

The Mystery Of Planetary Deaths - 1

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Introduction

Marana Karaka Sthana is a very familiar term in popular Vedic Astrology culture. However, one might wonder what the origin of this term is.

Many courses in Vedic Astrology teach this concept, many books use this concept but not many actually try to trace back its origin.

I want to begin this journey by first analyzing the term Marana Karaka Sthana. Marana means death. Karaka means one which causes. Sthana means place. In other words a planet when placed in a certain place causes death.

I personally found this concept a little too farfetched so I went on to do my little research on this.

A definition I found about this term and concept is provided below –

“The specific most malefic positions of planets capable of causing death-like suffering are as follows: - Sun in 12th house, Moon in 8th house, Mars in 7th house, Mercury in 7th house, Jupiter in 3rd house, Venus in 6th house, Saturn in 1st house and Rahu in 9th house from the Lagna (or dasa Rasi). Such positions of the planets are called *Marana Sthana* (death inflicting) and the planets become **Marana**

*H*e was introduced to jyotish by his Kulguru at the age of eight. After the initial trigger early in life, he has pursued the study of jyotish with utmost passion ever since. He writes with the pen name Abhishekha and is the Editor/Publisher of AIAC Times, Chicago.

Karaka (death inflictors). When such a death inflictor is in conjunction with or aspected by malefics or in inimical or depression signs, great grief is sure to come.”

(Chapter IV, Judgment of Results, Page 76, Narayana Dasa by Sanjay Rath)

However, with absolutely no offence to senior modern astrologers, I wanted to get to the root of the concept. Unless substantiated by a classical reference with ample modern charts, I personally have a difficulty accepting any theory. This is just my own limitation so I request the readers of my article not to get too influenced by my mode of thinking. Mine is rather a questioning one.

Whenever in doubt, I personally refer to the bible of Vedic Astrology called – “Brihat Parasara Hora Shastra”. I looked it up but was unable to find the term Marana Karaka Sthana in there. However, in the Atharishtadhyaya (About Evils at birth) I found some relevant verses.

For readers who have the BPHS Volume I by G.C. Sharma, I am talking about Chapter 11, page 171.

Shashtashtarishphagachandrah krura khetishcha vishchita |

Jatasya mrityuda sadhyatvashtavarshay shubheksheetah ||

~ Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra, Atharishtadhyaya, Shloka 3

This translates to – “If Moon is placed in Trik Houses from Lagna (6th, 8th or 12th) and receives aspects from krura planets (natural malefics), then such a native may die soon after his/her birth. However, if shubha planets (natural benefics) aspect the Moon, the native may live to be eight years of age.”

The said chapter from where the verse has been quoted has many such combinations detailed out by Parasara which relates to early death of the native or his/her parents.

However, my search was for the word “Marana Karaka Sthana”. I did consult some scholars on this and reached a conclusion that such phrase doesn’t exist in BPHS.

I was told about another classic which exists in three parts and is referred by many scholars and was called “Jataka Parijata”.

The Term

Vaidyanath Dikshit (15th century CE) wrote a great classic called “Jataka Parijata”. Jataka means that the work deals with natal horoscopy.



Parijata is a flower with some very interesting stories about it. In the book “*Brahma's Hair - The Mythology of Indian Plants*”, Maneka Gandhi & Yasmin Singh give a beautiful description about the origin and stories related to Parijata.

All the details given below on Parijata are taken from the Maneka Gandhi and Yasmin Singh's book.

Parijata (Sanskrit) is called Coral Jasmine.

Latin Name: *Nyctanthes arbortristis*

English Names: Queen of the Night, Coral Jasmine

Indian Names: Shephalika, Siuli (Bengali); Harashringara (Hindi); Parijata, Kharsati (Marathi); Parijata (Sanskrit); Parijata, Paghala (Tamil)

Family: Oleaceae

Nyctanthes means Night Flower and *arbortristis* the Sad Tree. Parijata, the Sanskrit name, means descended from the sea. Harashringara means ornament of the gods or beautiful ornament.

The flowers are gathered for religious offerings and to make garlands. The orange heart is used for dyeing silk and cotton, a practice that started with Buddhist monks whose orange robes were given their color by this flower.

The Parijata is regarded in Hindu mythology as one of the five wish-granting trees of Devaloka.

Vaidyanath Dikshit would have named his book *Jataka Parijata* to emphasize the fact that just like Parijata is a wish-filling tree of heaven, *Jataka Parijata* would be of similar caliber when dealing with the literature of jyotish.

