

The Dasha Lagna: Key to Accurate Predictions

The Importance of the Alternate Lagnas - Part Two

by Vaughn Paul Manley, MA

Copyright 2006. All Rights Reserved

Introduction

In Part 1, we applied the use of the alternate lagnas, the Moon and Sun (*Chandra Lagna* and *Surya Lagna*), to the analysis of the static, unchanging natal chart. We demonstrated how the hard work of collecting clues from the alternate lagnas provides a more well-rounded and accurate interpretation. This hard work gets further rewarded in the analysis of the dashas, the dynamic, ever-changing predictive systems. The natal chart reveals *what* is likely to happen in a person's life, while the dashas reveal *when* the events are likely to happen. Without first accurately interpreting the natal chart, it's not possible to accurately interpret the dashas. This is because the dashas will activate a planet's function in the natal chart. To understand how the planet functions we first need to analyze the planets position, aspects and yogas from each of the three lagnas, (or at least the ascendant and Moon). To further refine this understanding during the time period of the dasha, it's important to add the use of another alternate lagna, the *Dasha Lagna*.

The natal chart and the dashas reveals the karma of the individual as expressed through the planets, the agents of our karma. The sage Parashara in the Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra explains this when he writes:

*"The Unborn lord has many incarnations. He has incarnated as the nine planets (nava grahas) to bestow on the living beings the results due to their Karmas."*¹

We often associate the word 'karma' with negative karma. However, the word karma simply means 'action' and refers to all of our previous actions, both positive and negative. The timing for experiencing the effects of our previous actions, or karma, can be seen by analyzing the dashas. When I first met my Jyotish guru, K.N. Rao, at an informal gathering at David Frawley's house in 1993, he gave a graphic illustration of how the dashas work in Vedic astrology. He rolled up a napkin and slowing began unrolling it saying, *"The dashas are the unraveling of our karma through time."* Fortunately, we don't have to experience our karma all at once! It gets dispensed slowly through the sequence of dashas.

There are more than fifty dasha systems in the vast knowledge (*Vidya*) of Vedic astrology, but the most widely used is the Vimshottari Dasha system. The sage Parashara writes,

"In Kali Yuga (the age we live in) the natural life span of a human being is generally

taken as 120 years. Therefore, Vimshottari Dasha is considered to be the most appropriate and the best of all dashas.”²

‘Vimshottari’ means one hundred and twenty and is the only dasha system we’ll be referring to here. In this system a dasha represents a segment of time that is ruled by a specific planet, like a chapter in the book of one’s life. Each major chapter or *mahadasha* (great dasha) ranges from 6 to 20 years in duration. These are then broken down into sub-dashas (*antar dashas or bhuktis*), and sub-sub dashas, (*pratyantar dashas*), which allow us to progressively define narrow ranges of time. Although transits and other methods also play a role in the timing of events, the dashas are the primary predictive method in Vedic astrology. Think of the dasha planet as being turned on like a light switch. The planet’s general characteristics and what it represents in the chart become highly activated during its dasha. Again the sage Parashara writes,

”There are two kinds of effects of dashas: general and distinctive. The natural characteristics of the planets cause the general effects and the distinctive effects are realized by their placements, etc.”³

This means, for instance, that a Saturn dasha will have some quality of hard work and hardship, regardless of Saturn’s placement in the chart, because Saturn generally represents these qualities. The house and sign position, aspects, and yogas that the dasha planet is involved in will determine the planet’s “*distinctive effects*.” This should be analyzed from the alternate lagnas as well, as Sage Satyacharya points out in the classic text, *Satyajatakam*:

”A planet friendly to the lord of the ascendant and the Moon ascendant yields good results during its dasha.”⁴

A planet generally becomes friendly to the lagna, or alternate lagna, by ruling one of the trinal houses, the 1st, 5th or 9th houses, as counted from the lagna or alternate lagna. These lords will generally form the best yogas, like Raja Yogas or Dana Yogas, which will come to fruition during the dashas of the planets involved in the yoga. In the classic text, *Jataka Parijata*, sage Vaidyanatha Dikshita emphasizes the importance of analyzing the yogas in dasha analysis by writing:

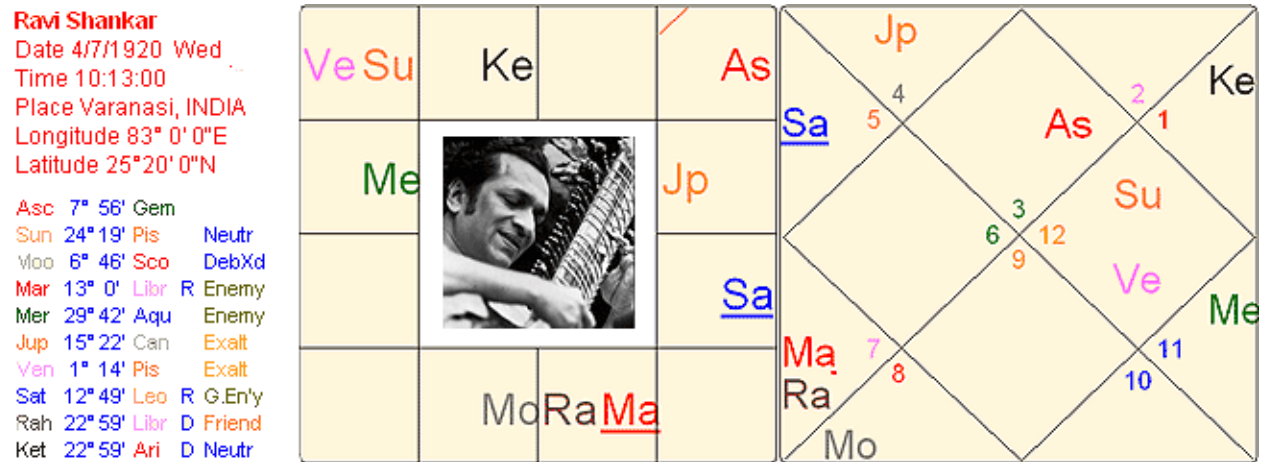
“A person attains to a yoga, good or bad, exactly in accordance with the strength of planetary positions; and the character of the dasha that he will have is dependent on the character of the yoga; and all that men experience in the world is comprehended in the good and evil cropping up in the dashas.”⁵

The dashas, therefore, activate the promises inherent in the natal horoscope. This can be seen in the following examples, through our analysis of the dasha planet’s position, aspects, and yogas from the ascendant and the alternate lagnas.

