

Shukra-deva (The Venus Planet)



Shukra (clear, pure or brightness, clearness), is the name of the son of Maha Rishi Bhrigu, and preceptor of the Daityas (demons), and the guru of the Asuras, identified with the planet Venus, one of the Navagrahas. He presides over Shukra-vara or Friday.

Shukracharya possesses the ability of raising the dead, with the help of the Sanjivini Vidya. He is the guru of the demons, who serve him night and day because he uses the Sanjivini Vidya to resuscitate those of them who fall in their battles with the celestials. Venus' capabilities are simply indescribable in full. His power is astounding and his heroism unparalleled. All who worship him achieve their most cherished desires, and, overflowing with virility, he is intelligent, handsome and sensuous. His colour resembles that of snow, is fond of juicy things, of music, his metal is silver and his gem is the diamond.

Venus is the Lord of semen and ova and of the weekday Friday. Venus is the son of Maha-Rishi Bhrigu by his wife Puloma. Bhrigu Maha Rishi was, like Maha Rishi Angiras, born directly from Lord Brahma's semen, which meant that Venus and Jupiter, those two implacable adversaries, are first cousins. Once Bhrigu Maha Rishi was performing intense penance on the Mandara mountain, and Venus, who was then a boy, used to tend to his father's needs. It so happened that one day, when Bhrigu Muni was absorbed in a deep meditative trance and the lonely Venus was appreciating the beauty of the sky above him, the exceptionally beautiful Apsara Vishvachi swam into his ken. Seeing her so filled the boy's heart with delight that he sat stock still, absorbed in her bewitching charm, and all his

thoughts became centered on her. In order to distract his attention from her, his mind followed Indra-deva to the heavens (Indraloka), where he was received with honour, but as he was sightseeing in heaven he unexpectedly came across the Apsaras whose beauty had drawn his mind there in the first place. They fell in love at first sight with each other, and to fulfil his desire Venus created a hut from the thick foliage in a small corner of heaven, which he then enveloped in darkness. Then that couple thereupon indulged in lovemaking in their bower for eight cycles of the Four Yuga {Ages} (34.56 billion earth years). Then, when Venus' good karmas had finally been used up, he fell from the heavens down to the Moon, whence his soul reached the Earth through rain that fell a rice paddy. His Original body, meanwhile had long ago dropped to the earth after extended exposure to wind, rain and the sun, but the power of Maha Rishi Bhrigu's penance prevented it from decaying or being eaten. After one thousand years, Bhrigu opened his eyes to find not his living son but a famished, worn out body lying nearby. In his fury over his son's premature death, he was about to curse the Lord of Death, Shree Yamaraja, but Yamaraja appeared before him and said to Bhrigu Muni, "please do not waste your accumulated spiritual power by cursing me. I have already devoured innumerable universes. Besides, your son fell into this state because of his own actions". Yamaraja said further "your son is now performing penances on the river banks of the Ganga; open your inner eye and see for yourself" Yamaraja then revived the body of Venus, who rose up and paid his obeisances to his father. Venus then set out to gain the favour of Lord Shiva. After many thousands of years Lord Shiva did appear and blessed Venus that he would eventually become his son. Lord Shiva taught Venus the Sanjivini Vidya (a formula that revived the dead) which is known only to Mother Parvati, Lord Ganesh and Lord Skanda. Lord Shiva blessed Venus to be the best of the planets and his rise in the sky would inaugurate the performance of all auspicious rituals.

The katha goes that Mother Parvati once playfully covered Lord Shiva's eyes, which plunged the universe into immediate darkness. Hurriedly freeing those eyes, Mother Parvati returned light to the cosmos and saw before a young boy. When Mother Parvati asked Lord Shiva how the child came into being, Lord Shiva replied laughingly, "you created him by creating darkness, and thus he is your son. Let us call him Andhaka (Darkness)". Because Mother Parvati refused to accept the child, Lord Shiva presented that child to the great demon Hiranyaksha. Andhaka rapidly grew into a terrible demon and harassed the Celestials. When his army was annihilated by the Celestials, Andhaka took refuge with his preceptor, Venus, who reassured him that he would revive the dead asuras. Angered at this tactic, Lord Shiva captured Venus and swallowed him, and while he was trapped inside Lord Shiva the fortunes of war turned decidedly against the asuras. Venus wandered in Lord Shiva's body for 100 celestial years. Eventually, finding no way out, Venus emerged through Lord Shiva's groin and then paid obeisances without delay to Lord Shiva. Very impressed by this feat, Lord Shiva named him Shukra (which means "white", "the white planet Venus", and "semen") and acknowledged him as his son, thus fulfilling his promise.