In *Kalachakradasadhyay*, Shloka 34-36 is the only place in the 3-volume book where I got something closest to “Marana Karaka Sthana”.

Bhratristhangato Jeevo Darasthangato Kujah |

Tatha Janmogato Mando Rahurnavamarashigah ||

Chandroashtamagrihah Yatah Suryo Riphahgrihah |

Budhah Saptambhavasthah Bhargav Shatrurashigah ||

Etwevam Maranasthanah Tasmin Paapyuteshthava |

Paapdrashtewarinichasthe Durvaley Dukhamanuyat ||

The English translation of the above verse as given by V. Subramanya Sastri is given below:

Jupiter in the third house, Mars in the seventh, Saturn in the natal star, Rahu in the ninth house, Moon in the eighth house, Sun in the twelfth house, Mercury in the seventh and Venus in an inimical house are in their Maranasthana (or dead place). When such a planet is in conjunction with or aspected by a malefic planet or occupies an inimical or depressed house or is destitute of strength, the person concerned comes to grief.

The Analysis

Maranasthana and Marana Karaka Sthana, though similar sounding, doesn't at all mean the same thing. Maranasthana would mean a dead zone for a planet whereas Marana Karaka Sthana would mean the place where a death inflictor is placed (in this a planet).

Also, in the verse above, one needs to carefully study the choice of words of Vaidyanath Dikshit.

Janmogato Mando

The above is interpreted by Sastri as Saturn (Mando) in natal star (Janmogato). However, Sanjay Rath has mentioned Saturn in the first house. Which interpretation should one select to be correct? The answer lies in the rest of the three volumes classic of Vaidyanath Dikshit. Over and again when referring to the first house, Vaidyanath Dikshit has used the word Lagna or its variation. The word Janma is always used for birth star. Janma nakshatra is the nakshatra of the Moon at the time of birth; janma rasi is the Moon sign. Janmogato can never mean the first house.

Another very important aspect of this verse also needs attention.

The chapter (or adhyaya) deals with Kaalchakra. In fact from Shloka 13 to Shloka 31 every verse deals with the effect of the Deha and Jeeva in the Kaalchakra. The Shloka 32 & 33 also seem to be connected to Shloka 31 but Shloka 34-36, the last two shlokas of the adhyaya seem totally out of place with respect to the current adhyaya of Kaalchakra. One can of course argue that nothing is out of place in jyotish but that argument would be stretching things too much. One could also put in a Vimshottari dasa verse in the adhyaya and take it to be part of the adhyaya but that would not "look" correct.

We know that ancient knowledge has gone through the dark ages of misinterpretation and abridged and modified editions have taken birth from such alterations. This verse seems to be one such case.

Mercury's MKS position changed Seventh or Fourth- A Research

Another version of MKS that recently surfaced among the jyotish cult was assigning the fourth house to Mercury along with the seventh to be its MKS position.

The reference of the verse given was again from Jataka Parijata, Volume I, Adhyaya 2 (Grahakharupagunadhyaya), Shloka 52 & 72.

I am producing the shlokas below for the reader's reference-

Kamavaninandanrashiyata Setenduputramaravandhyamanah |

Arishtadasteykhiljatakeshu Sadashtamastha Shanirishtidah Sthyatah || (52)

Translation by Sastri - The position of Venus in the seventh house, Mercury in the fourth house and Jupiter in the fifth house from the Ascendant is harmful. Saturn in the eighth house from Lagna gives invariably what is agreeable.

This Shloka (52) has to be studied in conjunction to Shloka 51 which clearly mentions the karakas of the various houses and assigns the fourth house to both Moon and Mercury, the seventh to Venus, the fifth to Jupiter and the eighth to Saturn. This shloka clearly mentions the exception to the shloka 51 and in other words affirms the statement "Karaka bhava nasha" i.e. some karakas when placed in the houses they rule ruin them.

Samanurindu Shashijarichturthey Guru Sutey Bhumisuteh Kutumbhey|

Bhriguh sapatey Ravijah kalatrey Vilagnatwastey Viphalah Bhawanti || (72)

Translation by Sastri - When the Moon is in conjunction with the Sun, Mercury is in the fourth house from Lagna, Jupiter in the fifth house, Mars in the second house, Venus in the sixth house and Saturn in the seventh house, they become barren of effect.

Sastri writes in his notes that it is difficult to reconcile with the statement since Saturn gets directional strength (digbala) in the seventh house.

