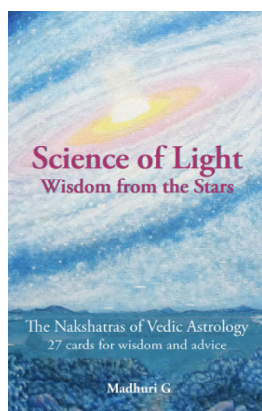




# Nakshatra Cards

By Madhuri



Every star constellation that makes up a Nakshatra has a presiding, indwelling or ruling deity. When we become familiar with the mythology surrounding the deity, considered the ruler of a Nakshatra, we gain a lot of insight into the qualities of that Nakshatra.

This wisdom was fine-tuned and brought forth by the sages of ancient India. We find that when we implement their advice and wisdom, we can advance the development of our soul and, at the same time, take full opportunity of leading a fulfilling life.

The 27 Nakshatras are the constellations of the Moon (feminine), while the signs we are more familiar with (Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, etc.) are based on the movement of the Sun (masculine). Hence, when we study the energies of these lunar star signs, we become more aware of the instinctual and nurturing aspects within ourselves.

## The Three Lokas

### ***Svah Loka***

The realm of the distant stars is the domain of the devas. The immortal gods and goddesses dwell here. In the Vedic tradition, it is known as *Deva*, or Svah, Loka. Svah Loka is so far removed from our earthly plane it can quite often prove to be beyond our human understanding. It is a place where our earthly rules and regulations do not always apply in the same way. We will need to expand our imagination if we want a glimpse into that world. The energies from this cosmic realm shine on us, while the science of Jyotish helps us to integrate these influences in our daily lives. This is the realm of the stars where the Nakshatras are located.

### ***Bhuva Loka***

The location of Bhuva Loka, the realm of the sky and the demigods, is found in the plane of the solar system, where we find our planets. We may regard the planets as demigods or personalities. In Vedic tradition, mythologies surround each planetary being, or, more appropriately, each *Graha*, (as the planetary bodies we work with in astrology are not always strictly speaking planets). The Sun, the Moon, Rahu (north node) and Ketu (south node) can be named as *Grahas* but are not planets. Bhuva Loka is much closer to our field of experience. The placement of the *Grahas* in our birth chart, will determine which Nakshatras will influence our lives, and how.

### ***Bhuh Loka***

Bhuh Loka is right here on the earthly plane. This is where we, as human beings, are compelled to play out our lives and take part in the Divine Lila, the 'play of God'. It is on this plane that we introduce the house system of astrology; it determines the areas of life specific planetary and star energies become apparent. Jyotish is an ancient Vedic science that combines the knowledge of the three Lokas. We can use it to make sense of our individual life on planet Earth, giving us insight in the development of our soul, and helping us play the game of life to our greatest potential in accordance with the eternal cosmic principle.

## 27 Nakshatra Cards

The Nakshatra cards were created to make the wisdom of the stars accessible to anyone, but mainly with the aim of giving students of Jyotish a quick and easy view of the qualities of each Nakshatra. A book, titled 'Science of Light' comes with the 27 large cards, which contains an introduction into Jyotish and further explanations on each Nakshatra. The cards can be used by anyone for advice and wisdom whether there is an interest in astrology or not. The idea is to whet the appetite and spark an interest in Jyotish through playing with the cards and reading the advice for each Nakshatra in the book.

On the cards you'll find many keywords associated with each Nakshatra, these words will activate the left side of the brain and our rational thinking.

The artwork on the cards depicts the traditional symbols and sometimes the deities that are associated with the Nakshatras.

These pictures will speak to our intuition, our instincts and directly to our heart; the right side of our brain.

Working with the cards will balance our understanding so we can integrate the knowledge on both levels. These cards are designed to give us a quick overview of the qualities associated with each Nakshatra. They are designed to be a fun and an introduction to further study.

