



*K*. N. Rao needs no introduction, he runs the biggest school of astrology in the world, has produced the highest number of top quality books which has cult following, and is known for his outstanding predictive ability. History acknowledges his contribution in popularizing Vargas usage in India & USA, Double Transit phenomenon & Chara Dasha. He is considered as the one who displayed for the first time in astrology what was termed spell bounding writing styles in Jyotish, using narratives with top class jyotish content, a style now adopted by many over the decades. It is often found that what he writes in one line is 15 page articles for others. For his articles visit [www.journalofastrology.com](http://www.journalofastrology.com)

# *An Astrobiographical Sketch of Dr. B.V.Raman - Part 1*

By

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**Excerpts From The Book: The Man &  
His Mission<sup>1</sup>**

**W**hen my paper "Amazing Achievements of Dr. Raman in Forecasting World Events" was presented at the Bangalore Conference<sup>2</sup> in December 1983 the reaction was one of admiration for the *proforma* I had devised. I had condensed in a tabular form, in a short paper, these achievements with

<sup>1</sup> UBS Publishers' Distributors Ltd, 350 pages, Only 3 copies of this out of print book is available at the SA book shop. <http://shop.saptarishiastronomy.com>

<sup>2</sup> International Conference on Astrology held on the occasion of the Felicitation to Dr B V Raman at the Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha in December 1983

proper references from The Astrological Magazine, historical dates and events from authentic books and analysed the astrological process of arriving at a prediction. A thorough and scientific methodology, historically documented and with a neat selection of *one hundred and ten predictions* from four decades of Dr. Raman's writings from out of thousands of his successful predictions, earned me praise from some people. I distinctly remember Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, saying in Telugu: *When it comes to speaking on astrology as a great living scientific legacy of ours, one should speak like a lion - as Rao has done it.*

But off the stage and in the hotel room where I stayed, the reaction was very unpleasant. Had I not elevated the position of Dr. Raman over others in the field who had equally great predictions to their credit? Had I not over-praised Dr. Raman?

Subsequent to the Bangalore Conference in these nine years since the presentation of that paper (*as I write this in June 1992*) the jealousy against Dr. Raman has only increased. And I have been a target of direct attack too.

## Model Horoscope

**O**ne of the favorite horoscopes I present in my classes to explain some astrological niceties is that of Dr. Raman. I must have done it more than ten times by now and invariably concluded it by saying:

(a) Other astrologers who are jealous of Dr. Raman show their ignorance of astrology because as astrologers they should see his horoscope and compare it with their own.

(b) Astrologically, **Dr. Raman will be remembered as the greatest astrologer of this century who through his astrological writings in English has placed astrology on the divine-scientific pedestal on which the ancient Rishis formulated it.** Till the middle ages, a mixture of *black magic and Tantric practices* made astrology look like an antiquated method of divination.

Very few people know that Hindu astrology has better mathematical predictive models developed than any other science, including the physical sciences, even today. Besides, astrology does not suffer from any such principle of uncertainty as modern physics. Astrological parameters are well-settled and give more brilliant results with a higher percentage of success than medical or any other science can ever give.

But to keep pace with the changing times of our age, more and more modifications and fundamental research will have to be done now. It has been statistically proved to be showing *reproducible results* by our group in Delhi. It started with my series "Three Stages of a Prediction" in the 1985 issues of The Astrological Magazine and was followed by different papers by Messrs. S.N. Kapoor, M.N. Kedar, J.N. Sharma, Dr. Lalita Gupta, Dr. K.S. Charak, F.R.C.S., Col. A.K. Gour, Shunny Nigam and others.

That astrology is a science that answers the test of replication has been proved by our group though *Michael Gaquelin's* so-called statistical research is quoted blindly by people all over. Gaquelin's research like Mars in the 10th house for sportsmen is neither research nor a case of replication which could be made use of in prediction. It is only a statistical demonstration of the greater frequency of the location of a particular planet in a certain house from the rising signs of people in different professions, but it will be disastrous if anyone chooses to make predictions on this basis. On the other hand, our research findings have been tested on thousands of charts by many astrologers including about four hundred students of the Delhi Chapter I of the Indian Council of Astrological Sciences during the last six years.

So, the two should be juxtaposed: Dr. Raman's pioneering effort to give astrology the dignity that legitimately belongs to it, that of a divine-science with a methodology and, our contribution through statistical research to show why it is *reproducible* in the predictive models we have devised.

