

ESOTERIC and EXOTERIC ASTROLOGY*

by Prof. C.Sambasiva Rao , Chairman, Universal College of Astrology, Hyderabad.

*Published in www.esovani.in an erstwhile unit of www.eso.tv, Hungary

Synopsis : *Meaning of the word 'Esoteric'- Ancient Philosophies-Exoteric and Esoteric- Esoteric meanings of names used in the worship of Gods in Hindu Mythology– Esoteric meaning of the names used in the worship of Lalitha devi- Esoteric meanings of Ten Avataras- Esoteric meaning of the Twelve signs as Ascendant- Esoteric nature of planetary energies as rulers of signs- Esoteric Astrology- Age of Aquarius - Esoteric Astrology- Seven Rays-Who can seek Esoteric Astrology Readings.*

Meaning of the word 'Esoteric'

Philosophically, '**ESOTERIC**' mean the one hidden from all but well know in a particular group of an esoteric cult.

Great Philosophers like Plato, Aristotle were concealing the 'true' doctrines from all except to their followers mostly because the messages cannot easily be understood by one and all.

Ancient philosophies are of two types – Exoteric and Esoteric. Exoteric are those which are understandable only to philosophers whereas Esoteric are those which cannot easily be understood by all. This has profoundly affected modern thought and the exoteric matters are becoming esoteric in a course of time.

Esoteric meanings of names used in the worship of Gods in Hindu Mythology

The power of the Word of 'God' is effective and predominant over the material as well as spiritual matters.

God is powerful in all things, and that the verses/ mantras chanted on GOD/Goddess have **exoteric** and **esoteric** meaning. Neither their outward prevents their inward, nor do their inwards prevent their outward meaning. The greater truths are often hidden behind the veil of metaphors. 'Esoteric' is synonymous to 'mysterious'. Mystery is a hidden secret and is spiritual. Although many can see and hear many things all cannot not understand all of them as they themselves may not believe it and may not experience it.

Hindus worship GOD in different forms - GOD / GODESS. Each name used in a worship do suggest an esoteric meaning.

Esoteric meaning of the names used in the worship of Lalitha devi-

Hindus, in Srividya tradition worship Goddess 'Lalitha Devi' with so much emphasis on the liturgical listing of 1000 names (Lalithasahasranam), their symbolism give much insight into the esoteric ism of this goddess.

Names of 'Lalitha' suggests that she is beyond conceptualization, she is omnipotent, and a single form of creator, maintainer and destroyer. On gross level she is everything that is three-fold in this universe, including (to name a few) the three worlds, three energies, and three tattvas.

On a more subtle level, Lalita is the nature of Siva, Sakti, and Atman. Thus, Siva is Sakti and Sakti is Siva; the two are one and the same in a constant union.

Pure Consciousness does not exist without the Creative Energy. Each individual Atman is no different than either Siva or Sakti. Atman is, itself, the union of the two and is, itself, Absolute Divinity.

The Sri Vidya tradition claims that these three categories do not differ from one another. Thus, once the knower" begins the "process of knowing," that "knower" actually becomes the "object of knowledge."

In this realization, one travels from the manifest world back into the Bindu Point and into the Absolute Consciousness.

Translating this into "Lalita language," a devotee himself becomes the Absolute by worshiping reciting the mantra of Lalitha, the Supreme Consciousness. Knowing oneself to be God, experiencing in full the presence of Lalita is salvation (moksha)

Esoteric Meaning of the Ten Avatars in Hindu Mythology

"Asato Maa Sat-Gamaya, - Tamaso Maa Jyotir-Gamaya, -Mrityor Maa Amritam-Gamaya"

The above prayer in Hindu scriptures epitomises the purpose of the Lord's Creation, the grand culmination of going back into that Transcendence out of which these countless names and forms have been evolved as a blissful act of play by the One without a second.

The plan of the Divine Will is that out of the One infinite, names and forms may flow out and for a time there may be a blissful play of this divine multiplicity and then once again, when the Divine Wills, there may be a going back into the pristine glorious source.

This cycle of becoming and perishing, birth and death, is the characteristic of this world-play. Thus, a going back into the original grandeur of Brahman means an ascent from this unreality into that Supreme Reality. This process is being worked out by all evolved beings.

From time to time great ones have come, who have systematized this Cosmic plan and formulated a method so that individuals in whom this purpose has been awakened may make use of this method and reach the goal quickly, that they may consciously achieve this process in themselves. These methods have come to the various religions of humanity. Gradually, these religions have had a greater and ever-widening group of followers. These great groups exist all over the world as the great section of Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, and so on.

But the one inescapable fundamental fact about these religions remains that all these various religions are but methods which seek to work out in some way or other the ascent of man from birth and death to Immortality.

The ten Avatars of the Lord, which are described in Hindu scriptures, are an order calculated to teach us a sublime spiritual lesson.

