Malefic Planets

1. What about traditional planetary classifications such as benefic, malefic, and neutral?

Benefic planets are those that receive more than 4 points in their ashtakavarga. Malefic planets are those that receive less than 4 points in their ashtakavarga. Neutral planets are those that receive exactly 4 points in their ashtakavarga.

2. Why are natural malefics good in dusthanas or upachaya houses?

Because Saturn and Mars, if situated in a dusthana, will aspect a minimum of one of the 3rd, 8th, and 12th houses. The same for the upachaya houses. Therefore, they cannot give the result for the 8th house and so it is said that they are good in those houses.