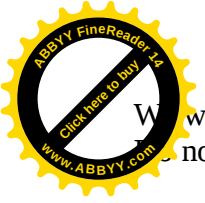


Traits of the rashis

Each **Rashi** has a symbol associated with it. The symbol is a visualization of the nature of the sign, and helps in understanding the qualities and tendencies of the sign in question. The symbols are chosen by the ancient rishis to represent the qualities of the signs as closely as possible. The qualities of the sign are not derived from the symbols, the symbols are based on the qualities! Therefore, do not try to over-interpret the meaning of the symbols.

In the classical Vedic Astrology literature, the zodiac is depicted as the body of Shri Vishnu, the personification of time, also referred to as the kalapurusha. *Each Rashi represents one of the bodyparts.* Each sign is ruled by one of the Grahas. This relationship between a sign and it's planetary ruler is extremely important, and plays a prime role in the analysis of the chart. The odd signs are male, and the even signs are female. Male signs represent a more masculine, bold and assertive quality, while female signs are more feminine, gentle and supportive in nature.

Sanskrit name	English name	Limb of Kalapurusha	Ruler	Gender	classification
Mesha	Aries	Head	Mangal	Male	Movable
Vrishabh	Taurus	Face and throat	Shukra	Female	Fixed
Mithuna	Gemini	Neck, shoulders, arms	Budha	Male	Dual
Karka	Cancer	chest	Chandra	Female	Movable
Simha	Leo	Upper part of the abdomen	Surya	Male	Fixed
Kanya	Virgo	Middle part of the abdomen	Budha	Female	Dual
Tula	Libra	Lower part of the abdomen	Shukra	Male	Movable
Vrischika	Scorpio	Anus and genitals	Mangal	Female	Fixed
Dhanu	Sagittarius	Thighs	Guru	Male	Dual
Makara	Capricorn	Knees	Shani	Female	Movable
Kumbha	Aquarius	Calves	Shani	Male	Fixed
Meena	Pisces	feet	Guru	Female	Dual



We will now give an introduction to each sign individually, along with Parashara's description of the sign. Do not get overwhelmed with any terminology you do not understand yet, it will all be explained later.