



**International Journal of Research
in
Pharmaceutical and Nano Sciences**

Journal homepage: www.ijrpns.com

<https://doi.org/10.36673/IJRPNS.2022.v11.i02.A18>



STUDY OF NAKSHATRAS AND THE LUNAR CASTLES

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ABSTRACT

The cosmic impacts on our world are based on stars, especially the Indian system 27 sky objects or stars called as *nakshatras*. Because, these 27 nakshatras are found in the Moon's orbit so, these are simply called as castles of the Moon. Since the Moon spends one day in each of these constellations. In the Hindu mythology especially in Indian tradition, nakshatras played an important role in the everyday life. In every auspicious day or occasions nakshatras lodge an energetic part with the sustenance of the astrology and it was staunchly connected to *lunar castles*. The Indians observed the stars and derived to some conclusions based on their position and movement and they compared the stars with their daily life utensils and named their accordingly. The nakshatras are a group of 27 constellations that are 300 to 400 light years away from Earth. The nakshatra in which the Moon is found is known as the *janma nakshatra* and because the Moon influences the native's mental aspects and has an indelible effect on the Moon. This paper describes the system of our ancient astrological roots especially the nakshatras, and to analyse the position and movement in the Universe. The paper also reveals the basic sources of astrology and the development of spiritual growth.

KEYWORDS

Stars, Sun, Moon, Rasi, Graham, Zodiac, Planets, Indian astrology, Vedas, ancestors, Degree, Kamadhenu, Brajapathi and Vasu.

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INTRODUCTION

The article is discussed about the *Moon* and its *Lunar Castles*. In the solar system, Moons are significantly more common in our solar system than planets, yet scientists have yet to find a confirmed Moon orbiting a planet outside of our solar system. The Moons are classified in to two types such as regular moons and irregular moons. The regular are prograde orbits and lie close to the plane of their

equators. The irregular are most likely small planets grabbed from the surrounding space. In our solar system, there are 174 acknowledged and encircling in the six outermost planets. The Moon is the earth's normal vision and it circles around the planet from west to east, taking roughly $27^{1/4}$ days to complete one rotation. The moon, as previously stated does not produce any light of its own, instead it reflects the light of the Sun¹.

A galaxy is a collection of stars and material held together by gravity. The galaxy is made up of millions upon millions of cosmic objects and it is limitless. The galaxy in which we live is known as the Milky Way. The galaxy appears to be a milky patch in the sky when viewed from Earth, earning it the name. The little dazzling objects at night called as stars, on the other hand, these are massive balls of gases (mostly hydrogen and helium) kept together by their own gravity generated at the star's core. They produce light on their own. Nuclear processes at the star's core provide support against the star's own gravitational pull. The distance between the earth and these stars is measured in light-years. The calculation of such large detachments in kilometres or miles can be annoying. The distance travelled by light in a year is called a light year. A constellation of stars is a group of stars that form a recognisable pattern or shape. These are a collection of interconnected stars that form unusual shapes. Ursa Major, Orion, and Cassiopeia are three of the most well-known constellations in our Milky Way galaxy².

Our ancestors observed the stars and derived to some conclusions based on their position and movement of the stars with their daily life tackles and named their accordingly. They gave shapes based on their resembles of the stars. It is the law that each object will resemble other in shape based on their geometrical presentation. So, the stars were related to similar object found on the Earth, the 27 stars were thus depicted in our astrology book and almanacs shape were given to them and they remain the same without any alterations this is the significance of Indian astrology³.

All the stars seem to be present in a sequence on after the other but their shape is crooked. The astrologists mention the nine planet and the twelverasi's (zodiac) regions determine the state of man. Our ancestors made and in depth and created a regulation for these stay astronomical calculation our fate it determines by the movement of the planet in twelve zodiac a longer with the movement of the stars.

There are billions of stars in the universe so, there are innumerable stars in the universe but only the stars in the lunar region are taken for in to account. The rasi chakra has been used for major astronomical calculation. This is an imaginary line drawn between the nine planets found in the solar system. These are further divided in to 360 degrees. The part of the stars in the rasi, form the rasi region in a circle and are denoted as solar path. They are divided in 27-star region, these stars are not separate but found in clusters. These stars are stationed based on the part of planets (Figure No.1)⁴.