Lord said in Bhagavad Gita, "*Sambhavami Yuge Yuge*", which mean – that He incarnates Himself, whenever necessary, to put mankind into correct path to lead Divine life. The gist of Avatars is to kill brutality in man and correct him towards Divinity.

1. *Matsya* (Fish) Avatara.- Fish lives in water, shut out from the two important elements for life—pure air and sunlight. Yet, if you liberate the fish from its aquatic prison and place it in life-giving sunshine surrounded by fresh air, it is greatly distressed and would die in a few minutes. Similarly, the man who is sunk in worldliness, who is worse than a beast, cannot bear the sunlight of godliness and fresh, pure air of divine life. He revels in his own dark region deprived of all spiritual light.

2. *Kurma* (Tortoise) Avatara.- The tortoise lives in water; but is able, to an extent, to live on the shore, too. This corresponds to the first-stages of man's career from bestiality to humanity and from humanity to divinity. He likes to live sunk in ignorance, but does not seriously mind the light of truth.

3. *Varaha* (Boar) Avatara. - Here the evolution has taken the Jiva completely away from this worse-than-beast stage, away from the aquatic prison, and the boar, though considered as the lowest among the animals, is yet an animal and lives on mother earth, basking in sunshine and breathing fresh air.

4. The *Nrisimha* (the Man-lion) Avatara - crown of animal-creation. Integrated personality indicates the beast nature in man. Great violent with a purpose of killing. Violence and the spirit of destruction is main in this while trying to transcend the bestiality;

5. The *Vamana* (the Dwarf) Avatara.- No animal nature. It is completely human with a greatly limited capacity. This avatar suggests that the man is capable of transcending all limitations and realising his unity with Brahman.

6. The *Parasurama* Avatara – a man where the humanity has supervened. From this there are three object-lessons.-

I) One must sub serve his will to that of his 'Guru' – His perfect faith in father as 'Guru' led to implicit obedience and perfect subservience to the higher will. As per father's order he killed his mother and when the same father granted a boon he used it with a request to get back the mother live. His father got her back to life.

II) Any can rise into divine nature only by annihilating his brutal nature and by sublimating the human nature, Unrighteous kings were killed by Parasurama much against Sattva nature of his Bramin cult. This shows that in Yoga sadhana certain amount of destruction is absolutely necessary.

III) One should nullify his brutal nature and then, he becomes a true human being. One should learn to sub serve his Guru, and then he should destroy all hurdles in the way. To please his father Parasurama has killed a king who has stolen a milk cow from his father. But, father warned him for forgetting his own dharma as a Brahmin who should not retaliate, and should only be patient as a sign of forbearance and forgiveness. Father has also punished him to undertake a countrywide pilgrimage.

7. *Rama* Avatara – One should serve his Guru with love, sincerity and obedience for liberation or God-realisation. Sri Rama killed many Asuras as told by his Guru Vismamitra, and by his Grace Sri Rama followed Sattvic virtues like truthfulness, love, compassion and purity. Similarly, we

8. *Krishna* Avatara, -a *Purna* Avatara. - Tells any spiritual aspirant with all necessary teachings to attain one-ness with God. He must serve humanity in all respects, without distinction of caste, creed or sect. Sri Krishna was trying compromise to avert the Kurukshetra war. Sri Krishna practised and preached the selfless service, in the Bhagavad Gita.

9. *Buddha* Avatara. -taught that one can attain God-realisation by practicing even a single divine virtue of non-violence (*Ahimsa*) in thought, word and deed.

10. *Kalki* Avatara. - which is meant for removing the ignorance in humanity by awaking consciousness of Divinity.

Esoteric meaning of the Twelve signs as Ascendant.

Human soul has a wide purpose with its arenas of growth, levels of consciousness and service. Soul's purpose is reflected in the esoteric meaning of the ascendant sign in zodiac. Following are the brief symptoms of ascendant signs and are to be seen in comprehension with modifications in the light of its connection to planets.

ARIES - Replacing instant desire with will; assertively increasing the Higher Self; discerning and also by embodying Divine Will.

TAURUS – wise steward of the Earth's resources, utilizing them for the fulfillment of the Divine Plan; transmutes material attachment into spiritual aspiration

GEMINI - Giving love and applying wisdom lovingly and help to connect people and promote planet wide unity of all Humanity

CANCER - Realizing the Oneness of all manifested life, human, animal, vegetable, and mineral to mass consciousness to uplift and inspire Humanity toward the universal Love of the heart chakra

LEO - Becoming centered in God-consciousness with perfect personality with soul energy to radiate Love to others to usher to a higher planetary consciousness

VIRGO - Refining the personality to receive the energies of the soul and to sow God Consciousness to rearrange the physical plane to receive the higher energy necessary for planetary initiation

LIBRA - Seeing everyone as part of oneself to develop Wholeness through cooperation with the Higher Self and the Divine Plan.

SCORPIO - Transmuting lower desires into Higher Will as a spiritual warrior and catalyst of healing through the embodiment and transmission of Divine Power

SAGITTARIUS – With the experience of all facets of human life develops complete acceptance, understanding, and love of other. Inspires others toward greater understanding of life and of each other with a torch of Light and Love.