Part 2: Alternate Lagnas in Dasha Analysis

Chart #1 – Ravi Shankar

In Part 1, we discussed the strength of Venus, the planet of music, in the chart of legendary sitar virtuoso, Ravi Shankar. To summarize, Venus is exalted in Pisces and involved in a Malavya Mahapurusha Yoga and Saraswati Yoga from two lagnas. With its aspect from exalted Jupiter in Cancer, it forms a Raja Yoga involving the 10th house and/or 10th lord from both the ascendant and the Moon lagnas. From the Sun, Jupiter's aspect to Venus becomes the 1st and 10th lord exalted in the 5th house. This combination represents a strongly reinforced pattern of career prominence in his chart.



In May of 1958, Shankar began his twenty-year mahadasha of Venus, which activated these powerful yogas. During this dasha he achieved widespread fame and success, both within India and abroad. Within a year of starting his Venus dasha, he was invited to give the first of many concert tours in the United States. He became known as the ambassador of classical Indian music to the Western world and was the first to popularize it. Venus is aspected by Jupiter, the planet of travel, and is in the expansive sign of Pisces, ruled by Jupiter. In 1966, during the height of the Beatles success, George Harrison studied sitar with him, which catapulted Shankar's fame and popularity even further. This led to invitations to participate in several historic concerts in the U.S. including the *Monterey Pop Festival* (1967), *Woodstock* (1969), *The Concert for Bangladesh* (1971), and a subsequent tour with Harrison in 1974.

Venus represents creativity and during this dasha he produced a phenomenal amount of music, over thirty albums, many of which were his own original compositions. He also began his career as a teacher during this dasha, opening his Kinnara School of Music in Bombay in 1962, with a branch that he opened in Los Angeles in 1967. Jupiter represents the *guru* or teacher, and both rules and aspects Venus. Venus's conjunction with the Sun in the above mentioned Raja Yogas with Jupiter from all three lagnas, represent the strength of his authority and leadership that became established during this dasha.

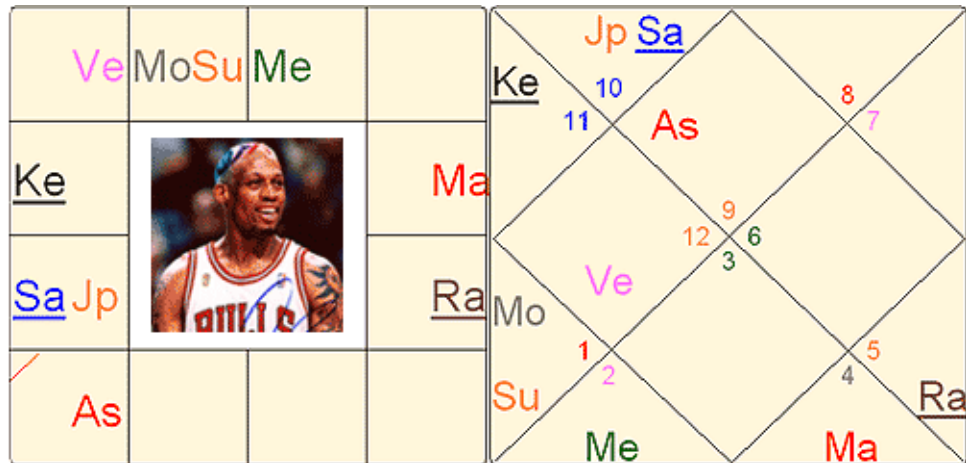
Chart #2 – Dennis Rodman

Another example of an entire dasha period producing excellent results is the chart of Dennis Rodman. He started his ten-year mahadasha of the Moon in 1989, which were the last and best ten years of his phenomenal career.

If you analyzed the Moon dasha only from the ascendant you would miss the incredible strength of this dasha. From the ascendant the Moon is the malefic 8th lord in a Parivartana Yoga with Mars in the 8th house. However, the alternate lagnas give us a much clearer understanding of the Moon's function in his chart. From the Moon and Sun lagnas, the Moon is the 4th lord involved in two Raja Yogas – one with the Sun, the 5th lord, and one with Mars the 1st lord. The 10th house is incredible as previously mentioned, with multiple Raja Yogas involving Saturn, the 10th lord, Jupiter, the 9th lord, and Mars the 1st lord.

During this dasha he won five NBA championships, was on the All-Defensive Team seven times, and was Defensive Player of the Year twice. His best year was 1990, which was his Moon sub Mars dasha, when he won all the above awards plus became an NBA All-Star. Rodman is only 6 foot 7 inches tall, which is very short for one of the best defensive players and rebounders of all-time. He's famous for being so aggressive that he can out rebound guys five inches taller than him. Once the Moon became activated in his chart his success reached great heights.

Dennis Rodman
 Date 5/13/1961 Saturday
 Time 0:10:00
 Place Trenton, NJ
 Longitude 74°44'36"W
 Latitude 40°13'1"N
 Asc 23°18' Sag
 Sun 28°50' Ari Exalt
 Moo 9°55' Ari Friend
 Mar 10°24' Can DebXd
 Mer 11°43' Tau G.Frn
 Jup 13°35' Cap DebXd
 Ven 21°37' Pis Exalt
 Sat 6°31' Cap R Own
 Rah 9°38' Leo R Enemy
 Ket 9°38' Aqu R Friend



Introduction to the Use of the Dasha Lagna

Rodman's chart demonstrates how important it is to analyze the chart from the alternate lagnas, the Moon and the Sun. However, when we're analyzing the dashas these alternate lagnas are still not enough, and will not give a complete picture of the effects of the dasha. Because the dashas activate the karma of the individual as we've seen, the dasha planet itself becomes a 'conditional' alternate lagna, called the '*Dasha Lagna*,' which is applicable only for the duration of the dasha. The Moon and Sun lagnas are 'unconditional' alternate lagnas, meaning that they can be used anytime,

whether we're analyzing the natal chart, dashas, divisional charts etc.

