

Celestial Dance of Shiva and Shakti

Eternal dance of Sun and Moon, celestial representatives of Divine masculine principle and Divine feminine principle, Shiva and Shakti, has inspired yogis, rishis, astrologers, poets and seers since time immemorial.

“She the Night makes all the worlds sleep. He the Day is verily the waker-up of all.”

- Cid-vilasa

He is the giver of light (*Prakasha*), while She is the reflection (*Vimarsha*). Their unique relation, reflecting the sacred relationship between Divine Mother and Divine Father, although one and eternal, keeps manifesting through different moments in time in countless forms. Every relationship is a mere reflection of this eternal relation between the individual and the Supreme. Whenever there is any “I” and any “you” a Divine relationship is formed in one of its unique moods.

Every such a moment, unique with its qualities and celestial rays, represents a different form of relation between Shiva and Shakti, and gives birth to different results. Vedic rishis have perceived in their meditation fifteen forms of this universal relationship between Shiva and Shakti, which correlate to fifteen phases of the Moon. They called them *tithis*.

Sacred distances

Tithis are nothing else but solilunar days in Vedic astrology based on the apparent distance between the Sun and the Moon on our sky, which determines the Moon phases, as well. All ancient traditions were calling the Sun, the Father, and the Moon, the Mother. In the light of modern science this couldn't be more accurate. The light of the Sun and its warmth is indeed infusing the Earth with creative energy and sustains our life here. But not everyone knows, that without the Moon, most likely there wouldn't be any life on Earth, either. It is our Moon's gravitational influence that helped ensure that Earth's spin axis and climate remained stable over long timescales, which is essential for the life to survive on our planet. As much as the influence of the Sun impregnated the Earth with life, the influence of the Moon preserves it. Thus the influence of Sun is active, masculine and

inspiring, while the influence of the Moon is passive, feminine and nourishing.

There is something deep and sacred in the distance between the Sun, the Earth and the Moon, which is already mentioned in Vedas. The diameter of the Sun is about 108 times that of the diameter of Earth. The average distance between the Earth and the Sun is 108 times the Sun's diameter. The average distance from the Earth to the Moon is about 108 times the Moon's diameter. This is actually why the Moon appears the same size as the Sun during eclipses. Dr. Manoj Chalam made a hypothesis, that "the ratio of 108 may be the key to finding planets hospitable to life outside of our solar system" and suggested that we just need to "look toward this same size and distance relationship".

There is an obvious sacredness about number 108. Not without a reason it is mentioned several time in Vedas. It is also a very important number in Vedic astrology. In the science of Jyotish there are 27 nakshatras, 27 lunar houses working behind the solar zodiac of 12 signs. Each nakshatra has four quarters, called padas. This gives 9 quarters per one zodiac sign. $9 \times 12 = 108$. By dividing the main natal chart into nine parts, we receive so called *navamsha*, the most sacred chart to study in Vedic astrology, which is revealing the true path of our soul in this lifetime. This particular topic is going to become even more interesting, when we will dive deeper into the mysteries of Moon's phases.

Divine romance between Sun and Moon

Sun's brightness is unchangeable. It shines with equal light, regardless of its position on the sky. It doesn't judge. It favours no one. Its dharma doesn't change with time. Its only purpose is to shine and to give light. This is why in Vedic astrology Sun is perceived as natural *Atma karaka*, the light of the soul, which stays unchangeable regardless of the different life circumstances and moods of the mind. Sun represents the state of Shiva.

The brightness of the Moon, however, is dependent on the light of the Sun and the distance between them. Moon doesn't have any light on her own - she reflects the light of the Sun. Similarly, our mind doesn't have any brightness on its own. Any brightness manifested through it, is the light of the soul that shines through the veil of *maya* covering it.

Shiva is the Sun, the light of the soul, while Shakti is the Moon, the individual mind, which takes part in a Divine game of life, and is sensitive to different moods of the present moment.

