

RETROGRESSION OF PLANETS IN OWN HOUSE

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In a horoscope, the efficacy or otherwise of a planet depends greatly not only on its dignities like occupancy in its own, exaltation, debilitation or Moolatrikona signs but also on other states such as combustion, retrogression, win or defeat in planetary war, etc. These different dispositions of Planets are called astrologically the *deeptaadi avasthas* and they are of special importance in Predictive Astrology including the judgment of Dashas. Unless the effects of all these dignities are analysed properly and understood correctly, one is sure to err in one's prediction.

Out of these, the retrogression of planets plays an important role in modifying the basic potential of a planet and making it more adverse or favourable depending on the attendant conditions in a chart.

This article discusses the modifying effect of Planets' retrogression, especially when it occurs in their own houses.

What is retrogression?

As we know, retrogression is the backward motion of a planet in a horoscope. *Although the planets always move in the forward direction only in the sky, they appear to be moving backwards apparently at some specific distances and locations as seen from the surface of the Earth.* The most important point to be remembered in this context is that the Tara Grahas viz., Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus & Saturn are only affected by this phenomenon. The luminaries (Sun & Moon) do not partake in this and as the shadow planets (Rahu & Ketu) basically move always in the anticlockwise direction, they are not included in the concept of retrogression.

Basic Principles of Interpretation

The principles of interpretation of retrogression are dealt with here and there in many classics on Astrology. But not all of them interpret it in the same way. Although there are a few common principles propounded in them, there is a wide variation in the principles of interpretation so far as the nature of the results of the planets is concerned.

A critical examination of the classics reveals the following salient principles which may be used as the basic guidelines for the interpretation of retrograde Planets:

- a) Any Retrograde Planet, irrespective of whether it is benefic or malefic, possesses strength equal to that of its exaltation. It gets a cheshta bala of 60 sashtiamsas.
- b) The normal results of Planets get modified by their retrogression. Retrograde planets are expected to give abnormal nature of results than what is expected from them when they are not retrograde. Retrogression may also indicate a reversal in the state of the affairs signified by a planet depending on the conditions prevailing in a chart.
- c) Retrogression does not cause any drastic change in either the natural disposition of Planets or in their functional natures and these attributes basically remain unaltered.
- d) If a malefic is retrograde, it causes more adverse results like evils, grief, purposeless wandering, enmity, etc. If a benefic becomes retrograde, it does not lose its auspicious qualities. Instead, it may give less than normal, Normal or above normal results depending on the other attendant conditions in the chart.

Apart from the above, the following two key points are to be kept in mind while interpreting the effects of retrograde planets:

1. Uttara Kalamruta (ch.2, sl.6) states a special rule that if a planet is retrograde in his motion while in his exaltation house, he gets only his neechabala i.e., nothing. If a planet is retrograde while in its debilitation house (fall), its strength is similar to that when in its exaltation. It means that a retrograde planet posited in its debilitation sign gets the strength of its exaltation while a retrograde planet occupying its exaltation sign gets strength as that of its debilitation. (Translation by Late Sri. Y.Subramanya shastry).
2. A planet associated with a retrograde planet also becomes inauspicious as the latter spoils the shubha yogas formed in the chart by the former. (cf: Uttara Kalamruta, ch.4, sl.2).

As regards the actual nature of results produced by the retrograde benefic and malefics, Llewellyn George, a pioneer in western astrology, opines in his book 'A to Z horoscope maker and delineator' thus: *"We believe the influence of benefic planets is weakened when they are retrograde. The condition of retrogradation is contrary or inharmonious to the regular direction of actual movement in the zodiac and is in that respect evil; hence, when malefic planets are retrograde their maleficence is increased. Aspects, whether radical or progressed, that are thrown to a retrograde planet rob the promotor of its efficacy, what it promises falling short in actual results. Should both the planets be retrograde the things indicated by the aspect would be deficient or disappointing, hence retrogradation is considered a debility"*. This contention has been applied and checked in many charts by me and found to be very true and therefore, I personally subscribe to the view that benefics become less benefic and malefics become more malefic when they are retrograde.