The use of conditional alternate lagnas for specific purposes is common in Vedic Astrology. For instance, an important method for analyzing key people in a person's life, is to make the significator of those people an alternate lagna. This means that the Sun's position becomes the alternate lagna for the father, the Moon for mother, Mars for siblings etc. as the sage Mantreshwara points out in the following verse:

*"The religious piety and auspicious deeds of the native's father should be guessed from the 9th house (from the Sun); his vocation and profession from the 10th; his income and profits from the 11th and his expenditure or loss from the 12th house from the Sun. The results of the 12 Houses reckoned from the Moon, Mars, etc., (for the mother, brother, etc.) should be similarly deduced."*⁶

When a new dasha begins it's like a new planet takes charge. Over a holiday recently, my uncle told me that his city council has a rotating mayorship, with each of the nine council members taking a turn as mayor for one year. The dashas are just like this, with each of the nine planets taking turns being in charge of dispensing the karma of the individual during their dashas. The chart analyzed from the Dasha Lagna has significant power to determine the outcome of events and should be seen separately and conjointly with the other three lagnas. However, in practice, most astrologers will drop the use of Surya Lagna in dasha analysis because it is not only the least significant, but four alternate lagnas is often too many interpretations to synthesize. Their use in chart interpretation, therefore, generally ranges in importance as follows:

- Primary - Lagna or ascendant (most used)
- Secondary - Moon Lagna (next most used)
- Tertiary – Dasha Lagna (next most used)
- Quaternary – Sun Lagna (least used)

I remember the thrill of hearing the concept of using the Dasha Lagna from K.N. Rao for the first time. He said, "Put your finger on the mahadasha planet and read the chart from there." I felt as though we were receiving a secret teaching from the master. Rao is one of the few teachers who emphasize this method, even though it's written about in the classic texts. In fact, the sage Parashara mentions the Dasha Lagna in every description of the results of the sub periods, which covers more than two hundred pages of the *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra*. For instance, see this quote:

*"The placement of Mars at angle, trine, the 3rd, the 11th house from the lord of the mahadasha (Rahu) there will be gain of red clothes, journey, meeting with king, prosperity to children, abundant goodness from the God etc."*⁷

See also this quote from the classic text, Phaladeepika:

"Whichever house reckoned from the lord of the mahadasha is occupied by the lord of the sub period, it is only the result arising from that house that will come to pass in that

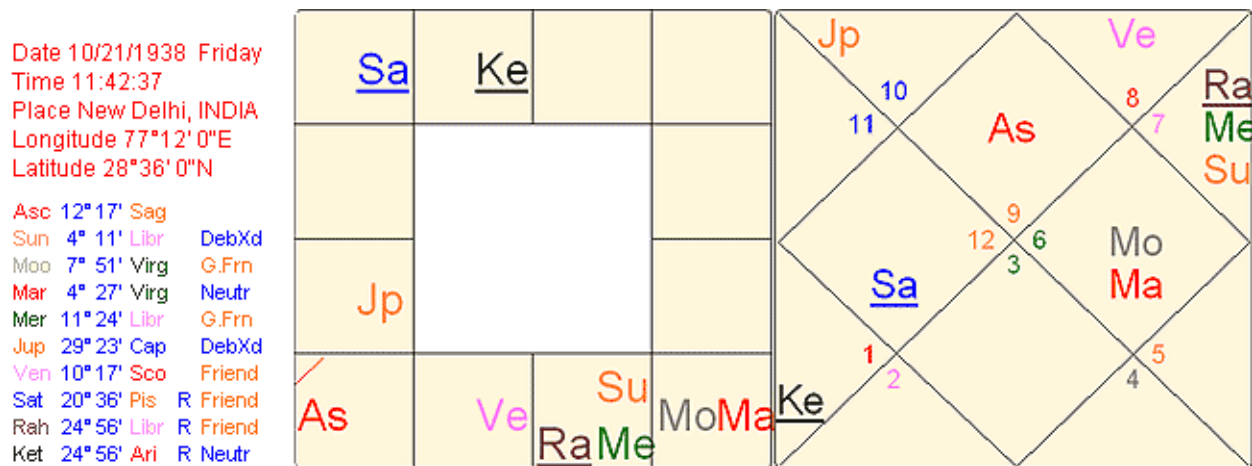
sub period, and if the lord of the sub period happens to be the 6th, 8th or the 12th from the mahadasha lord, the result will be most unpleasant, when the remaining houses will give favorable effects.”⁸

Chart #3 – Career Decline

This quote by sage Mantreshwara shows how important it is to use the Dasha Lagna. In K.N. Rao’s book, *Timing Events Through Vimshottari Dasha*, he illustrates the use of the Dasha Lagna when he writes:

“What must have remained towards the end of the Jupiter period (Jupiter-Rahu dasha) is an undistinguished [career] record. See it in three ways: From the debilitated Jupiter in the birth horoscope, Rahu is in the 10th house with the 6th and 8th lord, though Mercury here as the 9th lord could have prevented the ruination of his career.”⁹

In this example, the mahadasha lord, Jupiter, becomes the 1st house. From this position in Capricorn, Rahu, the sub period lord, is located in the 10th house, indicating an emphasis in the area of career. Rahu is conjunct two malefic lords from Capricorn, the 8th and 6th lords, which are the Sun (debilitated in Libra) and Mercury respectively. Rao points out that Mercury also rules the 9th house, which helped to offset these malefic influences and kept his career afloat.