The information on each Nakshatra as found on the cards is quite extensive, although by necessity presented in very condensed form. In the depiction of the symbols, I used free artistic license while staying true to the original and ancient symbols traditionally assigned to each Nakshatra. Symbols contain compact information that can be intuitively accessed by observing and contemplating them. The urge to depict these ancient symbols visually was the main inspiration to produce the cards.

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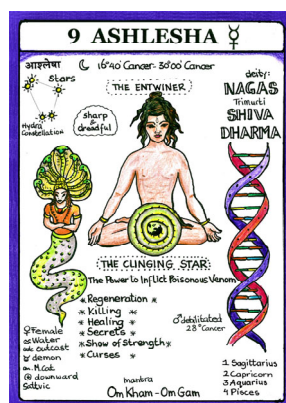
Let's look at a couple of the cards to show how you could use them!

## Ashlesha: 'The Clinging Star'

Ashlesha is associated with Mercury and lies entirely in the sign of Cancer, which is ruled by the Moon. The energy here is comparable with a Mercury/ Moon conjunction. Mercury, ever thinking, combining, writing scenarios may somewhat override the Moon's power to care unconditionally and may make the energy of this Nakshatra a bit too controlling of loved ones at times. Mercury always wants the last word. Hanging on too tight perhaps, hence the name: The Clinging Star.

The deities here are the *Nagas*; a race of half human-half snake beings. Although the Nagas belong in the lowest of the nether-realms, they are the rulers of all the underworlds. Like the Dragons of old guarding immense treasures, the Nagas possess untold riches. They freely live and may be encountered in all the realms: Heavens, Earth, and Underworlds.

The symbols for Ashlesha are two entwining snakes, a very sensual picture, and a three times coiled snake, like the sleeping Kundalini force. We can picture the DNA spiral too, and genetic manipulation. It is important to note that people with a prominent Ashlesha are usually not aware of their immense power, (the power to inflict poison); they can hurt others more than they realize.



When we consider Ashlesha Nakshatra, we will find it shrouded in mystery, because the Nagas or Serpent beings associated with these stars are beings from the unseen underworld. In legends from around the world we often find them living in caves or in the depths of lakes and oceans as sea monsters or dragons. The Nagas from the Indian tradition are a very specific race of beings, living in the deepest underworld, in a dazzling realm encrusted with glittering precious jewels. They have access to all realms, including this Earth, and they can change form at will.

Applied to us as human beings this teaches us shamanic wisdom. It can give us the ability to travel to different realms to bring back advice and healing to others, and, shamanic style, may give us the ability to shape-shift as we may need to travel in the guise of animals or other beings.

**Keywords:**  
**Spirituality, jealousy, intimacy, entanglement, power, poison, immortality, magnetism, enlightenment, intuition, psychic abilities, suspicion, mistrust, over-protective, magical powers, ruthless, instinct.**

The main symbol is 2 entwined snakes. We find this in medicine as the Cadeceus, the 2 snakes coiling upward along a central staff. We must be very careful with the energy of Ashlesha as it can kill as well as heal. As we know, these days many people get killed by modern medicine.

There is enormous power in this Nakshatra, under its influence we are often not aware of our own power and how we can hurt others. We can develop deep secret knowledge through Ashlesha, if we picture the 2 coiling snakes as the DNA helix, we see Ashlesha may have the knowledge of the primary building blocks of life itself. If not carefully handled, this deep knowledge can give rise to abuse. (genetic manipulation, for example).

We can also see the entwining snakes as intimate embraces or sexual passion, again an area that can lead to abuse, mistrust and jealousy. The same symbol denotes protection of loved ones that goes extreme and becomes smothering or strangling. Obviously, this is also the symbol for the rising Kundalini force, which again must be handled with extreme care, and must be used only for the right reasons.

The energy of this Nakshatra can kill or heal. It can make us conceal many secrets, give us great power, psychic abilities and good instincts. We could say that a great battle between good and evil takes place here. Handle these energies with care, rather than going down in suspicion, secrecy and false pride, choose to use this power for enlightenment, healing, and wisdom in service to others. Development of the soul and purity are the final goal of Ashlesha.



