

Who affects Who?
Unilateral Aspects in Vedic Astrology
by Hank Friedman

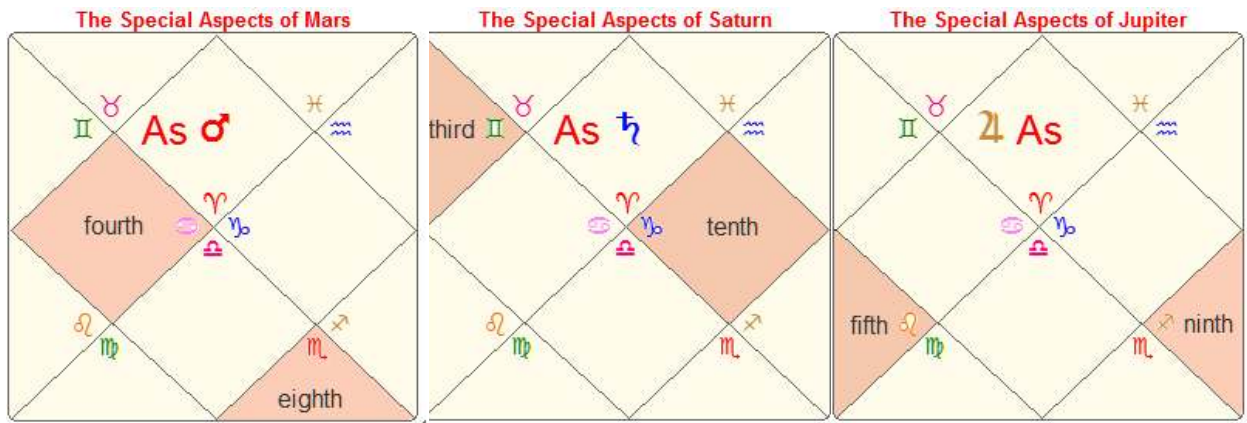
In Vedic astrology, every planet aspects all of the planets in the same house and in the opposite house. However, in addition to these aspects, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn have **special aspects**.

Mars aspects **four** houses forward, which Western astrologers might call the forward square, and **eight** houses forward.

Saturn aspects **ten** houses forward (= **four** houses backwards), which Western astrologers might call the backward square, and **three** houses forward, which Western astrologers might call the forward sextile.

Finally **Jupiter** aspects **five** and **nine** houses forward, which might be called trinal aspects by Western astrologers. I.e. Jupiter aspects all planets in the same element as itself.

Note: Always count the house Mars, Saturn, or Jupiter occupies when looking for their special aspects. E.g. if Saturn is in Pisces, three houses forward is Taurus (not Gemini).



When Mars, Saturn, or Jupiter aspects a planet with one of their special aspects they "see" the planet but the planet does not see them. In other words, the influence is one-sided or unilateral. E.g. Mars casting its special aspect influences the other planet, but the other planet does not influence Mars.

There are two exceptions to this rule:

1. If Mars, Jupiter, or Saturn is **in the sign ruled by** the planet they are casting their special aspect on, then both planets influence each other (there is no unilateral influence). For example, if Mars is in Cancer and the Moon is in Libra, then Mars casts its special aspect on the Moon, but because Mars occupies the sign ruled by the Moon, it is also influenced by the Moon, i.e. they mutually influence each other.
2. The second exception is less common and unique: since Mars aspects **four forward** and

Saturn **four backward**, if Mars is four houses behind Saturn, they mutually aspect each other. E.g. Mars in Scorpio and Saturn in Aquarius. In this case, they influence each other equally.

When Mars, Saturn, or Jupiter aspect another planet unilaterally by special aspect, their influence is more powerful than when they occupy the same or opposite house as the planet.

The special aspects of these three planets are a unique circumstance where one planet can have a major affect upon another planet. Since every planet is the owner or lord of specific houses, **the influence of special aspects extends to the houses ruled by the target planet.**

For example, if Saturn special aspects the Moon, and the Moon is the lord of the 10th house, then the career will be delayed, impeded, or in some way diminished by Saturn's special aspect on its lord.

Since specific houses (and planets) also represent people (see the table below), the unilateral special aspect of Mars, Jupiter, or Saturn upon the planet that represents a person can indicate a strong affect upon that person.