The condition of this verse is the conjunction of the Moon and the Sun, or in other words New Moon. This now relates to "Paksha bala" (strength of planets based on the fortnight - dark and bright). Benefics will be weak near New Moon and malefic will be strong. Thus Mercury, Jupiter and Venus will be weak and Mars and Saturn will be strong. In such a case Mars and Saturn's malefic influence will be felt in the maraka houses of second and the seventh house.

However, none of the above verses mention Mercury in fourth house to be its death place.

Case Studies

Case studies are the best answer to any theory in Jyotish (Vedic Astrology).

Jupiter in the 3rd House - The karaka of the 3rd House is Mars. The natural 3rd sign is Gemini ruled by Mercury. The third house is the house of initiation of the urges, the first house of the kama trikonas. The kama houses are 3, 7 and 11. Jupiter is the karaka for 11th House since it deals with the results which give us joy. Jupiter in the 7H aspects the first house by graha drishti. Moreover, the karaka for the seventh house is Venus. Jupiter in the 7H can give excessive sexuality but if Venus is well-placed and aspected by Jupiter, things remain under

control. Moreover, Jupiter supports marriage for the continuation of the lineage in form of children. In this way, it is not that bad in the 7H. However, the third house is the house of initiation of urges. Energy is the language in the 3H to set things moving. If Jupiter has to control the activities of this house, he has to forego of his usual duties of dharma. We shall see cases where, in charts of people with Jupiter in the 3H, their sexuality and urges are undoubtedly questioned in the light of righteousness or dharma. The ripples of this will be felt in the houses whose karaka is Jupiter – 2H, 5H, 9H, 11H.

Mars in the 7th House – The karaka of the 7H is Venus and the house signifies marriage and partnership. The natural seventh sign is Libra which deals with equality (in marriage) and balance. Mars is the karaka of the 6H of celibacy and service. In the 7H, it will bring in ego and battles. War is fine with enemies but not in marriage. Adjustment is the key to a successful marriage and ego has no place in this house. Mars is the planet of individuality, the primary significator of Agni Tattwa. Mars being in 7H, the person's adjustment capabilities will surely be questioned. The ripples of such a placement of Mars will be felt in the houses whose karaka is Mars – 3H, 6H.

Saturn in the 1st House – The karaka of the 1H is Sun and signifies health, creativity and energy. Saturn is a slow planet and does indicate lethargy. However, Saturn is also the significator of health by virtue of being the karaka of the 8H. Apart from being slow and cautious, I don't see any reason why Saturn in the 1H should be in its death zone. Case studies can show better results. However, if Saturn in 1H is in its death zone then the ripples will be felt in 6H, 8H, 10H and 12H.

Saturn in the natal star – On the other hand, if Saturn is with the Moon in the birth star, such a placement of Saturn can really be its death zone. Moon is the primary karaka for nourishment and life. It also cures diseases and is the natural karaka of the fourth house. Saturn is the karaka of the 8th House of longevity and is the primary significator of the Vayu Tattwa. Moon doesn't rule any Tattwa but rules motion ("Gati"). With Moon, Saturn becomes very disturbed and this exhausts the vayu tattwa in one thereby drastically disturbing one's rest, sleep, leisure and personal space (all signified by Saturn). The ripples of this can be felt in the houses whose karaka is Saturn - 6H, 8H, 10H and 12H.

Rahu in the 9th House – The karakas of the 9H are Sun and Jupiter. Rahu signifies the North node of eclipse or the mean point of total absence of luminaries. It stands for absence or reversal of dharma. In the 9H, it will reverse the route of dharma that the person should normally be initiated in. It will make a sage's child a sinner and a sinner's child a sage. This is the reason why Rahu is associated with things which are foreign to us. However, in this reversal, Rahu invariably gives a dharma to the native. Rahu, who is supposed to spoil dharma, starts giving it and thus it falls short of its significance and hence such a placement is Rahu's death placement.

Moon in the 8th House – The natural karaka of the 8H is Saturn. Moon is the natural significator of 4H and cure. When Moon is in the 8H, it tries to bestow long life but in the process exhausts the 4H and in such cases, invariably, the native suffers from some illness or the lack of cure. The ripples of this placement will be felt in houses whose karaka is Moon – 4H.

Sun in the 12th House – The karaka for the 12H is Saturn. It is the house of resting and sleep. Sun is the karaka of creativity and health. Although it doesn't rule any tattwa, it rules the

light of Agni (whereas Mars rules the heat related to Agni tattwa). When placed in the 12H, the native will face issues in health, children, parents and profession. The ripples of this placement will be felt in houses for who Sun is karaka – 1H, 9H, 10H.