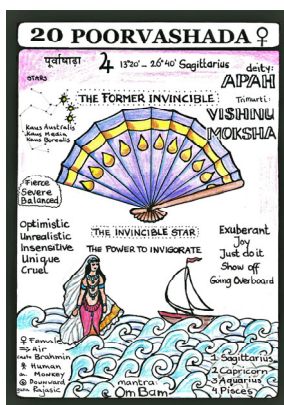
## Poorvashada: 'The Invincible Star'

This Nakshatra is associated with Venus and lies entirely within Sagittarius, which is ruled by Jupiter. This Venus/Jupiter combination will certainly give rise to a lot of enthusiasm, joy and eagerness, and a feeling of unlimited good fortune. No wonder we call Poorvashada "the invincible star".

The presiding deity here is *Apah*, the goddess of water, the source of all life. Another name is *Varuni*, the female counterpart of Varuna, the god of the oceans. She bestows good fortune and happiness. Delightful *Apah* is a river goddess, a fast-flowing body of water, full of energy, capable of crashing through any obstacle and reaching the destination, refreshing and rejuvenating, while carrying us swiftly forward.

The Symbols for Poorvashada are an elephant's tusk and a (hand held) fan. The elephant has no trouble to plow through anything at all, unstoppable and immensely strong, using its tusk to remove obstacles along the way. The fan is an object of prestige, often beautifully decorated. It can be used to coyly hide behind, but for this Nakshatra it is most needed to cool things down; the energy here can be quite exciting.

This Nakshatra teaches us the joy of living. Its energy is ever optimistic and full of delight. It gives us lust for adventure and a rather unrealistic sense of invincibility. Just like a fast-flowing river revitalizes the land; is unstoppable and crashes through any obstacle in its way, so the energy of Poorvashada moves us ever forward energetically, fearlessly, swiftly; fully enjoying every moment of life with little thought of past or future.



Caught up in the excitement of the moment, we can act quite inconsiderate of others. We may be agents of destruction at times and may regret our exuberance afterwards.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely we will learn from our mistakes, as we are carried away by something else soon enough. Under this influence we are advised to have a spiritual attitude, so we may feel a daily renewal, an invigoration of the soul, as if purified by the cosmic waters. Being so enthusiastic, full of faith and wisdom, we are liable to cram our convictions down other people's throats. Oftentimes, we will be an inspiration to those around us due to our delightful, extravagant and totally unique ways. With Poorvashada's energy we follow our joy and it is certain we will go 'overboard' at times. Many times, in fact.

### Keywords:

**Enthusiastic, fearless, victorious, unrealistic, restless, expansive, wise, extravagant, unstoppable, invincible, confrontational, spiritual, intelligent, confident, flamboyant, excited, swift, delightful, honest, faithful.**

The 'Invincible Star' will give us plenty of courage and makes us fearless as we are convinced of winning. We can be serious, honest and lend a helping hand at times. Mostly, we do not like to go out of our way to assist others, we have a great desire to improve ourselves and our circumstances, so be aware that this energy can make us self-absorbed. Freedom is essential. Insensitive and even cruel and aggressive action will be taken to maintain our freedom if we are not careful. For the same reason of protecting our freedom, we will deliberately surround ourselves with an air of mystery and secrecy, thus creating a place where no one can interfere in our lives. Most likely we will gather secret knowledge and wisdom. After all, the final aim of this Nakshatra is enlightenment and liberation.

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*Madhuri had the great fortune to stay at her Guru's ashram in the Himalayas, over the years immersing herself for long periods in Hindu/Vedic philosophy and practice. She has led Kirtan and mantra singing sessions in India and many countries around the world. In her artwork she has always depicted Hindu deities and traditional yantras.*

*Since childhood she has had an interest in astrology. Recently her combined love for Vedic philosophy, Jyotish and art resulted in the publication of 'Science of Light, Wisdom from the Stars' and the 27 Nakshatra Cards. For information, astrological consultations, or to purchase the Nakshatra cards, visit her website:*

*[www.1008vedicastrology.com](http://www.1008vedicastrology.com)*