

In this issue Linda Anderson reports on the presentations by Dennis Harness on April 20-21, 2001.

### **VEDIC ASTROLOGY WITH Dr. DENNIS HARNESS**

On Friday evening, April 20<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Dennis Harness who enlightened us with an introduction to Vedic Astrology. In his book, *The Nakshatras, The Lunar Mansions of Vedic Astrology*, Dennis explains that the Nakshatras reveal a deeper, more profound effect of the twelve signs. They divide the signs into 27 segments of equal length. Each Nakshatra is 13 degrees, approximately 20 minutes in duration, so that the first Nakshatra ranges from 0 degrees, 00 minutes to 13 degrees, 30 minutes of Aries, and so on through the signs. They are called lunar mansions because the Moon “lives in” each of them for approximately one day.

Discovering one’s Moon Nakshatra and its qualities is an important tool of self-discovery and useful for all counseling and psychological purposes. In his book, Dennis lists each of the 27 Moon Nakshatras with personality interpretations, and interpretation of the placements of the Moon, Sun and Ascendant in each Nakshatra, as well. The Nakshatras are important for their practical value in delineating characteristics and timing events, such as starting a new business, building a new home or choosing an auspicious wedding date.

In India, the Moon Nakshatra is the main indicator of personality types, much like

the Sun sign is in Western astrology. The daily Moon Nakshatra is similarly important in showing the energy or personality of the day, as well as all aspects of mundane astrology, for understanding fluctuations from stock markets to voting patterns. The Nakshatras are used relative to the Sun and all the other planets as well.

When calculating your Vedic natal chart, remember to subtract approximately 23 degrees from each of your tropical natal chart planets and Ascendant.

A technique you can use with your Vedic chart is to look at the ruler of the Ascendant (you) and the ruler of the 7th house and the relationship between the two. A square will bring conflict, or more interest in controlling someone than empowering them—a tendency to get into power dynamics. If the two planets are quincunx, you get a push-pull relationship between them. If in trifle, you will desire more peace, harmony and balance. A conjunction can indicate someone who wants really deep intimacy. The planet itself will also color the use of this technique. Before you get into looking at the comparison of charts, it’s important to address issues of what the individual wants in a relationship; everyone has different needs in a relationship. Be a choice revealer rather than a choice maker for your clients.

The planets in Vedic Astrology are considered intense. Remember, for each planet and the Ascendant, subtract 23 degrees from your Western chart, or as Dennis suggests, add 7 degrees and go

back a sign. The Moon is the more important planet in Vedic astrology and is called "Chandra". Wherever the Moon is in your chart will tell you where you have a lot of desire in life. For example, someone with the Moon in the 7th house will always have a strong desire for relationships. In Vedic astrology, emphasis is on compatibility between the Moons. Moons that are inconjunct between 2 charts means that the persons will have to strive to obtain a good relationship, whereas if the Moons are in opposition, they are looking at each other, and this is considered very good. Moons should be the same or compatible for best relationships. If they are different, it is better if the woman's Moon is more evolved, because she will be the one to hold the relationship together.

Also check to see if the dispositor of the Moon is "friendly" to the other person's Moon. In Vedic astrology, the Sun, Moon, Mars and Jupiter are considered "friendly" planets to each other; while Venus, Saturn and Mercury are also considered "friendly" to each other. However, there will always be challenges in relationships, as the rulers of the 1st and 7th are never really "friendly" to each other, making marriage one of the hardest spiritual paths one can encounter.

As in Western astrology, the 7th house reflects marriage karma, and we look to see where the ruler of the 7th house is placed. For example, a person with a chart (like Dennis') with the ruler of the 7th in the 3rd along with Ketu (the South Node) will experience "disappointment in love". In Vedic astrology, the North Node (Rahu) is like Saturn, and when in the 7th house, will create difficult marital Karma.

Also, the Sun in the 7th house of an early marriage may "burn out" the marriage.

Dennis tells us that each Nakshatra also has a temperament: it can be human (rajas), demon (tamas) or godly (sattwa) in nature. These are the three basic "gunas" or primal qualities which life reflects, according to the Vedas. The first nine Nakshatras are "rajasic" in nature, reflecting high energetic activity, dominant in human experience; the second nine are "tamasic", reflecting the basic quality of dullness, inertia, sloth and darkness; the final nine are described as "sattwic", reflecting the quality of spirituality, harmony, balance and purity.

