



ISSN: 2456-4427

Impact Factor: RJIF: 5.11

Jyotish 2021; 6(1): 27-29

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www.jyotishajournal.com

Received: 05-11-2020

Accepted: 09-01-2021

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Longevity and life span and the role of planets: A study

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Abstract

The Vedic system of Astrology is based on the premise that the natal position of planets is dependent on the past karma (actions) of the human beings and given complete picture of the life of the person concerned. It also believes that the horoscope / natal chart of the person tells us whether the malefic influences can be warded off or reduced. It believes in strengthening of the weak planets to augment their better effects and to reduce the extent of miseries.

Astrology is both a science and an art. It is a science as its principles of determining planetary positions and planetary periods are based on mathematical systems and even the predictive tools are universally applicable. It is an art to blend the numerous techniques available to an astrologer for predictions depending upon the place and time. The difference in opinion of various astrologers is because of the difference in comprehension, analytical approach and expression power of the different individual astrologers.

The eternal and ethereal brilliance of the galaxies is a divine mystery which has enchanted mankind from the very creation of universe. The innate curiosity of man to unfold the mystery of unknown has lured him to pluck the "forbidden apple" from the garden of Eve. The greatest mystery which has eluded the man is his own longevity. Let us make a sincere effort to try and solve this mystery. Death is a very cruel sting in a natives life. Nobody can overcome death. Some die young and some die old, but it does come to all. Great English poet Shelly has said "Death is here, death is there, death is busy every where". The great Sage Parashar in Sloka 2 of Chapter 43 has stated "Knowing longevity is difficult even for gods." Saint Tulsi Das has also said "Hani Labh Jeevan Maran Yash Upyash Vidhi Haath" i.e. loss or gain, life or death, glory or disgrace is all the hands of God.

Keywords: Longevity, alpaayu, madhya ayu, poornaayu, balarishta, BHPS, phaladeepika, death

Introduction

The first thing to be considered after the birth of the child is the examination of his longevity. The other effects should be judged later. As per Phaldeepika which is a revered text on Vedic Astrology, there is difference of opinion about the actual time of birth of the child. The various views are given below.

- i) The time of birth is that when the head (of the infant) emerges.
- ii) The time of birth is that when the body of the infant emerges and touches the ground.
- iii) The time of birth is that when the body of the infant is completed, separated from the mother's womb.
 - a) In case of human beings, it is not possible to determine the longevity of a child within the first twelve years. Even is the nativity shows good longevity, the child meets his death owing to the sinful actions of the parents during this or previous births.
 - b) If the child dies within the first four years it will be due to the mother's sins. Death taking place within four to eight years will be due to the sins of the father. If the death takes place between eight and the twelve years, it will be due to the native's own sinful actions in the previous births.
 - c) The first eight years period of a man's life is treated as Balarishta. That which afflicts him till twentieth year is called Yogarishta (evil produced by planetary dispositions). When the longevity extends to thirty-two it is called alpaayus or short life. It is called Madhyamayus or middle age when the span of life extends to seventy years of age. It is Poornaayus when the period of life extends to 100 years.
 - d) A hundred years is generally recognised as the span of life for human beings. The division of this period into three portions constitutes respectively the Alpaayu, Madhyamayus and Poornaayu and this is recognised universally.

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The longevity has been divided into four segments by the sages and savants such as

1. Balarishta, which means child mortality, gives a life upto 8 years for a native
2. AlpaAayu which literally means little life span, awards a life from 08 years upto 33 years

3. Madhya aayu, which means medium life span, offers a life from 33 years upto 66 years.
4. PurnaAayu means full life span, from 66 years to 99 years.

Table 1: MRK – Maraks, BDK- Badhaka, ASC = Ascendant or lagna

Longevity	House	Signifying	DBA	Special Note
Balarishta	Asc., 3,8	Badhaka&Maraks	Birth in DBA of Maraca & Badhaka	
Alpaayu	Asc.	6,8,12 + Bda&Mrk		Upto 33 years
Madhya Aayu	Asc.	1,5,10,9,6,8,12+ Bdk&Mrk		Upto 66 years
Purnaayu	Asc	1,5,9,10		Upto 99 years
Dead	Asc, 3,8	8,12 Bda&Mrk	8,12,Bdk & Mrk	
Death	1,3,8	2,7,12 & bdk	2,7,12 & Bdk	
Harmful for longevity	Mars, Rahu or Ketu in 8th house or in the star of 08th lord or planets connected with Mars, Rahu or Ketu			

Longevity description

Badhaka

For all Chara (moveable) signs, 11th house shall be the badhaka. For all Sthira (fixed) signs, 09th house, and for all Dwiswabha (dual) 07th house shall be badhaka.

The Badhaka table is given below:

For all Chara (moveable) signs, 11th house shall be the badhaka. For all Sthira (fixed) signs, 09th house, and for all Dwiswabha (dual) 07th house shall be badhaka.