## True Tribute

**I** have referred to these because there is no better tribute to the achievements of Dr. B.V. Raman than to see in his own lifetime, in the twilight of his great career, his personal achievements, as a great astrologer with a morally clean record and as the architect of the best astrological organization of the world in the shape of the Indian Council of Astrological Sciences, which now has a team of the world's best astrology researchers and teaching faculty.

Dr. Raman today is a respected and proud father-figure, the greatest, in the world of astrology and in no other field of any other human activity is there anyone comparable to him when it comes to assessing the substantial achievements of any truly successful man in any field, be it physics, chemistry, medicine etc. In range and depth astrology encompasses all these sciences and is much more than all of them put together.

I was naturally happy to see in the book *Jaimini Sutras* of Dr. P.S. Sastri (perhaps one of the top two or three astrologer scholars of the world), a reference to Dr. B. V. Raman (page 85) wherein he says : "Chart 88 is that of our esteemed contemporary and the greatest living astrologer Dr. B.V. Raman."

## Lop-sided Attack

**I**n the last ten years I have had to share the same dais as Dr. Raman many times with both of us addressing gatherings together. Consistently and repeatedly he took the line against the dogmatic scienticism of our age because of which holistic understanding of the universe has been hindered and not helped the growth of human knowledge about the universe we inhabit. But why he has not equally vehement in marshalling arguments in favour of astrology being of Indian origin, like his grandfather, has always surprised me. In fact most of the British writers, and now their American counter-parts and the slavish Indian pseudo-intellectuals, have

never advanced one single argument as to how astrology could have originated in any other nation.

## Theory of Transmigration

A British writer, *Peter Holt*, who met me in June 1992 to interview me about astrology in India was surprised when I told him that astrology could not have originated in any culture other than Indian because belief in the transmigration of souls, cycle of births and re-births and results of the Karma of past life were all reflected in the horoscope. A child born blind or dumb, in a rich or a poor family, had performed no Karma in the present incarnation to get such a curse or blessing.

And what about mention of planets and constellation in the *Rig Veda*, the oldest book of the world, the *Mahabharata* and the *Valmiki Ramayana* belonging to eras centuries before Christ, before any trace of civilization elsewhere could even be found? And then what about the brilliant astrological combinations given in the *Mahabharata* which can be verified even today?

Hindu astrology is a super science with event-based predictions as its strength and not a mere portrayal of psychological tendencies which is what Western astrology has been at its very best.

## The Horoscope of Dr. Raman

The horoscope of Dr. Raman is available in his *Notable Horoscopes* and has also been discussed often from time to time in *The Astrological Magazine*. Yet I wanted to get his birth data exactly as he himself must have approved it. Mrs. Gayatri Devi Vasudev sent me the following birth details.

He was born on 8th August 1912 at 7-42 p.m. (as corrected by Dr. Raman himself) in a place near Bangalore with a balance of 6 years, 4 months and 4 days of Mars Dasa at birth.

## The Birth Horoscope

Ra		Sa <sup>AL</sup> GL Gk Mo	Md
SL As	Rasi Prof. B. V. Raman August 8, 1912 19:42:43 (5:30 east) 77 E 35, 12 N 59		Su
SP			(Me) <sup>Ma</sup> Ve
	Ju		HL Ke

  

Ra	SL	SP
12	As	10 9
GL Gk	Sa <sup>AL</sup> Mo	2 11 8
	(Me) <sup>Ma</sup> Ve	Ju
Md	3 4	6 7
Su		Ke HL

  

As:	10 Aq 29	Su:	22 Cn 60- AmK	Mo:	23 Ta 41- AK	Ma:	21 Le 22- BK
Me (R):	13 Le 57- MK	Ju:	12 Sc 58- PK	Ve:	2 Le 16- DK	Sa:	10 Ta 10- GK
Ra:	21 Pi 39	Ke:	21 Vi 39	HL:	8 Vi 57	GL:	18 Ta 41



The Lagna is fixed and Saturn and the Moon in the 4<sup>th</sup> house, Mars, Mercury and Venus in the 7<sup>th</sup> house and Jupiter in the 10<sup>th</sup> house all are in fixed houses and in Kendras from each other. The Sun is the only planet in a Chara Rasi and Rahu and Ketu occupying dual Rasas are the only three out of the ten (including Lagna) in non-fixed Rasas.

Reckoning from Mars, Mercury and Venus one planet is in the 4<sup>th</sup> house, Saturn and the Moon are in the 10<sup>th</sup> house and from Jupiter, 3 planets, Mars, Mercury and Venus are in the 10<sup>th</sup> house.