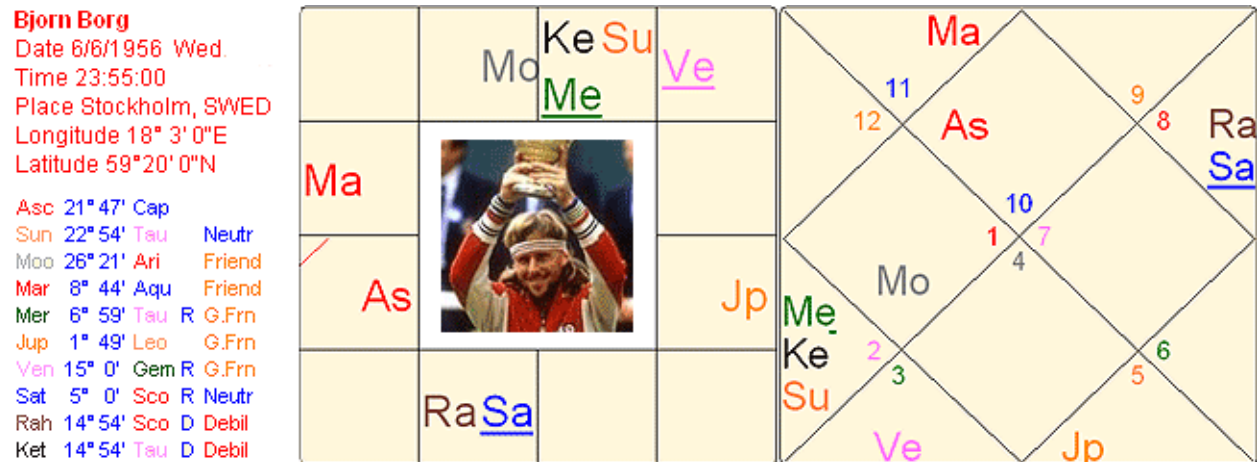
Analyzing the dasha period from the Dasha Lagna can clarify a mixed interpretation that is generated from the other lagnas. In this example, from the ascendant, Rahu is associated with two planets, the Sun and Mercury, forming a Raja Yoga as the 9th and 10th lords, respectively. This is very positive for career. From the Moon, however, Rahu joins the Sun as the 12th lord, and Mercury as the 10th lord, which is detrimental for career. From the Sun, Mercury becomes the 12th lord, conjunct the Sun, the 11th lord of gains from career. These three lagnas give a very mixed interpretation that becomes clarified from the Dasha Lagna.

Examples of the Dasha Lagna

The Dasha Lagna often provides clues that confirm the strength of a dasha as seen from the other three lagnas. Referring back to the charts of Ravi Shankar and Dennis Rodman notice how the mahadasha planets are conjunct a planet that is an alternate lagna. This further reinforces the strength of the dasha period. In Ravi Shankar's chart, Venus is conjunct the Sun, and in Rodman's chart the Moon is an alternate lagna itself and is also conjunct the Sun. In Rodman's case the powerful 1st and 10th houses from the Moon can be seen from three of the four lagnas. This further offsets the detriment of the Moon being the 8th lord in an exchange with Mars in the 8th house from the ascendant.

In the chart of former tennis star, Bjorn Borg, we can see the strength of his best years as an athlete as well as his turbulent personal life many years later.

Chart #4 – Bjorn Borg



Bjorn Borg became famous in the 1970's as one of the winningest tennis players of all time. He set the record of five consecutive wins at Wimbledon, the biggest tournament of the year, from 1976-1980. He was so talented that he dropped out of high school and joined the professional tennis tour at age fifteen. The following year, 1972, he began his seven-year Mars dasha, which were his peak years before his early retirement at age twenty-six, in 1983. He was called, "The Iceman," because of his ability to remain cool and collected during tense situations on the court.

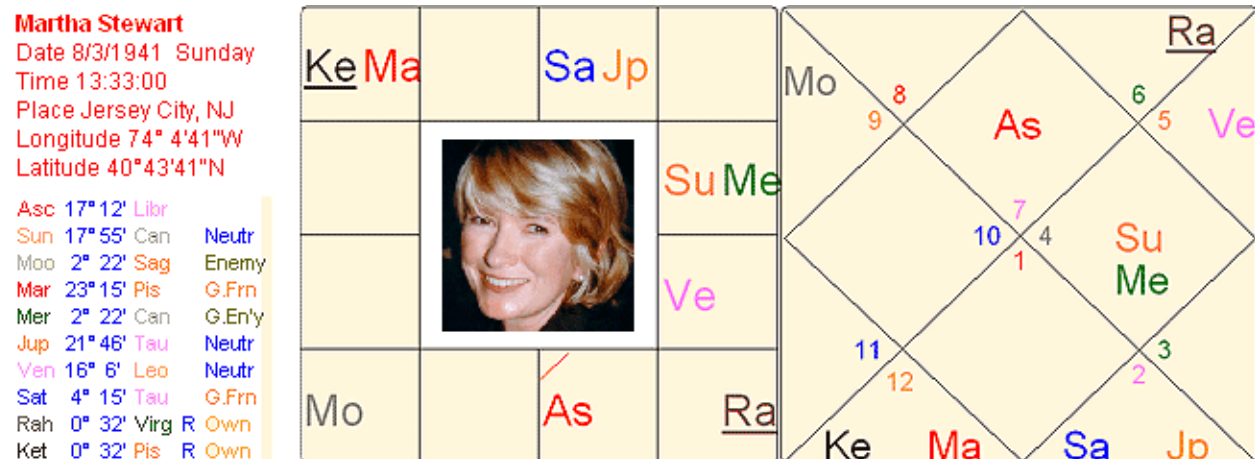
Notice how Borg's Mars is in a Parivartana Yoga with Saturn, the ruler of his ascendant, while also being aspected by Jupiter. This combination forms Raja Yogas from each of the four lagnas. From the ascendant, the 1st lord combines with the 4th lord. From the Moon the 1st lord combines with the 10th lord. From the Sun, the 7th lord combines with the 9th lord. From the Dasha Lagna, the power of the Mars dasha is the most evident as the 1st and 10th lords exchange signs from angular positions. Angular houses or kendras represent strength and power.