Incidentally, it is pointed out that the contention in Bhavartha Ratnakara (ch.14, sl.13) that 'malefics becoming retrograde cause good results' and in Yavana Jataka (ch.79, sl.51) that 'Planets become extremely distressed because of the Retrogression' are not acceptable due to the reasons that the practical observations do not support these views and that they are at wide variance from the opinions of other major classics.

However, it is to be remembered that the other dignities of Planets such as debilitation, exaltation, planetary war, etc do create additional modifying influences and whether a planet becomes capable of causing extremely bad or most auspicious results depends directly on the actual conditions prevailing in a chart. Hence, the functionally operative roles of retrograde planets need to be examined with extra care and interpreted cautiously after taking into consideration all other dignities as well.

Retrogression in own house

As already mentioned, there are specific references to retrogression in exaltation and debilitation houses; but, the classics are silent about its effects in Own houses of planets. As retrogression is a phenomenon capable of modifying the normal results expected from a planet in a chart, there certainly is a need to know clearly the effects of retrogression of Planets in their own houses also. When a number of horoscopes were examined based on the principles stated above, it resulted in the discovery of an interesting fact which proved to be very useful in predicting such cases correctly.

Although a planet occupying its own house normally gives auspicious results when in retrogression in its own house it only behaves like 'a wayward master' of the house who harms his own house due to his abnormal and unruly behaviours.

That is, although a planet occupying its own house normally gives auspicious results when in retrogression in its own house it only behaves like 'a wayward master' of the house who harms his own house due to his abnormal and unruly behaviours. As such, it is observed that Planets in retrogression in their own house cause generally adverse results only to the native concerned. A further detailed study in this area revealed the following points which can be used as additional guidelines for interpretation:

1. Retrogression of a Planet in its own house spoils the main significations of the house(s) owned and occupied by it. Out of the dual lordships, there is a more severe affliction to the house occupied by it than the other one.
2. Only the common signification between the planet and the house owned and occupied by the retrograde planet primarily suffers very badly. For example, when Mars occupies Aries or Scorpio as the 4th lord, the native would face hurdles and problems in all his dealings regarding the purchase of land.
3. If the planet retrograde in its own house is subjected to additional adverse influences like combustion, affliction by strong malefics, defeat in planetary war, etc, it becomes more inauspicious.
4. If a retrograde planet (irrespective of whether it is a natural benefic or malefic) is occupying its own house and has also attained the vaiseshikamsas such as Gopuramsa, Parvatamasa, etc simultaneously, it may reduce the inauspicious results of the planet to some extent depending on the other conditions in the chart; but, the basic adversity remains.
5. Although retrogression does not change the basic natural disposition of a planet, its functional roles in respect of the house owned and occupied by it only get affected very severely and cause inauspicious results.
6. While looking for the results of planets in retrogression in the houses owned by them, the basic fact that it primarily affects the unique signification of the house concerned must be

