

## **Jupiter and its Cheshta, Ayana, and Drig Bala**

Jupiter, his directionless ways, joyous rays, and graceful gaze convey the cause of all the divine praise. Jupiter is the Karaka of spiritual knowledge, inner-wisdom, and transcendental insight on one hand, and wealth, children, philosophy, spouse (in a female chart) on the other.

Ayana Bala refers to the strength that a planet acquires based on its “course” or “movement” around the ecliptic and its relationship to the equinoctial points.

Dashinayana or Karaka Sankranti and Uttarayana or Makara Sankranti is the Sun’s Southern and Northern movement along the ecliptic, respectively.

Sun, Mars, Jupiter, and Venus gain Ayana Bala in the northern hemisphere (Full Ayana at 0 degrees Cancer, and No Ayana at 0 degrees Capricorn).

Moon and Saturn gain Ayana Bala in the southern hemisphere (Full Ayana at 0 degrees Capricorn, and No Ayana at 0 degrees Cancer).

Mercury has Ayana Bala in both Northern and Southern hemisphere but gains full Ayana Bala at the Northern or Southernmost point.

Symbolically, the Northern Hemisphere is associated with the Devas and the Southern Hemisphere is associated with the Asuras. The ever-lasting conflict between these

two forces creates the stimulation for the consciousness in the play of duality, thereof, promoting the cyclical rhythms of existence.

The Devas are associated with Idealism, Harmony, Beauty, and Bliss while the Asuras are associated with Survivalism, Disharmony, Repulsion, and Suffering. It is important to understand that Devas are not more spiritual or enlightened than the Asuras, they are just two sides of the same coin; reaping what they'd sown. They are always in conflict with each other, and a Human Being through Merit, Grace, and Effort can resolve this conflict and find freedom or Mukti, Moksha, Nirvana, etc.

Considering the above Symbolism, we can look at Ayana Bala as the strength of a planet based on its movement across the ecliptic and its relationship with the Equinoctial points, giving it the ability to resolve conflicts of life that continually require redressal. The planet with more than its minimum required Ayana Bala is capable of conflict resolution in the areas of life that its rules and influences in a birth chart.

Minimum required Ayana bala is 30 for Sun, Jupiter, and Mercury; 40 for Moon and Venus; 20 for Mars and Saturn.

Jupiter is the Deva guru or the teacher of the meritorious beings, and the fundamental teachings of Jupiter are along the lines of simplicity, compassion, and patience.

When Jupiter has Ayana Bala, as mentioned before at 0 degrees Cancer, the native seeks to deal with conflicts from a Jupiterian viewpoint. It does not engage directly, it is yielding, forgiving, and understanding. As we know, Jupiter is Exalted in Cancer which tells us that in its highest manifestation, and when it has the highest Ayana Bala, it seeks to have emotional expansiveness through nurturance, growth, and adaptability, and thus, the seeming conflicts of life find their resolve. Conflicts are dealt with knowledge, insight, philosophy, and divine order.

When Jupiter does not have Ayana Bala, as mentioned before at 0 degrees Capricorn, the native deals with conflict by becoming entrapped in blind faith, carelessness, faithlessness; the teaching of the life lesson does not enter the heart, therefore, the mistakes are repeated and form patterns of self-detriment. Conflicts seem unreasonable and unforgivable causing one to delve towards meaninglessness or self-sabotaging behaviors, this moving away from the ethereal clarity that Jupiter can provide. Idol worshippers, ritualists, and religious conformists fall under the symbolism of the hierarchical Capricorn with the non-hierarchical Jupiter placed in it.

Mercury and Sun can rescue a weak Ayana Bala Jupiter if they have strength. Mercury can aid in the management of the mundane disrupted by the carelessness of the meaningless weak Ayana Jupiter. Sun can provide the inspired responsibilities and duties that engage its masculinity to make provisions which the otherwise purposeless weak Ayana Jupiter lacks.

The practical recommendations that I would encourage the client to consider are;

Firstly, to avoid philosophization of the matters at hand that needs to be addressed.

A weak Ayana Jupiter already suffers from the inappropriate application of philosophical ideas; to avoid the attempt of doing so by itself can help the situation a bit.

Secondly, to ensure that day-to-day nitty-gritties are handled with conscious effort.

Management of the basics will help in seeing the main problem with clarity. This will enhance the Mercurial abilities.

Thirdly, to actively participate in Solar activities, where one is either providing, sustaining, or adding value to another being or a cause. This will enhance the integrity and the inspired self-sacrificial nature of the Sun.

The Sanskrit word “Cheshta” has the following meanings; activity, endeavor, performing, exertion, manner of life, gesture, effort, behavior. This tells us that Cheshta Bala is the strength of a planet to confidently express itself in fulfilling its Karmic agendas.