Venus is of white complexion, and of agreeable countenance. He holds a stick, beads and a lotus and sometimes a bow & arrow. The Devi-Bhagavata Purana refers to his mother as Kavyamata. The feminine natured Shukra is a Brahminical planet. He was born on Friday, hence, Friday is known as Shukravaar. He went on to study the Vedas under the Rishi Angirasa but he was disturbed by Angirasa's favouritism for his son Brihaspati. He then went to study under Rishi Gautama. Shukracharya married Priyavrata's daughter Urjaswathi and they had four sons — Chanda, Amarka, Tvastr, Dharaatra and a daughter by name Devayani. During this period Brihaspati became the Guru (Preceptor) of the Devas. Due to the hatred he bore towards Lord Vishnu for what he perceived as the murder of his mother as she had given shelter to some asura whom Lord Vishnu was hunting,

Shukracharya decided to become the Guru of the Asuras. He helped them achieve victory over the Devas and used his knowledge to revive the dead and heal the wounded among them.

In the 8th Canto Srimad Bhagavatam Maha Purana, Lord Vishnu appears as the Brahmin dwarf-sage Vamana. Vamana comes to take the three worlds as alms from the Asura king Bali Maharaja. Lord Vishnu wanted to deceive the king Bali, who was the grandson of the great king Prahlada, in order to help the Devas. The sage Shukracharya identifies him immediately and warns the King. The King is however a man of his word and offers the gift to Vamana. Shukracharya, annoyed with the pride of the king, shrinks himself with his powers and sits in the spout of the Kamandalu, from which water has to be poured to seal the promise to the deity in disguise. Lord Vishnu, in disguise of the dwarf, understands immediately, and picks a straw from the ground and directs it up the spout, poking out the left eye of Shukracharya. Since this day on, the guru of the asuras has been known to be half blind. Devayani was the daughter of Shukracharya, who was rejected by the son of Brihaspati, Kacha. She later marries Yayati who founds the Kuru dynasty. In the time of the Mahabharata, Shukracharya is mentioned as one of the mentors of Bhishma, having taught him political science in his youth.

In Vedic astrology Shukra (Venus) is considered a benefic. The planets Mercury and Saturn are considered friendly to Shukra, the Sun and Moon are hostile and Jupiter and the rest are considered neutral. In astrology Shukra represents love, romance and sexuality, artistic talents, the quality of the body and material life, wealth, the opposite sex, pleasure and reproduction, feminine qualities and the fine arts, such as music, dance, painting and sculpture. Those with Shukra strong in their charts are likely to appreciate nature and enjoy a harmonious relationship(s). However, an excessive influence can cause them to indulge too much in the pleasures of life without accomplishing much of real worth. Shukra's colour is white, metal is silver and gemstone is diamond. His direction is south-east, season is spring and element is water.

The Planet Venus (Shukra-deva) in Vedic astrology.

Venus manifests the feminine spirit; she is well known as the Goddess of love and beauty. Our Venus shows our affection and sense of harmony in life. In the chart of the male, she represents the wife or lover. She is our appreciation of the beautiful and as such represents our aesthetic sense. Venus is the significator of art, poetry, painting, music and dance. She indicates our sensitivity, refinement and gentleness. On the lower or outward level, Venus shows our seeking for pleasure, comfort and luxury. She represents the pleasure of the senses and the comforts of the body. She is sexuality & sexual attraction and serves to make either the woman or the man more appealing to the opposite sex. She brings wealth as an adornment. She is beauty, style and elegance; the refinement of wealth and not just crude accumulation. Her concern is not just with quantity but with quality, with good taste. She likes gems, antiques and things of special value. She wants - not just for the joy of possessing - but to have the adoration of others.

