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MAKARA SANKRANTI

*A Mini Pravachan on
Scientific and Vedic Basis of Meaning,
Significance & Celebrations of
Makara Sankranti*

By

Dr. Ram

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MEANING OF MAKARA SANKRANTI



Makara = Capricorn

Sankranti = Transmigration

*Transmigration of the Sun into Makara Rāshi
(constellation of the Zodiac in Indian Astronomy)*

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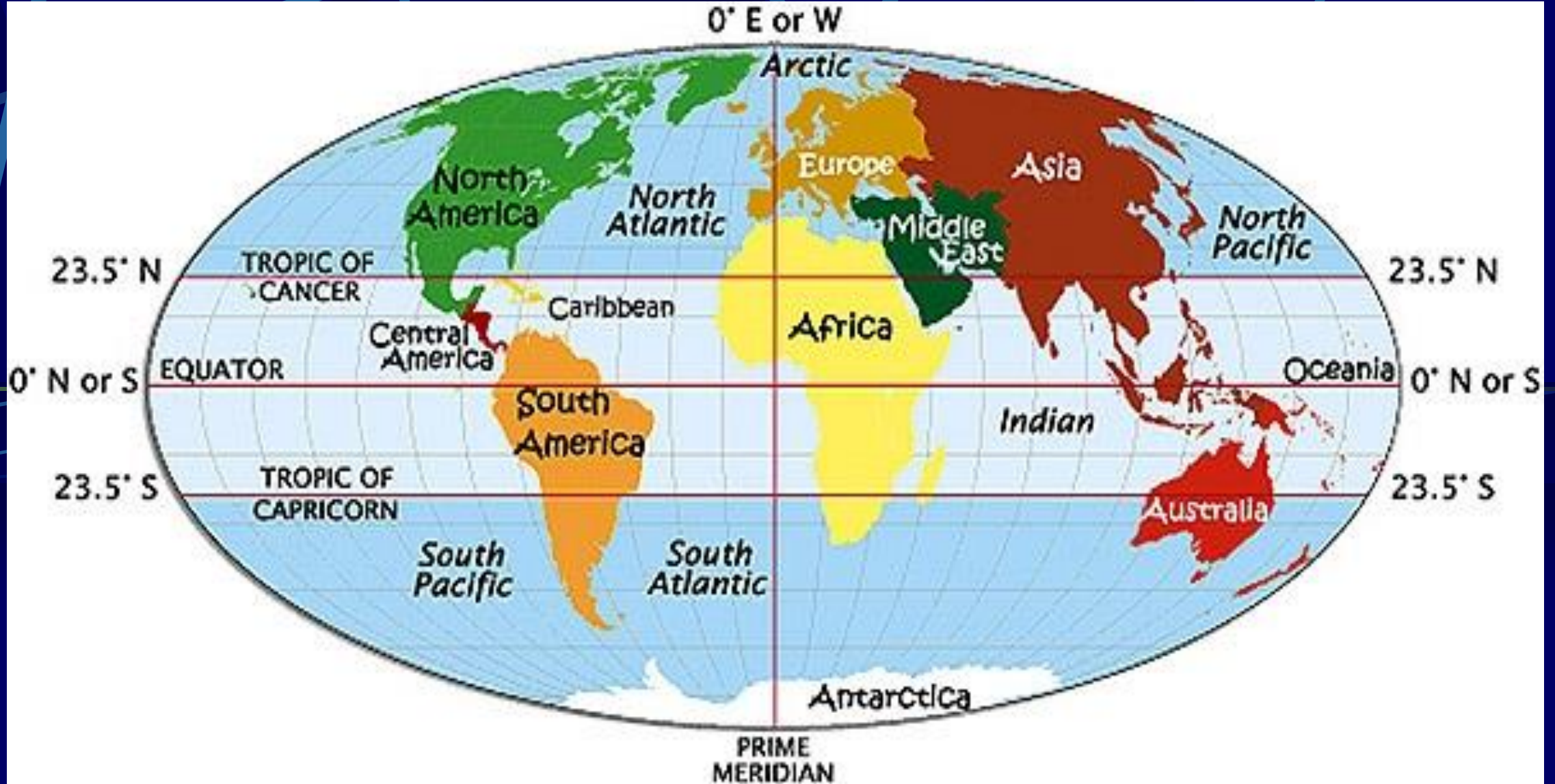
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TROPICS OF CANCER & CAPRICORN