CAPRICORN - Working productively develops patience, persistence, and perseverance. Progresses spiritually with assumption of greater responsibilities in helping to manifest the Divine Plan on Earth

AQUARIUS – Realising the universality of Spirit, the Divine essence, Unity of all beings, interplanetary and extra planetary. Serving uniquely and in a cooperatively with others. Works under the direction of the Planetary Hierarchy. Helps the whole of Humanity to awaken in consciousness.

PISCES – Getting aware of ingrained personal attitudes, cultural thought forms, and societal institutions which hinder planetary progress. Then yielding Power to transmute them into higher forms of energy to clear the way for the new thought forms which will serve the Divine Plan of evolution for the planet and the solar system.

Esoteric nature of planetary energies as rulers of signs.

An esoteric view of zodiac signs and their lords reveal much about the soul's path in the cycle of re-births.

A study of Leo and its ruler tell that Sun's energy, esoterically, has a triadic nature with three aspects i.e., Physical level; heart level; and Spiritual level. Sun rules Leo on both exoteric and esoteric levels.

Neptune is the agents to carry to earth the energies of the Sun at heart level while Uranus play such role at the Spiritual level. Thus the Sun cover both Neptune and Uranus.

The Sun symbolizes the personality, and in Leo the personality undergoes an evolution in self awareness from the personal to the trans personal.

Selfishness, egotism, and personal will are being conquered for Universal Love. In this the Sun,Uranus and Neptune, are involved.

Leo contributes to the development and expression of self consciousness, with a realisation of the existence of something greater than just physical body which binds all human being. On a next step, the Sun with Neptune one realizes and somehow helps to make life better for one's brothers and sisters in the Family of Humanity. Then the mind increasingly responds to the Soul which dominates in awareness with supreme consciousness.

Esoteric Astrology –for the Age of Aquarius

The Age of Aquarius is just commencing. And the traditional astrology is evolving toward 'Esoteric Astrology. Thus the causes rather than effects are essential to study the path of human soul behind the outer body form.

Soul is imperishable, eternal and with expanding consciousness in purpose to nullify karma in the repeated cycle of rebirths.

In present astrological practices- both in personality astrology and psychological astrology- matters dealt with are of mundane, spiritual, fortune telling, and to bring about integration and wholeness.

Esoteric Astrology contemplates a larger perspective of life not only as an inhabitant in this solar system but also participating as an 'energy center' within a greater solar life.

Esoteric Astrology & the Seven Rays

Greatest psychologists of last century developed Psycho synthesis techniques from the Seven Rays. Esoteric astrology take the help of theories of such Science of Seven Rays.

The planets are simple instruments for the energies to transmit to Earth through the zodiac whose signs have special reactions with the rays. The rays can be studied by themselves and constitute what is known as Esoteric Psychology.

The seven rays were attributed to the important aspects of human life. They are Will power, Love wisdom, and Active intelligence, Harmony through conflict, Concrete science, Devotion idealism, and Ceremonial order. Each of them have virtues and vices. Will power may be in destruction, Love-wisdom lead to dispassion, Active intelligence may adapt manipulation, harmony may cause forceful conflict, Concrete science may help practical application, Devotion and Idealism may bring aggressiveness, Ceremonial order with emphasis on Creative process manifests into forms.

The Seven Rays correspond to many 'septenaries', which provide the basic building blocks of occultism.

Planets 'rule' rays, similar to astrological ruler ships, hence the interface between rays, planets & zodiac signs is interesting. To commence the study of horoscope is to determine the rays, first and then interpret the horoscope *in light of the rays*. These rays

also correspond to Chakras, planets. *Chakra qualities* vary in each individual according to his stage of evolution.

RAY	- Chakra	- Planet
Will power	-Crown-	-Vulcan,Pluto;
Love Wisdom	- Heart	- Jupiter, Sun;
Active Intelligence	-Throat	- Saturn, Earth.
Harmony / Conflict	- Base	- Mercury, Moon
Concrete Science	- Ajna	- Neptune
Abstract idealism	- Solar Plexus	- Neptune, mars
Ceremonial magic	- Sacral	- Uranus

Who can seek Esoteric Astrology Readings ?

For best results those who want an Esoteric Astrological reading should be backed by the right reasons for seeking such a reading. Esoteric Astrology seekers must be at a point in their spiritual development and such reading must be of a value to them.

Such seekers themselves receive more information in their Spiritual experiences than in an esoteric astrological reading. One's own spiritual practices are more useful than the esoteric astrology reading by another person.

References: www.mindspring.com; www.celestialharmonics.com ; www.thereflectory.com ; www.flipkart.com; www.ibiblio.org; <http://watsongregory.homestead.com>; <http://ppt.homestead.com>; www.dishq.org/saints; www.intuiosity.com/blog

=====*****=====