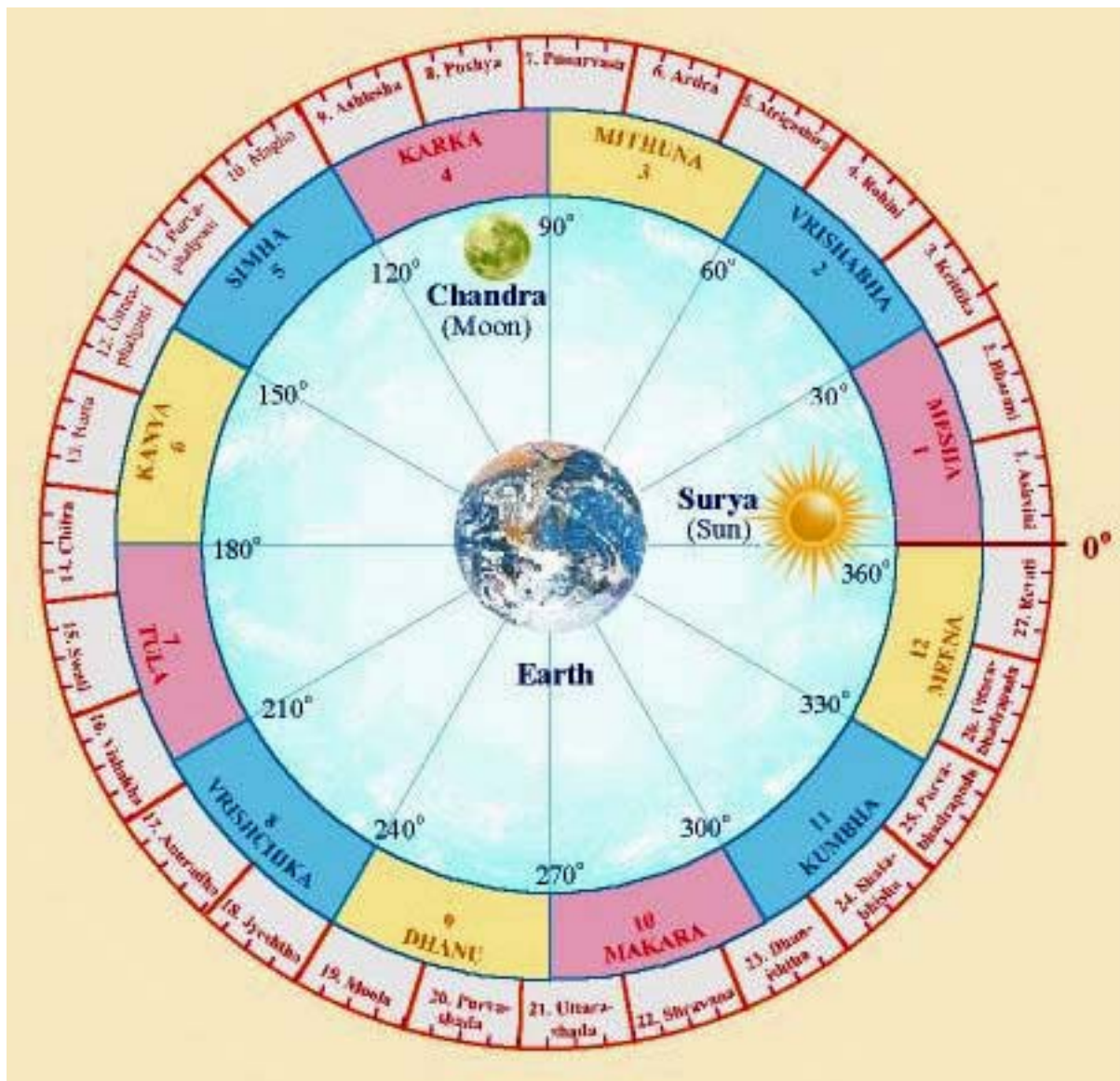


Janma Nakshatra (Birth Star)

Each one of us is born under one of 27 nakshatras. This is also known as one's janma nakshatra or birth nakshatra.

