

## Navagrahas



The word graha has multiple meanings. The Upanishads describe the senses as grahas, since they are the grasping (grahnam) ones. The deities that preside over them are called atigrahas, or their controllers. For example the mind and the breath are considered atigrahas because you can control your senses with their help.

The nine planets are collectively known as Navagrahas. They are worshipped in Hinduism for good luck or to overcome adversity, bad luck or misfortune arising from past karmas or birth related defects (dhoshas). They are found in most Hindu temples either grouped together on a panel or on a pedestal in commonly visible areas of the temple.

The nine grahas (or influences) are believed to affect human lives and behavior. Each graha is associated with a specific energy quality. Depending upon their location in the planetary system and their association with the remaining deities, they are deemed either auspicious or inauspicious.

## Navagraha Slokas

Adityaaya Somaaya MaNgalaaya Budhaaya cha |  
Guru Shukra Shanibhyashcha Raahave Ketave NamaH ||

Salutations to the navagrahaas, the Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu, and Ketu.

### 1. Ravi (Sun) - 6 times

japaakusuma sankaaashaM kaashyapeyaM mahaaDhyuthima |  
thamorima sarvapaapaghanaM praNamaami dhivaakarama ||

I pray to the Sun, the day-maker, destroyer of all sins, the enemy of darkness, of great brilliance, the descendent of Kaashyapa, the one who shines like the japaa flower.

### 2. Chandra (Moon) - 10 times

dhaDhishankha thushaaraabhaM kSheerodhaarnava saMbhavama |  
namaami shashinaM somaM shambhormukuta bhooShanama ||

I pray to the Moon who shines coolly like curds or a white shell, who arose from the ocean of milk, who has a hare on him, Soma, who is the ornament of Shiva's hair.

### 3. Mangal (Mars) - 7 times

DharaNee garbha saMbhoothama vidhyuthkaanthi samaprabhama |  
kumaaraM shakthihasthaM thaM mangalaM praNamaaMyahama ||

I pray to Mars, born of Earth, who shines with the same brilliance as lightning, the young man who carries a spear.

### 4. Budha (Mercury) - 17 times

priyaangu kalikaashyaamaM rupeNa prathimaM buDhama |  
sauMyaM sauMyaguNopethaM thvaM buDhaMpraNamaaMyahama ||

I pray to Mercury, dark like the bud of millet, of unequalled beauty, gentle and agreeable.

5. Guru (Jupiter) - 16 times

dhevaanaaMcha RishiNaaMcha gurukaanchana sannibhama |  
buDhdhir bhoothaM thrilokshaM thvaM namaami bRihasthama ||

I pray to Jupiter, the teacher of gods and rishis, intellect incarnate, lord of the three worlds.

6. Shukra (Venus) - 20 times

himakundha mRiNaalaabhaM dhaithyaanaaM paramaM guruma |  
sarvashaasthra pravaktharaM bhaargavaM praNamaaMyahama ||

I pray to Venus, the ultimate preceptor of demons, promulgator of all learning, he who shines like the fiber of snow-white jasmine.

7. Shani (Saturn) - 19 times

neelaanjana samaabhaasaM raviputhraM yamaagrajama  
Chaayaa maarthaaNda saMbhothaM tvaM namaami shanaishcharam

I pray to Saturn, the slow moving, born of Shade and Sun, the elder brother of Yama, the offspring of Sun, he who has the appearance of black collyrium.

8. Rahu (Dragon's Head) - 18 times

arDhakaayaM mahaaveerama chandhraadhithya vimarDhanama |  
simhikaa garbha saMbhothaM thvaM raahuM praNamaaMyaham ||

I pray to Rahu, having half a body, of great bravery, the eclipser of the Moon and the Sun, born of Simhikaa.

9. Ketu (Dragon's Tail) - 7 times

phalaasha pushpsankaashaM thaarakaagraha masthakama |  
raudhraM raudhraathmakam ghoraM tvam kethuM praNamaaMyaham||

I pray to Ketu, who has the appearance of Palaasha flower, the head of stars and planets, fierce and terrifying.