In 1979, he began his eighteen-year Rahu dasha. Analyzing the chart from the Dasha Lagna, where Rahu is placed in Scorpio, Venus and Mercury exchange signs as the 7th and 8th lords respectively. His Rahu dasha was a turbulent time for relationships. He married in 1980, just after beginning his Rahu dasha, but was divorced just four years later. He married again to the Italian rock star, Loredana Berte, in 1989 but it was a volatile marriage from the beginning. His wife attempted suicide in 1991, during his Ketu sub period, after it became known that he was having an affair. Ketu's sub periods within Rahu dasha often relate to relationship since Ketu is always in the 7th house from Rahu. In 1993, during the following Venus sub period they divorced. Venus, as the 7th lord, is in the malefic 8th house from Rahu. The bad press regarding their relationship damaged his personal reputation and consequently the reputation of his clothing business, *Bjorn Borg Swedish Sport*. Refer back to the earlier quote of sage Mantreshwara who said, "If the lord of the sub period happens to be the 6th, 8th or the 12th (dusthana houses) from the maha dasha lord, the result will be most unpleasant."⁷ In the classic text, *Sarvarth Chintamani*, sage Vyankatesh Sharma expresses the same concept another way:

*"When the main dasha lord and the sub dasha lord are located in the 6th, 8th position mutually, the native gets trouble from the government, opposition from subordinates and wife, loss of son or wife, trouble from thieves, fire, relatives, affliction of mind."*¹⁰

Chart #5 – Martha Stewart

In the chart of media and home fashion entrepreneur Martha Stewart, we can dramatically see another example of the importance of analyzing the chart from the Dasha Lagna. Stewart began her Rahu mahadasha in 1990 but it wasn't until her three-year Venus sub period began, in November 2001, that she encountered serious difficulties.



When you analyze Venus from the three lagnas it is clear that Venus is a planet of wealth in her chart. From the ascendant, Venus is the ascendant lord in the 11th house of gains. From the Moon, Venus is the 11th lord in the 9th house. From the Sun, Venus is again the 11th lord in the 2nd house. However, from Rahu, Venus is the 2nd and 9th lord

in the 12th house, the house of loss. The sage Parashara adds the 12th house as a malefic house to the above quote. He describes the effects of this combination by writing:

*"Imprisonment, loss of wealth as a result of penalties or fines imposed by government, will be derived if Venus is associated with malefics in the 6th, the 8th, or the 12th from the lord of the dasha, Rahu."*¹¹

In Stewart's chart, Venus is not technically associated with malefics but is hemmed in on either side by the malefics, Rahu and the Sun. The events that unfolded during her Venus sub period confirm the malefic 12th house position of Venus relative to the dasha lord, Rahu. In June 2002, she was caught in a conspiracy regarding insider stock trading. In March 2004, she was charged with one count of conspiracy, two counts of making false statements, and one count of obstructing justice. She was fined \$30,000 by the government, and sentenced to five months in prison, which began in September 2004. The news of her indictment damaged her biggest asset, her image and reputation.

Notice how Rahu is in the 12th house relative to the ascendant. This indicates the potential for losses, expenditures and even imprisonment sometime in Rahu's eighteen-year dasha. Her Venus sub period became the likely time for these extreme difficulties because of the 12th house relationship Venus has with Rahu. She started her five-month imprisonment in the last months of her Venus sub period, and finished it in her Sun sub period. The Sun rules the 12th house from Rahu, which continues the pattern started in her Venus sub period. The actual events of her Venus and Sun sub periods only make astrological sense with the help of the Dasha Lagna interpretation.

Chart #6 – Stephen King

In the last two charts of Borg and Stewart, we saw examples of Venus sub periods of Rahu dashas that proved malefic when Venus was placed in a malefic house from Rahu. By contrast, the chart of prolific writer, Stephen King, shows Rahu in a trinal house from Venus during a Rahu sub period of his Venus dasha. The sage Parashara writes:

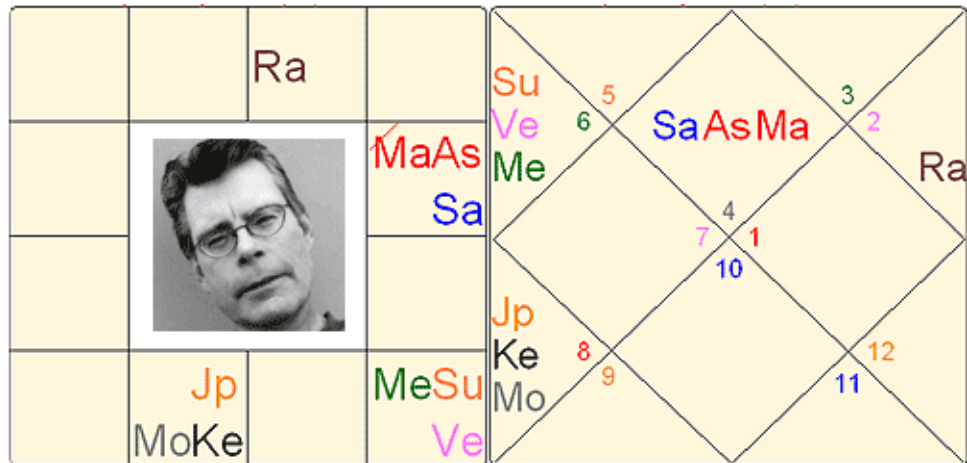
*"The dasha of the grahas and rashis who have benefics in the trikona from them is favorable."*¹²

This quote is a good example why we can't take classic texts too literally. There are always exceptions and modifications to the classic principles. For instance, Rahu is a malefic planet and this quote indicates that benefics, not malefics, should be in a trikona house from the dasha lord. However, in King's case Rahu is exalted in the sign of Taurus, and aspected closely by Jupiter giving benefic status to Rahu's nature.

Stephen King

Date 9/21/1947 Sunday
 Time 1:30:00
 Place Portland, ME
 Longitude 70°15'21"W
 Latitude 43°39'41"N

Asc 6° 44' Can
 Sun 4° 16' Virg Enemy
 Moo 23° 7' Sco DebXd
 Mar 1° 3' Can DebXd
 Mer 21° 54' Virg Own
 Jup 0° 40' Sco Neutr
 Ven 9° 1' Virg DebXd
 Sat 24° 59' Can G.En'y
 Rah 1° 55' Tau D Exalt
 Ket 1° 55' Sco D Exalt



