

## Decoding the Link between Planetary Configurations and Earthquakes

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### ABSTRACT

Earthquakes result from sudden release of strain energy stored in the earth's crust. Earthquakes are triggered in many ways: rupture of the crust, movements along lineaments, burst of volcanoes, mine collapses and impounding of new reservoirs etc. Among them, fresh rupture of the crust and movements along already existing ruptures are the most common. The seismic waves generated by the earthquakes violently shake the ground destroying buildings and sometimes reducing whole cities into rubble. Earthquakes also generate tsunamis sometimes inundating large islands. Despite advanced a technical and scientific knowledge and measuring equipment, earthquakes are difficult to predict although the geologists have clearly delineated the zones of active seismicity and the cause of this sudden and irregular phenomenon is well understood.

While the Sun and the Moon play a major role in controlling almost all the surface environmental processes such as wind, tides, currents, seasons etc., it is believed that those can cause "tides" in the interior of the earth at all levels too. According to the ancient Asian mathematicians who introduced "Astrology" to the world, other than the Sun and the Moon, the other planets also have a decisive role on earth processes. Ancient Sri Lankan astrologers believed that the planetary configurations/positions in the sky at a given point of time are crucial to most of the earthly phenomena. The gravitational pull of the planets on the earth's surface is evident throughout the history of mankind as recorded in ancient chronicles and experienced today. Thus, the triggering of earthquakes can be considered as resulting from cosmic interactions rather than as independent happenings within the earth. The present study focused on this cosmic interaction, specifically, the planetary configurations at times of great earthquakes for over a period of past 100 years, to identify the genetic relationship between the two.

The study revealed that the angular momentum of the Earth is influenced by the planetary configuration at a given point of time. The law of conservation of angular momentum, however, requires internal crustal arrangement which in turn leads to build up of stress along plate boundaries. This stress is believed to be the cause of earthquakes.

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