

# MAHABOTE NATAL ASTROLOGY

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## 1. The planets in astrology

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From the point of view of an earthbound observer, the stars of the night sky appear to be fixed-in-place on a concentric spherical surface that is called the **celestial sphere**. The noun ‘planet’ (whose Greek name means ‘wanderer’) was used to describe any object that appeared to wander along the celestial sphere. To peoples of the ancient world, these wanderers were the two **luminaries** *Sun* and *Moon* and the planets *Mercury*, *Venus*, *Mars*, *Jupiter*, and *Saturn*, all of which are visible to the naked eye. These seven wanderers are called the **classical planets**. The adjective ‘classical’ here means ‘standard and traditional’.

**TABLE 1: The seven fundamental modes of personality**

Number	Planet	Personality Qualities
1	<b>Sun</b>	Self-assured, strong-willed, decisive, commanding.
2	<b>Moon</b>	Impressionable, compliant, devoted, nurturing.
3	<b>Mars</b>	Courageous, ambitious, assertive, risk-taking.
4	<b>Mercury</b>	Quick-witted, communicative, detail-oriented, versatile.
5	<b>Jupiter</b>	Optimistic, adventurous, generous, judicious.
6	<b>Venus</b>	Imaginative, magnetic, pleasure-loving, sociable.
7/0	<b>Saturn</b>	Disciplined, cautious, patient, persevering.

**Astrology** is the study of the behavior of celestial bodies in the belief that they indicate the course of human affairs. In astrology, the seven classical planets collectively represent the forces that drive human life. Each planet governs a fundamental personality mode according to TABLE 1.

The radiant and solar-system ruling **Sun** represents vitality, self-esteem, volition, and leadership. Astrological Sun enables one to be self-assured, strong-willed, decisive, and commanding. Sun is the energy associated with Man's will – one's ability to deliberately decide on a course of action, one's freedom to choose between right and wrong. Sun is nobly expressed whenever one asserts oneself with dignity by using their will to rise above course and unsavory things.

The faithfully reflecting and phase-changing **Moon** represents receptivity, adaptability, and devotion. Astrological Moon enables one to be impressionable, compliant, devoted, and nurturing. Moon is the energy associated with Man's trance ability, which enables one to learn and to change. In a trance state, one has a heightened receptivity in which beliefs, images, and words become empowered to create or undo habits. Moon is nobly expressed whenever one is receptive to and compliant with right guidance.

The blood-red planet **Mars** represents courage, enthusiasm, assertiveness, and pioneering. Astrological Mars enables one to be courageous, ambitious, assertive, and risk-taking. Mars is the energy associated with Man's sense of justice. Being just with all people in all situations requires one to have a warrior's courage and zeal for righteousness, even at the cost of personal loss. Mars is nobly expressed whenever one has the courage to take right action.

The swift-moving planet **Mercury** represents mobility of thought, word, and deed. Astrological Mercury enables one to be quick-witted, communicative, detail-oriented, and versatile. Mercury is the energy associated with Man's verbal mind – one's ability to think logically and to express oneself through words. Mercury is nobly expressed whenever one uses their cleverness and verbal facility to further that which is wholesome.

The huge and gaseous planet **Jupiter** represents virtuous optimism (that is, the belief that virtuous action eventually brings the best outcome) and expansion (material and spiritual). Astrological Jupiter enables one to be optimistic, adventurous, generous, and judicious. Jupiter is the energy associated with Man's moral sense – one's intuitive ability to distinguish right from wrong. Jupiter is nobly expressed whenever one acts with good character and good judgment.

The planet **Venus** (whose Latin name means 'love') represents affection, enjoyment, attractive power, and harmony. Astrological Venus enables one to be imaginative, magnetic, pleasure-loving, and sociable. Venus is the energy associated with Man's visual mind – one's imagination, which enables one to form mental images. When intensely entertained with aroused feelings of enjoyment, mental images gain the power to attract the necessary resources for their realization. Venus is nobly expressed whenever through joyful optimism, one attracts the necessary resources for faring well.