Cheshta Bala of Sun and Moon is discerned via Ayana Bala and Paksha Bala, respectively, while for the rest of the Grahas the following formula is given in Brihat Parashara Hora Shashtra. The process of calculation of Cheshta Bala is arduous and beyond the scope of this essay. Kala Astrology Software created by Ernst and Shrishti Wilhelm saves us from the mathematical mania of such calculations.

It is important to understand that Grahas with higher Cheshta Bala are brighter in the night sky, and thus their behavior is reflected brightly as well. The higher the Cheshta Bala the better the behavior of the planet. Retrograde planets are the brightest in the sky and therefore, a retrograde planet gains the highest Cheshta Bala.

The minimum required points for Jupiter are 50/60 points, this shows the inherent need to develop philosophical acumen and spiritual insight in the collective consciousness of our planet.

A strong Cheshtha Jupiter shows confidence in Jupiterian matters of philosophy, purpose, meaning, compassion, and expansion of consciousness. The inclusiveness of being is heightened and one's behavior will reek of Jupiterian wisdom. The faith induced by Jupiter becomes a cause of courageous endeavors which lead to greater opportunities, and thus, the consciousness expands.

A weak Cheshtha Jupiter will have an inherent fear of failure which will be difficult to overcome mainly due to lack of faith in life. One might have a limited understanding of spiritual philosophies and practices which causes them to focus on the material aspect of this realm, and during times of emotional crisis, the psyche implodes.

To remedy a weak Cheshta Bala planet, conscious attention and consistent vigilance towards the planet is necessary. With the sustained power of will through the cycles of time, the weakness can be overcome.

A weak Cheshta Jupiter requires an understanding of Understanding, lessons on how to understand. Self-help books and audios can be helpful. One needs to search for spiritual teachers, mentors, etc. If the individual consciousness seems to resonate with such a practice, mantras associated with Jupiter can also be of help.

Jupiter on a practical level requires contemplation, isolation, the study of knowledge, philosophical introspection, and surrenderance for the completion of its Karmic agendas. Directing one's attention towards practices of this nature will surely but gradually develop Jupiter.

Drig Bala is the strength of a planet to express its agendas with flow or frustration. The Sanskrit word "Drig" or "Drik" means "Opening" or "Hole", to understand this we need to look at how Drig Bala is calculated.

The formula is  $-1/4$  of the aspectual value of benefic planets +  $1/4$  of the aspectual value of malefic planets = aggregate positive or negative value is the total drig bala of the planet under consideration. Note: Jupiter and Mercury share full aspectual value.

A positive value shows sufficiency in flow, negative value shows frustration in flow, and zero shows ineffective stillness.

We now know that it is the numerical total of the benefic or malefic aspects that a planet receives giving it a positive or a negative value, or zero. While keeping this in mind when we understand the words “Opening” or “Hole” as a translation for the word “Drig”, we can say that Drig Bala shows the level of Openness/Closeness or Reception/Disruption with which a planet functions.

Note: Jupiter always shares the full aspectual value being the ultimate benefactor of all the Grahas; the ethereal matters of Guru always find creative ways to reach out to a distressed soul.

If Jupiter has positive Drig Bala life flows with ease. Knowledge gives freedom, children give joy, grace grants gratitude, faith encourages courage, one feels wealthy when impoverished and wise when wealthy. One’s dreams and aspirations are allowed and supported by their circumstances.

If Jupiter has negative Drig Bala there are frustrations. All the utterances of the previous paragraph are ineffectuated or disrupted by externality. There is struggle and strife, the planet may or may not deliver its promises, the rest of the chart requires consideration for such an inference (this is true for every Bala).

If Jupiter has zero Drig Bala, there is neither disruption nor flow. The Graha neither finds support from other Grahas nor is disrupted by them. The inherent strength of the Graha grants that which its karmic agenda wishes.

For a weak Drig Jupiter, the native requires self-inquiry. Since Drig Bala is associated with the circumstances caused by conditions of the past, it requires immense self-effort, grace, and patience. When self-inquiry via Mercurial methodical self-analysis or Solar self-sacrificing determination is allowed to happen, one can improve the condition of their Manas. The still waters of the Moon can then self-reflect with ease and the frustrations and disruptions will find their causes within oneself. For someone who cannot engage in self-inquiry practices, my recommendation is to serve the wise, consult them constantly, and practice their words.

In conclusion, whether it is Ayana, Cheshta, or Drig Bala, self-effort to develop patience, courage, wisdom, faith, forgiveness, and other qualities that are considered to be of benefit in general, becomes important. Analysis of these planetary strengths with such detail is not just humbling but also helps us direct our attention to the exact areas of life, things, people, places, etc, on our individual journeys. Vedic Astrology effectuates and makes practicable such an in-depth self-analysis for anyone seeking worldly or other-worldly self-improvement.

#### Resources:

- i) The Art and Science of Vedic Astrology Volume II by Richard Fish and Ryan Kurczak
- ii) Handbook on Shadbala by Ernst Wilhelm