

# Planets, Gems, Herbs and You

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A true astrological kavacha or “talisman” is not only the gem, which is believed to represent the earth element. A traditional astral talisman is complete when composed of all 5 elements, i.e., gem for earth, herb for water, metal for fire, symbol for air, and cosmic number for space. This process of “Pancha-amrita” astral talisman making is the most bona fide in our experience.

Even some Western alchemists are known to use gems with herbs as the “water” ingredient in astral talismans. One was the philosopher Agrippa whose Three Books of Occult Philosophy describes the basic preparation of astrological rings as follows:

*“When any star ascends fortunately we must take a stone and herb that is under that star, and make a ring of the metal that is suitable to this star, and in it fasten the stone, putting the herb or root under it, not omitting the inscriptions of images, names and characters, as also the proper suffumigations.”*

In 1974 we were fortunate to receive guidance from Dr. Mana Vajracharya, Chairman of the Nepal Ayurveda Association. He informed us which were the main “bhasma” herbs for each planet. At our request Dr. Mana prepared nine different herbal bhasmas which



Herbs

*Richard Shaw Brown was the lead singer, harmonica player, and co-song writer of The Misunderstood, a rock music band originating from California in the mid-sixties. In 1966 the group moved to London and produced some records which are today considered classics. In 1967 Brown was initiated as Hrisikesh das by Srila Bhakti Vedanta Swami Prabhupada and he subsequently lived in Asia for 12 years. In 1983 Brown graduated from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). Brown’s book, Ancient Astrological Gemstones & Talismans, received the “1996 Benjamin Franklin Award” from the Publishers Marketing Association (PMA). Brown is currently a gemmologist and jewellery designer in Bangkok, Thailand, where he founded the Planetary Gemologists Association and Astral Gemstone Talismans. Rick Brown is also a Wikipedian and Uncyclopedian. For more information visit <http://www.richardshawbrown.com/>*



are sealed in tubes on our jewellery talismans. It took one week for the doctor to prepare the 9 herbs and transform them into ashes or Bhasma. At that time he also gave us samples of the actual herbs. Such as the Butia Frandosa (Palasa), a herb for the Moon, pictured here.

All nine herbs are available in Nepal (Himalaya) and some are quite rare even in India where they sometimes substitute because of lack of the actual herb.

## The 9 Vedic Planetary Herbs

1. Arka (Milk Weed) for Surya (Sun)
2. Palasa (Butia Frandosa) for Chandra (Moon)
3. Pippala (Ficus Religiosa) for Brihaspati (Jupiter)
4. Durva (Cynodon Dactylon) for Rahu (North Lunar Node)
5. Apamarga (Achyranthes) for Budha (Mercury)
6. Audumbara (Ficus Glomerata) for Shukra (Venus)
7. Kusa (Sacrificial Grass) for Ketu (South Lunar Node)
8. Shami (Prosopis) for Shani (Saturn)
9. Khadira (Couch Plant) for Mangala (Mars)\*

\*The above planets are listed according to their cosmic (fadic) numbers, not the order of the weekdays.



*Talisman ring by Astral Gemstone Talismans. Flawless hessonite and diamonds set in 21K gold with herbal ashes in the twin tubes, and symbols outside and numbers inside.*

Therefore, we may understand that the gem alone is not the complete kavacha or talisman, the gem is only for one of five elements, viz., the earth element.

Gems, herbs, metals, symbols and numbers are believed to resonate as astral transmitters with the same piezoelectric impulses as their ruling planets. Therefore it depends on the position a planet is placed in a horoscope, either good or bad, which determines how the planet's gem will act on an individual.

There are basically 2 types of planets in a horoscope:

ANUKUL or favourable  
and  
PRATIKUL or unfavourable.

*Anukula* means a planet that is beneficially disposed either by being strong in own sign, good house, ruler of houses which will bring positive results, or otherwise not malefically disposed nor inclined to produce evil influence. A planet which is good for the chart either naturally or by house rulership yet somewhat weakened by placement may be strengthened through the gem, or a planet which already is strong and giving benefic influence may be further strengthened for gains in particular areas of life by wearing the gem.

*Pratikula* means a planet that causes evil influence or suffering to the native as seen through the horoscope.