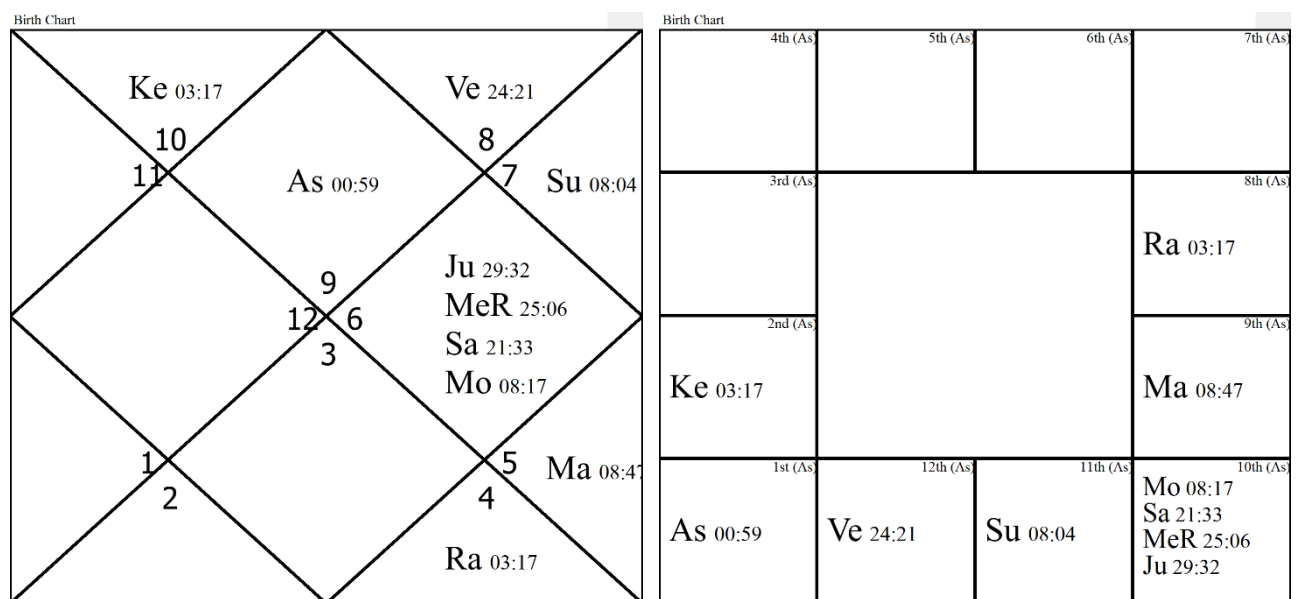
borne in mind. This general clue may be used judiciously by examining all other attendant conditions in a chart.

For example, if the Lagna lord is retrograde in Lagna, it creates negative tendencies in the native in general. If the 2nd lord is retrograde in the 2nd house, it may cause not only bad and unclean dietary habits including addictions to drinking, drugs, etc but also undesirable mannerisms in speech, etc. If the 3rd lord is retrograde in the 3rd house, the native effort would be oriented towards the wrong direction. If the 4th lord is retrograde in the 4th house, it makes the native generally unhappy despite having comforts. The results of other houses may be understood on similar lines.

Keeping the above guidelines in mind, let us take up an analysis of a few case studies.

Chart 1: Female

Birth details: DOB: 25.10.1981 TOB: 10.05 AM POB: Bangalore



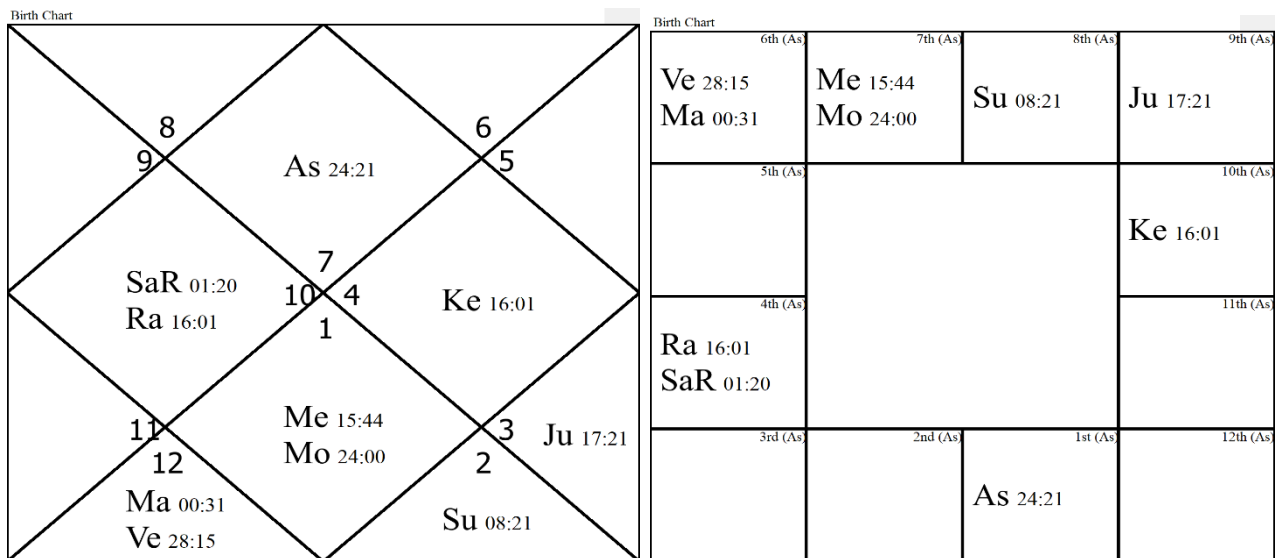
This is the horoscope of a female with Sagittarius as Ascendant.