Then from Lagna as many as 6 planets are in Kendras with Jupiter in the 10<sup>th</sup> aspecting the 2<sup>nd</sup> house, allowing his innate idealism to manifest itself in his public life. *Jupiter's aspect is a gift the gods bestow on astrologers particularly, if it falls on the 2<sup>nd</sup> house.*

Here, Jupiter also aspects his 7<sup>th</sup> lord Sun in the 6<sup>th</sup> house, his wife sharing his idealism and causing a *partial Rajalakshana Yoga*. He has been an emperor among astrologers of the world who was invited to lecture at the United Nations on "The Relevance of Astrology in Modern Times!"

Dr. Raman was a world-figure, for over five decades, deservedly, as his horoscope shows. If some inferior astrologers, with inferior horoscopes, envied him and attacked him they showed disbelief in astrology itself were more to be pitied for their ignorance of the axiomatic truths of astrology than for their "claims" of being sound (not brilliant at any rate), technically even in their knowledge of astrology.

"God chooses his favorites" is a mere saying for those who do not know astrology. For an astrologer it is a truth he can see in the horoscope under scrutiny.

## Navamsa

HL SP SL	Sa Ve AL		GL
	Navamsa		Ke
Su As Ra	Prof. B. V. Raman D9 August 8, 1912 19:42:43 (5:30 east) 77 E 35, 12 N 59		(Me) Mo Gk
	Md	Ju Ma	

  

SL SP HL	12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	Su Ra As Sa Ve Ke Mo (Me)	9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	Md Ju Ma Ke Mo (Me)
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As:	10 Aq 29	Su:	22 Cn 60- AmK	Mo:	23 Ta 41- AK	Ma:	21 Le 22- BK
Me (R):	13 Le 57- MK	Ju:	12 Sc 58- PK	Ve:	2 Le 16- DK	Sa:	10 Ta 10- GK
Ra:	21 Pi 39	Ke:	21 Vi 39	HL:	8 Vi 57	GL:	18 Ta 41

I have made it clear that though I am discussing the horoscope of Dr. Raman I am not using his Ayanamsa but Chitrapaksha Ayanamsa according to which I get, on the data supplied by Mrs. Gayatri Devi Vasudev, Capricorn Navamsa with the Sun and Rahu in it and Venus

and Saturn in the 4th house, the Moon and Mercury in the 8th house and Mars and Jupiter in the 10th house.

The Moon, the Atmakaraka, is in Leo (Karakamsa) aspected by all planets (all Jaimini Karakas)-a most extraordinary Raja Yoga whether the Moon is treated as Karakamsa or as the Moon. *The well-known Jaimini Raja Yoga, when the Moon is aspected by many planets and which causes an extraordinary Raja Yoga is present here and I do not remember to have seen any other horoscope with this Yoga.* This, coupled with the extraordinary Kendra-placement of planets in the birth horoscope alone can explain how an **extraordinary young man called Bangalore Venkatraman with his extraordinary wife fought poverty for two decades without pawning his morality and principles as hundreds of astrologers known to me have done.** It is for Dr. Raman to explain how his unshaken faith in his own future destiny, as predicted by his grandfather sustained his hopes, dispelled his fears and inspired him to work with unflagging zest. He recounts part of this story in tiny fragments in his *My Early Experiences in Astrology*, avoiding self-pitying like a sterling astrologer with firm faith in the great science of astrology. Each individual has to play out the role destined for him according to the Karma of his past life. The spiritual quality of the Karma of the present incarnation will modify the rigour of hardship and kindle reasonable hope with each birth becoming a significant milestone in his ultimate journey to his salvation.

## Emphasis on Karma

**I**n the tours he made to Western countries, particularly to England and the U.S.A., where he could speak in his eloquent style in English he spoke of Karma and astrology tirelessly. **The spectacular switch-over to Hindu astrology by many astrologers in the West is the result of his writings, speeches and that fire of conviction with which he emphasised the role of the Karma of the past life.** Surprisingly, Edgar Cayce, a famous mystic of the U.S.A. (1877-1945), a Christian, had through his cures in his trances traced the genesis of ailments of some deeds to past lives! The past-life-regression-therapy practised by some psychologists in the U.S.A., glimpses into past-life deeds through the help of psychics in England. Thoroughly investigated cases into re-birth particularly by *Ian Stevenson* have stirred fairly large sections of Western intellectuals and laymen into accepting the superior, reasonable and logical Hindu Theory of Re-birth.