Table 2: The Badhaka table is given below:

Sl. No	Signs	Sign Characteristics	BadhakaSthan	Badhaka House	Badhaka Lord
1	Aries	Chara (moveable)	11	Aquarius	Saturn
2	Taurus	Sthira (Fixed)	09	Capricorn	Saturn
3	Gemini	Dwiswabha (Dual)	07	Sagittarius	Jupiter
4	Cancer	Chara (moveable)	11	Taurus	Venus
5	Leo	Sthira (Fixed)	09	Aries	Mars
6	Virgo	Dwiswabha (Dual)	07	Pisces	Jupiter
7	Libra	Chara (Moveable)	11	Leo	Sun
8	Scorpio	Sthira (Fixed)	09	Cancer	Moon
9	Sagittarius	Dwiswabha (Dual)	07	Gemini	Mercury
10	Capricorn	Chara (moveable)	11	Scorpio	Mars
11	Aquarius	Sthira (Fixed)	09	Libra	Venus
12	Pisces	Dwiswabha (Dual)	07	Virgo	Mercury

02nd and 07th houses are maraca for all the lagan, as they become negating houses for 03 and 08 respectively.

Table 3: The maraca table is given below:

Sl. No	Signs	Maraca houses	Maraca lord (s)
1	Aries	Taurus, Libra	Venus, Venus
2	Taurus	Gemini, Scorpio	Mercury, Mars
3	Gemini	Cancer, Sagittarius	Moon, Jupiter
4	Cancer	Leo, Capricorn	Sun, Saturn
5	Leo	Virgo, Aquarius	Mercury, Saturn
6	Virgo	Libra, Pisces	Venus, Jupiter
7	Libra	Scorpio, Aries	Mars, Mars
8	Scorpio	Sagittarius, Taurus	Jupiter, Venus
9	Sagittarius	Capricorn, Gemini	Saturn, Mercury
10	Capricorn	Aquarius, Cancer	Saturn, Moon
11	Aquarius	Pisces, Leo	Jupiter, Sun
12	Pisces	Aries, Virgo	Mars, Mercury

What Astrologer student is required to analyze in the issue of longevity, maraca or badhika houses are:

- a) Lord of these houses
- b) Planets posited in the star of Lords
- c) Occupants of these houses
- d) Planets posited in the star of occupants, and finally
- e) Noses, viz, Rahu and Ketu connected with these houses
- f) Planets posited in the stars of Nodes.

Hence, while evaluating any house, also student is required to take the whole signifying planets as mentioned in (a) to (f)

above.

AlpaAyu

Alpaayu is indicated when the following factors are weak or afflicted.

- Lagna/lagna lord.
- Moon/Moon's rashi lord.
- Fifth house / fifth lord.
- Ninth house / ninth lord
- Tenth house / tenth lord.

Madhya Ayu

Madhya Ayu is indicated when the following factors are weak or afflicted.

- Fifth house / fifth lord.
- Eighth house / eighth lord.
- Twelfth house / twelfth lord.

Poorna Ayu (Deerdhayu)

Deerdhaayu is indicated when

- Lagna and lagna lord are strong.
- Moon and moon sign lord are strong.
- Fifth house and fifth lord are strong.
- Ninth house and Ninth lord are strong

Balarishta

7 main conditions - (Phaladeepika)

1. Malefic in Kendras and in 8th house.
2. Malefic in lagna and in 8th house.
3. Malefic in lagna and in 7th house.
4. Lagna / Moon in Papakartari.
5. Weak Moon in 6, 8, 12th house.
6. Weak Moon in 1, 5, 7, 9th house with malefic.
7. malefic in 7th and 8th house.

Houses for longevity

1st house or Lagna – Lagna is the strength of a horoscope and is of supreme importance. The more auspicious and strong Lagna is longer the native will live in the happier circumstances. The Lagna represents self, physical body and beginning of life. It is strong when its lord aspects it or benefices are placed / aspect it or it is hemmed between benefices or it is Vargottam or in benefic Navamsa or Dreshkon. The reverse makes the Lagna weak. Jupiter and Mercury get directional strength in Lagna.

1. 8th house – It is universally accepted as house of longevity. However it is also the most dreaded Trika house as well. Therefore although it should be strong but not stronger than Lagna or 10th house, because in that case it will produce adverse results. Strong 8th lord placed in a Kendra without any malefic influence, native will live long. But 8th lord or Lagnesh if in 8th house under malefic influence, native will have short life.
2. 10th house - It is generally accepted that a native takes birth to do Karma as per his Praarbdha and one lives as long as the results of past Karma and Karma of this life are not exhausted. After Lagna, it is next most important house of the horoscope and represent zenith of a natives life. For a long and happier life this house should be strong and definitely stronger than 8th house. It indicates profession and reputation of the native. The Fiery planets Sun and Mars get directional strength here. It indicates rules over longevity because it is 3rd from 8th and 8th from 3rd house.
3. 3rd house – By principle of BhavetBhavam, this house being 8th or 8th house also indicates longevity. This being a Trishadya house, should not be extras strong or at least weaker than Lord of Lagna and 10th house.

Signicators of Longevity –

1. Moon – rules over the life of a native during infancy upto 8 years.
2. Mercury – rules over the period of adolescent from 8 to 20 years.
3. Mars – rules over young age from 20 to 32 years.

4. Venus – rules over young middle age from 32 to 45 years.
5. Jupiter – rules over middle age from 45 to 60 years.
6. Saturn – General Karaka for longevity and specially rules over period of old age beyond 60 years.

Acknowledgements

I am very fortunate to be a research scholar of Maharshi College of Vedic Astrology, Udaipur, Rajasthan and I sincerely thank our Honorable Director Professor Dr.VikasChouhan for his great support in Vedic Astrology and considering me as a research scholar of his great institution.

I am highly thankful to my Guide and supervisor Dr.Rudresh M Shastri, Director R & D, MCVA, Udaipur for his constant guidance and encouragement from the beginning

I thank all the authors of all the books mentioned for their invaluable contribution.

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