- The 7th and 10th lord Mercury is posited in its own house in the 10th in retrogression. Moon (8th lord), Saturn (2nd & 3rd lord) and Jupiter (Ascendant and 4th lord) are conjoined with Mercury in the same sign.
- Due to the benefic aspect of Jupiter on the 4th house (own house), the native has acquired a graduation in law and is very much willing to practice.
- But, she could hardly find any success in the legal profession for want of clients, as Mercury is also lord of the 7th house ruling the clients and is not only a badhaka in the chart but also retrograde in her own house in the 10th house signifying her profession.
- The affliction to the 10th house by Moon (8th lord) has worsened the situation and rendered the native jobless and she is literally struggling to earn a regular income.
- Despite the fact that a friendly planet Saturn is conjoined with Mercury and Jupiter is posited in Kendra to both Lagna and Chandra, the main signification of the 10th house i.e., the profession is very adversely affected.

- Not only that. The malefic aspect of Saturn is on the 7th house with the 2nd & 8th houses afflicted by Ketu and Rahu respectively, 7th lord & badhaka Mercury retrograde in 10th in own house and kalatra karaka Venus occupying a dussthana (12th) have adversely affected her married life also causing separation from her husband within a few years of marriage.
- The aspect of retrograde 7th&10th lord Mercury (as the Badhaka lord) on the 4th house (house of happiness) afflicts the 4th house depriving her of general happiness in life.
- It may be noted that Mercury is not having vargabala in shadvargas as it is posited in two benefic vargas only in Rasi and Drekkana charts.
- But, it is posited in 6 benefic vargas in shodasavargas attaining Kerala vaiseshikamsa. In spite of this, the adverse effects of Mercury persist significantly in the life of the native.

Chart 2: Male

Birth details: DOB: 23.05.1990 TOB: 05.15PM POB: Behrampur (Orissa)



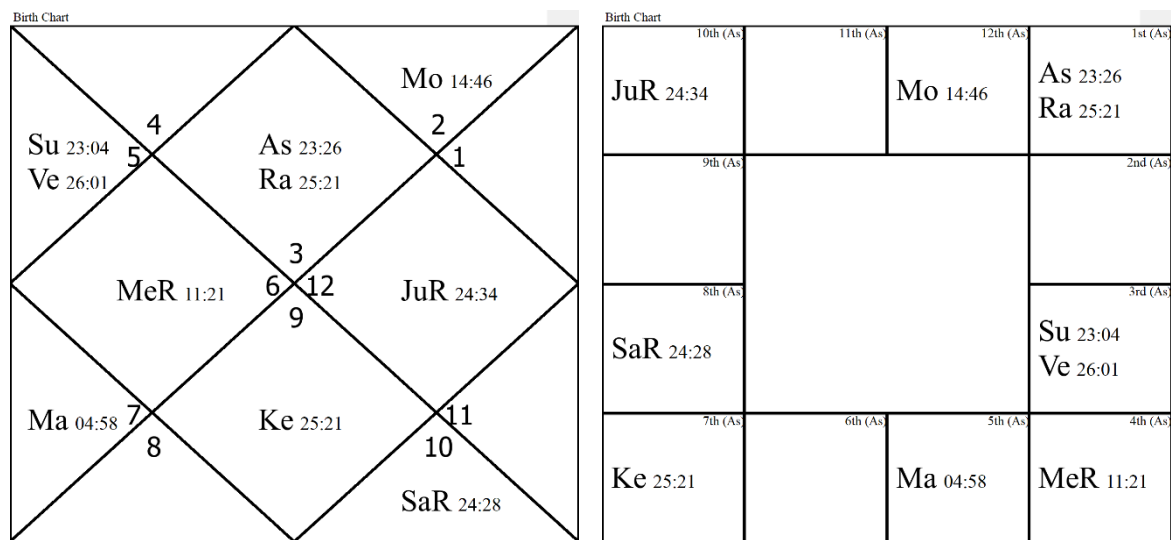
This is the horoscope of a Male. The author was consulted on 28.04.2010 when the native was studying in 2nd year engineering degree and he was performing very badly with arrears of subjects in the past three semesters. As a result, his parents were worried about the future of his education. On examining his horoscope, the following points were noticed:

