



## *The Nakshatras* The Lunar Mansions of Vedic Astrology

Dennis Harness, PhD

By Ken Hopkins, ASA Scribe

The ASA was blessed to have Dennis Harness as its May speaker. Dennis is the current Director of the Institute of Vedic Astrology in Sedona, and Vice-President of the *American Council of Vedic Astrology*. One of the main foundations for his lecture and workshop was his new book, "*The Nakshatras - The Lunar Mansions of Vedic Astrology*".

### Friday evening

Vedic Astrology was defined for us as a *sidereal* or *constellational* astrology. In 1950 the sidereal zodiac was 23 degrees behind the tropical zodiac. Dennis suggested the easiest way to find the sidereal longitude of your natal planets is to add seven degrees to the tropical longitude of your natal planets and then subtract one sign. Dennis prefaced his lecture with this statement concerning Vedic versus Tropical Astrology, "No one system of astrology can encompass all truth."

Vedic Astrology is based on the Moon and its Mansions known as Nakshatras. It takes roughly 27 days for the Moon to go the 360 degrees of the zodiac. When 360 is divided by 27, you get 13 degrees and 20 minutes. That is the longitudinal span of one Lunar Mansion. *In Vedic or Hindu astrology the Moon is the key in the chart.* The Moon furnishes a deep reflection of the emotional nature and psychology of the person. The location of the Moon in Vedic astrology sets the stage for the entire chart. The Lunar Mansion or Nakshatra where the Moon is located is said to set the tone of the soul in this life. Dennis added that the rising sign and Sun placement in their respective Nakshatras add much insight into a chart reading. According to Dennis, marriage compatibility in Vedic astrology is based on Moon to Moon compatibility, where a compatibility rating scale of 0-36 is used. Ratings of 18 or higher are said to be compatible. (A summary of the Nakshatras follows in the Saturday workshop section).

### Jupiter-Saturn

Dennis had some insights to share pertaining to the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction at 22 Taurus or at 29 Aries, depending on which system you use. Dennis felt that the last conjunction of these planets coincided with the "me" generation, with an emphasis on the material possessions. It is his hope that the new cycle that began on May 28th 9:04am MST would result in a more spiritual and environmentally friendly vibration.

The current Uranus square to the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction probably coincides with a threat of terrorism Dennis said, but this aspect might just as easily open doors for new institutions of

higher learning focusing on spiritual matters and related philosophies.

Dennis added "It might be a good idea to delay major decisions until the second week in June following the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction," giving time for personal perspectives to balance a little alter the big aspect.

Dennis told us that Vedic astrologers refer to those individuals with Jupiter conjunct Saturn in their chart as having the high priest or priestess vibration. The aspect combines the Guru (Jupiter) with the Taskmaster (Saturn).

### Saturday workshop

The Saturday workshop began with Dennis giving a brief summary of the Nakshatra layout. **There are three categories: Deva** or god-like, **Human**, and **Demon**, each with nine lunar mansions. He cautions us not to get hung up on these labels and he gave the example of the Demon energy which often manifests itself in ways that will help others. Many demon energies will show as astrologers and spiritual teachers. Ghandi had his Moon in a demon Nakshatra.

Dennis went on to add that each Nakshatra is ruled by a planet or one of the Moon's nodes. Each planet or node has rulership of three mansions. There also is a ruling Deity as well as animal. Each Nakshatra has a Shaktu or Power; a Primary Motivation (Dharma, Artha, Kania, Moksha); Qualities (Sattwa, Rajas, Tamas); Murthurtha (Light, Soft, Fixed, Mov cable, Sharp, Cruel, Mixed).