The rasi circle has nine grahams which bring out the state of any individual life is based on calculation like each rasi is divided in to a part, further as 30 degree consisting $2\frac{1}{4}$ stars. The sun revolves on degree at the time and covers all 360 degrees. It crossed 30 degrees in 30 days based on this as the Sun takes twelve months to cross entire 360 degree the year consists of 360 days. According to astrological calculation each star as unique and signification attributes. Each section as also unique quality they gain the qualities of the stars as they cross it. Each rasi reflex in the influence of the stars while crossing it. All the 27 stars have separate qualities and they have non in common. It differs from rasi to rasi and start to star⁵. This differs accordingly. They are planets rule the stars. All planet has influence based on the sections of the stars. Only because of the movement there are changes for each rasi and they're by determining the fate of man.

According to in these astrological calculations the moon travels in the part of rasi in one day one-star bases. It crosses on rasi region in 27 days. In one

sowramana year the sun crosses all the 27 stars. A *santhiramana* year means the moon will cross the rasi 12 times in a year. According to this a moon will cross one star in day at the same time a sun cross on degree in a day. This denoted that the distance between the Sun and the Moon is called *thithi* day (Figure No.2).

It is clearly mentioned in the ancient Tamil source bookssuch as, *Marana Kandigai*, *Natchathira Sudamani*, *Natchathira Malai*, *Natchathira Paatha Palan* and *Natchathira Nigandu* about the star position movements and effects and benefits of each and every stars⁶. Since the Indian astrologers focus on the powers of the planets and the stars and their influence on the earth both the sun and planet are spherical in shape the planets revolve around the sun in an electrical orbit.

All the fundamental of a stars and planet are clearly started in the spherical shapes and move in electrical circle. A circle has no starting and ending point. As a result, the universe has no beginning or end. Both the stars and the planets cannot influence they're without the help of one another. It is the astrological fact that both should co-ordinate with one intension only. Astrology investigates based on the effects an influence of the stars and the planets in earth (Figure No.3). As long as people survive on the planet, their impact defines how things are.

Our ancestors have a judged everything clearly and precisely about in fact of the stars. They have categorized the stars according to derived conclusion based on ideas and opinion. In type on the stars belonging to *devagana*, *manushagana* and *ratchasagana*. In the second type the stars are divided in to three types such as, *melnökkunatchathira*, *kilnökkunatchathira* and the *samanokku natchathiras*. In the third type, the stars are alienated in to *mulumaiyananatchathira*, *thalaiatranatchathira*, *udalattranatchathira* and *kaalatra natchathiras*. In the fourth type the stars are separated in to *sthra*, *sara*, *kurura*, *satharana*, *ilaku*, *miruthu* and *koduranatchathiras*. The Indian astrologers named the stars significantly and all the twenty seven stars they have be named starting from Ashwini to Revathi⁷.

The first star *Ashwini* consists it of three star and look like a triangle. It is similar to articles like horse head, sward, victory flag, tongue, harp, based on imagination. In the Puranas, one time the the Sun was so hot so, his wife Sanjana could not bear and tolerate his heat and leave. After some livings, the heat reduced and Sanjana joined with the Sun and gave birth two Ashwini Kumaras who had to horse heads. It is said that they travel in a golden chariot with a vessel called *amutha* and gave health and happiness as they travelled it measured. It's sky position in degrees are (Aries 00⁰.00' from 13⁰.20').and it is a divine star⁸.

The second star is called *Bharani*. The form of Bharani looks like female sexual organ (vagina), stove, war drum, shield, mouth, agallamp, diamond, big pot, piggy bank (hundi) and lock are based on imagination. They are closely linked and formed a triangle shape. The sky position measurement is derived in Aries, the location degree is from (13⁰.20' to 26⁰.40') it means taking water to *ababharani*. All clear souls dwell here. It is said that Yama was the first man to come to earth and the first to date on earth. This star is supposed to have humanoid characters⁹.