Each Nakshatra is either male or female, as well, and also reflects a specific animal species, sex, caste, and primary motivation such as "dharma" (life purpose), "artha" (wealth) "kama" (fulfillment of desire) and "miksha" (enlightenment). Dennis also covers all these qualities for each Nakshatra in his book.

Some other points Dennis discussed include these: 1) Moon indicates one's relationship with their mother; a balsamic or new moon can show emotional unease. Dennis says, "As we see our mother, we see the world." 2) The Moon and Venus work to unite masculine and feminine energy; what one represses (Moon-emotions) the other can express (Venus-creativity). By looking at the aspects of the Moon and Venus in your own Vedic chart, you can unite your own masculine and feminine energy. 3) Jupiter reflects the inner male energy and is the animus (shadow) aspect in a woman's chart. It also shows

relationship Karma, and compatibility with children (relating to anything you create); therefore, where Jupiter is in your chart, you will find your wealth (not always money). Jupiter/Saturn aspects can show where spirit enters matter, and where you need to compensate or learn humility. 4) Mars in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and sometimes the 8th and 12th shows difficult marital karma. Marrying someone with the same aspect signifies difficulties in early marriage.

Dennis also lists the animal aspects of each Nakshatra in his book and leaves us with the thought that, “Less evolved persons are more like tigers and lions. While the more evolved amongst us are more like pussycats — which do you aspire to be?” Thank you, Dennis, for giving us a different view of chart interpretation through Vedic Astrology.

## RELATIONSHIP COMPATIBILITY

On Saturday, Dennis Harness continued his discussion of relationship compatibility using Vedic astrology. Remember to subtract 23 degrees from each planet and the Ascendant of your natal Western chart when calculating your Vedic chart. Having reviewed Jupiter and Mars on Friday evening, Dennis moved on to Venus, telling us that Venus is the more important planet associated with love or marriage. Anyone with Taurus or Libra rising will have Venus as the ruler of their chart. If Venus is then placed in a trine house (1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup>) it will be strengthened, bringing positive energies to the relationship.

Venus, of course, does well in the signs of Libra and Taurus, which it rules, and

is exalted in Pisces, its strong sign. It does okay in Capricorn and Aquarius, since in Vedic astrology, Venus is friends with Saturn, ruler of these signs. Venus is okay in Gemini, but debilitated in Virgo, being opposite Pisces there.

Looking at the chart of Ricky Martin, we see Venus (ruling the 1st) in the 9<sup>th</sup> along with Rahu (the North Node). In Vedic astrology, Rahu is an intense planet, which can bring instability when conjunct Venus, but also indicates a person with a lot of charisma, such as Ricky. Venus is also considered an intense planet and Venus conjunct Rahu can indicate addiction problems, not only with drugs or alcohol, but if embodying a sexual addiction to romance, can indicate one who is a heartbreaker.

Dennis tells us that a Venus/Mars conjunction is a very passionate aspect also and can indicate either a difficult marriage, or that the person needs to marry their inner masculine/feminine energies together. Venus combust the Sun (within 5 degrees) signifies an early marriage and subsequent divorce — burning up the first mate — so consequently, Venus conjunct or combust the Sun indicates caution against early marriage — better to wait for one’s Saturn return and more maturity at age 29-30! Venus combust the Sun people will have an eye for beauty and creativity without being a real artist or performer themselves.

Venus is the significator of the 7th house in Vedic astrology, which means it will give you information about the house of marriage whether in a man’s or woman’s chart when you study its aspects. When comparing charts, check the aspects of a

woman's chart to the man's Venus, which reflects the wife or embodies what he likes in the feminine. The conjunction, bringing deeper compatibility, and the opposition, honoring differences, are the strongest aspects, followed by the square, which signifies working with your problems, and then the inconjunct energy, which is more disconnected. Venus is also the reflection, in a man's chart, of the anima, or inner feminine, which Dennis says is not well developed in most men.

