

Mangala-deva (Mars Planet)



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In Jyotish astrology, Mangala is the name for Mars, the red planet. Mars is also called Angaraka ('one who is red in colour' or Bhauma ('son of Bhumi – Mother Earth') in Sanskrit. He is the Deity of war, a teacher of the occult sciences (Ruchaka Mahapurusha Yoga) and is considered the son of Prithvi or Bhumi, the Earth Goddess. He is painted red or a flame-like colour, four-armed, carrying a trident, mace, lotus and a spear. His mount is a ram. He presides over 'Mangala-varam' (Tuesday).

The following is from the Shani Mahatyama and the Srimad Bhagavatam Maha Purana: Many millennia ago the great progenitor Daksha (meaning – The Adept and the Skillful), organized a great sacrifice to cement his position as a great patriarch. To this gala, which was held at the confluence of the most sacred rivers Ganga and Yamuna, Daksha invited all the chief devas, sages, and other eminent beings of the universe – all, that is except, Lord Shiva, the very embodiment of cosmic consciousness, who was also Daksha's own son-in-law. When Lord Shiva's wife Sati (The True One) heard news of the sacrifice she insisted on attending it, over her husband's gentle objections. But, upon arriving there,, she, out of fear for the performer of the sacrifice, [Daksha] was not respected by anyone with a welcome, save of course her own sisters and mother who embraced her with reverence, gladdened faces and throats choked by tears of affection. But Sati, not being welcomed by her father, did not respond to the reverence shown with the greetings of her sisters, mother and aunts

who with due respect properly informed her and offered her gifts and a seat. Realizing that her father with no oblations for her husband Shiva out of contempt for the godhead had not invited the mighty one for the assembly of the sacrifice, Sati got very angry and looked incensed as if she wanted to burn the fourteen worlds with her eyes. The goddess, next for everyone present to hear began to condemn, with words filled with anger, the opponents of Lord Shiva.

Sati Devi said: "My husband has no one in this world as his rival, no one is his enemy nor is anyone embodied dear to him. Who in the world but you would be envious of him, the most beloved being in the universe free from all enmity? Unlike you, he doesn't find fault in the qualities of the seekers of truth, he rather greatly magnifies any little good he finds in others. And now you are finding fault! Engaged at his lotus feet the higher personalities exercise their bee-like minds aspiring the nectar of transcendental bliss and for the common man he is the one sought who fulfils all desires. That you of all people now have to be against him, the friend of all living entities in all the three worlds! When one is confronted with people who irresponsibly blaspheme the controller of the religion, one should block one's ears and walk away, if nothing else can be done. But if one can do something, one should by force cut out the tongue of the vilifying blasphemer and next give up one's own life. That's the way to deal with such matters! Therefore I shall no longer bear this body I received from you who blasphemed my Lord. Therefore I will give up this bag of bones that was produced from your body." Then Sati devi she sat down in silence on the ground with her face to the north. After touching water she then closed her eyes to find absorption in the process of yoga. Balancing the inward and outward going breath she directed her life air upward. She raised it to the place between her eyebrows. When she, right there within her mind, saw nothing but the lotus feet of her husband, and was freed from all impurities, soon the body of Sati was ablaze because of the fire that originated from her absorption.

