

Introductory Jyotisha (Astrology)

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Jyotisha is a Sanskrit word meaning 'science of light'.

This 'science of light' throws light on person's future in this life as well as on the person's past life, present life and future life. Our ancient Rishis and Pandits by their deep study and acute observations concluded that a person's vicissitudes in life consisting of 'happy', 'not so happy', 'sorry' states, from birth to death, are dependent on the spiritual powers of the 'nava grahas' (nine "planets") situated on the "wheel of light" circling around the earth at great speed. They have concluded that the person's complete life events depend on the position of the 'nava grahas' at the time of birth and have developed the science of light with detailed mathematical calculations of various effects. The position of the 'navagrahas' at the time of birth of the person is known as the 'natal chart' or the 'horoscope'.

These Jyotisha pandits and experts of India, among them many from Kerala, have written many reports and publications, most of which were in Sanskrit, with the "Suryasidhdhantha" considered as the leading publication. Countless number of Sanskrit verses describing the results of various relationships between these 'grahas' are to be studied to understand Jyotisha. It is stated that whereas study of any 'shastra' requires life-time of study before one becomes an expert in the 'shastra', study of 'jyotisha' might require more than one life-time to become an expert!

If Jyotisha is such a complex and complicated field of study, one may be tempted to ask, why start study of this science at this stage of our lives? Because, I have a "very limited goal" in offering these lectures and that is to promote my belief that learning 'the basics' of this science – the 'introductory' lessons – will help us lead a 'more complete' Vedic and dharmic life. Moreover, by understanding the basics, one is armed with 'better information' to enter into discussions with one's priests or astrologers about 'muhurtha' or special auspicious days for conduct of pujas or other events of their life.

Hence, I plan to offer a set of introductory lectures on "jyotisha" that will benefit all who want to lead a religious, spiritual and/or dharmic life.

All are welcome to attend. No pre-requisites, just a desire and/or interest or curiosity to understand more about 'jyotisha/astrology'.