Mercury in the 7th House – The karaka of the 7H is Venus. It is the house of marriage and partnership. The only reason why Mercury could be uncomfortable in this house would be based on the fact that it is an adolescent planet, not completely matured to understand sexuality. However, Mercury is a very flexible and easily influenced planet as well, so if with another planet, the quality of Mercury changes considerably. I would not agree to the fact that Mercury in the 7H would be in its death zone. However, case studies can show better results. If 7H is the death zone of Mercury, then ripples will be faced in finances of the native relating to the 10H.

Mercury in the 4th House – The karaka of the 4H is Moon. It is the house of emotion and feelings. 4H is also the house of initial education and understanding. However, 10H is an emotionless house indicating that emotion should never be applied at work. If Mercury is in the 4H, the ripples will be felt in the finances of the 10H as it is the co-karaka of the 10H.

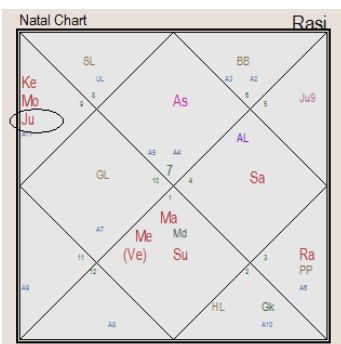
Venus in the 6th House – The karaka of the 6H is Mars. It is the house of celibacy and service. Venus is the karaka of the 7H and deals with companionship. When in the 6H, the ripples will be felt in the 7H.

One has to carefully note a few points before he/she reaches any conclusion on planetary death places. The points are mentioned below –

- 1) Shadbala of planets
- 2) Association of benefics, malefic, lagna lord, Moon and Sun
- 3) Aspects – malefic aspects only will create havoc, if unaspected or benefic(s) aspect then there will be no/negligible damage to the karakwatta of the planet (e.g. Venus is the karaka of the 7H)

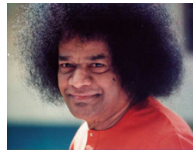
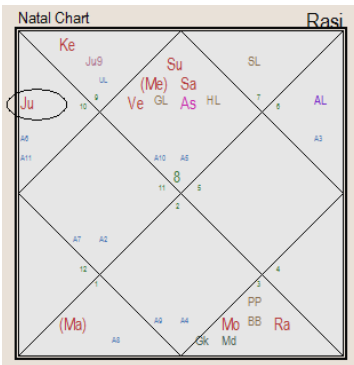
Jupiter in 3H Cases

Case I - Adolf Hitler



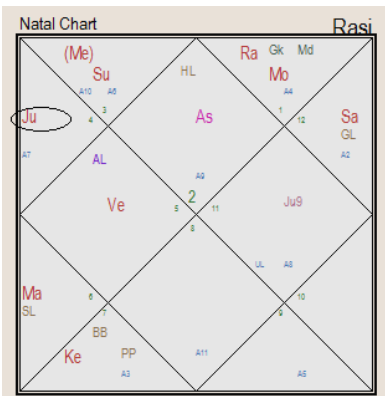
In case of Hitler, although in Moolatrikona sign, Jupiter is aspected by Rahu in the 9H. Not only is Jup in 3H but also Rahu is in 9H, Mars in 7H and Mercury in 7H in Maranasthana as well. Jupiter rules 3H and 6H, Rahu rules 5H, Mars rules 2H & 7H. We cannot say that these three planets were dead in his chart. The maranasthana implication may be understood in this case as Jupiter giving lack of humanitarian aspect, Mars giving lack of stable relationship and Rahu giving lack of dharma.

Case II - Sathya Sai Baba



In case of Sathya Sai Baba, the Jupiter in the 3H is debilitated and aspected by Saturn in Lagna by Rasi drishti. The blemish that this brought on Baba was charges of sexual abuse which hits the authenticity and genuineness of a sadhu. Moon is also in Maranasthana with Rahu in the 8H which indicates that a large section of the masses will be hurt by such accusations and their belief will be questioned (Rahu with Moon).