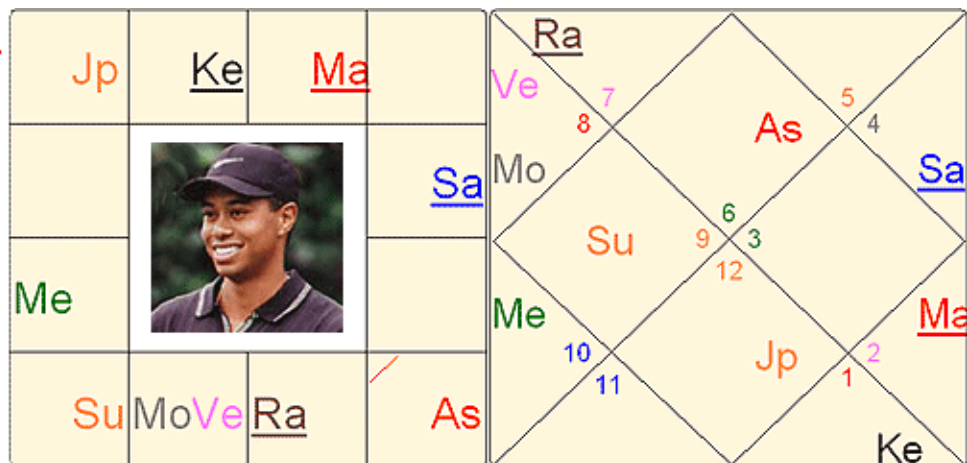
In 1963 King began his twenty-year dasha of Venus. His three-year sub period of Rahu began in August 1970, which was when his breakthrough took place. On May 12, 1973 his struggles as a writer ended forever when he got a phone call from his publisher that his first book, *Carrie*, had sold for \$400,000. The trinal relationship between Venus and Rahu contributed to this very well reinforced period of gains. Rahu is also in the 11th house of gains from the ascendant and aspected by the 9th lord, Jupiter, and the 1st lord, Moon. From the Moon, this pattern repeats with the 2nd and 5th lord, Jupiter, and the 9th lord, Moon. From the Sun and Venus, the Dasha Lagna, Rahu is in the 9th house aspected the 11th lord Moon.

You'll notice that in Stephen King's chart he can never have a dasha with a sub period of a planet in the 6th, 8th, or 12th house from the dasha planet. This is a factor that has made it possible for him to write so consistently over more than thirty years. He is acclaimed to be one of the most successful writers of all time as mentioned previously.

Chart #7 – Tiger Woods**Tiger Woods**

Date 12/30/1975 Tuesday
 Time 22:50:00
 Place Long Beach, CA
 Longitude 118°11'18"W
 Latitude 33°46'1"N

Asc 0° 53' Virg
 Sun 15° 26' Sag G.Frn
 Moo 28° 51' Sco DebXd
 Mar 24° 2' Tau R Enemy
 Mer 2° 54' Cap Enemy
 Jup 21° 57' Pis Own
 Ven 5° 0' Sco Enemy
 Sat 7° 35' Can R G.En'y
 Rah 27° 21' Libr R Friend
 Ket 27° 21' Ari R Neutr



In the chart of Tiger Woods, the pro golfing sensation, we can see another example of the effects of having a sub period lord in a trinal position from the mahadasha lord. In

August 1996, during his Venus mahadasha and sub period of Jupiter, Woods joined the professional golf tour and immediately shot to stardome. Within eight months he became the youngest golfer to win the Masters tournament with a record-breaking score of 270. Notice how Jupiter is in a Hamsa Mahapurusha Yoga (Jupiter in its own or exalted sign on an angle) from the ascendant, and aspects Venus from the 5th house. From both the Moon and Dasha Lagna, Jupiter is a wealth-giving planet as the 2nd and 5th lord. Sage Parashara describes the effects of this combination by saying:

“The effects of gain of wealth, recognition from the king, good reputation etc. will be derived in the antardasha of Jupiter in the mahadasha of Venus if Jupiter is in its exaltation rashi (sign), in his own rashi, or in a kendra or trikona to the ascendant or the lord of the dasa (Venus).”¹³

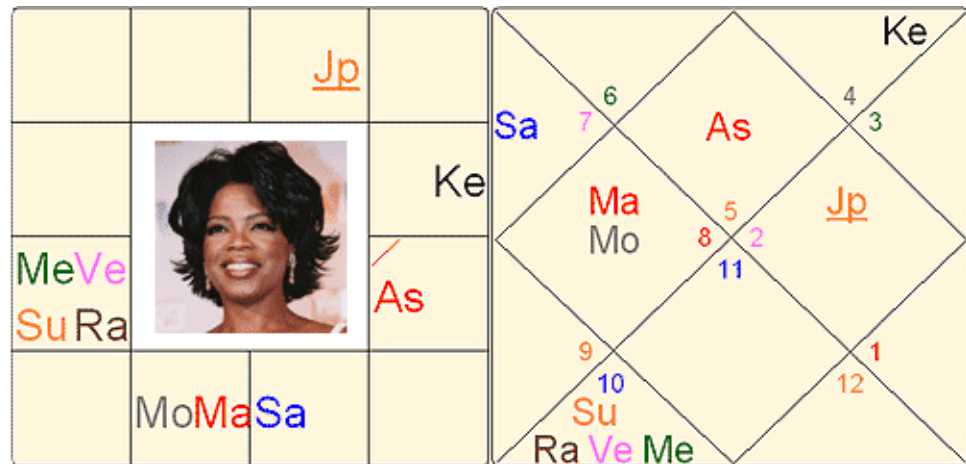
Chart #8 – Oprah Winfrey

A very similar combination can be seen in the chart of the immensely popular talk show host, Oprah Winfrey, who began her twenty-year Venus mahadasha in September 1974. In September 1986, she made her debut of *The Oprah Winfrey Show* during her sub period of Jupiter. Notice how Jupiter is again in a trinal position from Venus, making the above quote applicable in her chart as well.

Her chart is another example of a very well reinforced mahadasha period, with Venus in a phenomenal Parivartana Yoga or exchange of signs with an exalted Saturn in the 10th house from Venus and the Sun. This is similar to Borg’s exchange between Mars and Saturn from the 1st and 10th houses from the dasha lord.

