

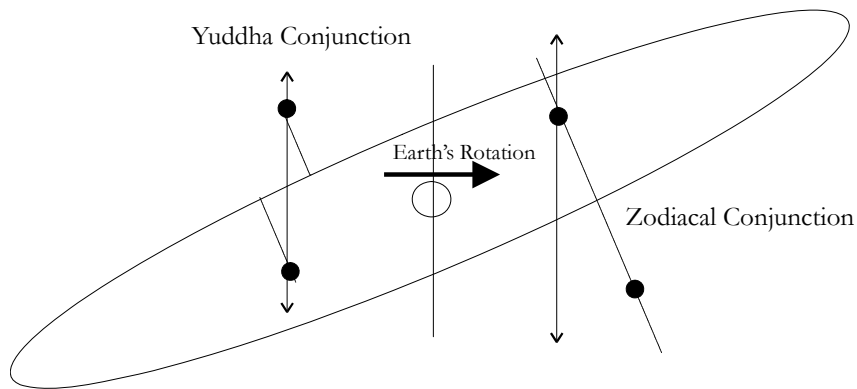
Planetary War

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Planetary war, or Yuddha, happens when two of the starry Grahas (Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn) are within one degree of apparent longitude with each other (not zodiacal longitude as is commonly thought). Grahas can be within one degree of apparent longitude and still be 5 degrees or so apart in zodiacal longitude. Thus special calculations have to be made and Yuddha cannot be determined by simply glancing at the horoscope.

The following diagram shows the relative difference in ecliptic versus apparent longitude. On the left, two Grahas are at different ecliptic longitudes, but appear conjunct from the point of view of the observer and are thus at war. On the right, two Grahas are conjunct along the ecliptic, but observed from the place of the viewer to be several degrees apart and are thus not at war.



This proper method of determining whether two Grahas are at war has somehow been lost to the majority of astrologers, who erroneously use zodiacal longitude. Varaha Mihira as well as the *Surya Siddhanta*, are very clear regarding the correct determination of planetary war in accordance with apparent positions. Planetary war is a very important consideration and so must be calculated correctly. Planetary war cannot be simply determined by glancing at the degrees of the planets. The calculations for planetary war are quite difficult and so beyond what most people are willing to calculate by hand. Astrological software that calculates war correctly is, therefore, a must. Planetary war is part of Shad Bala and so the simplest way to determine if two planets are at war is to simply look at their Shad Bala. If two planets are at war, one Graha will have a positive Yuddha Bala score and the other a negative Yuddha Bala score. The Graha with the negative Yuddha Bala score is the Piidita, "pressed," loser of the war. The other Graha is the victor. To date, Kala Vedic Astrology Software is the only software that calculates planetary war correctly.

If war is determined, the victor of the war must be decided as per *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra's* statement:

"At Mars, etc. Venus is the victor whether moving in the north or south and the others are victorious when moving in the north at mutual conjunction."

Brihat Parashara Hora Sastra – Pravrajya Yogas, 9

According to *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra* the victor is the Graha who is further north. Surya Siddhanta adds that the brighter will win even if in the south. By brighter is meant an unusually brighter planet. To determine this we need to know the natural order of brightness from least bright to most bright which is: Saturn, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus. On very rare occasions when a planet in its oval shaped revolution is much closer to Earth and the other much further away, one planet can gain a lot of brightness while the other loses brightness. On these occasions a planet that is normally darker than another may appear brighter – in which case it wins the war. To determine the victor in a war, therefore, requires first that elaborate calculations are done based on the diameter of the planet and its proximity to Earth in order to determine the brightness. If the brightness of the two planets follows the regular order, then the Graha with the most northern declination wins the war. If, on the other hand, the planet that is regularly less bright is brighter, than it wins the war and no check for most northern position is made. Venus, regardless, always wins the war, due to his much greater brilliance he is considered to never be defeated.

Note: Planetary war is only determined astronomically, not in each Varga chart. If a Graha is in planetary war, the effects of the war are felt in each and every Varga.

Planetary war has the effect of making a Graha, both as a Karaka and as a Bhava lord, feel Piidita, “pressed.” The Bhava lord overcome in planetary war is literally oppressed and forced to give up its indications for the sake of the Graha which has overcome it. The oppressed Graha is thus unable to support any of its effects. In the event that a Bhava lord is overcome at war, it is unable to support its Bhava and thus the indications of the Bhava can never be stable or consistent.