

Introduction

Vedic astrology is also sometimes called Jyotish, or the Science of Light. Just as astronomy studies the stars and planets through analyzing their light to discover their position and nature, Vedic astrology tries to understand the relationships between cosmic light and the unfolding of cause and effect both in Nature and ourselves. This deck is designed to organize some of the basic knowledge of Vedic astrology, to make it useful and approachable to anyone. Through using this deck, you can develop the intuition and basic ability to identify some of the core components that make up the astrological system, as well as begin to be able to read your own horoscope and those of others.

The Vedic knowledge of India, of which Vedic astrology is one small part, has a highly developed cosmology or view of our universe. It is the only ancient culture whose estimation of the age of our universe is nearly the same as that determined by modern science and technology; that is, billions of years. The Vedas speak of airplanes, atomic energy, time calculation from the atom, the correct speed of light, binary mathematics, the wobble of the Earth, galactic time cycles, the Earth as round and the Sun as the center of the solar system. All these topics and many more have been understood and studied for thousands of years in India.

According to Vedic descriptions, life has not evolved randomly from an unconscious matrix of matter but has arisen as a custom creation by Divine Intelligence for the specific purpose of creating a place for the continued evolution of eternal souls. The souls come to this material world in order to gather experiences necessary for their continued understanding of Divine Reality and their own true nature. Think of the material world as a kind of playground where we have all come to play a game for which we need a material body. That body is like a suit of clothing. It is made of matter, which in relation to ourselves as souls, is an unconscious energy.

We the souls are the conscious energy and there are also Angels or Devas as they are called in Sanskrit. The Devas work for the Supreme Being and they maintain the park (the universe). They also give us our karma or the cause and effect of our actions. They work for the Supreme Being or God, who lives in a Transcendental realm outside the material park where we – and the Devas – currently reside.

The planets are agents who track and deliver the cause and effect that is constantly generated by all our actions on the playing field. So it is that Vedic astrology begins with a study of the components of the material energy, or matter, and traces their relationships downward into our bodies and minds. It also traces those same relationships upward, through the realms of Divine cause and effect and all the way back to their origin in the

Transcendental Divine. In that way, Vedic astrology is a bridge that connects the material world to the Transcendental through the medium of light.

Format of the Deck

You will find that the progression from the five universal Bhutas (elements), to the three Doshas (Ayurvedic body types), to the three Gunas (modes of nature), to the nine Grahas (planets), to the twelve Rasis (signs of the zodiac) and finally to the twelve Bhavas (houses), is both a logical and an intuitive arrangement. The person you see and experience is the building and the horoscope is the blueprint of the building. Looking at the person, you should be able to guess the basic structures of the chart; and studying the chart should reveal much about the person. In that sense, Vedic astrology is a physical science about how we are composed from the ingredients from the world around us. It is no different from modern atomic theory and the building of molecules - it is just a simpler paradigm for seeing the things around us. The ancient saying "As Above, So Below" is about the relationships that exist in Nature between small entities (like people) and bigger entities (like the Sun, Moon, planets, stars and Earth).

In other words, we all have small pieces of the planets' energies within us. For example, we all have varying amounts of earth, water, fire, air and space present in varying proportions in our body. In the various sections of this book, we will discuss each of these energetic tools of understanding. With a little practice, you will begin to recognize the Bhutas (elements) of which a person is made. You will see their Dosha (Ayurvedic body type) and Guna (mode of nature); and you will recognize in them the voices, abilities, strengths and weaknesses of the nine Grahas (planets). Finally, when you look at the horoscope, the meanings of the signs and houses will be clearer, and you will begin to be able to read the chart.

In the next chapters, we will introduce the building blocks upon which this deck is based. Each "level" will build upon and interrelate with the others until, like a snowflake, we arrive at the particular combination of elements that make up a unique individual. These components will include several levels as listed below, and this card deck will teach you how to identify each of these qualities in people.

Level I:	The Five (5) Bhutas or Elements
Level II:	The Three (3) Doshas or Ayurvedic Body Types
Level III:	The Three (3) Gunas or Modes of Nature
Level IV:	The Nine (9) Grahas or Planets
Level V:	The Twelve (12) Rasis or Signs
Level VI:	The Twelve (12) Bhavas or Houses

Vedic vs. Western Astrology

Vedic astrology is similar to and yet different from Western astrology. Two of the biggest differences are that Vedic astrology does not use the three outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, and the Vedic chart is calculated using the actual star positions at birth. This difference between the Vedic and Western chart may change some or all the signs of your Western chart, moving them 23 degrees or so backwards. This may change your Sun sign and the signs of some or all of the planets in your chart. If you want to know the technical reasons for this difference, see Chapter 9 at the end of this book. The reasons for not using the three outer planets are also described in Chapter 9.

The third difference between Vedic and Western astrology is that Western astrology is now separated from its original ancient Greek culture and is no longer supported by a complete and holistic philosophy. Vedic astrology, in contrast, is part of the large library of Vedic science and wisdom, which includes its sister sciences of Yoga, Ayurvedic medicine, Vastu (Vedic Feng Shui) and Palmistry. Vedic astrology is the oldest complete system of astrology still widely practiced in the world today.

How to Use This Deck

Last of all, this deck has been designed to make learning the fundamentals of Vedic astrology enjoyable, entertaining and intuitively approachable. You can try it out with friends, neighbors, family, etc. as a way to explore and understand others. There is also sufficient material here to support further study. The concepts presented include the core elements upon which the Vedic astrological system is based, and could be used as a reference for developing and reinforcing astrological knowledge. Additionally, this cosmological system greatly complements the other areas of study in the Vedic wheel of knowledge, such as those listed above.

The cards of this deck are divided by subject into the six levels listed above. Each level will be the subject of one chapter. At the end of each chapter there is a section called "Meditations." This section provides suggestions for meditating, integrating and applying the knowledge of each level into reading a chart or intuiting the nature of a person. Following this, there is a "Practical Application" section with exercises for deepening your understanding of the relationships between the Levels. Chapter 8 of the book will explain how all six levels are integrated into the process of reading a chart. The enclosed Jyotish software will allow you to calculate the Vedic chart for anyone you choose. This is a simplified version of the full professional software.

Each chapter will also include supplementary information on the levels. The cards were designed to display a concise summary of the qualities of each level. The supplemental information fills in the details of each subject and should be triggered by the keywords.

With a little meditation and practice, you will find that you may know more than you think about astrology. The deck is a tool, but the final instrument of knowing is your Atma, or soul. Try to see others with your soul's vision or eye. Remember also that the planets are Devas (Angels) and Vedic astrology is the science of how they work in the light of the Divine. Use the deck with the desire to assist in the unfolding of the Divine Plan. In time you will be rewarded with both astrological wisdom and a greater understanding of yourself and others in your life.

To order this DECK please go to www.Amazon.com or www.Manadala.org
Shipments within Canada call 1-866-872-6224