When Lord Shiva knew what had transpired at Daksha's prayers, he first was immobilized with grief, then fury rose with him, for he is quick to anger. As his wrath reached its boiling point a drop of sweat of rage fell from his forehead, where the Moon dwells. (Do remember from the Chandradeva's katha, that it was Daksha's curse of the Moon which landed him in such hot water, and it was that same Moon who facilitated the release of Lord Shiva's fiery sweat for Daksha's destruction.) No sooner did this drop of sweat fall to Earth than it became a fiery being of unlimited valour who, after blazing his way through the earth and through all the underworlds, burnt the seven seas. This being was called Virabhadra (the Auspicious One), looked like a flaming fire, had many heads and many eyes and numerous of arms and legs. There Virabhadra stood before his father with folded hands, saying "Command me father". The Lord said to Virabhadra "Go and destroy Daksha and his sacrifice". Thus being ordered he, circumambulated the mighty Lord Shiva. Invested with the unopposed power of the most powerful one he considered himself to be the mightiest, and thus capable of coping with any force. With bangles on his ankles that made a loud sound and carrying a frightening trident that could even kill death, he, with a loud roar, hurried away, followed by Shiva's soldiers roaring with a tumultuous sound. When Virabhadra arrived at Daksha's sacrifice place, he and the other spirits/beings (like Bhootas, Pretas and Pishachas and the like), destroyed everything they could see in sight, and then Virabhadra eventually severed the head from the body of Daksha, the lord ruling the sacrifice, who now was an animal of sacrifice himself. They then departed back to their master's abode (Mount Kailash). When Virabhadra returned, Lord Shiva, being very pleased, told Virabhadra "you have done well to destroy Daksha and his sacrificial arena, and you have thus incinerated the universe sufficiently. Because of this I grant you the boon to live in the heavens, where you shall become the foremost of planets, O Son of the Earth!

There you shall be called Angaraka (The one who is red in colour)". Hearing this (that) (grammar...)relentless Virabhadra's frenzy abated, and he was transformed into a planet, the equal of the great Karttikeya (Lord Muruga/ Skanda). Lord Shiva then permitted Daksha's sacrifice to be completed, and peace returned to the universe.

In Vedic astrology Mangala is considered a malefic of the first order. Mars can be exceedingly cruel and becomes furious with anyone who worships him arrogantly, to the point where he can utterly destroy that person's family and prosperity. Those who worship him regularly, with humility, following the appropriate rituals, Mars blesses that observer with wealth, freedom of debts and (hence they) become disease-free. Mangala represents drive and physical energy, self-confidence and ego, strength, anger, impulsiveness, heroism and adventurous nature. Mangal rules over blood, muscles and bone marrow. He is associated with battle, war and soldiers. Mangala has the following associations: the colour red, the metal copper and gemstone red coral. His element is fire, direction is south, season is summer.

The planet Mars (Mangal-deva) in Vedic astrology.

Mars is the great planet of energy. As Venus governs our affections, our emotional and vital impressionability, Mars relates to our passions, our emotional and vital capacity for self-projection. We could say that Venus governs our incoming emotions - our capacity to receive emotion. Mars rules our outgoing emotions, our capacity to project emotion. Mars is the male and Venus is the female. They are the positive and negative, the active and passive sides of our feelings. Venus is emotional sensitivity, which can become refinement. Mars is the planet of emotional excitability, which can become violence. Thus, generally, Venus is the benefic and Mars is the malefic side of the emotions. Whereas the Sun and Moon represent our masculine and feminine natures generally, Mars and Venus do so specifically. They are planets of sexuality and the relationship between the sexes can be read through them, whereas the luminaries have a parental influence, from a more general male and female nature. When the influence of Mars and Venus combines, particularly in fixed signs, the sexual drive can become very strong and may dominate the nature.

Mars is the planet of power, strength, courage, aggression, which measures our ability to project force in life. On the positive side, a strong Mars in your chart is necessary to give us the energy, independence, will and self-confidence to carry out our endeavours - qualities it shares with the Sun. Without it we have no real interests, passions, motivations, determination, no real intensity or ability to carry anything out to the end and really accomplish it. On the negative side, this same aggression brings about competition, argument, conflict – and, when not checked by other factors, causes domination, control, violence and injury, a placing of our own personal will-to-power over the good of life. As such, Mars has always been well known as the great God of War. He can make a person militaristic or violent, turn them into a soldier or general, even a criminal if more malefically disposed. He can cause us to inflict death on others. He can also bring violence, injury and accident upon ourselves. He can cause our death.