Theme	Fixed Significator	Temporal Significator
Father	Sun	Lord of the 9 th house
Mother	Moon	Lord of the 4 th house
Younger Sibling	Mars	Lord of the 3 rd house
Older Sibling	Jupiter	Lord of the 11 th house
Child	Jupiter	Lord of the 5 th house
Spouse	Venus	Lord of the 7 th house
Vehicle	Venus	Lord of the 4 th house
Property	Mars (+ Saturn)	Lord of the 4 th house
Guru	Jupiter	Lord of the 9 th house
Foreigners	Rahu	Lord of the 12 th house

As the above table indicates, if a person has Jupiter special aspecting the lord of the 4th house, they may have better experiences with their Mother, property, and vehicles. If they have Mars special aspecting Venus, on the other hand, they may have more vehicular accidents, and more arguments with their spouse, since Venus is the Fixed Significator of both.

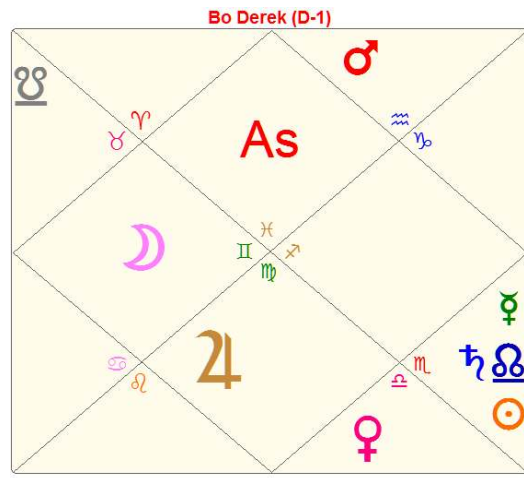
Extending this concept further, people who are signified in our charts by a planet that has a special aspect upon our First House -- or the Lord of the First House -- will affect us strongly.

For example, if Saturn is the lord of the Fourth House, then it signifies the person's Mother. If Saturn as the Fourth Lord has a special aspect on the lord of the First House -- which represents

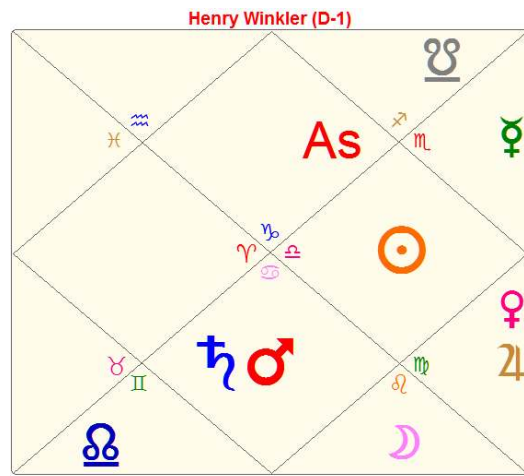
the person themselves -- then that person's Mother has a very strong impact on them.

Bo Derek, the American star of the movie **10**, is an interesting example of this principle. As a young girl, she was photographed for years by her advertising agent father, who pushed her into auditions, etc., and even introduced her to her husband (at the age of 15).

Notice that Mars in her chart, the planet that represents her father (because it rules the 9th house) has a special (8th) aspect on the planet that represents her (Jupiter, lord of the 1st house). This indicates that she would be significantly influenced by her father. Since people often re-enact patterns from childhood, it is no wonder that at the age of 15 she would meet John Derek, a man 30 years older (i.e. a father figure) who would have a huge influence upon her life, and would eventually marry him.



Another manifestation of special aspects occurs in people who have Aries/Scorpio, Sagittarius/Pisces, or Capricorn/Aquarius rising. Since the planet that represents them, Mars or Saturn, is the planet that casts special aspects, they themselves will strongly affect others who are signified by a planet that Mars or Saturn unilaterally aspects.



Henry Winkler has Capricorn rising, and his Saturn special aspects the 5th lord Venus. He has devoted much of his life towards having a deep and positive impact on the lives of children.