The ringed and slow-moving planet **Saturn** represents restriction, structure, and slow change. Astrological Saturn enables one to be disciplined, cautious, patient, and persevering. Saturn is the energy associated with Man's ability to patiently persevere (that is, to calmly remain constant to a purpose in spite of obstacles). Saturn is nobly expressed whenever one stabilizes one's heart (that is, one's prevailing mental and emotional attitude), so that one may think clearly and respond properly to situations in life, instead of reacting according to habit or impulse.

## 2. The Mahabote natal chart

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**Natal astrology** is a system of astrology that is based on the belief that a person’s potential (that is, latent but unrealized abilities), opportunities, and challenges can be determined by casting an astrological chart for the person’s time and place of birth. This chart is called a **natal chart**, and the person for whom it is cast is called the **native**.

Here we will approach natal astrology by using the **Mahabote** methodology, which was developed in ancient Burma (now called *Myanmar*) and used for centuries by Buddhist monks. The Mahabote natal chart consists of seven houses, each occupied by one of the seven classical planets. We will number these houses with Roman numerals I through VII as shown in FIGURE 2.

The planet occupying the **House of Impermanence** indicates something that is not constant, something that comes and goes in one’s life. The planet occupying the **House of Extremity** indicates how one goes to extremes. The planet occupying the **House of Fame** indicates one’s reputation, how others see one. The planet occupying the **House of Wealth** indicates what enriches one with happiness. Consequently, it indicates how one would most likely go about making a living. The planet occupying the **House of Kingly Position** indicates what one admires and aspires to be. The planet occupying the **Sickly House** indicates what has ill effects on one’s physiological health or on one’s psychological health. The planet occupying the **Leader House** indicates how one is inclined to deal with situations in life.

**FIGURE 2: The natal-chart framework**

	<b>House VII</b> Leader	
<b>House III</b> Fame	<b>House IV</b> Wealth	<b>House V</b> Kingly Position
<b>House II</b> Extremity	<b>House I</b> Impermanence	<b>House VI</b> Sickly

The bottom row of a natal chart contains the **liability houses**, which present one’s major personality weaknesses. The middle row contains the **asset houses**, which present one’s major personality strengths. In order to mitigate the negative influences of a particular liability house, one ought to seek help from the occupant of the asset house above it.

### 3. Constructing a natal chart

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Mahabote natal astrology uses a seven-year cycle with respect to the traditional Burmese calendar. The Burmese year begins when Sun enters the sidereal zodiacal sign of Aries, which occurs presently around 15 April. The traditional Burmese calendar has a Year-Zero starting date of Sunday, 25 March 638 CE in terms of the Gregorian calendar.

In order to construct a natal chart, perform the following four steps:

**STEP 1:** Write down the native's year of birth according to the Gregorian calendar. In order to determine the corresponding Burmese birth year, subtract either 639 or 638 from the Gregorian birth year. If the native's birthday falls between 01 January and 15 April, then subtract 639. If the native's birthday falls between 15 April and 31 December, then subtract 638.

**STEP 2:** Divide the Burmese birth year by 7. Discard the quotient and circle the remainder. The remainder is the native's chart number.

**STEP 3:** Find the chart number from among the following sequence of numbers:

1      4      0      3      6      2      5

Place the chart number in House I, the number to its right in House II, and so on. If you reach the end of the sequence, then go back to the beginning and continue until you have placed a number in House VII.

**STEP 4:** Each number is associated with a planet according to TABLE 1. Place the appropriate planet in each house.

For those who are mathematically inquisitive, you can get the numerical sequence of Step 3 as follows:

$$1 + 3 = 4, \quad 4 + 3 = 7 \equiv 0 \pmod{7}, \quad 0 + 3 = 3, \quad 3 + 3 = 6, \\ 6 + 3 = 9 \equiv 2 \pmod{7}, \quad 2 + 3 = 5, \quad 5 + 3 = 8 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}.$$

Here we are using arithmetic modulo 7, in which 7 is congruent to 0.

### 4. The seven natal charts

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The following pages present all seven natal charts. The information presented therein is not all-inclusive. Use this information as a foundation for understanding.