- The Ascendant is Libra. 4th lord Saturn (also 5th lord) is posited in his own house in the 4th house and is in retrograde motion.
- Rahu is also posited in the 4th house and is afflicting Saturn.
- There is no relieving aspect on 4th house or 4th lord.
- 9th lord Mercury (also karaka for education) & 10th lord Moon are conjoined in 7th house (i.e., 4th to 4th) causing a Rajayoga.
- Saturn is having vargabala in shadvargas as it is posited in four benefic vargas in Rasi Drekkana, Navamsa and Dwadasamsa charts.
- Saturn is posited in 9 benefic vargas in shodasavargas and has attained Poornachandra Vaiseshikamsa.

- The native was running swabhukti in the Dasa of Mars in April 2010.
- As could be seen from the above combinations, Saturn as the 4th & 5th lord signifying the house of education, its retrogression in the 4th house in its own house was causing adverse effects significantly in the education of the native.
- The presence of Rahu in the 4th house without any relieving influences from benefics was worsening the situation which resulted in the native failing in many subjects in all semesters of his degree course.
- Neither the vargabala of the planet nor it is attaining Poornachandra Vaiseshikamsa could save the native from suffering on the educational front, that too in a technical course, despite Saturn signifying studies in the technical field.

Chart 3: Female

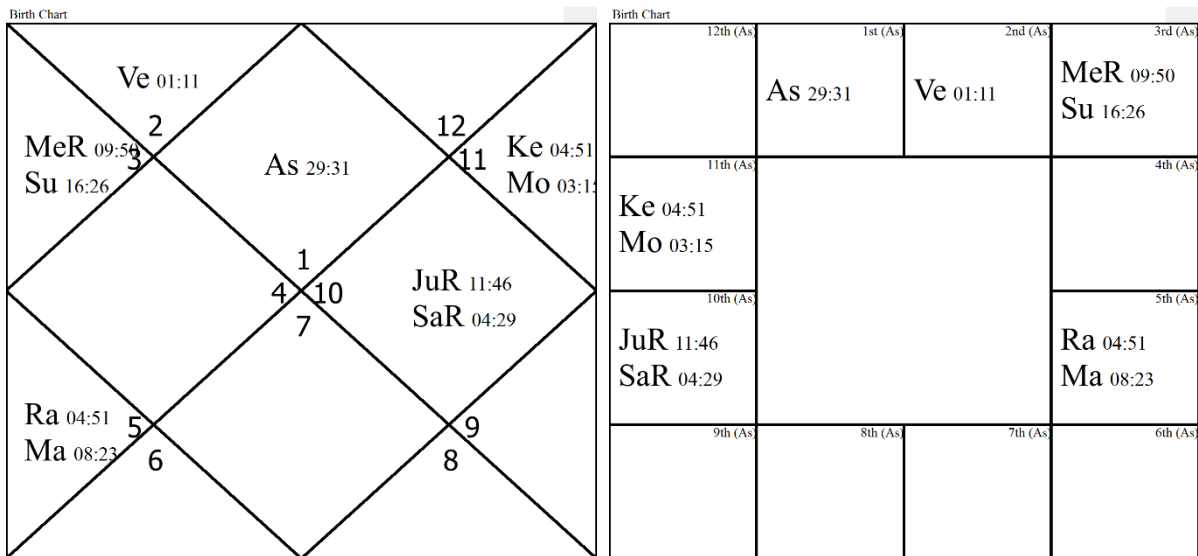
Birth details: DOB: 10.09.1963 TOB: 01.58AM POB: Bangalore