Astrology, linked to the deeds of past life being the only rational explanation of life's enigmas, is gaining acceptance in the West. Some Western writers estimated their percentage as being at least thirty, if not more. **It will be a significant day in the technology-dominated world when belief in the super-normal and belief in re-birth get accepted as a proven truth of our world blinded by the limitations of physical science.** In this holistic approach to the understanding of human life, the best scientific arguments come through Hindu astrology. Dr. Raman as its best exponent, with his high reputation and intellectual acceptance, had a stellar role in it all. Yet it must be kept in mind that the egoist Westerner will find it difficult to break

the twin barriers of official Christianity which will continue to stick to its theory of eternal damnation and of "scientism" which will not accept belief in re-birth to destroy the fragile basis of its "scientific" explanations of life and cosmos.

One has only to read Dr. Raman's *Hindu Astrology and the West* which has gone into many editions to understand that there is a quiet admiration for him but no open acknowledgement. As to Hindus in India, their reaction naturally will be that Dr. Raman has explained in it what they already know and believe in!

## Verification of the Horoscope

**D**r. Raman should have written a small book sharing with his readers his technique of correcting the birth time. There is no book on the subject yet, though Dr. P.S. Sastri has now volunteered to write a book on the subject. It appears to me that Dr. Raman employs two methods. The Nadi method of rectification in which Tattwas, sex, day of birth etc., are made use of. The other method Dr. Raman knows and has not disclosed is casting a horoscope on the basis of the 'palm'. *He has done it twice in the U.S.A., when he drew up the horoscopes of two U.S. astrologers from their palms, with amazing accuracy.*

The method of drawing up a horoscope of unknown birth time from the palm is known to some traditional astrologers who do not share the secret with others.

## De-mystification of Astrology

**T**he central core of Dr. Raman's astrological achievements was de-mystification of astrology in a bold and illuminating way by discouraging the use of **Kshudra Mantras** (a temptation into which he had himself fallen till rescued by his grandfather) and showing its methodology, techniques of data preparation and prediction. He invariably stressed the role of intuition for correct prediction. For success in astrology, inner purity has its significant contribution while the intellect helps in analysis and synthesis of the data prepared by astrologers.

Two types of comparisons are to be made to show how Dr. Raman de-mystifies astrology to prove that it is not black magic or *Tantric Siddhis* but a pure *Vidya*, a pure intellectual discipline with spiritual insights into the meaning and purpose of life.

## The First Comparison

There are millions of Indians who have the so-called "gifts of prophecy" acquired through very inferior spiritual practices, some of them bordering on the macabre. They shun their consultants and even exploit them in many ways. But I have not seen a single case of any of them

giving a prediction with a range of more than three months which any ordinary astrologer making use of Dasas can, with absolute ease.

The growth of, now, three generations or more of English-knowing Indian astrologers who have taken to astrology purely as an intellectual discipline and have varying success rates of predictions was Dr. Raman's biggest achievement in his extraordinary role in his de-mystification campaign as an astrologer. It may have been the result, not the sole aim of his astrological mission, but it is an inextricable part of his life's extraordinary astrological achievements. I know of hundreds of bureaucrats, businessmen, doctors, engineers, lawyers etc., who read his *The Astrological Magazine* and his books, pick up various techniques of predictions, apply them to the horoscopes they have and predict successfully.

This has led to a very healthy tradition of doing astrology in a thoroughly scientific way in a drawing room, in an office room or in group discussions and in seminars. Dr. B. V. Raman as the Editor of *The Astrological Magazine*, was the only and the main inspirer of all this, and even if it is not acknowledged openly they get issues of his magazine bound in volumes and keep them as a life-time possession containing precious knowledge of a great Indian legacy called astrology, India's greatest super human gift to the world of knowledge.

## The Second Comparison

The second great step, may be unconscious, in the process of de-mystification of astrology, done by Dr. Raman was through his books, all of which I have read and re-read thoroughly. In spite of my strong difference with the Ayanamsa he uses, I recommend them to anyone who sincerely wants to go into various branches of astrology and understand it (let me emphasise – *understand it*) Dr. Raman, the author, was not a compiler of different astrological aphorisms, and techniques without first understanding them and testing them and then teaching them, the rarest of rare virtue, among writers of astrology books anywhere in the world.

The first comparison I will make is with Western books on astrology which teach no replicable astrological techniques but are impressive autopsy-reports. They are writing in their mother tongue for a public which has reading habits and they live in countries in which publishers know how to sell books containing well-packaged garbage in thousands, even in millions.