Oprah Winfrey
Date 1/29/1954 Friday
Time 19:50:00
Place Kosciusko, MS
Longitude 89°35'15"W
Latitude 33° 3'27"N

Asc 17° 0' Leo
Sun 16° 25' Cap Neutr
Moon 19° 18' Sco DebXd
Mar 0° 43' Sco Own
Mer 27° 3' Cap Friend
Jup 23° 24' Tau R G.En'y
Ven 16° 26' Cap G.Frn
Sat 15° 50' Libr Exalt
Rah 0° 43' Cap D Friend
Ket 0° 43' Can D Enemy

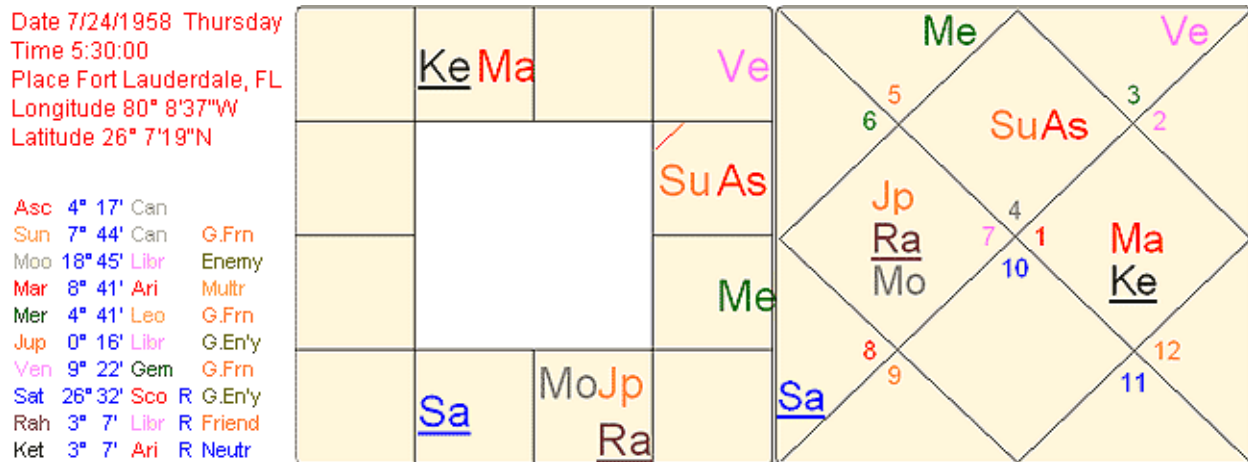


However, this is another example of why we can't take the classic texts too literally, and must interpret the chart as a whole. From the Dasha Lagna, we can see a mixture of both malefic and benefic influences. For instance, Venus is combust to the Sun, the 8th lord, aspected by Jupiter, the 12th lord, and conjunct Mercury the 6th lord. However, Mercury is also the 9th lord, and Venus is the Yoga Karaka planet from the Dasha Lagna in the exchange with Saturn, the ascendant lord, as mentioned. The strength of these benefic influences outweigh the malefic.

At the same time, the malefic influences have their effect. For instance, Oprah likes to challenge social issues in a very diplomatic, yet outspoken way. In April 1996, she was faced with a libel lawsuit from the beef industry for statements she made on her show about 'mad cow' disease. This took place in her Sun dasha, in the sub period of Rahu. The Sun and Rahu are both malefic planets, and bitter enemies of one another. Adding the malefic influences of the 6th, 8th, and 12th lords, from the Dasha Lagna of Capricorn, where both the Sun and Rahu are placed, reveals this as a very challenging period. After a legal battle that lasted almost six years, she finally won with the lawsuit being dismissed, but after paying millions in lawyer fees.

Chart #9 – Career Failure

This next chart is of a client who had hopes of being famous, like Oprah, but never quite made it in Hollywood as an actress. However, she did persevere throughout her entire nineteen-year Saturn mahadasha. Her chart may remind you of Muhammad Ali, as she has Mars located in its own sign on an angle forming a Ruchaka Mahapurusha Yoga from all three lagnas. This gives her a strong will and great ambition. Having powerful yogas for career rise, however, is not relevant until they become activated by the dasha. Unfortunately, as her karma would have it, she doesn't begin her Mars mahadasha when she's ninety-six years old!



Instead, she began her Saturn mahadasha at age seventeen, at the time she began a serious pursuit of name and fame. Notice how Saturn is not strong by sign placement being in an enemy's sign, ruled by Mars, and aspected by Mars. Saturn is also the malefic 8th lord from the ascendant and the Sun.

In the classic text, Saravali, sage Kalyana Varma writes about the challenges of a dasha unfriendly to the ascendant or the Moon:

*"In the dasha of planets inimical to ascendant lord or to the Moon sign lord, one will be very foolish, will be deprived of kingdom, will be insulted by enemies and will depend on others."*¹⁴

Throughout her Saturn dasha she struggled financially. From the Moon, Saturn becomes the *Yoga Karaka* planet (ruler of angle and a trine), however, its placement in the 2nd house, is only moderately helpful for financial success, and generally indicates hardship. From the Dasha Lagna, Saturn is again inimical to the ascendant lord, Mars, as the 3rd and 4th lord. Notice how six out of eight planets are in the 6th, 8th, or 12th houses from the Dasha Lagna. This means that about 75% of her sub periods will have malefic relationships between the dasha lord and the sub period lord. In addition, Mercury, the 8th lord, is in the 10th house, which indicates challenges with career. Mars aspects the Sun, the 10th lord forming a Raja Yoga between the 1st and 10th lords. However, Mars aspect comes from the 6th house, representing the competitive environment she was immersed in. She said, "Acting was always a struggle, and I was never successful, although I worked really hard at it."