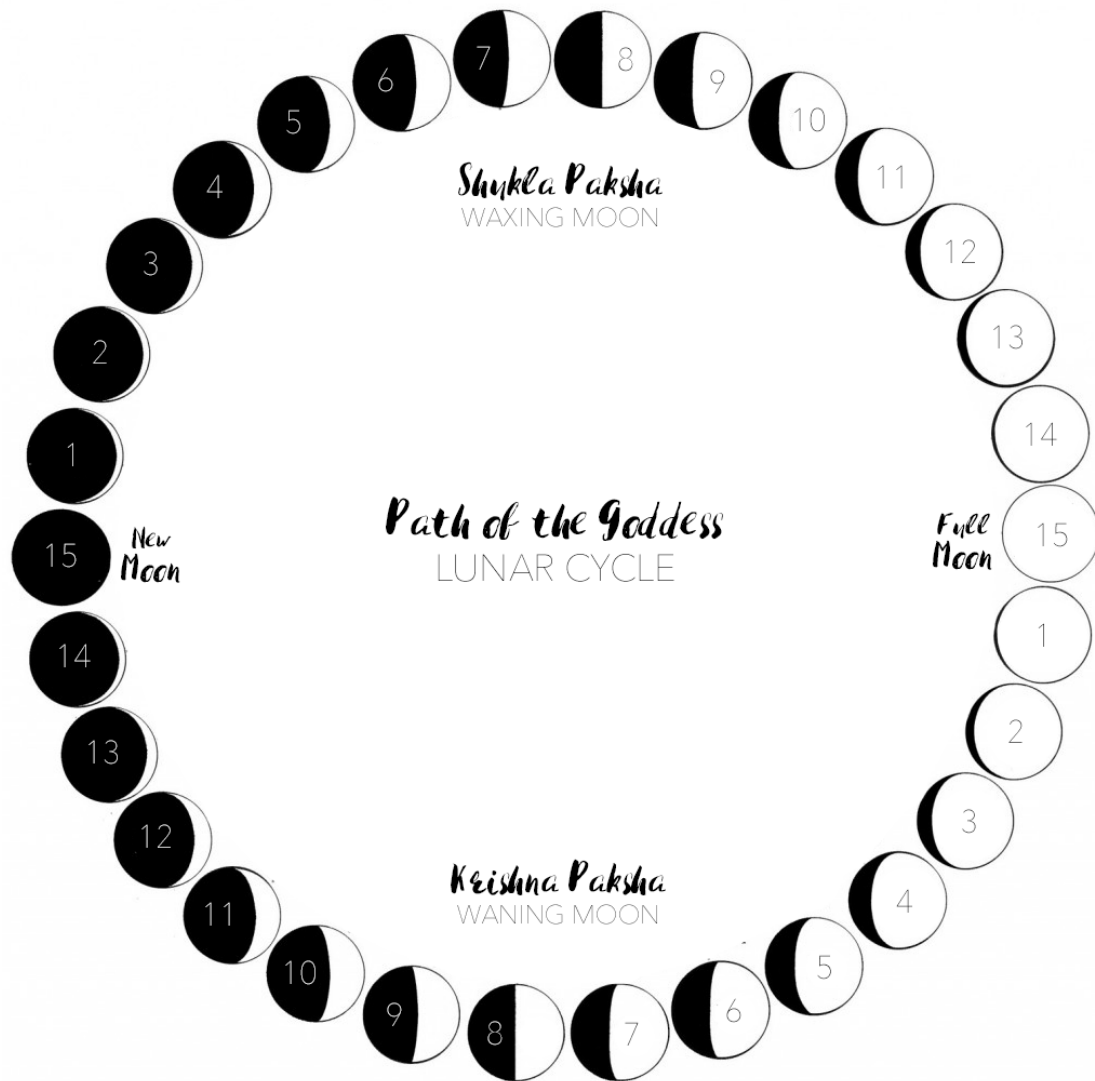
Moon, in Vedic astrology, is our present moment. It alters the eternal burning light of the Sun and turns it into nourishing, motherly love, providing us different qualities in different moments in time, depending on the nakshatra (Vedic constellation) it sits in and its distance from the Sun. Sometimes its capacity to reflect the light of the Sun will be higher, sometimes it will be lower. Sometimes it will be moving away from the Sun, and sometimes it will be moving back towards it. Even though the face of the Moon is always turned towards the Sun, as Earth and Moon are tidally locked, from our earthly perspective sometimes we will perceive the Moon as waxing, and sometimes as waning. Waxing and waning are two main moods of the Divine Mother.

