

Dig Bala (Directional Strength)

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In the Vedic astrology texts there is a system called "Shad Bala" (translated as "sixfold strength"). This is a system of evaluating planets and their impact based on different Universal factors – many Astronomical in nature. One of the most important components of Shad Bala (and easiest to use), is called Dig Bala - Directional Strength.

The general concept of Dig Bala is that planets will do better supporting certain angles in the chart than others. When a planet is closest to its best Dig Bala position it not only supports the angle, but its goal is supported as well.

Dig Bala is a Universal Principle, as every astrology chart will have four angles that relate to the different directions. As with all "Universal Astrology" principles, the rule itself is important only in that we investigate and understand the reason why. When we just repeat a rule like *"Mercury has Dig Bala in the first house, so it is good"*, we are adding nothing to the reading except a general black and white assertion. One of the big problems with just memorizing rules without understanding the "why", is that we wind up unable to untangle the contradictions of numerous placements.

For example: we might have a planet that has good Dig Bala, but it is debilitated or retrograde or getting very difficult aspects or ruling difficult houses, etc. In fact, you can count on these complexities. For this reason it is important to understand exactly what Dig Bala strength shows about the planet, the house/angle in a very specific and detailed way.

In this class we will examine why each planet has Dig Bala in the position it does and also compare/contrast that Directional position with the other Directional positions, especially its opposite placement -- where its Dig Bala is lowest.

Directions Please,...

Every astrology chart we are going to erect will have four directions as shown by houses 1, 4, 7 and 10. Let's examine these positions in general.

The first house/ascendant is the East. It shows the energy coming into birth at that time based on the exact position of the turning Earth relative to the sky in the local place where the chart is being drafted. The first house shows the body/personality/style and overall experience in an individual's chart or those same qualities (minus the physical body) in an electoral chart.

The fourth house/nadir is the North. It shows what is the deepest and most hidden. If you draw a chart for where you're sitting right now, the nadir would be directly below you. The fourth house shows the feelings and inner emotional life of an individual or an event.

The seventh house/descendent is the West. It shows that which is furthest away from the person or event (that is born in the first house). It is commonly known as the "relationship house". The seventh house shows that which is completely opposite the person or event. There is a strong magnetic pull toward our opposite. The seventh house shows this and acts as a mirror to the first house.

The 10th house/midheaven is the South. It shows what is directly overhead and shows what has the highest capacity to impact us or the impact we can have. The 10th house shows the quality of action and impact that a person or event can have on the world and/or that the world can have on the person or the event.

Planets and Dig Bala

The Dig Bala positions for each planet are as follows:

First house Dig Bala -- Mercury and Jupiter

Fourth house Dig Bala -- Venus and the moon

Seventh house Dig Bala -- Saturn

10th house Dig Bala -- Mars and the sun

Let's examine this a little further. To simplify things we will assume a natal chart is being used as an example.

First house Dig Bala -- Mercury and Jupiter. The first house is the area of life lived through the body, in real time. It shows our experiences and the actions we take. Both Mercury and Jupiter are planets of intelligence, the mind. Mercury Jupiter rule the four dual/mutable astrology signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces -- using traditional rulers). As ruling these dual signs, both Mercury and Jupiter are planets that allow us to make adjustments when unexpected things come our way.

Mercury is a planet of flexibility, curiosity, playfulness and neutrality. These traits are very important in life where we must adjust, accommodate and be flexible. Having a good sense of humor and the ability to laugh at it all is quite a good trait in the day to day, moment to moment real life of the first house. This moment to moment experience of the body is related to things such as our diet, our habits and the capacity to make adjustments and be flexible. Also the ability to communicate and interact with people is important. Mercury is the communicator. The neutral, intelligent and curious nature of Mercury facilitates First house goals perfectly. Also, the freedom and autonomy of the first house allows his skills to become manifest through form. Mercury is compared to Lord Vishnu, the maintainer and manifester of the universe.

Jupiter is a planet of optimism, hope, graciousness and the bigger picture. These traits help us overcome the unexpected setbacks in life. The optimism and hope that eventually everything will work out exactly how it's supposed to is a wonderful trait to have as we go through life in real time. Jupiter is the planet of sound judgment and the

awareness of right and wrong. This is very important when we have to make decisions based on ethics, values and principles. It is best when our sense of morality, judgment and values come from within ourselves and feel under control by our own power, rather than from others. Jupiter is also related to teachings and learning from life's experiences. The greatest teacher in life is our experiences and thoughts Jupiter in the first house allows a person to learn through their experiences. This not only facilitates the goal of the first house it also facilitates the goal of Jupiter, the Guru.



Fourth house Dig Bala -- Venus and the moon. Fourth house is where we wish to go inside our own hearts in order to feel good and connect to the deepest part of our psyche that is beyond anything in the world. It is that internal sanctuary within. Both the moon and Venus are planets of comfort and feeling. These are the two female planets that also share the goal of bringing comfort, peace and happiness to our heart.

Moon is the main planet of peace and emotional comfort. It shows our intuition, that area of our psyche that maintains the delicate balance between our body (ascendant) and our soul (Sun). Whatever experiences we are taking in through the body, if they are not leading us toward our highest soul's purpose, the moon lets us know by generating a feeling that we either listen to or ignore. If we are disconnected from our heart the moon is more likely to generate painful emotional longings and cravings, not pure feelings that we trust. A fourth house moon is anchored in that deepest and quietest part of who we are, supported by and supporting that area of life.

Venus is the main planet of beauty, order and harmonious interactions with other people. All of these things support the deeper goal of the fourth house which is peace of mind. When our personal relationships unfold in a loving way and we manage our desires effectively, the things we have in our life do not disturb our peace of mind. The willingness to compromise with others is another big lesson of Venus. Skill in this area supports our emotional well-being. The fourth house elevates the nature of Venus by allowing our desires to flow from a place of emotional depth, sensitivity and intuition. When the things we desire are coming from a selfish perspective or one not connected to our heart, we suffer greatly. Happiness (Venus) that flows from our heart (fourth house) leads to peace and love.



Seventh house Dig Bala -- Saturn. The seventh house is where we wish to satisfy our desires with another person and with other people in general. We have a lot of attachment to our relationships with other people and we are often very hasty when we make romantic/relationship decisions. The careful and cautious nature of Saturn slows us down and makes us realistic about how much happiness we can and should expect from other people. Relationships are where we have the most unrealistic ideas. Saturn is the most realistic energy within us.

Saturn is a planet of time and the commitments we make over time. The awareness of time on folding gives us respect for the limitations we must honor and the seriousness of our commitments over time. This awareness makes

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**The Sun** is the universal, pervasive light within us that senses the highest good that can be done when our duties are performed in a dignified and responsible way. We all have a shining vision burning bright within us about how we can best make a difference. The sun in the 10th house will be guiding our highest purposes from the highest place of Impact. The instinctive, clear nature of the sun will act in a consistent manner. Doing the same thing for a long period of time, making adjustments when necessary by keeping our eyes on the goal, is the well-worn path to success. The 10<sup>th</sup> house Sun not only supports the 10<sup>th</sup> house and our worldly duties, those very duties themselves support the evolving sun and the need to purify our actions in the crucible of worldly experience – Also know as “burning our karma”. The more powerful the actions, the deeper the purification, and the higher the level of confidence and power will be necessary to succeed in them.

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