mind in life, one shows sensitivity, receptivity, caring for others and a nurturing attitude in life. It gives emotional maturity, responsibility and the capacity to have a beneficial effect upon society, the Moon also gives faith, love, openness, surrender, devotion, peace and happiness. In its higher nature as pure, receptive awareness the mind is one with the Self, the Moon and Sun are one in function, and the consciousness of the human being is integrated. Such a well-placed and spiritual Moon is found in the charts of yogis and other conscious individuals. Such a benefic Moon is often found in the charts of doctors, healers or psychologists, as well as good mothers and wives. It is the capacity to focus our attention on another and their needs.

WHEN THE MOON IS MALEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- an afflicted Moon in your chart will make the benefics given above negative in your life making one indecisive, have a lack of mental balance and cause suffering from over-anxiety, one disturbs family life, personality disorders, paralysis, hysteria, epilepsy, dropsy, colds, coughs, colic pains, worms in stomach, intestinal disorders, tumours, throat troubles, asthma, bronchitis, varicose veins, complications due to excess of drinks, hydrocele (is a pathological accumulation of serous fluid in a body cavity), dysentery, nervous debility, gastric troubles, cancer, typhoid, difficulties in relating to other people and emotional disturbances, wrong imaginings, hallucinations, psychological turbulence, creates lunacy, poor family background, bad education and other traumas to the emotional nature that may be very difficult to overcome and may indicate severe imbalance or disruption of the astral body.

In its lower nature as impressionability to mass influences and collective traumas, an ill-placed and malefic Moon is found in the charts of criminals, the insane or those suffering from neurological disorders.

If the Moon is afflicted by Mars, it causes the person to be impulsive, rash and reckless & will develop strong attraction to the opposite sex thereby causing ill health and bad reputation.

If the Moon is afflicted by Saturn, it causes the person to be depressed and funky. He/She will have fear and an inferiority complex. He will become pessimistic and have a weak concentration power.

Kindly note:- Some the information above may portray the Celestials (like Chandradeva or Brihaspati) 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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