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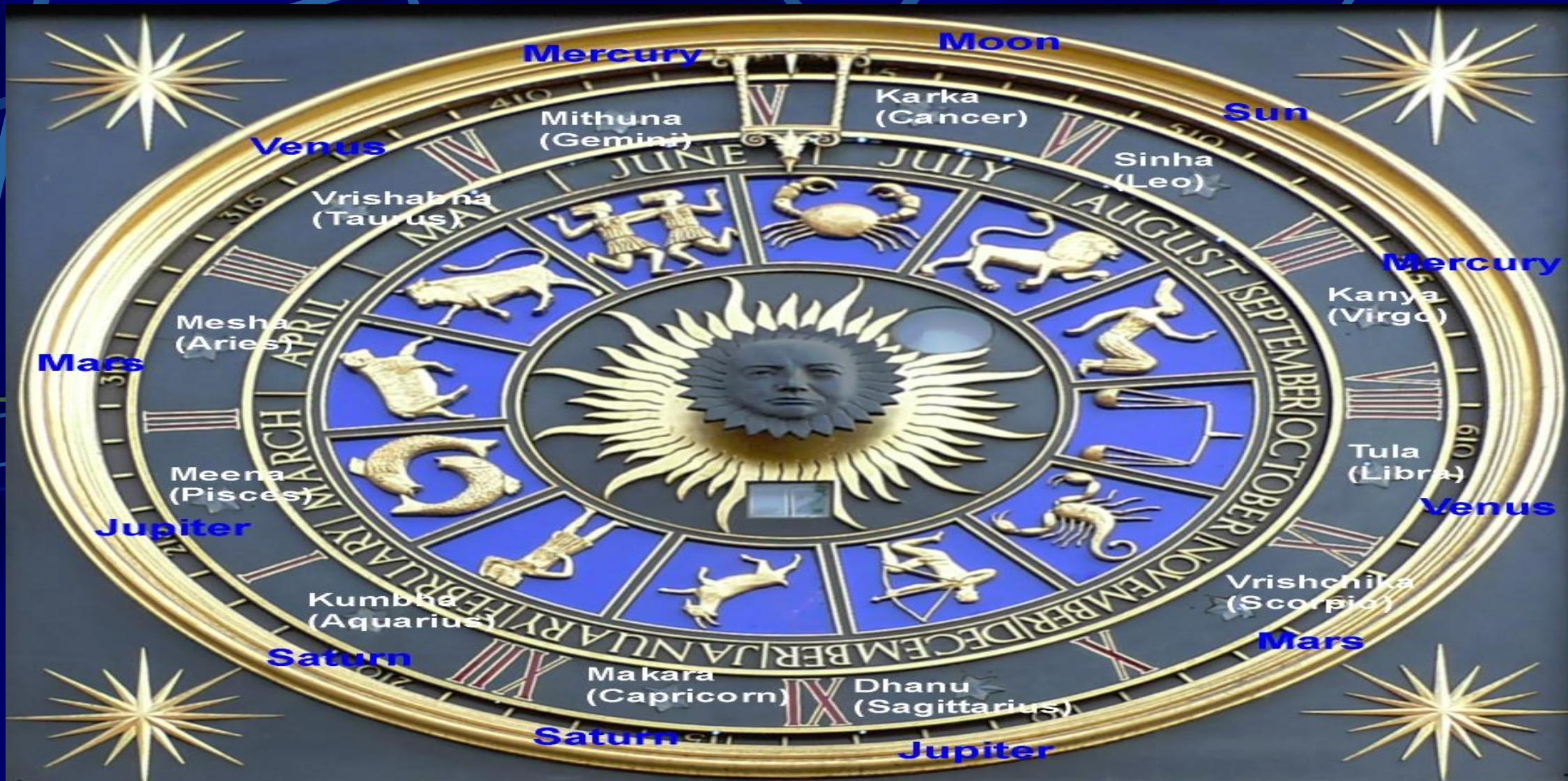
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ZODIAC SIGNS OR RASHI'S



