

# DIVISIONS OF THE ZODIAC

**Nakshatra-Chakra:** The most basic division of the Zodiac in Jyotish is the Nakshatra-Chakra consisting of 27 Nakshatras (Lunar mansions). They are called so because the Moon spends approximately one day in each Nakshatra. Each Nakshatra is of 13°20' in extent, and consists of four Padas or quarters 3°20' each. Thus a Rasi (sign of the Zodiac) will contain 9 Nakshatra Padas or Navamshas. Each Nakshatra has a certain number of bright stars called Taras, and they form certain constellations described in different classics. The 27 nakshatras are divided into three groups of nine, called the Paryaayas. All the nine Grahas lord over one Nakshatra in each paryaaya. The meeting points of the Paryaayas are called Gandantas and are considered to be inauspicious, if the Moon or Lagna falls into their proximity in the birth chart. The junction of Revati and Ashwini Nakshatras coincides with the junction of Meena (Pisces) and Mesha (Aries) Rasis. Ashlesha and Magha meet at the same place as Karkata (Cancer) and Simha (Leo). And finally the intersection of Jyestha and Moola Nakshatras is identical with the intersection of (Vrishchika) Scorpio and Dhanus (Sagittarius). Thus the fixed stars forming the Nakshatras are the basis for the division of the Zodiac in Jyotish. The names of certain Nakshatras are mentioned in the oldest Vedic scriptures like the Rig Veda. The following table lists the names and lords of the different Nakshatras, their extent counted from the beginning of Aries, and their disposition in the Rasis (signs of Zodiac). Please note that some Nakshatra Padas of the same Nakshatra will fall into neighbouring Rasis.

Rasi No. and Name	Nakshatra	Lord	Pada	Extent Upto
1. Aries	1. Ashwini	Ketu	4	13°20'
	2. Bharani	Venus	4	26°40'
	3. Krittika	Sun	1	30°00'
2. Taurus	Krittika		3	40°00'
	4. Rohini	Moon	4	53°20'
	5. Mrigashira	Mars	2	60°00'
3. Gemini	Mrigashira		2	66°40'
	6. Ardra	Rahu	4	80°00'
	7. Punarvasu	Jupiter	3	90°00'

4.	Cancer	Punarvasu		1	93°20'
		8. Pushya		Saturn 4	106°40'
		9. Aslesha		Mercury 4	120°00'
5.	Leo	10. Magha	Ketu 4		133°20'
		11. Poorva-phalguni		Venus 4	146°40'
		12. Uttaraphalguni		Sun 1	150°00'
6.	Virgo	Uttaraphalguni	3		160°00'
		14. Chitra		Mars 2	180°00'
7.	Libra	Chitra		2	186°40'
		15. Swati	Rahu 4		200°00'
		16. Vishakha		Jupiter 3	210°00'
8.	Scorpio	Vishakha		1	213°20'
		17. Anuradha		Saturn 4	226°40'
		18. Jyestha		Mercury 4	240°00'
9.	Sagittarius	19. Moola	Ketu 4		253°20'
		20. Poorvashadha		Venus 4	266°40'
		21. Uttarashadha		Sun 1	270°00'
10.	Capricorn	Uttarashadha	3		280°00'
		22. Shravana		Moon 4	293°20'
		23. Dhanistha		Mars 2	300°00'
11.	Aquarius	Dhanistha	2		306°40'
		24. Shatabishak		Rahu 4	320°00'
		25. Poorvabhadra		Jupiter 3	330°00'

12. Pisces	Poorvabhadra	1	333°20'
	26. Uttarabhadra	Saturn	4 346°40'
	27. Revati	Mercury	4 360°00'

**Rasi Chakra:** The next, well known division of the Zodiac is the Rasi Chakra. The Zodiac is divided into 12 signs extending to 30° each. The following table gives some details about the different Rasis:

Sansk. Name	Mesha	Vrishabha	Mithuna	Karkata	Simha	Kanya
Latin Name	Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo
Lord	Mars	Venus	Mercury	Moon	Sun	Mercury
Exaltation	Sun	Moon	Rahu	Jupiter	————	Mercury
Debilitation	Saturn	————	Ketu	Mars	————	Venus
Sex/Oddity	Male/Odd	Female/Even	Male/Odd	Female/Even	Male/Odd	Female/Even
Benefic/Mal.	Malefic	Benefic	Malefic	Benefic	Malefic	Benefic
Tattwa	Fire	Earth	Air	Water	Fire	Earth
Dhatu	Pitta	Vaata	Tridhatu	Kapha	Pitta	Vaata
Varna(Caste)	Kshatriya	Vaishya	Shudra	Brahmin	Kshatriya	Vaishya
Direction	East	South	West	North	East	South
Quality	Chara	Sthira	Ubhaya	Chara	Sthira	Ubhaya
Division	Dhatu	Moola	Jeeva	Dhatu	Moola	Jeeva
Guna	Rajas	Rajas	Tamas	Sattwa	Sattwa	Tamas
Rising with	Back	Back	Both	Back	Head	Head
Feet	Four	Four	Two	Many	Four	Two
Day/Night	Night	Night	Night	Night	Day	Day
Residence	Hills	Village	Village	Forest	Forest	Hills
Body Parts	Head	Face	Arms	Heart	Stomach	Hips
Colors	Red	White	Green	Pink	Pale	Variegated
Ascension	Short	Crooked	Long	Long	Medium	Medium

Sansk. Name	Thula	Vrishchika	Dhanus	Makara	Kumbha	Meena
Latin Name	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces
Lord	Venus	Mars/Ketu	Jupiter	Saturn	Saturn	Jupiter
Exaltation	Saturn	————	Ketu	Mars	————	Venus
Debilitation	Sun	Moon	Rahu	Jupiter	————	Mercury
Sex/Oddity	Male/Odd	Female/Even	Male/Odd	Female/Even	Male/Odd	Female/Even
Benefic/Mal. Tattwa	Malefic Air	Benefic Water	Malefic Fire	Benefic Earth	Malefic Air	Benefic Water
Dhatus	Tridhatu	Kapha	Pitta	Vaata	Tridhatu	Kapha
Varna(Caste)	Shudra	Brahmin	Kshatriya	Vaishya	Shudra	Brahmin
Direction	West	North	East	South	West	North
Quality	Chara	Sthira	Ubhaya	Chara	Sthira	Ubhaya
Division	Dhatu	Moola	Jeeva	Dhatu	Moola	Jeeva
Guna	Rajas	Rajas	Sattwa	Tamas	Tamas	Sattwa
Rising with	Head	Head	Back	Back	Head	Both
Feet	Two	Many	Two/Four	Four/Watery	Two	Watery
Day/Night	Day	Day	Night	Night	Day	Day
Residence	Earth	Holes	Earth	Forest	Water	Water
Body Parts	Abdomen	Groins	Thighs	Knees	Ankles	Feet
Colors	Black	Red-Brown	Golden	Variegated	Brown	Marine
Ascension	Medium	Medium	Long	Long	Crooked	Short