The only Western astrologer-mystic I have found acceptance is Cheiro; but then it should be remembered that he had been blessed by a Hindu saint who had given him a talisman with the help of which he made great predictions. Sometime in 1931 Cheiro lost the talisman and he lost his gift of prophecy. Cheiro's wife wrote to Dr. Raman about it. In spite of my requests to Dr. Raman to publish that letter for the world to know all about it, that letter remains unpublished to date.



## The Bane of Nostradamus

A plague in the world of astrology is Nostradamus whose books are sold in millions all over the world including the video cassettes called *The Man Who Saw Tomorrow*. The first book of Nostradamus I had seen was a slim volume containing some very vague predictions about Europe with no reference to India, Asia, the U.S.A. or any other country. The quatrains under *centuries* were *mumbo-jumbo* and not astrology though some references were made to Saturn, Mars, the Moon, the Sun etc. Some translators tried to "stuff" some astrological meaning into them.

Over the years the Nostradamus *mania* has grown so much that enlarged newly "discovered" versions of Nostradamus have started surfacing now. But this *mania* suffered two major jolts when Ayatolla Khomeini of Iran was first identified as the third Anti-Christ. Ayatolla died without damaging Italy or the U.S.A.!

After lying low, the Nostradamus promoters became active once again when Saddam Hussein waged a war in 1991 and he was identified as the third Anti-Christ ! But Saddam could do nothing except see a ravaged Iraq.

And the latest promoters are now claiming that Nostradamus had predicted the violent gruesome death of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 also!

Is any international espionage agency behind all this? The books produced in the name of poor Nostradamus were interpreted by Hitler's men as world-conquest of Germany and by the enemies of Hitler as annihilation of Germany and Hitler!

Nostradamus is the biggest menace to the growth of honest intellectual and scientific astrology. Apply the combination given in the *Mahabharata* and *Brihat Jataka* of Varahamihira and you can see :

(a) When Saturn and Jupiter get conjunct in May 2000 in the last degrees of Mesha in Krittika Nakshatra the world will undergo a radical change, with the British suffering most along with the present day Super Powers, through enormous destruction. It is a well-known combination known to Hindus for thousands of years and some clever astrological plagiarist making use of it has credited it to Nostradamus in some recent books.

(b) What has not yet been mentioned is that when Saturn and Rahu conjoin in Taurus sometime after the year 2000 A.D. there will be greater destruction and famine in the world.

(c) In the meantime,<sup>3</sup> with Saturn in Aquarius and Rahu in Scorpio Russia will undergo another radical change and emerge as a new world power much to the chagrin and annoyance of the U.S.A. between 1993 and 1995.

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<sup>3</sup> This was written in 1992.

All these can be seen astrologically and fairly accurate predictions made. But some clever and unscrupulous writer of the West will pick up these well-known combinations, compose a quatrain under *centuries* in a new book of Nostradamus, even produce some video-cassettes and sell them in millions !

Dr. Raman did not encourage the Nostradamus-nonsense to grow nor did he allow his prestigious magazine to promote these spurious prophecies. That is what a genuine astrological savant with unimpaired rationality and sanity like Dr. Raman did and this is what I call de-mystification!

## De-addiction Process

My invariable prescription for the Nostradamus de-addiction process is three fold:

(a) Learn principles of mundane astrology;

(b) Read the works of *Varahamihira, Narada Samhita, Kalaprakashika, Bhadra Bahu Samhita* and

(c) Go through the annual predictions of Dr. B.V. Raman of the last 6 decades to learn the art of practical application of these principles and then proceed boldly to predict world events with at least sixty percent success.

*The inevitable process of de-mystification is the realisation by every honest astrologer that even ordinary astrologers doing astrology honestly can give better predictions than well-established astrologers, sometimes.*

This de-mystification process started in the last decades of the last century in English in India when the late B. Suryanarain Rao wrote a small book on astrology to cleanse it of the dross that had entered the Sanskrit texts. Dr. Raman's grandfather had started boldly provoking hostility and criticism for making available through English the astrological substance of astrological knowledge in Sanskrit texts. To evaluate this Dr. Raman's writings must be briefly re-viewed to see his prominent place among astrologers in the last four hundred years in world astrology.