Case III - Pamela Anderson



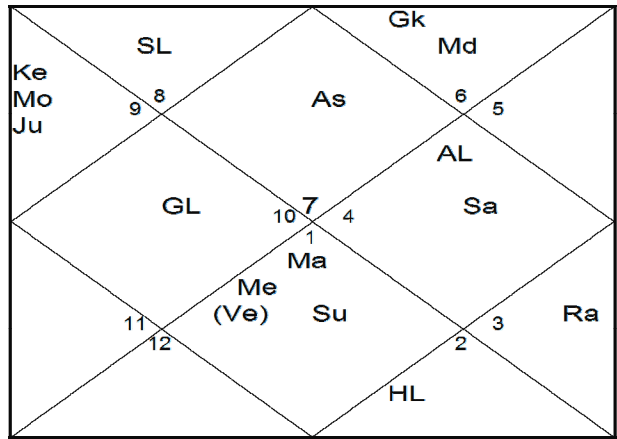
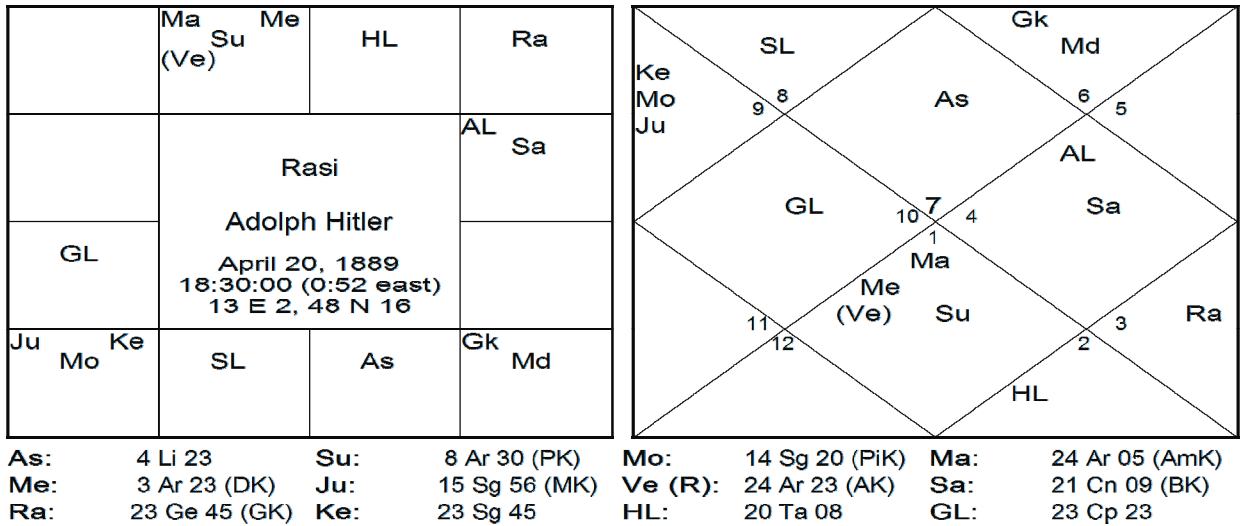
In case of Pamela, Jupiter is exalted in the 3H in maranasthana. However, Jupiter is exalted having Rasi drishti on the Lagna. The only area of life this Jupiter could have hit was the 3H and did give excessive indulgence in relationships and not the lack of it.

Case I

In case of Hitler, Jupiter is with Moon and Ketu and is being aspected by Rahu (rasi drishti). It is in its Moolatrikona sign but in the 3H. By my initial definition, this placement of Jupiter will hit the following houses – 2H, 5H, 9H, 11H.

2H – Family and wealth. This house is also what one considers to be his/her own community. The 2H is strongly influenced by the planets in the 7H by rasi drishti which guards the damage to this house. Sun and Mars both are extremely protective planets and he will guard his nation like a father and a fighter. Venus although retrograde along with Mercury will give him wealth by means of war (Mars). This also indicates extreme possessiveness about one's own community. Moreover, Mars, Saturn and Sun have rasi drishti on the 2H which indicates that wealth will be taken from others by means of force and malefic means.

5H – children, followers and love. This house will suffer since malefic influence of 5H will keep him devoid of love and affection, although he will long for it. Adolf Hitler's romantic relationships always ended in death (his niece). However, sexuality will be an issue with him due to such malefic influence in his 5H and he will believe in force in relationship.