She struggled with alcohol, drug and sex addictions throughout her Saturn dasha as a way to cope with her frustrations. Notice how the 2nd lord from Saturn, Jupiter, is in the 12th house conjunct Rahu, the planet of addictions, and aspected by Mars. The 2nd lord represents what we ingest through our mouth, while the 12th house represents escapism through altered states. Like in Borg's chart, Venus is the 7th lord in the 8th house representing challenges in relationships and sexual escapades. She said, "I had more abortions than I care to mention." Jupiter, as the 5th lord, in malefic association in the 12th house also represents this. Again quoting from the *Jataka Parijata*,

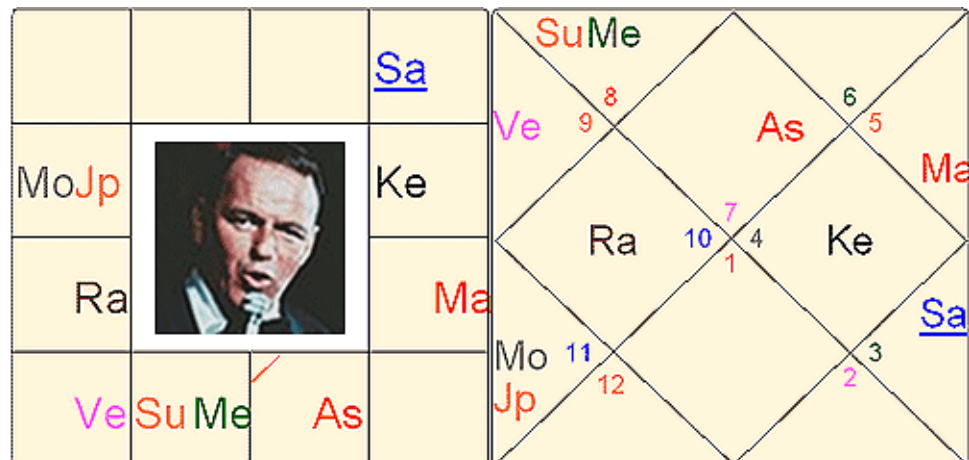
*"Sages say that good and evil come to a person born in this world in accordance with the good and bad dasha he has to pass through."*¹⁵

Chart #10 – Frank Sinatra

By contrast, look at the chart of Frank Sinatra, the legendary actor and singer known simply as "The Voice." Saturn dashas are not always a struggle but they do represent hard work. During his nineteen-year Saturn dasha, which began in 1942 at age twenty-six, he starred in over thirty movies. This is the period his fame skyrocketed as a performer and movie actor.

Frank Sinatra
 Date 12/12/1915 Sunday
 Time 3:00:00
 Place Hoboken, NJ
 Longitude 74° 1'58"W
 Latitude 40°44'38"N

Asc 5° 41' Libr
 Sun 26° 31' Sco G.Frn
 Moo 12° 25' Aqu Enemy
 Mar 4° 52' Leo G.Frn
 Mer 24° 28' Sco Friend
 Jup 27° 11' Aqu Enemy
 Ven 19° 14' Sag Friend
 Sat 22° 10' Gem R Neutr
 Rah 16° 35' Cap D Friend
 Ket 16° 35' Can D Enemy



Notice the well-reinforced Raja Yogas from all the lagnas that Saturn is involved in. From the ascendant, Saturn is the 4th and 5th lord, aspected by Venus, the 1st lord. From the Moon, Saturn is the 1st lord aspected by the 4th and 9th lord, Venus. From the Sun, Saturn is the 4th lord aspected by the 5th lord, Jupiter. From the Dasha Lagna in Gemini, Saturn is the 9th lord aspected by the 5th lord, Venus, and the 10th lord, Jupiter.

His popularity, however, hit a low point in 1952, during his Sun sub period. Notice how the Sun is in the 6th house from Saturn. Saturn and the Sun are also bitter enemies and are both malefic planets. Sage Vyankatesh Sharma writes:

*“There is much sorrow, and loss of position, eyes, relatives, sons, wealth, and trouble from the government during the sub period of a malefic planet in the main period also of a malefic.”*¹⁶

He had to beg Columbia pictures to give him another chance. They cast him in *From Here to Eternity*, for which he won an Oscar for best supporting actor in 1954, during his Moon sub period of Saturn. The Moon is in the 9th house from Saturn and conjunct the 10th lord, Jupiter.

Conclusion

As we’ve seen in the previous examples, the use of the alternate lagnas, especially the Dasha Lagna, is extremely helpful in the analysis of the dashas. The clues that are collected from each lagna will help to us to gain a holistic perspective of the effects of the dasha period and confirm repeated patterns.

When I was traveling through Switzerland in the summer of 1990, I remember seeing old men playing chess on the pavement of a public park with giant size chess pieces. They would walk around the chess game, slowly and with great concentration, viewing the chess pieces from many different angles. Only after careful analysis would they make their move.



Working with the alternate lagnas is the same way, whether we're analyzing the natal chart or the dashas. We slowly walk around the chart, putting our finger on different lagnas, and analyze the chart from these locations. We don't make a move until we've collected a large body of clues and synthesized all the various viewpoints.

When we start out as astrologers we learn to analyze the chart from the ascendant. As we advance, the alternate lagnas become invaluable for providing more depth, insight and accuracy to our chart interpretations. However, in dasha analysis we will make mistakes if we only use the unconditional alternate lagnas, the Sun and Moon. We need the additional help of the conditional alternate lagna, the Dasha Lagna, in order to more completely understand the effects of the dasha. Within the large body of clues that can be collected from all these various viewpoints we're sure to see repeated patterns and make accurate predictions about unfolding events of the dasha period.

Astrology is the study of karma as expressed through the planetary configurations. If we can understand the karma that is unfolding in a person's life, through an accurate interpretation of the dashas, then we can be the most helpful as astrological counselors. We can offer guidance and suggestions that can help steer people in the best directions relative to the karma that they are facing, whether it be positive/supportive karma or negative/challenging karma. Then this great science of Vedic astrology can be put to its best use as a helping profession for the benefit and service of others.

Word Count: 5723

References and Notes

1. *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra*, ch. 2 v. 3
2. *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra*, ch. 46 v. 12
3. *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra*, ch. 47 v. 2
4. *Satyajatakam*, ch. 2 v. 9
5. *Jataka Parijata*, ch. 18 v. 2
6. *Phaladeepika*, ch. 15 v. 24
7. *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra*, ch. 57 v. 78
8. *Phaladeepika*, ch. 20 v. 29
9. K.N. Rao, *Timing Events Through Vimshottari Dasha*, Vani Graphics, 1995, p. 43-44.

10. *Sarvarth Chintamani*, ch 29 v3
11. *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra*, ch. 54 v. 56
12. *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra*, ch. 50 v. 37
13. *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra*, ch. 62 v. 45
14. *Saravali*, ch.42 v.54
15. *Jataka Parijata*, ch. 18 v. 1
16. *Sarvarth Chintamani*, ch. 29 v. 27