In Vedic astrology the path of waxing Moon and waning Moon was split into 15 lunar days or *tithis* each. Fifteen days of waxing Moon and fifteen days of waning Moon give together a 30-day soli-lunar month, which is the basis of Vedic calendar.

Bright path and dark path of the Goddess

Divine Mother sometimes moves away from Shiva, and sometimes comes back to Him. The Moon sometimes moves away from the Sun, and sometimes comes back to it. Same is with our soul. Although all of us come from the Divine, when we undergo the process of individuation, we move away from our Divine origin to find our true self and realise our individual purpose. Sooner or later, however, the longing to merge back with the Supreme Consciousness awakens in each one of us. If not in this lifetime, then in another. Over and over again countless souls move away from Supreme Consciousness, to rediscover themselves one more time and again return to their Source. It is a Divine romance, which sets whole creation into motion. It is an eternal love story between the soul and its Beloved, which all the yogis yearn to have a glimpse of. It is an inborn yearning of each soul. It is the particle of Supreme Goddess within us and a deep longing to be reunited with Her only true Beloved.

As my Gurudev, Paramahansa Vishwananda, has beautifully said: "Nothing in this universe exists without Love, as all is the Lord Himself and His Love is constantly in movement."



When the Moon moves away from the Sun, when the Goddess moves away from Shiva to rediscover Herself, to understand Her purpose and to reflect Shiva's light into the outer world in its full glory, the Moon is waxing. In Vedic astrology we call it *Shukla Paksha* - the bright fortnight. In *Shukla Paksha* Goddess becomes curious about the world and understanding Her true potential. She wishes to interact, to play, to manifest, to communicate and to bestow Her boons. She looks towards the outside. With each of Her steps She discovers a new quality (*kala*) within Herself. Yet, as She becomes brighter and brighter, She moves away from the Sun, Her true Beloved. She enters the material world. The fullness of individuality can be learned only from the distance. And being so, in every relationship some distance is needed for the self-discovery to happen, as well.

When the Goddess finally realises fullness of Her potential during the Full Moon, a peak moment, when She is at maximum distance from the Sun and when She reflects the fullness of the light; when Her desires become satiated and there is nothing else to fulfill, no more light to be reflected, the Divine longing awakens in Her heart. She starts to long and cry for Her Beloved Shiva. With each of Her tears She loses some of Her brightness. With each of Her steps, She moves one step closer to Her Beloved. She realises that She has been distanced from Her origin, and She yearns to come back to it. She abandons all the brightness of the external world and becomes more introvert and more humble. She slowly detaches Herself from each of Her qualities gained on Her way in *Shukla Paksha*, so She can reunite again with Shiva on the New Moon day, when She merges back completely into Him. When Goddess is returning to Her Beloved, the Moon is waning. We call it *Krishna Paksha* - the dark fortnight.

Like that, each and every month, the Goddess moves away from Shiva and returns back to Him. She distances Herself from the Source, to reunite with it again. One lunar month is a complete cycle of Her sacred journey of self-discovery. And, as the Mother represents our mind itself, She takes us all on that journey with Her. Wherever She moves, She holds us on Her lap. She is the present moment, which holds us closely to its bosom - like a loving mother would do.

On Her way through the sky, when She forms fifteen different dance positions with Shiva, the Supreme Consciousness, and manifests fifteen different moods and fifteen different qualities of light, She assumes fifteen different aspects. Sometimes She will be more playful, sometimes She will be more strict. Sometimes She will bring us happiness, sometimes sadness. Like a wise mother She will teach us the story of life, so we can become fit to rediscover our own life's purpose. Sometimes we would embrace those lessons with an open heart, but sometimes we would reject them, according to our personal likes and dislikes. No wonder that highest Goddess always holds in Her hands *pasha* (the noose representing our likes and attachments) and *ankusha* (the goad representing our dislikes). If we choose to focus on Her supreme beauty instead of our likes and dislikes, leaving them both in Her hands and accepting with a childlike trust that the present moment is always bringing us exactly what we need, nourishing us like the Divine Mother in many different ways, we can live our life happy and contented, surrendered to the will of the Divine and noticing Her blessings, even if they come in the form of apparent adversities. If we could notice the Divine in every single moment of life, in every single situation, mood or

living being, that would be nothing smaller than enlightenment. That would be the Full Moon of the soul.