### The Nakshatras:

**Ashwini-Deva:** 0° Aries 00' to 13° Aries 20'  
Ketu (South Node) – horsehead – healer

**Bharani-Human:** 13° Aries 20' to 26° Aries 40'  
Venus – male elephant - writer

**Krittika-Demon:** 26° Aries 40' to 10° Taurus 00'  
Sun – female sheep – indulgent

**Rohini-Human:** 10° Taurus 00' to 23° Taurus 20'  
Moon – love of travel

**Mrigasira-Deva:** 23° Taurus 20' to 6° Gemini 40'  
Mars – female serpent – writers – good for astrology

**Ardra-Human:** 6° Gemini 40' to 20° Gemini 00'  
Rahu (north node)

**Punarvasu-Deva :** 20° Gemini 00' to 3° Cancer 20'  
Jupiter – female cat – bringing light into darkness

**Pushva-Deva:** 3° Cancer 20' to 16° Cancer 40'  
Saturn – nourishes society

**Ashlesha-Demon:** 16° Cancer 40' to 29° Cancer 59'  
Mercury – male cat – communicator

**Magha-Demon:** 0° Leo 00' to 13° Leo 20'  
Ketu (south node) – male rat – spiritual leadership

**Purva Phalguni-Human:** 13° Leo 20' to 26° Leo 40'  
Venus – female rat

**Uttara Phalguni-Human:** 26° Leo 40' to 10° Virgo 00'  
Sun – social worker

**Hasta-Deva:** 10° Virgo 00' to 23° Virgo 20'  
Moon – healer

**Chitra-Demon:** 23° Virgo 20' to 6° Libra 40'  
Mars – female tiger

**Swati-Deva:** 6° Libra 40' to 20° Libra 00'  
Rahu (north node) – priest or priestess

**Vishakha-Demon:** 20° Libra 00' to 3° Scorpio 20'  
Jupiter – hydra

**Anuradha-Deva:** 3° Scorpio 20' to 16° Scorpio 40'  
Saturn – lotus

**Jyeshtha-Demon:** 16° Scorpio 40' to 29° Scorpio 59'  
Mercury – male hare or rabbit

**Mula-Demon:** 0° Sagittarius 00' to 13° Sagittarius 20'  
Ketu (south node) – death - rebirth

**Purvashadha-Human:** 13° Sagittarius 20' to 26° Sag. 40'  
Venus – early victory

**Uttarashadha-Human:** 26° Sagittarius 40 to 10° Cap. 00'  
Sun – male mongoose – later victory

**Shravana-Deva:** 10° Capricorn 00' to 23° Capricorn 20'  
Moon – monkey – diet and nutrition

**Dhanishta-Demon:** 23° Capricorn 20' to 6° Aquarius 40'  
Mars – female lion

**Shatabhishak-Demon:** 6° Aquarius 40' to 20° Aquarius 00'  
Rahu (North Node) – female horse

**Purva Bhadra-Human:** 20° Aquarius 00' to 3° Pisces 20'  
Jupiter – male lion

**Uttara Bhadra-Human:** 3° Pisces 20' to 16° Pisces 40'  
Saturn – female cow

**Revati-Deva:** 16° Pisces 40' to 29° Pisces 59'  
Mercury – most spiritual

### Planetary Cycles — Dasas

Dennis also gave information on planetary cycles that will last 120 years before repeating. 120 is considered the perfect length of a life. The planetary cycles always follow the same order. The one you start with is determined by the ruler of your Moon Nakshatra. If your Moon is in Kritika you see that the Sun is the ruler of that Mansion. The Sun has an influence of six years. If your Moon were halfway through Kritika you would have just three years before the ten-year Moon rulership would take effect. Following that, there would be seven years of Mars and 18 years for the North Node. That would be followed by 16 years for Jupiter, 19 for Saturn, 17 by Mercury, 7 years by the south node, and 20 by Venus to complete the 120 years.

#### The Dasas:

<b>South Node</b>	<b>7 years</b>
<b>Venus</b>	<b>20 years</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6 years</b>
<b>Moon</b>	<b>10 years</b>
<b>Mars</b>	<b>7 years</b>
<b>North Node</b>	<b>18 years</b>
<b>Jupiter</b>	<b>16 years</b>
<b>Saturn</b>	<b>19 years</b>
<b>Mercury</b>	<b>27 years</b>

#### Auspicious times

Once again, the Moon travels through one Nakshatra per day on the average. With each Mansion having certain qualities and rulerships, one would correctly assume that certain activities would bear more fruit if undertaken with the Moon in a compatible Mansion. The Moon should be waxing or increasing in light.

For buying a house, compatible Lunar Mansions would be Mrigashira. Punarvasu. Ashlesha. Magha. Purva Phalguni. Vishakha. Mula and Revati. In general, in relation to your lunar Nakshatra, it is better to undergo projects when the Moon is in the 2nd, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9th houses (from your Moon's mansion).

Dennis furnished us with much astrological food for thought during his excellent presentation. Everyone enjoyed his lecture and workshop thoroughly and gained valuable insights into the role of the Lunar Mansions in delineating and understanding a chart. For readings, or to purchase his book please call him in Sedona at 520-282-6595.