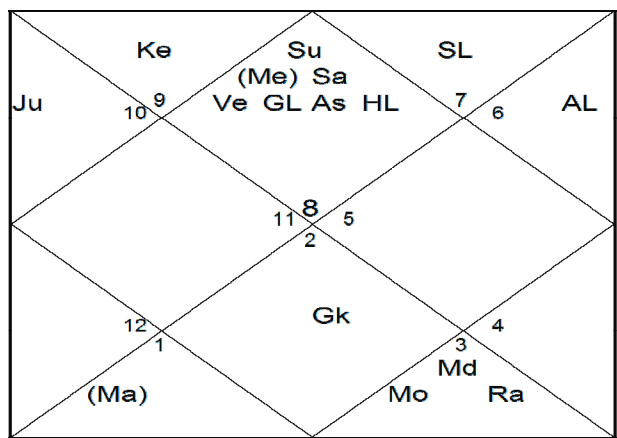
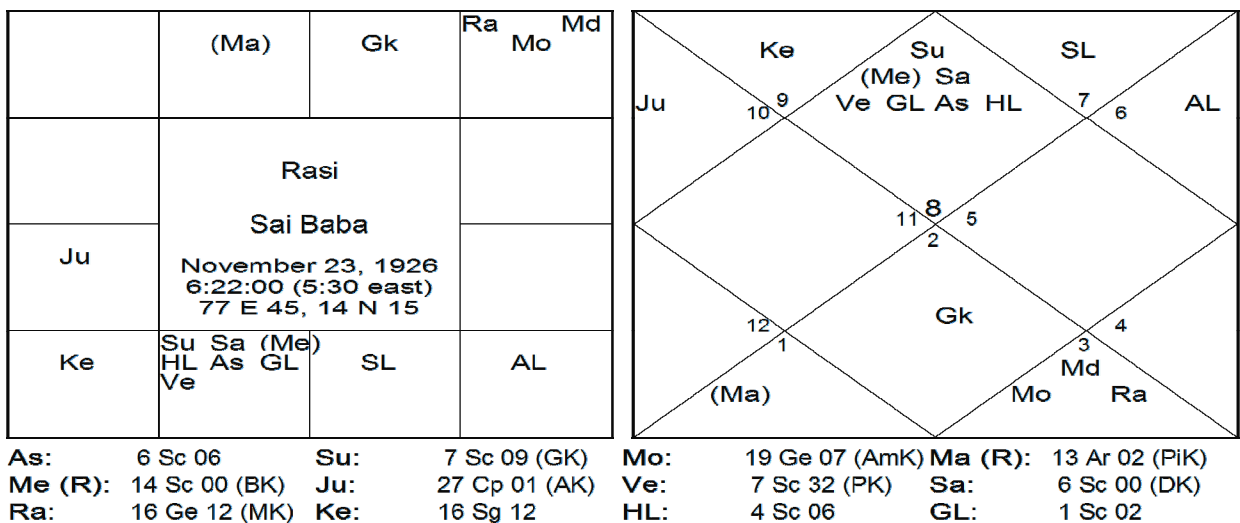


9H – dharma, society, principles. This house will suffer greatly since Rahu is placed in this house in maranasthana (dead zone). Moon, Jupiter, Ketu have rasi drishti on the 9H and it is marred by the malefic position of Rahu. It indicates that his principles of humanity will be marred by greed.

11H – malefic planets aspecting 11H indicates that wealth will be acquired by malefic means (in this case authority – Sun, force – Mars).

Case II

In case of Satya Sai Baba, Jupiter in maranasthana is aspected by Mercury (R), Venus, Sun (malefic) and Saturn (malefic).



2H – community, wealth, food. This has Ketu aspected by Moon, Rahu indicating surplus wealth as well as detachment towards the same. Rahu’s aspect does mean that some ill-fame will be associated with the community. In 2000, UNESCO withdrew its co-sponsorship of an education conference in Puttaparthi, explaining that it was deeply concerned about the allegations that have been leveled at Sathya Sai Baba. However in 2006 it was reported that UNESCO withdrew its media advisory on Sai Baba from the archive website. In a statement sent to the Sathya Sai Organization, UNESCO stated, "I do appreciate this concern and wish to inform you that following your personal intervention, the media advisory in question was immediately withdrawn from the archives of the UNESCO's

5H-Mars aspected by Sun, Mer(R), Saturn shows a lot of issues in her love life and issues with becoming a mother. She has had a miscarriage already.

9H-Aspected by Venus shows her dharma as a celebrity and her support for animal rights and her vegetarian views.

11H – Saturn in the 11H confers gains from masses (by watching her films) and aspected by Mars, Sun and Mer.