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NAKSHATRA'S



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HINDU VS WESTERN CALENDARS



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CELEBRATION OF MAKARA SANKRANTI

- *The Festival is dedicated to Surya (the Sun God)*
- *The Sun has completed his southbound-travel (Dakshinayan), and is now northbound Uttarayan)*
- *The days start becoming longer*
- *Holy dip in rivers such as Ganga, Jamuna, Godavari and prayers to Sun for peace & prosperity*
- *Once in 12 years Kumbh Mela takes place in Prayag (the Triveni Sangam) with approx. 80 – 100 million devotees*

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CELEBRATIONS OF MAKAR SANKRANTI (CONTD.)

- *Traditional sweets are made from sesame (Til) & jaggery*
- *Important day for farmers since the hard work of sowing seeds in the field is over, and so to celebrate with family*
- *Farmers showcase their cows as the symbol of prosperity*
- *In Bihar, Uttara Pradesh and Jarkhand, people celebrate Makar Sankranti with a special Khichadi made of rice, dahl, cauliflower, peas, and potatoes, as well as with a special Laddu made of sesame, chuda and rice*
- *Kite flying takes place in some parts of India*

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CELEBRATIONS OF MAKAR SANKRANTI (CONTD.)



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LEGENDS OF MAKARA SANKRANTI

- *Mahabharat legend About The Death of Pitamaha Bishma*
- *Lord Krishna Legend About Bhogi Day*
- *Puranic legend about Sun's visit to his son Shani (Saturn)*
- *Lord Shiva legend concerning his vehicle Nandi visiting earth*

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LEGENDS OF MAKARA SANKRANTI (CONTD.)

(1) Mahabharat Legend: Death of Pitamaha Bhishma:



Pitamha Bhishma Lay On Shara Panjara for More Than a Month Until Uttarayan (Sun's Journey Northward) Began On The Day of Makara Sankranti

(2) Lord Krishna Legend About Indra's Bhogi Day:



Lord Krishna Asked His Fellow Cowherds to Worship Him Instead of Lord Indra. Indra Got Mad and Brought Torrential Rain, Storms & Thunder. Lord Krishna Lifted The Govardhan Mountain to Protect The Cowherds. Indra Was Humiliated and Asked Lord Krishna to Forgive Him. Lord forgave Indra and Declared Makara Indra's Bhogi Day.

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LEGENDS OF MAKARA SANKRANTI (CONTD.)

(3) Puranic Legend About Sun's Visit to His Son Shani (Saturn):



Shani is The Son of The Sun. Father and Son Do Not Really Get Along Too Well. In Order to Keep The Relationship With His Son Alive and Well, The Sun Visits His Son Shani Every Year During The Sankranti Period and tays with Him for a Month During Makara Rashi, When Shani Himself is In

Charge. So, On The Day of Makara Sankranti, Every Father is Supposed to Visit His Sons and Make Fences With Them With Celebrations.

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LEGENDS OF MAKARA SANKRANTI (CONTD.)

(4) Lord Shiva Legend On Nandi Visiting Earth:



Lord Shiva Asked Nandi to Go To Earth and Tell His Disciples That “They Should Take Oil Bath Every Day and Eat Once a Month”. Nandi Got All Confused and Told The Disciples Just The Oposite: “They Should Take Oil Bath Once a Month and Eat Every Day”. Shiva Got Angry at The Mishap of Nandi and Ordered Him to Go Back to Earth and Help Farmers to Plow the Fields More Often In Order to Grow More Grains to Feed The Family Everyday.

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THE END