# Natal Chart #1

	<b>VII. Leader</b> 5 – Jupiter	
<b>III. Fame</b> 0 – Saturn	<b>IV. Wealth</b> 3 – Mars	<b>V. Kingly Position</b> 6 – Venus
<b>II. Extremity</b> 4 – Mercury	<b>I. Impermanence</b> 1 – Sun	<b>VI. Sickly</b> 2 – Moon

**Jupiter in Leader** indicates that you (the native) approach life with an adventurous attitude, seeking to experience everything good that life has to offer. *Positively speaking*, you believe in the basic goodness of people and of life in general. This optimistic attitude draws positive circumstances to you. *Negatively speaking*, you are overly optimistic and extravagant. You overextend yourself by committing to more than you can deliver. Your sense of independence inclines you to be irresponsible and to go overboard.

## Assets

**Saturn in Fame** indicates that other people see you as being cautious, disciplined, patient, and persevering. **Mars in Wealth** indicates that you find satisfaction in hard work, challenge, and competition. **Venus in Kingly Position** indicates that you aspire to be amiable, imaginative, magnetic, and pleasure-loving.

## Liabilities

**Mercury in Extremity** indicates that you are not attentive enough to details. Jupiter in Leader influences you to see the ‘big picture’, but you tend not to tie this overview to pertinent details. Summon Saturn – seek to be more practical, more grounded. **Sun in Impermanence** indicates that your self-assurance and self-expression comes and goes. Summon Mars – draw on the boldness of your warrior spirit. **Moon in Sickly** indicates that you are sometimes moody and withdrawn from the world. Summon Venus – respond to the social urge to interact and to join with others. On the physiological level, sickly Moon may indicate problems with the digestive system, which is the body’s means of assimilating foodstuffs into the body.

## Natal Chart #2

	<b>VII. Leader</b> 6 – Venus	
<b>III. Fame</b> 1 – Sun	<b>IV. Wealth</b> 4 – Mercury	<b>V. Kingly Position</b> 0 – Saturn
<b>II. Extremity</b> 5 – Jupiter	<b>I. Impermanence</b> 2 – Moon	<b>VI. Sickly</b> 3 – Mars

**Venus in Leader** indicates that you (the native) have a personal magnetism that enables you to easily attract the people and things that you want. *Positively speaking*, you are gentle, tactful, and cooperative. You work your charms to attract what you need in positive ways. *Negatively speaking*, you are self-indulgent and superficial. You work your charms indiscriminately, not considering whether what you want is what you need. You fear being alone and adjust your life to suit the expectations of others.

### Assets

**Sun in Fame** indicates that other people see you as being commanding, decisive, self-assured, and strong-willed. They may look to you to assume positions of leadership. **Mercury in Wealth** indicates that you find satisfaction in exercising your craftiness, verbal skills, and writing skills. **Saturn in Kingly Position** indicates that you aspire to be cautious, disciplined, patient, and persevering.

### Liabilities

**Jupiter in Extremity** indicates that you tend to ‘spread yourself too thin’. Venus in Leader influences you to come across in a pleasant way, and so you tend to give to others to the extent that you neglect your own self. Summon Sun – be a little ‘me-oriented’ and give more attention to your own life. **Moon in Impermanence** indicates that you are not consistently sensitive and nurturing to others. Summon Mercury to compensate. **Mars in Sickly** indicates that you are sometimes hasty, reckless, and too competitive. Summon Saturn – respect pertinent structures and limitations. On the physiological level, sickly Mars may indicate problems with the immune system, which is the body’s warrior against illness.

## Natal Chart #3

	<b>VII. Leader</b> 0 – Saturn	
<b>III. Fame</b> 2 – Moon	<b>IV. Wealth</b> 5 – Jupiter	<b>V. Kingly Position</b> 1 – Sun
<b>II. Extremity</b> 6 – Venus	<b>I. Impermanence</b> 3 – Mars	<b>VI. Sickly</b> 4 – Mercury

**Saturn in Leader** indicates that you (the native) are emotionally tough and show dogged determination in spite of rough treatment. *Positively speaking*, you are cautious and resolute. Through steady and economical actions, you accomplish whatever tasks you undertake, despite any obstacles encountered along the way. *Negatively speaking*, your ability to handle stressful situations may inhibit you from withdrawing from something that is detrimental to your well-being.

