

After reviewing the lectures from the second level workshop it occurred to me that I never taught you all how to determine house strength! It is a necessary skill for understanding any rasi-dasha system and is very valuable in determining which houses of a chart will have the largest impact in a person's life.

The model of planetary strength I will be teaching you all comes from the Jaimini system of astrology and is used to determine *relative* strength instead of absolute strength. In other word, it is used to determine which is the stronger of two or three houses instead of assigning an actual numerical measure of strength to every house. There are many problems with mathematical models of calculating the strength of houses. Mathematical models have a difficult time taking into account dominant weighted positions of planets and sign types, and will often calculate that a certain sign that is empty but receiving many aspects is stronger than a sign that is occupied but with no aspects. This is simply never the case because planets in a sign help activate its energy. There are other situations like this, but the example shows the basic problem with mathematical models used in calculating house strength. Instead there is a simple system of rules that will allow you to calculate the relative strength of the various houses when compared to another house, and this model can be expanded to apply to all the houses fairly easily.

The Rules

1. The strongest sign is that occupied by the atmakaraka.
2. Devoid of the atmakaraka, the strongest signs are those occupied by the largest number of planets.
3. If two or more signs have the same number of planets in them (devoid of the AK) then the status of the planets in the sign (exaltation, own, friendly, neutral or inimical) will indicate the stronger sign.
4. If two or more signs are still equal in strength after rules 2 and 3, then dual signs will be the strongest, fixed will be of middle strength and moveable signs are the weakest.
5. If two or more signs are unoccupied, then the sign whose lord becomes the atmakaraka is the strongest.
- 6(my rule). If rules 1-5 do not apply then the sign whose lord has the strongest status (exaltation, ownership, etc.) will be the strongest sign.
- 7.(my rule). If rules 1-6 do not apply then the sign with the most planetary aspects (graha drishti) becomes the strongest.
8. (my rule). If rules 1-7 still do not give result, then the sign whose lord has the strongest sthana bala is the stronger sign.
9. If for some reason all other things are equal, meaning the sthana bal difference between two lords is negligible, then dual signs are stronger than fixed signs which are stronger than moveable signs.
10. If all other things are equal, then odd signs are stronger if their lord is in an even sign, and vice versa.
11. All other things equal, odd signs are stronger in the visible half of the zodiac (7-12th houses) and even signs are stronger in the dark half (1-7th houses).

12. As a last resort, the sign whose lord has the highest longitude (out of 360 degrees) is the strongest.

The rules are quite simple to remember with some practice, so I advise everybody practice with their own charts this week. I will try to get a practice chart up on the forums for practice using narayana dasha and sign strength.