The malefic nature of Mars is well known in most instances of violent death, whether accidental or intentional. Mars also can indicate premature death in a chart, as with the loss of the partner (particularly the loss of the husband for the wife, widowhood). He is the general significator for injury, accident, conflict and enmity. Mars creates misunderstandings, arguments, litigation. In this regard Mars is the selfish will that does not take into account the views and needs of others.

In a more positive light, these difficulties come about because Mars insists upon greater independence, differentiation and clarity of views. He makes us more certain who we are and who our friends are. He causes discontent and seeking until we discover the real source of power within us. Mars indicates arms and muscles and gives physical prowess. A good Mars is necessary for physical strength and athletic performance. He gives sexual vitality to the male. A weak Mars can cause impotence or lack of manly characteristics. Mars is a critical, perceptive and discriminating planet. His power of argument, on the positive side, can give good skills at speech, oratory and the good logical faculties. The lawyer, the politician and the scientist need such a strong Mars. With logic and science, Mars gives mechanical skills. He is the machinist, the engineer, the miner, the chemist, the electrician. He invents things to help us get things done better.

Mars rules tools, weapons, machines and their usage. He is the planet of work, effort - research and development. Modern culture based upon technology has had a strong Martian influence; hence our tendency to war and monstrous weapons. Technology and war go together as aspects of Mars energy we have not yet understood or controlled properly. Mars causes us to develop energy but it does not necessarily give us the wisdom or love to use it properly. It tends to regard power as an end in itself when it is only a means.

Combined with Jupiter, the positive side of Mars comes out as the capacity to make great achievements in life in harmony with law and truth. It creates the proverbial good guy who works selflessly for what is right, but who, however, may suffer from self-righteousness. Combined with Saturn, its negative side usually predominates, creating selfish, perverted or criminal tendencies, particularly when there are no balancing factors. Where balancing factors do exist this combination creates discipline and the capacity for great accomplishments.

Mars is the planet of action. Yet it is not just action for action's sake, it is the planet of goal-oriented action. As one's ultimate goal and highest value in life, so is one's action. Most of the qualities of Mars relate to his nature as fire. He can burn or give warmth, give light or create smoke, disturb or illuminate, but unlike the Sun, who is self-luminous, he requires some fuel to burn. We must make sure that his fuel is not the life or energy of another or the more refined aspects of our own being.

IN YOUR CHART MARS CONTROLS (IN YOUR LIFE):- Ability to organize, accidents, bleeding, disaster, actions of heroism, aggressive, ambitious, averse to control, bases, military, brothers, caution, determined, enduring, chemistry, chivalry, competition, combat, confidence, courage, daring, enemies, energy, impulsive, impatient, engineers, precision, goal-oriented, hates opposition, inimical to idleness, Jupiter regulates him, love for work, manliness, princes, passion, extravagance, police, army, fire, rescue, red things, self confidence, self employed, non-subordinate, strength, muscles.

WHEN MARS IS BENEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- gives ambition, desires, self-confidence, endurance, sharp wit, faculty to argue, go ahead spirit, quick mental activity, extraordinary muscular strength, great organising ability, power for practical execution, independent spirit, force of character, strong determination, ambition to come out successful in the material world in spite of oppositions and above all leadership in all pursuits. Mars gives the chance to accomplish everything which one desires, in a resourceful and ingenious manner.

WHEN MARS IS MALEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- an afflicted Mars in your chart will make the benefics given above negative in your life making one rough, will lose temper quickly and be fool-hardy, one will

be quarrelsome, ready for violence, lack of ambition and effort, one will be an extremist and a sexual pervert, reckless actions, acute fevers, small-pox, chicken-pox, mumps, inflammatory complaints, burns, ruptures of capillaries, fistula (is an abnormal passageway between two organs or vessels that normally do not connect), wounds, cuts, brain fever, haemorrhage, typhoid, ulcer in the intestines, hernia, appendicitis, muscular rheumatism, boils, tumours, septic poisoning.

Kindly note:- Some the information above may portray the Celestials (like Mars or Daksha) 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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