## The Books of Dr. Raman

**G**enerations of English knowing Indians and foreigners have learnt Hindu astrology through the books of Dr. B.V. Raman, written in English and some of them translated into other languages. **Why and how has there been such a demand for his books as to necessitate their reprinting so often and sometimes, so quickly? Obviously, readers must have found them instructive and illuminating! I too have been benefited from them like thousands by reading them, assimilating the valuable hints given there and have told keen students to divide Dr. Raman's writing into three categories.**

## Compulsory Reading

His (a) *Hindu Predictive Astrology* continues to be the best book not merely in English but better than the best book I have seen in Hindi also as it is the only book I know of in which all branches of astrology have been dealt with by someone who knows them, uses them and demonstrates their uses through his writings. In lucidity and brevity it remains, though written at very early age in his life of prodigious authorship, an all-time classic.

(b) *A Manual of Hindu Astrology*: Brief, full of clarity, it becomes terse in some places. But it is a guide to some of those mathematical parts of astrology as would remain incomprehensible to many.

(c) *Graha and Bhava Balas*: An excellent book on mathematical astrology, terse in some places.

(d) *Three Hundred Important Combinations*: No doubt it is the best book on the great feature of Hindu astrology as it deals with Yogas and shows how evolved Hindu astrology is compared to groupings into rudiments of astrology by Western astrologers. But this book is one of those rare ones written by Dr. Raman in which his analytical skill seemed to be missing.

There are three major shortcomings in this book. Nabhasa Yogas have been dealt with rather sketchily whereas many of the North Indian astrologers make excellent use of these Yogas to assess the potentiality of a horoscope; Kalasarpa Yoga needed deeper research as it is one area of the Indian astrologer's greatest superstition and it is surprising why Dr. Raman did not give readers the benefit of his experiences. Then, thirdly, the meaning of these Yogas in the modern context should have been illustrated.

Otherwise it still continues to be an all-time classic of Dr. Raman.

(e) *A Catechism of Astrology*: So small, in two volumes and so brilliant is the only comment that can be made.

(f) *How to Judge a Horoscope -Two Volumes*: After reading these two volumes one can see the heights to which Dr. Raman belongs.

In the absence of a *Guru-Sishya Parampara* (tradition of learning directly from a Guru) astrologers needed a book of this type to evaluate a horoscope. If Dr. Raman had written no other book on astrology except *How to Judge a Horoscope, Volume I*, very early alone and the second one after many years by his daughter, Gayatri Devi Vasudev, he would still be remembered as the greatest teacher of astrology in the world. **It is after reading this book that I have placed him among the best astrologers during the last four hundred years. It is only an astrological super-giant that can show how to judge a horoscope in depth and prepare himself to launch into sound technical judgement.**

Though I have had a lot of difficulty in accepting the Ayanamsa used by Dr. Raman and therefore the Navamsa in these volumes, yet I rank these volumes as the third greatest book on astrology in the history of the world, the first being the *Brihat Para sara Hora Sastra* (Hindi versions only), the second the *Brihat Jataka* and the third, Dr. Raman's *How to Judge a Horoscope*.

These five books of Dr. Raman must be read and re-read by anyone who wants to pick up astrology properly.

## Excellent Optional Reading

The best among the other books of Dr. Raman which I recommend to others for excellent optional reading are the following:

(a) *Bhavartha Ratnakara*: Rarely a book has been so well-illustrated and so well-commented on as this lesser-known classic of Ramanujacharya. Dr. Raman's illustrations and commentary here are superb.

(b) *Muhurtha or Electional Astrology*: Though there are excellent books, more elaborate on this branch in Hindi, yet Dr. Raman's book is a sound and well-tested approach of an experienced astrologer. It is concise enough not to cause astrological constipation.

(c) *Varshaphal or Annual Horoscopy*: For those who cannot read Hindi, it is a good initiation into annual horoscopy though this branch is so well-developed in Northern India that books in Hindi and traditions of annual horoscopy in North India are too rich to bring any admiration from a discerning reader for this work of Dr. Raman. But to the English-knowing it is a sound enough guide to this branch of astrology.

(d) *Prasna Tantra*: Within its limitations, it is a masterly book. Its limitation is that it is based only on Neelakanta's book and does not contain any other references to many other brilliant techniques of horary astrology. It appears to be an over-simplified approach to many keen students of astrology. Yet, Dr. Raman is at his lucid best in this book.

## Excellent Higher Reading

Very few astrologers are interested in going deeper into other branches of astrology. To post-graduates in astrology two of Dr. Raman's books are compulsory reading lest their equipment remains poor.