Case Studies

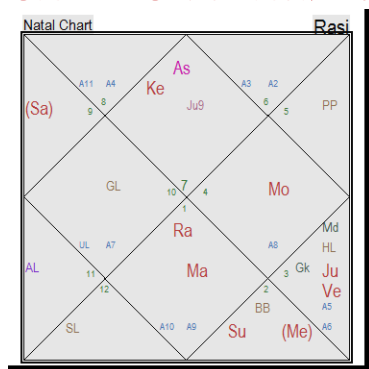
Mars in the 7th House – The karaka of the 7H is Venus and the house signifies marriage and partnership. The natural seventh sign is Libra which deals with equality (in marriage) and balance. Mars is the karaka of the 6H of celibacy and service. In the 7H, it will bring in ego and battles. War is fine with enemies but not in marriage. Adjustment is the key to a successful marriage and ego has no place in this house. Mars is the planet of individuality, the primary significator of Agni Tattwa. Mars being in 7H, the person's adjustment capabilities will surely be questioned. The ripples of such a placement of Mars will be felt in the houses whose karaka is Mars – 3H, 6H.

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Mars in 7H Cases

Case I – Clint Eastwood



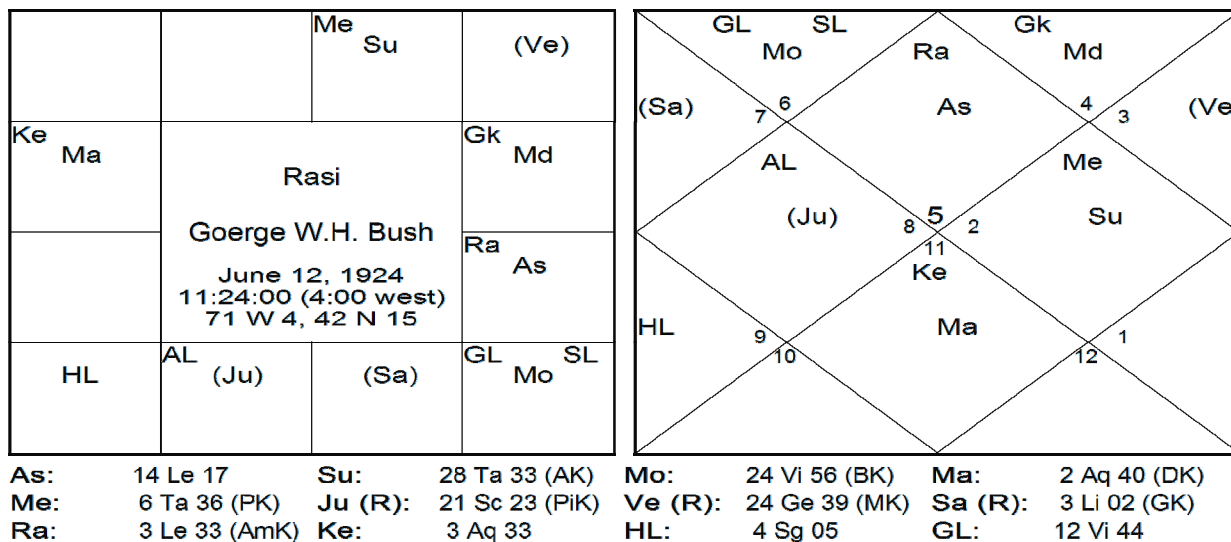
In case of Clint Eastwood, Mars is placed in maranasthana in mooltrikona sign of Aries with Rahu. The karaka of 7H Venus is with Jupiter in the 9H. Relationship problems related to adjustment issues will surface in his life and there will invariably be separation from spouse, if married. Clint married twice and had many partners. However, since the karaka Venus is with a benefic Jupiter, his love life will not be a disaster even after his multiple relationships.

Eastwood, was born on December 12, 1996. The karaka of 7H, Venus is with Jupiter (karaka of 5H) in the 9H. This assures children from marriages.

Case II

In case of Bush Sr., Mars is with Ketu in Aquarius and the karaka Venus has the benefic rasi drishti from Moon. However, adjustment with partners would be an issue and he would like to resolve things with a war (Mars) and it may be sometimes not instinctive (Ketu).

3H – Social Interaction. Just like Clint, Bush Sr. also has Saturn (R) in the third house. However, the sign is Libra which is aspected by Mars and Ketu. Mars is the karaka of 3H in maranasthana. Bush began his formal education at the Greenwich Country Day School in Greenwich. Beginning in 1936, he attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, where he held a large number of leadership positions including being the president of the senior class and secretary of the student council, president of the community fund-raising group, a member of the editorial board of the school newspaper, and captain of both the varsity baseball and soccer teams. This does prove that the 3H proved extremely well for Mr. Bush.