This may be a debilitated planet who is in a dusthana and enemy of the lord of the lagna, or otherwise disposed that the influence simply causes suffering. It is not possible to appease a planet which causes suffering by wearing the gem. Mantra, charity, fasting, etc., should be advised in such cases.

So the effect which gems, herbs, etc. will exert on an individual depends on the nature of their planet lord's attitude or placement in each individual horoscope, as either an anukul-graha, favourable planet, or a pratikul-graha, unfavourable planet.

Based on this simple premise we list below basic guidelines on how fine quality jyotish gems might influence us according to our horoscope.

### 1. Influence of ruby / red spinel

*If Sun is well placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward nobility, dignity, power, leadership, and confidence. One will be well-read, pious, strong, compassionate, and untroubled.

*If Sun is ill placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward lack of confidence, low self esteem, and little energy. One will be rebellious by nature, and negative results may be expected.

### 2. Influence of (natural) pearl / moonstone

*If Moon is well placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward sensitivity, good habits, stability, and health. One will be wealthy, industrious, and respected.

*If Moon is ill placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward overreaction and depression. One will be hypersensitive to stress, and negative results may be expected.

### 3. Influence of yellow sapphire / yellow topaz

*If Jupiter is well placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward humanitarianism, spiritualism, optimism, faith, and good judgement. One will be powerful, respected, and a leader of men, although susceptible to anger.

*If Jupiter is ill placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward greed, pessimism, egotism, and selfishness. One will be uncaring, unhappy, and have a negative outlook.

### 4. Influence of hessonite / orange zircon

*If Rahu is well placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward originality, inspiration, insight, and uniqueness. One will be exotic, wealthy and fortunate.

*If Rahu is ill placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward mental disease, addiction, illusion, and trouble. One will have a volatile nature, and a tendency to suffer from fear and suicidal impulses.

### 5. Influence of emerald / tsavorite

*If Mercury is well placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward rationality, wit, skilfulness, and dexterity. One will be educated, happy, fortunate, and highly respected.

*If Mercury is ill placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward aloofness, difficulty with communication, lack of concentration, and slowness. One becomes prone to speech and hearing impediments, deceptive behaviour, and lack of vitality.

### 6. Influence of diamond / colourless quartz

*If Venus is well placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward attractiveness, grace, elegance, and longevity. One will be refined, humanitarian, and possess many positive qualities.

*If Venus is ill placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward vanity, lewdness, sensual corruption, and lack of both taste and refinement. One becomes vulnerable to loss of libido, impotence, sterility, and premature ageing.

### 7. Influence of chrysoberyl cat's eye / fibrolite cat's eye

*If Ketu is well placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward spiritualism, intuition, universality, subtleness, and sensitivity. One will be wealthy and protected from evil.

*If Ketu is ill placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward eccentricity, explosiveness, fanaticism, and emotional problems. One becomes prone to compulsive gambling and fatal diseases such as cancer.

### 8. Influence of blue sapphire / indicolite (blue tourmaline)

*If Saturn is well placed in the horoscope:*



*Sri Navaratna Astral Pendant, one 90% clean, genuine round cut red ruby weighing 0.19 carat surrounded by clean, genuine round cut royal blue moonstone, orangy red coral, strong orange hessonite, medium blue sapphire, yellowish green chrysoberyl cat's eye, medium yellow sapphire, medium green tsavorite and colourless diamond. 21K yellow gold and 18K white gold trim herbal pendant containing sacred ashes of Milk Weed (Arka-bhasma) and stamped 16994 RSB 90%.*

The influence will be toward discipline, responsibility, realism, durability, and humility. One will be long-lived, charitable, proficient, and an affectionate mate.

*If Saturn is ill placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward depression, anxiety, fear, loneliness, and disappointment. One becomes vulnerable to headaches, neuralgia, and other disorders of the nervous system.

### 9. Influence of red coral / red carnelian

*If Mars is well placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward positive energy, strength, courage, passion, and aggression. One will be active, have great energy, be learned, well known and regal.

*If Mars is ill placed in the horoscope:*

The influence will be toward anger, irritability, instability, impatience, and aggression. One becomes prone to violence and physical problems such as high blood pressure, anaemia, and impurities in the blood.