(a) *Ashtakavarga System of Prediction*: Preparation, use and interpretation of the *Ashtakavarga* given in this book has been tested by me for over fifteen years and I have done much research going deeper than the book. Yet, I must acknowledge that this was the starting point

of my work on Ashtakavarga and my late mother's illuminating guidance, as usual had helped me. Together with this C.S. Patel's book on the same subject should be read for predictive purposes.

(b) *Studies in Jaimini Astrology*: To the extent to which it was possible, Dr. Raman has done justice to the less familiar branch of Hindu astrology known as *Jaimini Sutras* in this book. His chapter on longevity in this book is brilliant but his understanding and use of Jaimini's Dasas seem to be unsatisfactory.

(c) *Prasna Marga*: I read the book avidly and have also attended some Kerala Prasna Marga sessions in Delhi, once as a participant and once as a spectator. But not having gone deep into it, all that I can say is I got familiar with this most fascinating branch of Hindu astrology only through Dr. Raman's book.

(d) *My Early Experiences in Astrology* : Autobiographical, gripping reading like fiction, Dr. Raman **reveals some traditional secrets of Hindu predictive astrology in this book and useful hints, which he could have elaborated, as after him no astrologer will complete this half-done work.**

These thirteen books of Dr. Raman ensure for him an immortal place as one of the all time great astrologers of the world. Unlike other authors who have not assimilated, tested and taken pains to communicate properly, Dr. Raman has the rare ability to be very lucid. In his *Studies in Jaimini Astrology* he has evolved a method of calculating Rasi and Graha Balas. In an editorial in *The Astrological Magazine* he **had evolved a method of calculating the strength of retrograde planets!** Such imaginative improvisations, innovations show the depth, mastery and confidence of a master astrologer.

## General Reading

Two books of Dr. Raman can be read to know the man -- *Dr. Raman and His Mission and Hindu Astrology and the West*. The latter, sometimes lugubrious and dull, reveals a puritanical self-restrained person, whose reaction to the world around, West of Suez Canal is non-joyous.

The other book *Planetary Influences on Human Affairs* needs to be revised and elaborated.

## Books that Disappoint

(a) *Kalachakra Dasa System* Dr. Raman's most disappointing book is, how I can describe it. In *The Astrological Magazine* there was an excellent article on the Kalachakra Dasa by **S. Kannan** (Jan. 1974. page 88) which is the correct method of doing KCD system of prediction, the most difficult Dasa known to the world of astrology. But Kannan is obviously wrong when he says that the Amsa Dasa does not pass on to the next Pada. I have given by now more than a thousand successful predictions based on KCD by following instructions given by a **Rewari Pandit** who invariably went on to the next Pada when the original Dasa was over. The most



spectacular and the most quoted prediction of mine based on KCD is about the violent end of Rajiv Gandhi by using the next Pada. It reads thus :

"Meena-Dhanu period (6-6-1990 to 20-8-1991) is a period of *Simhavalokana*, a period of total change in his political style of functioning with a ferocity which Mars in the 10th from Dhanus will make evident. But a *Simhavalokana*, is a time of risks and dangers, dare-devilry, a cataclysmic change which can be both fatal and spectacular.

"We have given hints of the future course of the life of Rajiv Gandhi without any predictions which are drawable, being self-evident in the KCD system. (Received on 23-5-1990.)"

This research piece of mine appeared in the *Times Of Astrology* (Aug. 1990), ten months before the tragic end of Rajiv Gandhi and was widely appreciated by some Congressmen in Delhi who made thousands of photostat copies of it and distributed it. In fact, I was the only astrologer, other than the almanac maker of Assam, who in 1991 March, and Gayatri Devi Vasudev, who in 1991 March, too had hinted at the end of the Rajiv era. But astrologers who failed to see it, attacked us all, particularly me and Gayatri Devi Vasudev, for so brilliant a prediction given so much in advance.

I have referred to it because Dr. Raman's method of computing the Kalachakra Dasa is technically not convincing.

(b) *Raman's 110 - Year Ephemeris of Planetary Positions (1891- 2000 A.D.)*: Being based on Raman's Ayanamsa, using this ephemeris changed my divisional horoscopes drastically. In using Jaimini's Karakas I found quite often Atmakaraka becoming Darakaraka! It led to wrong results as I use no Ayanamsa other than Chitrapaksha Ayanamsa.

## Summing up

**I** recommend these books to students of astrology, as there can be in the world, no greater teacher of astrology than Dr. Raman, I repeat, in the last four hundred years in the history of the world.