In *Karthigai*, it is a group of six stars clubbed together like a barber's knife. It also looks like lade, harvesting knife, incense stand, key, sped and scissors, its sky position is at (from Aries 26⁰.40' to 30⁰.00' in Taurus 00⁰.00' to 10⁰.00'). In Puranas Lord Muruga also known as Karthikeyan is said to be born in this star the six stars were called karthigai sisters it is a giant-sized star¹⁰.

In *Rohini*, the fourth star, looks like the one shaped gopuram all so looks like temple bell. The kings grown, cone basket, tuft mountain and gopuram its sky position is at degree from Taurus (10⁰.00' to 23⁰.20'). In Puranas, among the 27 wives of the Moon, with boundless love, he stays long time with one of his wife Rohini. So, the other wives were coveted and cursed. As day complained to their father Prajapati about their husband partiality and he cursed the Moon so, the moon gets sick and gets healed every month. This is turned as waxing and

waning of the Moon Rohini is an auspicious star ruled God Brahma¹¹.

In *Mirgasirsha*, three stars are found together like a small triangle resembling the three eyes of a coconut, it also looks like axe, deer, head, mango shell (*choli*) face, arecanut and *sangu* (shell) the meaning of Mirgasirsha is searching star or deer. It is located from Tarus ($23^0.20'$ to $30^0.00'$ to Gemini $00^0.00'-06^0.40'$) degrees¹².

In *Arudra* a flaming star of the sky is found it also looks like ruddy fire face, skull, shiva's tears red ruby, flaming stone and two faced *rudratcha*. The *Arudra* the shedding tears is a fast-morning stars, this star located from Gemini ($06^0.40'$ to $20^0.00'$) degrees¹³.

In *Punarvasu*, six stars combine to together and look like a boat. It's also looked a bending eyebrow and shell of coco-de-mer (used as begging bowl). The goddess of Punarvasu is Athithi. She is the mother of 12 Athithars. She is a wife of Kashiapar one of the Saptharishi. The Vedas claim her as the mother of the sky and the earth. At is also mentioned as mother in the Rig Veda. It is mentioned that is moves around in the farm of a cock. As a mother he is the source of *kundalini* power and is consider as Sakthi or power. It is found at a degree from Gemini ($20^0.00'-30^0.20'$ in the path of Cancer $00^0.00'-03^0.20'$)¹⁴.

In *Pushyami* there are three stars combined together in the form of a white flower. It is also look like the milky path of the cow, the flower of snake gourd, as it glitters like a glass it is claimed to be a glass with tail. It is found with a woman with war nature, in purana, the milky sea was grained by both Devas and Asuras living to a creation of Cancer (*kadagam*), *amudam* energid and settled in the milking part of the cow. As Prakaspathi rules this star, it is considered as holy and divine it also is a symbol of fertility and wealth. At the location of the star can be found (Cancer $03^0.20'$ to $16^0.40'$) degrees¹⁵.

In *Ashlesha* the ninth star, it a combination of five stars and shape like a cobra. It is also look like as the four stone resemble a grinding stone it is called *ammi*. It is found location from (Cancer $16^0.40'$ to

$30^0.00'$) degree in also found in the shape of a coiled snake¹⁶.

In *Makha*, four stars are combined together and are shaped like anchor, plough, the front roof of the house, palanquin, and the king crown. In puranas, it is found near the star Capricorn the place if our deal ancestors called (*pithrus*) and await be birth and await the day for await with their expectations. It is located at a higher altitude from Leo ($00^0.00'$ to $13^0.20'$) degrees¹⁷.

In *Poorva Phalguni*, there are two stars identical to the leg at a cradle standing up and down. It is also looks like scepter of a king, the king's silk manuscript, elephant eye stick of a cradle, fig fruit, fig tree and the pillar in front of the house. In purana's, it indicates their places were marriages take place the Goodness angel is consider as one who bring prosperity and wealth starting from the love of Rohini to the marriage in Poorva Phalguni. It is believed that God Siva started the marriage ritual here. Located from Leo ($13^0.20'-26^0.40'$) degrees¹⁸.