### Assets

**Moon in Fame** indicates that other people see you as being compliant, devoted, impressionable, and nurturing. They see you as a comforting presence. **Jupiter in Wealth** indicates that you find satisfaction in expanding your sphere of thought and deed. **Sun in Kingly Position** indicates that you aspire to be commanding, decisive, self-assured, and strong-willed.

### Liabilities

**Venus in Extremity** indicates that you tend to suppress your ‘fun side’. Saturn in Leader influences you to be cautious, and so you do not easily express your feelings. Summon Moon – relax and lighten up a little. Saturn in Leader inclines you to be hesitant to take risks, and so **Mars in Impermanence** indicates that your enterprising spirit is not consistently strong. Summon Jupiter – be willing to move beyond the comfortable and the familiar. **Mercury in Sickly** indicates that you involve yourself in too many things, thereby making your efforts ineffective. Summon Sun – find a central point from which to ‘shine’ accordingly. On the physiological level, sickly Mercury may indicate problems with the nervous system or the endocrine system, which are the body’s communication networks. Sickly Mercury may also indicate speech impediments.

## Natal Chart #4

	<b>VII. Leader</b> 1 – Sun	
<b>III. Fame</b> 3 – Mars	<b>IV. Wealth</b> 6 – Venus	<b>V. Kingly Position</b> 2 – Moon
<b>II. Extremity</b> 0 – Saturn	<b>I. Impermanence</b> 4 – Mercury	<b>VI. Sickly</b> 5 – Jupiter

**Sun in Leader** indicates that you (the native) want to be the center of attention. You want people to notice you and to somehow revolve around you. *Positively speaking*, you are self-assured, decisive, and able to inspire others. You take pride in your achievements and seek due recognition. *Negatively speaking*, you are domineering and arrogant. You like things to be done your way and do not concern yourself with the needs and opinions of others. You are hungry for praise and seek to grab the spotlight.

### Assets

**Mars in Fame** indicates that other people see you as being ambitious, assertive, courageous, and risk-taking. **Venus in Wealth** indicates that you find satisfaction in exercising your artistic or inventive abilities. **Moon in Kingly Position** indicates that you aspire to be compliant, devoted, impressionable, and nurturing.

### Liabilities

**Saturn in Extremity** indicates that you are too restrictive. Sun in Leader influences you to be in control, inclining you to plan things to an extreme. Moreover, you worry when things do not go as planned. Summon Mars – have the courage to take risks. **Mercury in Impermanence** indicates that your ability to deal with the technical side of matters is not consistent. Summon Venus – use artistic ability in order to compensate. With Sun in Leader, **Jupiter in Sickly** indicates that you sometimes act like a ‘know-it-all’. You are expansive to the extent that you try to overshadow others. Summon Moon – be humble and receptive to what others have to say. On the physiological level, sickly Jupiter may indicate problems with the liver, which is the body’s largest organ.

## Natal Chart #5

	<b>VII. Leader</b> 2 – Moon	
<b>III. Fame</b> 4 – Mercury	<b>IV. Wealth</b> 0 – Saturn	<b>V. Kingly Position</b> 3 – Mars
<b>II. Extremity</b> 1 – Sun	<b>I. Impermanence</b> 5 – Jupiter	<b>VI. Sickly</b> 6 – Venus

**Moon in Leader** indicates that you (the native) want a life of routines that offers comfort and ease. You cling to anyone or anything that you find comfortable and familiar. Being very sensitive to your environment, you retreat into your comfort zone whenever you feel insecure. *Positively speaking*, you are caring and sensitive. You are protective of your own feelings as well as of the feelings of those to whom you are close. *Negatively speaking*, you are clinging and moody. You hold on to negativity from past experiences and take offense easily.

### Assets

**Mercury in Fame** indicates that other people see you as being communicative, detail-oriented, quick-witted, and versatile. You give the appearance of being knowledgeable. **Saturn in Wealth** indicates that you find satisfaction in discipline and duty. **Mars in Kingly Position** indicates that you aspire to be ambitious, assertive, courageous, and risk-taking.