When Venus is weak in a chart, the use of diamonds or white sapphire are good aids for healing. Also being associated with music, dance or drama will strengthen and heal a weak Venus, along with the use of color, art and plants — Venus rules the plant kingdom.

Moving on to looking at a Mercury comparisons in our Vedic charts, Dennis tells us that Mercury needs good aspects between charts, since it is the planet of intelligence. It is strong in Gemini and Virgo, where it rules, and also strong in the air signs of Aquarius and Libra. Mercury does well with Leo, communicating with the sun but has problems in Pisces, where it is debilitated, creating what Dennis calls "creative dyslexia". To strengthen Mercury in your chart, you can work with the gemstones emerald, jade or green tourmaline, or wear the color green or olive as a healing color, especially those people with Gemini or Virgo rising in Vedic.

Next, Dennis tells us that Saturn is important in a relationship to bring stability and endurance. Saturn in the 7th is a strong position; although it may harm an early marriage, it is good for your own soul for growth, in Vedic astrology. A

Saturn/Venus conjunction between charts can hold together a marriage. Remember that Saturn, Venus and Mercury are "friendly" in Vedic astrology. Rahu (north node) and Ketu (South Node) are more closely aligned with the Saturn/Venus/Mercury group than with Sun/Moon/Jupiter/Mars, which comprises the second group of "friendly" planets. Vedic astrology does not work with the outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

Dennis declares that Saturn shows a deeper maturity at age 35-36 when combined with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Jupiter return. At age 59-60, you experience your Saturn return, along with your 5th Jupiter return; many people show major accomplishments at this age.

Moving now to the Sun, we learn from Dennis that the Sun is the father in a Vedic chart, reflecting the animus or masculine energy in a woman's chart. Also, if a man's Sun falls on a woman's Mars, not only is this a passion aspect, but it can embody what a woman likes in masculine energy. If someone's sun is on your Moon, they will tend to be the dominant one in that relationship.

Three important factors should be carefully considered when comparing horoscopes for the purpose of marriage:

- 1) The potential longevity of each individual — Saturn, the Ascendant, and the eighth house must be assessed;
- 2) The strength of the seventh and eighth houses - look to the 7th, house for marital karma. What planets are there? What is the condition of the ruler, and what planets are aspecting the 7th house? What is the condition of the 7th house? It is generally better if it is unoccupied

and 3) Compatibility in regard to the kutas.

The kuta point system is an elaborate lunar compatibility analysis that compares the natal Moon Nakshatras of the couple. Points are assigned from twelve different lunar compatibility factors (kutas). The kutas examine such factors as compatibility of temperament, nervous system energy related to hereditary factors in producing children, relationship between the Moon signs of the couple, the psychological disposition of the couple, control issues, spiritual development, and sexual compatibility.

The kuta point system should not be used alone; it is only one of many important factors to be analyzed. Other vital points to be considered are: 1) Compatibility between the Ascendants and their rulers; 2) Compatibility of the two Mercury's for effective communication; 3) Compatibility of Mars energy, as well as harmony between respective Venus placements; 4) relationship between the two natal Jupiter s; and finally, 5) the ruler of the 7<sup>th</sup> house should be matured. The planets mature at different ages, which are listed in Dennis' book.

Other things to consider when looking at an electional chart for marriage are: 1) The moon should be waxing; 2) An

auspicious lunar Nakshatra and auspicious lunar days (10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>); also listed in Dennis' book: 3) Information already discussed regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> houses is important; and 4) good marriage days are Monday (Moon), Thursday (Jupiter) and Friday (Venus). Saturday (Saturn) should be avoided! Also in Dennis' book you can find a table of Yoni Kuta (sexual compatibility relating to the corresponding animals of each person's lunar Nakshatra), a Nakshatra Compatibility Table, and interpretations of "Planets at a Glance", Houses at a Glance" and Ascendants at a Glance".

Dennis again reminded us that working with gems will strengthen weaker planets in our charts, as will using prayer and mantras. To alleviate difficult karma, do charitable work. You can also strengthen your planets by using color and by reading and learning about the deity which resides in your Vedic Nakshatra — "feed the god or goddess" which is influencing you! Dennis has left us with volumes of information to be assimilated as we expand your knowledge of astrology to include the mystic Vedic!

Thank you Dr. Harness!

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