My personal journey with the Goddess

My personal experience with the Goddess wasn't an easy one. There were many things that were experienced on the way, which are going to stay forever only between me, Her and my Gurudev. She was the one, through whom I got attracted to Vedic astrology. I never had any interest to learn how to predict future or read charts. In the science of Jyotisha I was seeking something much deeper and much more beneficial for the individual soul's development: to understand what the present moment is bringing me and which Divine lessons the universe is sending me, so I can become a better human being.

On spiritual path it is very easy to fall prey to our pride and stay blind to our own faults and mistakes. But the stars will never lie. Whenever you will make a mistake, they will always reveal this to you with astonishing clarity. They will try, over and over again, to bring you to the right path - like the Divine Mother, who never loses faith in Her child. This is why certain basic knowledge of astrology, especially from spiritual angle, is something that is of great help to any person on spiritual path, as a valuable tool for introspection. Understanding lunar cycles and qualities of different lunar days, does not only teach us more about the sacred relationship between Spirit and Nature. In fact, it reveals us something very profound about our personal relationship with the Divine.

Studying the lunar phases was the very first thing I ever approached in Vedic astrology, when I started my journey with Jyotisha some years ago. The beauty of eternal goddesses of the lunar phases, Nitya Devis, was always attracting me, and I always yearned to learn from them more and more. The more I meditated with them, the more I learned from them about myself. This humble book is the result of my *sadhana*. Yet, this little information present here is just a drop in an ocean, of what is still to be discovered and what is still to be known. After all, those eternal goddesses, guardians of time, are infinite in their nature. From our earthly perspective we can grasp just a glimpse of their beauty and sacred meanings.

The Mother doesn't expect much from Her child. To meditate with Her only an open heart is needed. Each and every single day I would sit for a while with one of those goddesses, whose lunar phase was active at the moment,

imagineneing myself on Her lap, as my Gurudev taught me to meditate with Divine Mother. With some of Her manifestations I would feel more comfortable and safe, while being with other forms of Divine Mother was sometimes more challenging for me. The more I meditated with each of Her forms, the more I understood my relationship with Her, as well as Her inner and outer qualities; and the more I started to notice, how each of Her forms manifests in the outer world.

I have learned a lot about myself on the way. The most powerful lesson from the Mother was the lesson of humility and surrender. Once you find yourself in Her lap, with some of Her forms, with which you might not resonate so well, and once you realise, that She is this very present moment itself and there is no running away from here, it automatically makes you more humble. It makes you realise, that surrender is the only right thing to do. And in surrender itself, so much sweetness and so many blessings are awaiting. Once you get over your likes and dislikes and embrace, what the Divine Mother in the form of present moment has to offer, there is something magical happening. But it is not something, which should be described in words. It is something to be experienced in the depth of one's own soul. If this would be something, that could be grasped in words, our great rishis and seers would have already written whole scriptures about it.

My Gurudev wrote so beautifully on 15 November 2017: "Some secrets are secrets because they are sacred, which means one has to find them out by one's own efforts and sacrifices. It is not a problem to tell them as they are usually very simple, but only fiery intelligence, determination, will and longing will be able to reveal them. People are generally lazy and even as much as they get from Masters, saints, scriptures and Guru, they take it for granted and it is only taking, which means that there is no transformation and sharing, giving back in other form."

Hence, this little book is not going to be about me or my personal experiences. Personal experience is the real "secret" of any teaching - but it is something to be experienced in the chamber of one's own heart, on each and everyone's individual level. Instead, it is going to be an invitation for you to go on this sacred journey with Divine Mother with your own efforts and understand yourself on a much deeper level. In our times, when we have become so self-centered with our attention running constantly towards the outside, the biggest blessing we can get from Jyotisha, the science of time, is how to reconnect with the natural forces around us and their sacred cycles - not to abuse it, but to learn how to go with Nature's sacred flow, instead of opposing it. Out of all the things the science of astrology can

bring us nowadays, there is nothing higher or more sacred than the possibility to rediscover ourselves and our inner *you*-niverse - over and over again. To become *whole* again.