TANTRIC ASTRO · FREE CHART WORKSHEET

Find your Iṣṭa Devatā इष्ट देवता

The form of God that takes you to liberation, read from your own chart. Work it in the D9 and the D20 side by side, the way I teach it. The free calculator at tantricastro.com does all of this for you; this sheet shows you why.

1 Your Ātmakāraka

The graha with the most degrees in its sign; the sign itself doesn't matter. Rāhu moves backwards, so count him as 30° minus his degree: Rāhu at 2° counts as 28°. I count eight kārakas, with Rāhu; some count seven, without him.

ĀTMAKĀRAKA _____ ITS DEGREE _____

2 Your Kārakāṁśa

The sign your Ātmakāraka occupies in the divisional chart. Note it in both charts.

D9 SIGN _____ D20 SIGN _____

3 The 12th from it

The 12th house from your Kārakāṁśa, the house of mokṣa. If Rāhu is your Ātmakāraka, count backwards in the D20, as he moves: the 12th is then the sign just after his.

D9: 12TH SIGN _____ D20: 12TH SIGN _____

4 Who decides that 12th

A graha sitting there names your deity. If several sit there, the strongest decides: first by dignity in that chart (exalted, then own sign, with debilitated last), then by the most degrees. If the house is empty, the grahas aspecting it by rāśi dṛṣṭi decide (table on page 2). Only if there are none, its lord.

D9 GRAHA _____ D20 GRAHA _____

5 Read the deity

Look up that graha in the table on page 2.

D9 DEITY _____ D20 DEITY _____

If the two charts disagree

Parāśara gives the twentieth division for worship: “Knowledge of upāsanā is to be had from the twentieth division.” So I go with the D20, always. The D9 is the usual method; that's how Śrī Rāmakṛṣṇa's chart gives Śiva in the D9 and the Mother in the D20.

A D20 division is only 1°30′ wide. If your Ātmakāraka sits near the edge of one, a different birth time can change the answer.

The deity for each graha

Use the graha that decides the 12th from your Kārakāṁśa (step 4).

GRAHA	JAIMINI	PARĀŚARA	AVATĀRA
Sun	Śiva (with Ketu)	Śiva (one edition reads the Sun himself)	Rāma
Moon	Gaurī	Gaurī, and he becomes a Śākta	Kṛṣṇa
Mars	Skanda	Skanda	Narasiṁha
Mercury	Viṣṇu	a Vaiṣṇava	Buddha
Jupiter	Sāmba Śiva	Śiva	Vāmana
Venus	Lakṣmī	Lakṣmī, with prosperity	Paraśurāma
Saturn	Viṣṇu	a Vaiṣṇava	Kūrma
Rāhu	the tāmasī, and Durgā	the tāmasī Durgā, or lesser deities	Varāha
Ketu	Gaṇeśa and Skanda	alone: Skanda or Heramba	Matsya

Rāśi dṛṣṭi: who aspects an empty 12th

YOUR 12TH	ASPECTED BY GRAHAS IN
Aries	Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius
Taurus	Cancer, Libra, Capricorn
Gemini	Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces
Cancer	Taurus, Scorpio, Aquarius
Leo	Aries, Libra, Capricorn
Virgo	Gemini, Sagittarius, Pisces
Libra	Taurus, Leo, Aquarius
Scorpio	Aries, Cancer, Capricorn
Sagittarius	Gemini, Virgo, Pisces
Capricorn	Taurus, Leo, Scorpio
Aquarius	Aries, Cancer, Libra
Pisces	Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius

How to worship

Start simple. The deity's Sahasranāma or Aṣṭottaraśatanāma, or any stotra from the śāstra, needs no initiation. Neither does a nāma mantra like *Śrī Lakṣmyai namaḥ*, as long as you don't add a bīja to it.

Worship is for mokṣa. Expect it to loosen what keeps you tied here, not to fix every problem.

Common questions

Two or three deities? Take the strongest graha, and go with the form you have always felt drawn to.

Seven or eight kārakas? Only matters if Rāhu would be your Ātmakāraka. I use eight.

Sources: Bṛhat Parāśara Horā Śāstra 2.5–7, 7.3–4, 8.2–3, 32.1–5 and 33.68–72 (Santhanam edition); Jaimini, Upadeśa Sūtra 1.1.2–4 and 1.2.72–79 (1955 edition). The method and tables follow Tirth's guide at tantricastro.com/how-to-find-ishta-devata.

Want me to work it out for you? Spiritual Guidance report (PDF) at tantricastro.com
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