In *Uthra phalguni*, it is similar to Poorva Phalguni as it's also in a up and down position like two legs of a cot with two stars. All the look alike objects are also stream in this star but are small in sky. In puranas, in this star Lord Siva had married Parvathi. According to Rig Veda, Pagan the golly blesses with marriage and prosperity and goodness of dawn. If the star is found in a degree Leo from ($26^0 40'-30^0 00'$ and Virgo $00^0.00'-10^0.00'$) degree location. It is considered as this star is Chatriya and praised as powerful and potent¹⁹.

Hastha, it is a combination if five stars resembling a palm. It also looks like rice measuring *nazhi* the amber of arouse. The casket to store silken manuscript, water jug and outer shell. In Puranas, it is detonated as Savitha, the blimey of purity according to the Rig Veda. It is also set that arcus use to automatically appear in Arjuna's amber immediately on removable one replaced the other. It is indicated as a soft and tender star and is located from Virgo ($10^0.00'$ to $23^0.20'$) degrees²⁰.

In *Chitra*, the star resembles a single star that looks like the eye of a tiger. It also looks like two separate

regions. Out of the 27 stars Chitra is the middle star, there are thirteen stars before it and thirteen stars after it. The resembles of the star are also like pearl, millets, anklets, circular balls, and nails of the finger. It places a vital role in transformation of one object into another. In puranas, it is believed that Duvesta the internal sculptor created the world and made it fit for survival species. It is the simple of magical powers and energy. The location of the star it from Virgo ($26^0.40'$ - $30^0.00'$ to Libra $00^0.00'$ - $06^0.40'$) degrees²¹.

In *Swathi*, a single star with scattering red like the coral. It also looks like the calx made of red coral, tree with flaming fire, hexagon, red bead of sapphire, sword with flaming fire grown coral branches and red penis. It is believed that this star has pure air gives wealth and also is closely related to Goddess Saraswathi. It is located from Libra ($06^0.40'$ to $20^0.00'$) degrees and is a single moving star with feminine qualities²².

In *Vishakha*, it is found with four stars with crooked shape it is in the form of the reverse Tamil letter *pa*. It also looks like decoration at the front door, and winnowing basket. In puranas, six fires come from the Karthikeya and were formed into faced god named Lord Muruga in Sanskrit Visaka is called dismantled root as if to convert one thing into another it is located from (Libra $20^0.00'$ - $30^0.00'$ to Scorpio $00^0.00'$ - $03^0.20'$) degrees and is ruled by Agni and Indira²³.

In *Anuradha*, it is found with six stars in the shape of lotus it also looks like bent bow, pearl garland bent tree and boat. In the Purana, the God Mithran is associate with the star Anuradha meaning friend. Among the twelve names of Sun, God Mithran is one among them, Mithran's power will activate only in the light of the Sun rays. According to Rig Veda, it is nature's law that lotus blooms at touch of Sun rays. It is located from Scorpio ($03^0.20'$ to $16^0.40'$) as holy or divine star²⁴.

In *Jyeshtha* it is found in a combination of three stars and are in the shape of spear. It is also looks like the *kundala* worn in the ear, umbrella and the head of spear. In Puranas, it is the katha male out of the spinal cord bones of rishi Thathisi and used by Lord

Indira, the leader of devas rishi Thathisi as God Siva boon by seven tenancy. He is considered as the rishi of Adarvana Veda his spinal cord bone was made very strong by the blessing of Sukracharya and his made to tent by the power of a diamond. He is also known as the person with godly powers. He learnt art of Brahma. Aswini devas learnt this art from Thathisi, and he is the one defeat Indira. As it was believed that Viruthasura had to be killed by *avajara* made out of the born of rishi Thathisi. So, Indira requested the rishi to help mankind from Viruthsura by this vajra, Indira defeated the asura and maintain as a powerful weapon against his enemies. It is the nature's law that the power of once mantras settles in the backbone of the human body. The star Jyeshtha rules the back bone. In another Purana, Jyeshtha is the first of the 27 wives of Lord Chandra. The Jyeshtha was angry and jealous because Chandra was favourite Rohini. It is located from Scorpio ($16^0.14'$ - $30^0.00'$) degrees with an inferior birth²⁵.