Yet thereby she is also inclined to be vain, superficial and affected - mere show. She likes not only to exhibit herself and her own beauty but to display her adornments which serve to embellish her. She demands that we please her and that we be pleasing to her. She can become the pleasure that dissipates, exhausts and debilitates, the self-indulgence that can destroy us. In this regard, she is the seductress. She is attractive and fascinating. The web of her power can catch our energy like a spider and drain away our fire, our positive will in life, pursuing her favour which is often fickle or hard to get, impossible to attain. She is our

sensitivity that becomes sensuality through its impressionability; but her basic nature is good. Such a pure Venus comes out in association with Jupiter and Mercury. Her vain side manifests in alliance with Mars, which causes an excess of passion, emotion, sexuality and sensuality.

For Venus all is play (which on a lower level means "all is show"), and it is the pathos, the drama of the play that matters to her, not any practical or objective reality. Venus gives the sentiment that would sacrifice a kingdom for one's true love. The higher beings, the devas, are Venusian creatures and through them is the play of beauty in the world. Venus represents the higher astral and is the star of our astral light. She opens us up to the kingdoms, the realms of beauty of the Devas. These include not only the realms of art and the like but also many psychic abilities, powers of visualization and creative direction of the mind force. On the highest levels she opens us up to the heavens of devotions, wherein we can commune with the Divine in the form that most appeals to us.

In Vedic shastras Venus (who takes a male form) is the teacher of the demons, the Asuras, so as to subdue and influence them cannot be done by force but only by charm and grace. Venus also gives power. It is not only the power which fascinates but the power to move and to motivate. A strong Venus gives sexual power which on inner levels can be transmuted into astral or spiritual power and strength of will. A strong Venus can give charisma or power of personality. This may be a capacity to inspire, a giving of enthusiasm. But it can also be the power to hypnotize and thereby deceive. Venus can be the sorceress and has many forms of subtle power and allure to entrap one.

Modern culture is bringing out aspects of a negative occult incriminating Venus in the mass media, with its massive sensuality and cult of sex and violence. However, we will probably avoid the destruction that the Atlantis culture suffered, though we will experience some major difficulties from our ignorance. It is important that we use this glamour force in the right way. It can heal if used consciously or destroy if used selfishly.

A strong Venus is very helpful in any chart, as it indicates capacity to love, sense of refinement, beauty and purity. Love is the strongest power, and in this regard Venus possesses the power to overcome even Mars. Venus gives vitality, the energy of delight. Yet an afflicted Venus is one of the most difficult things to overcome - the capacity to be taken in by appearances. This lower side of Venus is evident in our culture with its emphasis on the pleasure of the senses. Even the artistic side of Venus has largely been reduced to this today with our emphasis on loud music, sexuality, bright colours and showmanship. We must discover Venus as the love of truth to overcome Venus as the love of appearance. For that we must seek the deepest nature of our love and not accept the image of glamour for it.

IN YOUR CHART VENUS CONTROLS (IN YOUR LIFE):- amusements, arts, beauty, pleasures, dance, attachments to things, attraction to the opposite sex, capacity to enjoy life, care for one's body, charm, feminine graces, clothes, comforts, enjoyments, conveyances, cultured, delightful, sociable, fortune, fame, generative system, happiness, harmony, health, illusion, infatuation, passions, immortality, secret of, intoxicating drinks, kidneys, love, lust, affairs, romance, making others happier, marriage, musicians, refined, polished, sex in all aspects, sexual - & love - happiness, wealth, prosperity, gems, wife, women, pink or rainbow, worldliness, non-renunciation.

WHEN VENUS IS BENEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- it makes one refined and gentle, kind, sociable, will have an attraction to the other sex early in one's life, will have attraction to all matters contributing for

amusement and gratification of the senses, Venus can also bestow all comforts in one's life and enable one to lead a comfortable life.

WHEN VENUS IS MALEFIC IN YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY THEN ONE SHOULD FEEL THESE EFFECTS:- an afflicted Sun in Venus birth chart will make the benefics given above negative in your life making one suffer from troubles in the eyes, irregularity in menstruation, diseases of the ovaries, gout, anaemia, complications due to the over-indulgence in amusements, eating, drinking, gonorrhoea, syphilis, injuries by accident through any vehicle, car accident, plane accident, injuries through animals, hellish/difficult marriage life, may deprive one of vehicles, conveyances, venereal complaints, indigestion, pimples, impotency, loss of appetite and rashes on the skin.

Kindly note:- Some the information above may portray the Celestials (like Shukradeva or Lord Shiva) 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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