I challenge any astrologer to take my views on the writings of Dr. Raman, prove me wrong in any public debate anywhere, with illustrations and not indulge in hitting below-the-belt.

I have done research on thousands of horoscopes applying Dr. Raman's techniques and find them illuminating, illustrative, brilliant. He was so honest that where he himself found no results he had the candour to say so. There are some English translations of books on classical astrology, over-advertised containing shallow observations and wrong examples of Adhana Lagna. Compare this to Dr. Raman's honest admissions where he left it to readers to judge for themselves.

I have already given the horoscope together with the Navamsa of Dr. Raman and discussed some features. Once, Dr. P. S. Sastri, whom I rank very high as a scholar of astrology, asked me, why I who, had written a paper on Dr. Raman's *Amazing Predictions*, but did not use his Ayanamsa on the basis of which, he had given predictions. The question appeared strange to me since having read closely, and re-read them many times. I know that Dr. Raman used various techniques in giving predictions and did not appear to depend on one method solely and absolutely.

I have given my view about the books Dr. Raman wrote, their merits and demerits, an amazing astrologer of our era, who had the patience, the ability and the honesty to test (I repeat, test) so many techniques of Hindu astrology to cross check an event. *In some discussions, I had with Dr. Raman during the last ten years he told me the techniques he had employed in arriving at his amazing predictions.*

## Astrological Techniques

Let me first explain the astrological techniques of some successful astrologers I know of:

(a) *Sri Hardeo Sharma Trivedi*, who like Dr. Raman was one of the best astrologers in his predictions about national and international events, used besides the normal Vimshottari Dasa and horoscopes, annual horoscopes with extraordinary skill and timed his events, through the use of Koorma Chakra, Sanghatta Rasi Chakra and Sanghatta Nakshatra Chakra. He supplemented all these with his own observations and research findings spread over a period of fifty years.

(b) The late *Sitaramaiah*, who had went blind, made very effective use of *Jeeva* and *Sarira* theory of Nakshatras and transits. He had a desire to employ more techniques but his blindness became a crippling handicap.

(c) A young Maharashtrian I know of uses transits as I have seen no one employing, giving amazing, sometimes startling predictions, but then he needs very accurate degree of planets and absolutely correct Navamsa. Even today he cannot cast a horoscope, but he has in the meantime picked up thumb-reading with great speed and gives his predictions supplementing his reading of a horoscope with it.

(d) A Rajasthani astrologer uses horoscopes with Ramal Sastra, annual horoscopes and has earned a great name for his predictions even though in the village he lives in, he earns no publicity.

I can quote hundreds of instances to show that no successful astrologer uses limited tools. A Hindu astrologer has so many techniques unlike a Western astrologer whose main work is astrological post-mortem of events. A Hindu astrologer is more often than not baffled by so many techniques and *instead of learning them properly ends up by potentialising some Mantra of an inferior variety*. Even *K.S. Krishnamurthy* is shown in his books as worshipping *Uchista Ganapati*!

Was he so diffident about his own astrological ability that he thought of doing this? What is wrong if an astrologer fails with some predictions and has still a large percentage of successful predictions? Why was Krishnamurthy afraid of failures?

The temptation to go in for quick and spectacular results through devious and unreliable methods of spirit-control, and mediums, has been a bane of Hindu astrology mostly in the Hindi belt, where astrology as a Vidya, as an intellectual discipline received little attention till we started our astrology classes in the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. This, in turn, has provoked more jealousy than admiration because the many so-called astrologers will attract less clients when better trained astrologers began to discuss astrology.

But why has all this happened? My straight honest and even curt answer is that no one goes to an astrologer to ask, "Will I ever become a wiser man?" No one is interested in going to an astrologer to hear a disappointing prediction. So an astrologer has two problems: He must make an instant prediction about the present problem of his consultor and he must suggest, if he has a disappointing prediction to give, a remedial measure, which is more often than not exploiting this consultor commercially. Having seen so much of it all over the country I have always been disappointed to see a paucity of true astrologers, who have been swamped by the so-called Tantric astrologers.

My own method is that in the first meeting I have with anyone I take more time and the subsequent consultations are faster than the fastest astrologers I have known. Because this technique has worked so well I have felt it necessary always to have a "feel" of the horoscope first, prepare detailed data, note down incidents and view a horoscope retrospectively and prospectively. In subsequent consultations, predictions emerge in minutes, not in hours as would happen in the first meeting.

*To Be Continued.....*