In *Moola*, it found to be the combination of four stars in the shape of a trumpet. It also looks like lion's tail, herbal bundle, brush, end of the hair band, screw and mop. It cleans and makes the area pure by the mop stick in the shape of Moola. It destroys cures and creates itself. Rama's devotee Hanuman was born with the Moola star and with the shape the tail with fire of he destroyed Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Its destructive goddess of Moola stars fights against evil, and restores peace. When the Devas and Asuras grained the milky sea the goddess. Niruthi also known as Jeyestadevi the goddess of destruction. Emerged after Mahalakshmi according to the Puranas. It is also mentioned that the Astathikbalas where relived from their curse. It is located from Sagittarius ($00^0.00'$ to $13^0.20'$) which is inferior by birth and his monstrous in-size²⁶.

In *Poorva Ashada* it is found that three or four stars are combination in the shape of a grain and winnowing basket. It also looks like the horns of a cow, the ancient hand fan, mathematical protractor, mathematical equipment used to measure to degrees. In puranas the Lord Varuna is the to tent

goddess. The mankind receives rain because of *abah* water that spreads in the universe and gives rain to the earth. Poorva Ashada helps and object to remain stable, positioned and stationary. Only when Varuna gives rain during all three seasons agriculture will flourish as it gives prosperity it is important star in the human body it represents the thigh bone it is located from (Sagittarius 13⁰.20' to 26⁰.40' degrees) it belongs to the Brahmin sect²⁷.

In *Uthra Ashada*, it is found to be a combination of four stars in the shape of a small cot. It also looks like the bent portion of the cart in the front and door. It is based on the Brahma philosophical ideology which says that Lord Brahma in times of hardship goes into an egg and emerges later similarly the seed emerges from the land and leads to new creation. This star seen next to Poorva Ashada it looks like to entrances with to doors. Both Poorva Ashada and Uthra Ashada or seen in the form of a winnowing basket. It reveals the Brahma philosophy by moving up and down or closing and opening it is located from Sagittarius 26⁰.40'-30⁰.00' to Capricorn 00⁰.00'-10⁰.00) it is said to be a Kshatriya quality²⁸.

In *Shraavan*, it is found to be the combination of three or six stars and is found in the shape of hand measure *mulakol*. It also looks like an ear, *trishul* and siravana the God for Thirvonam is Lord Vishnu he has taken many incarnations. In puranas, *mulakol* signifies Lord Vishnu's *vamanaavathar*. It was a measurement for the construction of building like houses and temples. It is related to Goddess Saraswathi to give knowledge. It is considered to give knowledge to survive in this world. It is located from Capricorn (10⁰.00' to 23⁰.20') degrees. It is a movable masculine star²⁹.

In *Dhanishta*, it is found to be a combination of four stars in the shape of a war drum (*murusu*). It also looks like goat's head, flower pot, *miruthangam*, tea cup and grinding stone. The Vasukal are the gods of Dhanishta they are eight sons of Prajapathi alias Manu. In Sanskrit, *vasu* means outer it is considered that this eight *vasus* rule the seasons like Thara for land, Analan for fire, Aaban for water, Anilan for air, Thuruvan for star Thuruva, Soma for Chandra,

Prabasan for *sandhiyakaalam* and Pratiyusan for light. It is said in Vishnu Purana that Prabasan is the light from the 27 stars. In the Mahabharata, the eight *Vasus* visited the earth with their wives. They saw the cow in sage Vashista's mutt. The Prabhasan's wife wanted to take the holy cow to heaven. The Vasus stole it and were cursed by the sage Vashista to be born as eight children on the earth and die immediately. He cursed Prabhasan to remain in the earth for a long time and will be killed by a Sikandi. They were born to Santhanu and Ganga, on being born the children were drowned to death. The eight child was saved by Santhanu and was named Bhishmar, how was later killed by Sikandi in the Mahabharata war. Dhanishta is closely linked with human life. It is located from Capricorn and Aquarius rasi with half portion inside the earth and half outside the earth, its location is from Capricorn (23⁰.00'-30⁰.00' and Aquarius 00⁰.00'-06⁰.40') degrees. It is a moving star with masculine features³⁰.