27 Nakshatras in a Great Circle

Imagine a great circle in space and the 27 nakshatras laid out equally on this circle. Since a circle covers 360 degrees, these 27 nakshatrams cover 360 degrees in space. So the "space" occupied by one nakshatram is 360 divided by 27 which is equal to 13 degrees and 20 minutes.



Now instead of dividing these 360 degrees by 27 divide them by 12. If you do that, you get 12 raasis.

12 Raasis = 27 Nakshatras!

1 Raasi = 2 and 1/4 Nakshatras

The space occupied by the 12 rashis is the same space occupied by the 27 nakshatras. Thus each one of us has a janma rasi just like we have a janma nakshatra. You can think of the 12 rasis as another way of grouping the 27 nakshatras.

Since 12 rasis = 27 nakshatras, one raasi = two and a quarter nakshatras (since 27 divided by 12 = 2 and 1/4). In other words, the 27 nakshatras are grouped under 12 rasis at two and a quarter nakshatras per raasi.

As you can see, a nakshatra can occupy a part of one rasi and a part of the next rasi (as laid out in the table below). This is the case for 9 of the 27 nakshatras. These 9 are: Kritika, Mrigasira, Punarvasu, Uttara Phalguni, Chitra, Visaka, Uttarashada, Dhanishta and Poorvabhadra are partly in one rasi and partly in another.

But if each nakshatra is divided into 4 equal quarters, a quarter will never occupy more than one rasi. This higher precision division of each nakshatra into quarters has been done.

Nakshatra Paadham = 4 Quarters of each nakshatra

The space occupied by each nakshatra (in the great circle) is divided into four equal quarters. Since there are 27 nakshatras, there are 108 nakshatra quarters ($27 \times 4 = 108$) in total with each quarter spanning 3 degrees and 20 minutes of the great circle. Each quarter of each nakshatra will never span two rasis; each quarter will be part of one and only one rasi. Each such nakshatra quarter is referred to as a Nakshatra Paadham or Nakshatra Pada.

When you hear people make statements such as "My nakshatra is Punarvasu 2nd padham" or "My birth star is Vishaka 4th quarter" and so on, they are referring to this finer division of each nakshatra into quarters.

Finding out your Rasi from your Nakshatram

Of course, if your nakshatra spans more than one rasi, then use calculator

<http://www.agasthiar.org/AUMzine/0019-rasi.htm>

Rasi - Nakshatra Table

Use the following table to find out your janma rasi from your janma nakshatra.

RASI	NAKSHATRA
Mesha	- Aswini (Asvini) - Apa Bharani (Barani) - first quarter of Krittika (Karthigai)
Vrishabha	- last three quarters of Krittika (Karthigai) - Rohini - first half of Mrigasira (Mrigaseersham)
Mithuna	- second half of Mrigasira (Mrigaseersham) - Ardra (Thiruvadhirai) - first three quarters of Punarvasu (Punarpoosam)
Kataka	- last quarter of Punarvasu (Punarpoosam) - Pushyami (Poosam) - Aslesha (Ayilyam)
Simha	- Makha (Magham) - Poorva Phalguni (Pooram) - first quarter of Uttara Phalguni (Uttaram)
Kanya	- last three quarters of Uttara Phalguni (Uttaram) - Hasta (Hastham) - first half of Chitra (Chittirai)
Thula	- second half of Chitra (Chittirai) - Swati (Swathi) - first three quarters of Visakha (Visakham)
Vrischika	- last quarter of Visakha (Visakham) - Anuradha (Anusham) - Jyeshtha (Kettai)

Dhanus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moola (Moolam) - Poorvashada (Pooradam) - first quarter of Uttarashada (Uttiradam)
Makara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - last three quarters of Uttarashada (Uttiradam) - Sravana (Thiruvonam) - first half of Dhanishta (Avittam)
Kumbha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - second half of Dhanishta (Avittam) - Satabhishak (Sadhayam) - first three quarters of Poorvabhadra (Pooratadhi)
Meena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - last quarter of Poorvabhadra (Pooratadhi) - Uttarabhadra (Uttiratadhi) - Revati (Revathi)