For each rising sign, the rulers of the houses change. The tables below show, for each Ascendant, where the effects of special aspects may occur. **But they will only happen** if Mars, Jupiter, or Saturn special aspects the target planet.

Note: Jupiter is a benefic and Saturn and Mars are malefics. Therefore, the unilateral influence of Saturn or Mars is undoubtedly much more challenging than the unilateral influence of Jupiter, and therefore more noticeable.

Because rulership of challenging houses can have negative effects, in the tables below I have colored the influencing planet **red** when it rules a challenging house (6, 8, or 12), to indicate that the special aspect of Mars, Jupiter, or Saturn could be problematic.

The Possible Unilateral Influences of Mars for Each Ascendant

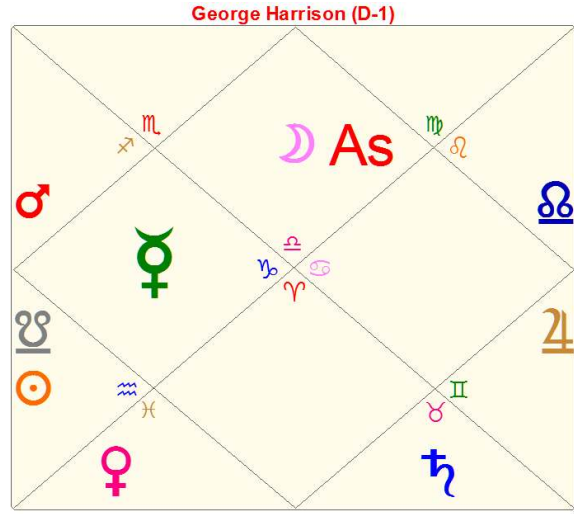
Ascendant	Potential Influencer	Planets/People potentially affected
Aries	♂/Self	♃/Mother, ☉/Child, ♀/Spouse, ♃/Father ♃ ♃/Sibling
Taurus	♂/Spouse	♀/Self
Gemini	♂/Older Sibling	♃/Self
Cancer	♂/Child	♃/Self
Leo	♂/Mother & Father	☉/Self
Virgo	♂/Younger Sibling	♃/Self
Libra	♂/Spouse	♀/Self
Scorpio	♂/Self	♃/Mother ♃/Child ♀/Spouse ♃/Father ♃ ♃/Sibling
Sagittarius	♂/Child	♃/Self
Capricorn	♂/Mother & Older Sibling	♃/Self
Aquarius	♂/Younger Sibling	♃/Self
Pisces	♂/Father	♃/Self

Examples:

For a person with Cancer rising, if Mars special aspects the Moon, their child will have an unusually strong impact and influence on them. A person with Pisces rising who has Mars special aspecting Jupiter will be greatly impacted by their Father.

Someone with Libra rising whose Mars special aspects their Venus will find themselves deeply affected by their spouse, like George Harrison on the next page.

George Harrison was enthralled by Pattie Boyd and even proposed to her at their first meeting. That he should be so affected by the person he would marry is clearly indicated by the unilateral aspect of Mars (lord of the 7th house and therefore signifier of his spouse) on his Venus (the ruler of his 1st house and therefore signifier of himself).



The Possible Unilateral Influences of Saturn for Each Ascendant

Ascendant	Potential Influencer	Planets/People potentially affected
Aries	♄/Older Sibling	♂/Self
Taurus	♄/Father	♀/Self
Gemini	♄/ Father	♃/Self
Cancer	♄/ Spouse	♃/Self
Leo	♄/ Spouse	♁/Self
Virgo	♄/ Child	♃/Self
Libra	♄/Mother & Child	♀/Self
Scorpio	♄/Mother & Younger Sibling	♂/Self
Sagittarius	♄/Younger Sibling	♃/Self
Capricorn	♄/Self	♂/Mother ♀/Child ♃/Spouse ♃/Father ♃♂/Sibling
Aquarius	♄/Self	♀/Mother ♃/Child ♁/Spouse ♀/Father ♂♃/Sibling
Pisces	♄/Older Sibling	♃/Self

It is very important to emphasize, for example, in the above table, that just because a person has Aries rising does not mean that they are controlled by their older sibling. It just means that since Saturn represents the older sibling for an Aries rising chart, that if Saturn unilaterally aspects Mars (ruler of the First House, representing oneself), then the person will be under the influence of their older sibling.