In *Shathabhisha* star it is found to be in a combination 100 stars in the life of the circle. It also looks like a wreath, garland, the face of the well and a plate like *thambalam* (Plate). It is seen like hundred stars flower when observed with a telescope. It is compared to the flower *kathambam* in Sanskrit, *satham* means hundred. The star *satham* signifies hundreds of flowers in *kathambam* and cells in the honey comb. Lord Yama and Lord Varuna are the gods of *satham*. Lord Yama is considered to be in charge taking lives after and giving life for rebirth. In the Puranas, it is a star which give born of Amritha, spiritual and musical knowledge. It is located at Aquarius (06⁰.40'-20⁰.00') degrees. It is a moving star with masculine features³¹.

In *Poorva Bhadrpadam* star, it is found to be in a combination of four stars in the shape of quarter square with a tail and two faced in form the meeting point of Aquarius and Pisces rasi is like a square. It has four ends with legs from Poorva Bhadrpadam and Uthra Bhadrpadam stars and four legs are ruled by four angels. The Ajokapathan is the form of Lord Siva and the vehicle of Agni. It is located from

Aquarius (20⁰.00'-30⁰.00' and Pisces 00⁰.00-03⁰.20') degrees. It is a moving star belong to Brahma sect³².

In *Uthra Bhadrapada* star, it is found in as two large of a square shape in Pisces and Aquarius is its god. It also looks like the face of lion and a bull. It is said that Kamadhenu forms the milky. While it was grinded by the Devas and Asuras. It has the face and breasts of a woman in the front, body of the cow in the middle and the peacock tail at rear. It is located at Pisces (03⁰.20'-16⁰.40') degrees. It is a making star of Brahmin sect³³.

In *Revathi* star, it is found to be in a combination of thirty- two stars. It looks like a boat, fish, footwear and boat. Lord Saturn and Pusha are the deities.

The Pusha is one of the twelve Adithiya's or the gods of this stars. According to the Veda Puranas, has the power to travel in space, communicated with the universe and the innersoul. He is guide to people pursuing spiritualism. Further, he makes the seeds to grow into plants and trees this star indicates wealth, prosperity and healthy living it is located at Pisces (16⁰.40' to 30⁰.00') degrees. It is a masculine star belonging the sutra sect and leading to Moksha³⁴.

For living creatures and spaces to excise stars must explode. That are formed in the human body are similar to the division found in the star it is believed that the here diary of human being or derived from the stars which are our ancestors.