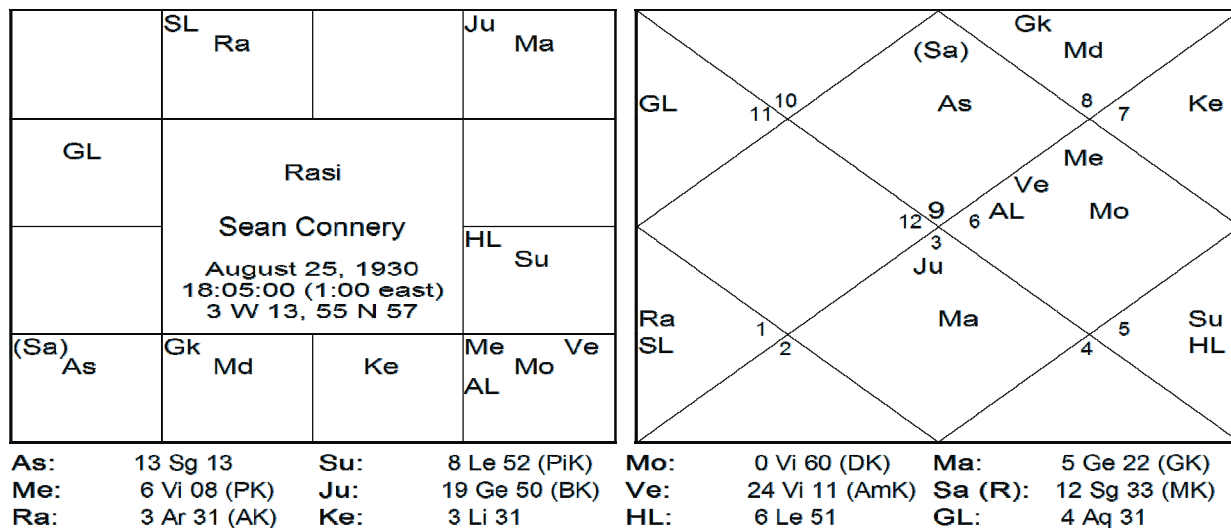
6H – service, celibacy/separation from partner and enemies. Mars aspecting the lagna lord as well as the lagna by graha drishti will have give the native a military bend of mind. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Bush decided to join the US Navy, so after graduating from Phillips Academy earlier in 1942, he became a naval aviator at the age of 18. After completing the 10-month course, he was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve at Corpus Christi, Texas on June 9, 1943, just three days before his 19th birthday, which made him the youngest naval aviator to that date.

George Bush married Barbara Pierce on January 6, 1945, only weeks after his return from the Pacific. Their marriage produced six children: George Walker Bush (born 1946), Pauline Robinson Bush ("Robin", 1949–1953, died of leukemia), John Ellis "Jeb" Bush (born 1953), Neil Mallon Bush (born 1955), Marvin Pierce Bush (born 1956), and Dorothy Bush Koch (born 1959).

Apparently, there doesn't seem to be any issue with this placement of Mars in the 3H and 6H as well as in the 7H. This could be because Mars is involved in the Tapaswi Yoga with Saturn, Ketu and Venus in trines.

Case III

In case of Sean Connery, Jupiter is with Mars in Gemini. However, the karaka Venus is debilitated in Virgo with exalted Mercury and benefic Moon. This combination does indicate trouble with spouse but also indicates many relationships.



3H - Social Interaction. Although not much is known about his early life, it is known that Connery shot to international fame by playing the role of James Bond. The character of James Bond is all about courage and dare devil acts to save the world.

6H - service, celibacy/separation from partner and enemies. Connery was married to actress Diane Cilento from 1962 to 1973. They had a son, actor Jason Connery. Connery has been married to French painter Micheline Roquebrune (born 1929) since 1975. In her 2006 autobiography 'My Nine Lives', as well as in subsequent interviews on radio and in print, Diane Cilento claimed that Connery had beaten her on several occasions. Connery vehemently denied the accusations. In a December 1987 interview with Barbara Walters, he stated that it would be acceptable for a man to hit a woman with an open hand, if she continues to provoke the man after he concedes an argument to her. Connery had made similar remarks in a November 1965 interview with Playboy magazine on the set of Thunderball: "I don't think there is anything particularly wrong about hitting a woman ... If a woman is a bitch, or hysterical, or bloody-minded continually, then I'd do it." In 1993, Vanity Fair quoted him saying there are confrontational women who "want a smack". This does show the effects of a maranasthana Mars aspected by rasi drishti by a debilitated Venus.

In part 2, I will deal with Saturn in 1H and Saturn in natal star case studies.