This is the horoscope of a Female in which there are three planets in retrogression in her own house (swasthana). The following key points are to be noted in this chart:

- The Ascendant is Gemini and its lord Mercury (also 4th lord) is occupying the 4th house in retrogression.
- The 7th lord Jupiter (also 10th lord) is occupying the 10th house in retrogression.
- The 8th and 9th lord Saturn is occupying the 8th house in retrogression.
- The 2nd lord Moon is occupying the 12th house without any benefic aspects with badhaka Jupiter aspecting the 2nd house.
- There is a mutual aspect between Mars and Saturn. Saturn in turn is aspecting Jupiter. There is a mutual aspect between Mercury (lord of Ascendant) and Jupiter (7th lord) also with Rahu and Ketu afflicting the 1/7 axis in the chart.
- As evident from the above combinations, a strong adverse interconnection is established in the chart among the 9 houses 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11.

- With affliction to the 2nd house also by Jupiter, almost all houses in the chart are having inauspicious influences. This makes the native basically unhappy about everything in her life.
- Moreover, the mutual aspect of retrograde Lagna and 7th lords on each other with affliction to 2nd house and 2nd lord indicates that the personal relationship between both the native and her spouse was not so intimate and mutually they were not going well with each other although they could forge a working relationship for more than 20 years.
- But, the native unexpectedly committed suicide choosing to end her unhappy marital life at the end of August 2006 over a small quarrel with her husband.
- Despite Saturn (being the significator for longevity and also owning the 8th house signifying longevity in a horoscope) occupying the 8th house in his own house and Jupiter occupying the highest Kendra (10th) in his own house, the native was not conferred long life because both of them were retrograde in own houses.
- The native was running the Bhukti of Moon (maraka in 12th house) in Dasa of Jupiter (badhaka & maraka to Gemini Ascendant) during August 2006 when she committed suicide.
- It may also be noted that Mercury and Jupiter are not having vargabala in shadvargas. But, Saturn is having vargabala as it is posited in four benefic vargas in Rasi, Drekkana, Dwadasamsa and Trimsamsa charts.
- Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn have attained the vaiseshikamsas named as Chandanavana (8 benefic vargas), Kanduka (5 benefic vargas) and Suryakanta (12 benefic vargas) in shodasavargas respectively.
- Despite all these, the adverse effects of these planets have affected the native significantly.
- But, perhaps only these benefic influences have helped the native in managing her unhappy marital life for more than 20 years!



This is the horoscope of a Male whose profession is affected because of a retrograde planet occupying the 10th house in his own house. The following features of the chart are noteworthy:

- The Ascendant is Aries. 3rd and 6th lord Mercury is in 3rd house; but, is retrograde. This means that the effort of the native is not oriented towards the right direction so as to achieve the desired objectives in life. The Lagna & 8th lord Mars occupying the 5th house (ruling the subconscious mind) and getting afflicted by Rahu there adds to the problem by tickling the mind to commit mistakes and Ketu in the 11th house ensures that the native loses his chances of success.
- 10th house is occupied by two retrograde planets i.e, Saturn (10th & 11th lord) and Jupiter (9th & 12th lord). Saturn is in its own house and Jupiter is retrograde in its sign of debilitation. Saturn being badhaka for Aries Ascendant and Jupiter as 12th lord also and both being retrograde, this combination in the 10th house does not cause any Rajayoga to the native. Instead, both planets afflict the 10th house very badly and deprive the native of any stable profession in life.
- The simultaneous adverse aspects of Saturn and Mars on Moon in the 12th house make the native fastidious and as a consequence, he fails to understand the reality. This results in more mental woes and makes him easily irritable in nature which makes him leave even the small opportunities he gets.
- The affliction to the 11th house by Ketu and the aspect of Mars on it not only would deprive fulfilment in life to the native but also make him keep longing for regular income throughout his life.
- Despite possessing vargabala in Shadvargas and attaining different vaiseshikamsas in shodasavargas, all the three planets- Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn- are not in a position to provide any significant relief to the native either in the profession or in getting a stable income from some quarters.

Thus, it can be seen from the above discussion that the retrogression of planets in the houses owned by them in a chart does not augur well for the native.