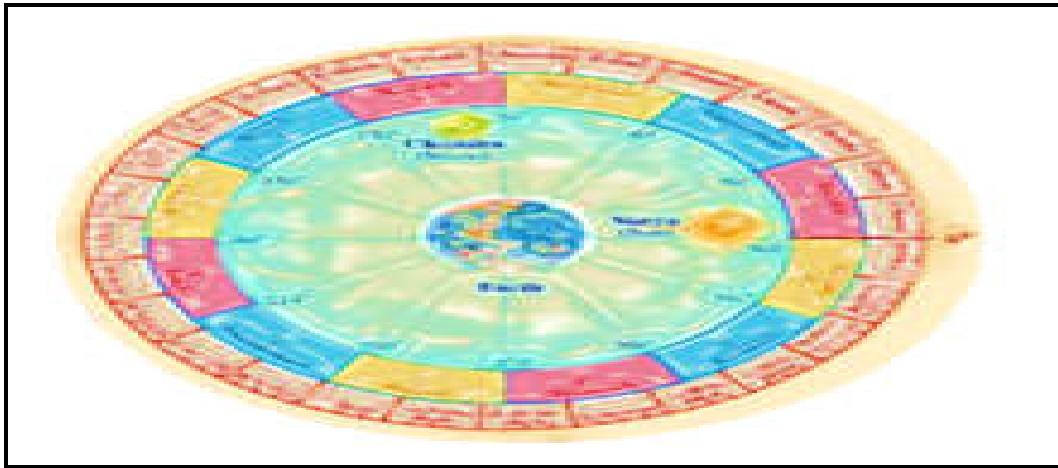


Figure No.1: Nakshathira Constellations ed; wp: Jyotish Vidhya

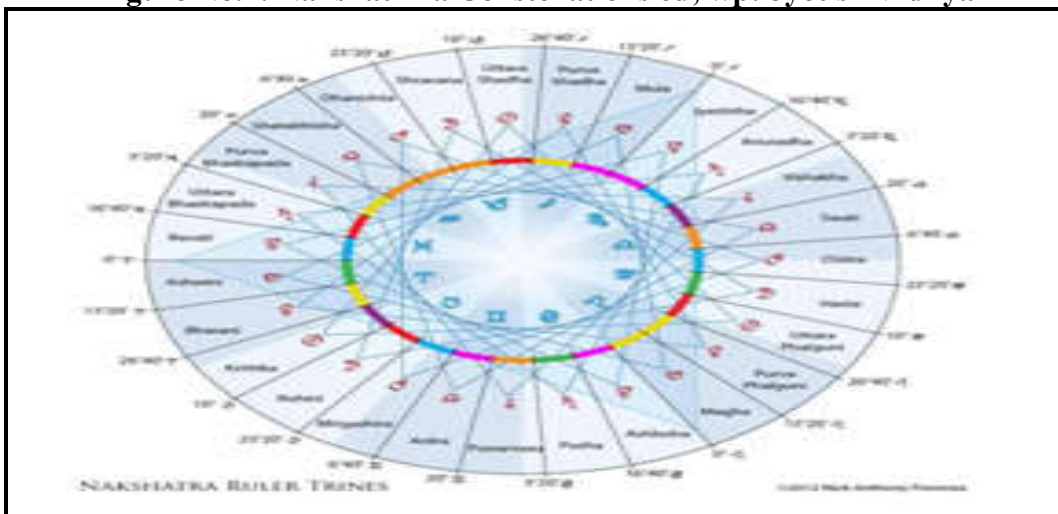


Figure No.2: Nakshathira Castles ed; wp: Vedic Vedanta



Figure No.3: Nakshathira orbit degrees ed; wp: Arun - Yoga

CONCLUSION

The Indians observed the 27 stars which are initiate in the lunar castle and derived to some conclusions based on their position and movement the compared the stars with their daily life utensils and named their accordingly. They gave shapes based on their resembles of the stars. It is the law that each object will resemble other in shape based on their geometrical presentation. So, the stars were related to similar object found on the earth 27 stars were thus depicted in our astrology book and almanacs shape were given to them and they remain the same without any alterations this is the significance of Indian astrology.

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They are divided in 27 stars castles. These stars are not separate but or found in clusters. A star as per the almonds is made up of marked calculation based on the moon day fish. In the 360 degrees the 27 stars are segregated in to 108 sections. Each star as four sections marking each section as 360 degrees and are marked with (minute circle) based on the astronomical Almanor the 27 stars have 4 section each constituting 108 sections in total. The rasi circle has 9 grahams which bring out the state of any indivial life is based on calculation like each rasi is divided in to a part, father as 30 degrees consisting $2\frac{1}{4}$ stars. The sun revolves on degree at the time and covers all 360 degrees. It crossed 30 degrees in 30 days based on this as the sun takes 12 months to cross entire 360 degree, the year consists of 360 days.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors which to express their sincere gratitude to Department of Astrology, School of Vedic Astrology, Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS), Pallavaram, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India for providing necessary facilities to carry out this research work.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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Please cite this article in press as: Sankaralingam K and Prathiyangiraswamy. Study of nakshatras and the Lunar Castles, *International Journal of Research in Pharmaceutical and Nano Sciences*, 11(2), 2022, 147-155.