

The Nine Grahas (Planets) and Their Mantras

THE SANSKRIT name for planet is “Graha,” and it has several interesting meanings. Graha means, “to grab,” or “to hold,” and according to the Vedic Rishis a planet, or Graha, has the ability to grasp our consciousness, in a veil of hypnosis. Perhaps this is why another one of the meanings of Graha is “demon,” or “what possesses a person.” Yet another lighter meaning of Graha is simply, “cup.” In an interesting analogy, it would appear that there are two viewpoints on the planetary forces, one entirely structures and forms our thoughts, feelings and actions and another pours light upon our lives, lifting and redeeming us to higher levels of enlightenment. As in most spiritual sciences, the nine planets of Astrology mirror our evolutionary path on Earth and show the powerful metaphor of choice resurrecting us out of darkness into self-knowledge, life and light.

According to the Vedic Rishis (advanced spiritual teachers who lived in the previous ages of superior light and truth at the beginning of this cycle of human civilization) each of the Planets make a basic sound frequency. This teaching becomes the basis of the bija (one) syllable mantra. (A mantra is a sound or vibration used in meditation technique and devotional ceremonies and is used to produce higher states of consciousness.) Here are the bija seed mantras for the Nine Grahas.

- ☉ SUN: Om Sum, pronounced “soom.” (The Divine Father)
- ☾ MOON: Om Som. (The Divine Mother)
- ♂ MARS: Om Am, pronounced “ung.” (Divine Masculine or Action)
- ☿ MERCURY: Om Bum, pronounced “boom.” (Divine Intelligence)
- ♃ JUPITER: Om Gum, pronounced “goom.” (Divine Guru or Teacher)
- ♀ VENUS: Om Shum. (Divine Feminine or Beauty)
- ♄ SATURN: Om Sham. (Divine Forgiveness or Peace)
- ♌ RAHU: Om Rahm. (Divine Help and Protection)
- ♆ KETU: Om Kem, pronounced “kehm.” (Divine Awareness)