### Liabilities

**Sun in Extremity** indicates that you are too cocky. You are too strong-willed and reject being directed by other people. You tend not to listen to others. Summon Mercury – ask whether your cocky stance is reasonable at all. With Moon in Leader, **Jupiter in Impermanence** indicates that you wax and wane in regard to moving beyond the comfortable and the familiar. Summon Saturn – accept gradual change. **Venus in Sickly** indicates overindulgence of the senses, laziness, and abhorrence of hard work. Summon Mars – arouse the energy and drive that are necessary to accomplish whatever you must do. On the physiological level, sickly Venus may indicate problems with the reproductive system, which is the body's sex organs.

## Natal Chart #6

	<b>VII. Leader</b> 3 – Mars	
<b>III. Fame</b> 5 – Jupiter	<b>IV. Wealth</b> 1 – Sun	<b>V. Kingly Position</b> 4 – Mercury
<b>II. Extremity</b> 2 – Moon	<b>I. Impermanence</b> 6 – Venus	<b>VI. Sickly</b> 0 – Saturn

**Mars in Leader** indicates that you (the native) have an abundance of physical energy and feel that you must always be doing something. You like challenges and are willing to take risks. You have a sharp intelligence that enables you to accurately size up people and things. You are straightforward, and you deal with situations in a direct, no-nonsense way. *Positively speaking*, you are assertive, fearless, and enterprising. You use your great strength to judiciously clear the way to success. *Negatively speaking*, you are impatient, intolerant, and adversarial. You go headfirst into things, charging into situations without considering the consequences. Your abundance of physical energy may emerge as anger and negative aggression.

### Assets

**Jupiter in Fame** indicates that other people see you as being adventurous, generous, judicious, and optimistic. They often seek your advice. **Sun in Wealth** indicates that you find satisfaction in being in charge. **Mercury in Kingly Position** indicates that you aspire to be communicative, detail-oriented, quick-witted, and versatile.

### Liabilities

Fiery Mars in Leader influences you to be unmindful of physical and emotional comfort, thereby leading to **Moon in Extremity**. Summon Jupiter – seek a more comprehensive view of things. There is a time for work, and there is a time for rest and play. Fiery Mars in Leader makes it difficult for you to be amiable, sociable, charming, and tactful, thereby leading to **Venus in Impermanence**. Summon Sun to compensate. **Saturn in Sickly** indicates that you are impatient and do not see things through. Summon Mercury – be attentive to details. On the physiological level, sickly Saturn may indicate problems with the skeletal system or the muscular system, which are the frameworks that give the body its structure. More specifically, sickly Saturn may indicate arthritis, rheumatism, and other problems often associated with aging.

## Natal Chart #0

	<b>VII. Leader</b> 4 – Mercury	
<b>III. Fame</b> 6 – Venus	<b>IV. Wealth</b> 2 – Moon	<b>V. Kingly Position</b> 5 – Jupiter
<b>II. Extremity</b> 3 – Mars	<b>I. Impermanence</b> 0 – Saturn	<b>VI. Sickly</b> 1 – Sun

**Mercury in Leader** indicates that you (the native) like to keep life organized into tidy categories. You flit between people and things in search of intellectual stimulation. *Positively speaking*, you are communicative and inquisitive. You are quick to learn, and you enjoy communicating your thoughts and feelings to others. You are detail-oriented and have a good memory for facts and figures. *Negatively speaking*, you are restless and shallow. Because your mind is off to the next person or thing, you have difficulty in properly managing your involvements.

### Assets

**Venus in Fame** indicates that other people see you as being amiable, imaginative, magnetic, and pleasure-loving. **Moon in Wealth** indicates that you find satisfaction in being compliant, devoted, impressionable, and nurturing. **Jupiter in Kingly Position** indicates that you aspire to be adventurous, generous, judicious, and optimistic.

### Liabilities

**Mars in Extremity** indicates that you come on too strong when you set your mind on a particular course of action. Summon Venus – lighten up a little. **Saturn in Impermanence** indicates that your patience comes and goes. Summon Moon – your devotion to a goal will help you to see it through. **Sun in Sickly** indicates a diminished self-assurance that leads to ‘selling yourself short’ and not ‘shining’ as bright as you could. Summon Jupiter – seek a more comprehensive view of things. Jupiter’s broader vision of reality brings optimism that often leads to auspiciousness. On the physiological level, sickly Sun may indicate problems with the respiratory system or the circulatory system, which are the body’s networks that handle the vital substances of air and blood.

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