The Possible Unilateral Influences of Jupiter for Each Ascendant

Ascendant	Potential Influencer	Planets/People potentially affected
Aries	♃/Father	♂/Self
Taurus	♃/Older Sibling	♀/Self
Gemini	♃/Spouse	♃/Self
Cancer	♃/Father	♃/Self
Leo	♃/Child	♃/Self
Virgo	♃/Mother & Spouse	♃/Self
Libra	♃/Younger Sibling	♀/Self
Scorpio	♃/Child	♂/Self
Sagittarius	♃/Self	♂/Child ♃/Spouse ♃/Father ♃♀/Sibling
Capricorn	♃/Younger Sibling	♃/Self
Aquarius	♃/Older Sibling	♃/Self
Pisces	♃/Self	♃/Mother ♃/Child ♃/Spouse ♂/Father ♃♃/Sibling

Note that for Sagittarius rising, Jupiter, the lord of the First House is also the lord of the Fourth House. This could mean that the person will influence their Mother quite beneficially, if Jupiter special aspects the 4th house (by being in the 8th or 12th house). [When a planet aspects its own sign, especially by its special aspect, the themes of house become significantly augmented.]

If a person has Libra rising, then the special aspect of Jupiter (lord of the 3rd house) on Venus may mean that the younger sibling has a positive effect upon oneself. However, if Jupiter has a poor placement in the chart (e.g. combust, in a planetary war, debilitated, aspected by malefics), then the influence of the younger sibling might be minimal or even problematic (because Jupiter is also the 6th lord for Libra rising, and that can represent competitive or adversarial relationships).

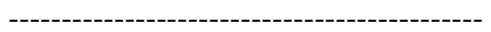
In other words, to be completely accurate in evaluating special aspects, the strength of Mars, Saturn, or Jupiter should be taken into account, and also the other house ruled by them

(especially if that house is one of the challenging ones, i.e. the 6th, 8th, or 12th houses, which will create problematic interactions).

The above tables reveal other interesting dynamics for each of the rising signs.

For example, since the Ascendants Aries/Scorpio and Capricorn/Aquarius have Mars or Saturn as First House rulers respectively, (and the First House ruler represents the person whose chart it is) anyone with one of these rising signs may be more capable of unilateral influence over others (if Mars or Saturn as First House ruler actually has special aspects another planet). In other words, they may affect others more than they are affected by them (when special aspects occur).

For example, if a person with Capricorn rising has Saturn special aspecting Jupiter, then the person will strongly affect their younger sibling (because Jupiter is the 3rd house lord for a Capricorn-rising chart).



A final illustration of the principle, as briefly touched upon above, is that Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn can also strongly affect houses they special aspect.



The charts above show the house placements for Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn that will special aspect the First House. When one of these planets does special aspects the First House, it will strongly affect the person's life, since the First House is the preeminent house, and represents more than any other house the person themselves and their vitality, ability to succeed, resiliency (capacity to bounce back from challenges), how they are received by others (popularity), common sense, temperament, and self-concept.

Everyone with Mars special aspecting the Ascendant (i.e. who have Mars in the 6th or 10th houses), will be more "Martian" in flavor. That may mean that they are likely to be quicker, sharper, more brusque and assertive, to run hot (Pitta), and to be more impulsive (all other chart factors taken into account, of course).

Those with Jupiter special aspecting the Ascendant may be more calm, positive, likeable, open,

lethargic (Kapha), and steady.

With Saturn special aspecting the Ascendant, a person is likely to be a bit more nervous and sensitive (Vata), vulnerable, self-critical or self-doubting, cautious, and serious.

This approach can, of course, be applied to any house (or pair of houses) that Mars, Jupiter, or Saturn special aspect, so that, for example, anyone with Saturn in the 7th house, where it is strong because it has directional strength (Dig Bala) **and** special aspects both of the houses that represent parents (the 4th and the 9th) is likely to feel that their parents were distant or strict or repressed or in some other way unavailable to them.

The special aspects of Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn are incredibly important and unique factors in Vedic astrology and should always be taken into account when evaluating a chart.