

Now that we have covered the basics of predictive astrology we need to again dive into the rasi chart and learn more about how to read the houses and planets. There are many predictive techniques in jyotish, but without an accurate assessment of the natal chart you will never be able to predict with much accuracy. You have learned about house strengths, planetary strengths, house indications, friendships and aspect, and we have also covered the basics of the arudha lagna to enhance your ability to read the chart. Now you will learn another technique to fine-tune your understanding of the houses and how they are presenting themselves in a chart. This technique is called “argala”, which in English roughly translates to “intervention”.

Argala is a special kind of aspect that houses and the planets therein cast upon one another in a kind of battle with each other. The basic concept is that certain houses, the 4th, 2nd and 11th, from any given house will naturally intervene in the affairs of that house. However, the 10th, 12th and 3rd houses will obstruct any intervention done by those argala houses. The interventions and their obstructions are as such:

From any given house:

Primary Argala

4th house gives intervention, 10th house obstructs the intervention
2nd house gives intervention, 12th house obstructs that intervention
11th house give intervention, 3rd house obstructs the intervention

Secondary Argala (not as potent)

5th house gives intervention, 9th house obstructs the intervention

The method for counting the argala is quite easy to remember. The 2nd, 4th and 11th houses counting clockwise are obstructed by the 2nd, 4th and 11th houses counting counter-clockwise.

In the argala system of aspects, the intervening aspects are not necessarily good and the obstructing ones are not necessarily bad. For example, if one of the intervening houses were a malefic house or had malefic planets in it then you would want it to be interfered with by a benefic house with more benefic planets in it. Argala is a kind of battle between these two sets of aspects. The rules for this battle are quite simple; the stronger of the two houses wins! Generally this simply means that whichever of the two houses (the intervener and the obstructor) have the most planets will win the argala. Some astrologers naturally apply systems of house strength and/or planetary strength to this as well. Lets look at an example for clarification:

Suppose we have a Gemini ascendant and we want to better understand their 10th house of Pisces using argala. First we would look to the 4th house and 10th houses from the 10th house itself, i.e the ascendant and the 7th house of the rasi. In this example let's assume that the ascendant is stronger with a benefic moon than the 7th house with no planets in it. The

ascendant (being the 4th from the 10th house) wins the argala and so now two things will happen; 1) the ascendant will give a definite influence on the 10th house, while the 7th house will either detriment or simply not be present in the affairs of the 10th house. We could interpret this by saying that the influence of the mother from a young age (moon in ascendant) helped the native find a good career later in life, but the spouse of the native plays no role in the career or has little influence on it, or perhaps the person has no business partners (defeated 7th house).

Likewise we would then look to the next set of argalas with the 2nd house from the 10th intervening and the 12th from the 10th obstructing the intervention. In this case the 2nd from the 10th is the 11th house in rasi, and the 12th from the 10th is the 9th house in the rasi. Let's assume that the 2nd from the 10th has no planets in it, but the 12th from the 10th has a nice benefic Venus. In this situation the person may work a job where income (11th house in rasi, 2nd from 10th) isn't very important to the person, but purpose/meaning (stronger and benefic 9th house giving argala as 12th from 10th) is very important. So maybe they don't earn much, but their job is important to them. Finally let's look at the last set of primary argalas, being the 11th house intervening and the 3rd obstructing. The 11th from the 10th is the 8th house in the rasi, so right away we know that we want this house to be weak or sickness/death may influence the career, though if the 8th is strong and well aspected they could have a career connected to sickness and death such as medicine or mortician. The 3rd from the 10th is the 12th, another negative house. Let's say that Mercury is in the 11th from the 10th alongside Rahu, while Jupiter is in the 3rd from the 10th by itself. Technically the argala of the 11th from the 10th prevails, and so the 8th house gives quite a nasty argala upon the career. One interpretation could be that relatives or coworkers interfere (mercury) with the career or keep it from being stable. However, Jupiter in the 12th (3rd from 10th) will still give some kind of effect though weakened, so help and relief may come to him in the form of a good boss (jupiter) who is a foreigner (12th house). Though it could likewise indicate that the native may only benefit by moving to a foreign country to get away from the relatives.

As you can see, argala is quite complicated. Its importance is that it can paint a very vivid portrait of a single house, allowing for much greater understanding of the natal chart. Its detriment is that it can be so complex and multifaceted that this technique requires years of practice and study to be able to take full advantage of its benefits.