

Gary Gomes had done this interview, we had also published it in SA
magazine
Interview of Late C S Patel

1. When did you first start studying Jyotish?

I started studying Jyotish in August 1945 when I was of 30.

2. Who were your main teachers?

Before starting studying I collected new and second hand books on astrology in Gujarati, English and partly in Marathi. I started studying them slowly and slowly .When I found some difficult terms e.g. “Vargottama” I tried to under stand by reading the same page again and again. In course of time I came in contact with Mr. C.A.S. Iyer (Co-author of my book Ashatakvara).I used to confirm or modify the meaning of difficult terms. He taught me to prepare astrological chart by “**Lankodaya Method**” nowadays charts are prepared by Method. In course of time I have purchased complete libraries of some old astrologer, who expired .This resulted in getting some rare books, which were written and published before I was born. After publication of our book on “Ashatkvara” in 1957 I started collecting manuscript in Sanskrit from various libraries of south India (GMOL Chennai, Oriental Library Baroda, Tanjour, Pune ,Patan etc). **To study Indian Astrology good hold over Sanskrit is must** .I studied Sanskrit from 4th standard to 11th standard and in my college study for two years but Sanskrit of astrology is simple in contrast to Sanskrit literature. I prepared three diaries related to astrological Sanskrit 1- Sanskrit word and meaning 2- Prayay (Synonyms) word .3- Paribhashik(Terminology) This study helped me to interpret each and every word in my own way (It is to be noted) **There are two well known way to denote the number known as Katapayadi Sankhya and Arnavadi Sankhya** , If one know use of these two methods of north and south of numbering then only can interpret the verses correctly.

3-How would you recommend a student study Jyotisha?

One must have ardent desire to learn Jyotisha and not waste time in reading other nefarious books & literature and all his spare time should be given to study selected subject. I advice them to study their horoscope when any incident occurred in their life and to find astrological means for that event in charts of whole family members.

4-What qualification should astrologer posses?

An astrologer should have good hold over Sanskrit. Astrological Sanskrit is quite easy but authors have made free use of 'Paryay' and 'Paribhashik' word.

5-What preparation would you suggest a student take to learn Jyotisha?

A student to learn Jyotisha have ardent desire to learn Jyotisha, Jyotisha Jyotisha. He should not take interest in nay other subject except Jyotisha and whatever he learn something new he should make a note of such matters.

6-Do you think it is essential for a student to engage in spiritual practice to be an effective astrologer? What practice would you recommend?

No it is not essential for a student to engage in spiritual practice. He must be of pure at heart having good character and not vices in him and having obliging nature.

7-What texts did you find most useful in your study of Jyotisha? It is critical for a student to know Sanskrit for his or her success in this field?

Brihat Jatak, Parasar horashastra, Phaldeepika, PrashnaMarga and many more but The five books most important for Navamsa study are Devakeralam, Dhuv Nadi, Vidya Madhviyam, PrashnaMarg and Horasara. For answer of the another question refer the answer of question-2

8-You are well known for your study of financial astrology and you have done well financially as we understand. Dose this financial success come from your study of jyotisha or other factors?

I have made a little held way in financial astrology. A karaka planets (Jupiter for silver) When Rahu and Jupiter are in trine or conjunction in transit the price of silver will rise considerably and ; when Jupiter make trine or conjunction with Katu it will fall in the price of silver (For Share and stock market Karak is Mercury be considered.)

9-How do you use Jyotisha to assess financial market? Could you provide some example?

For answer of the question refer the answer -8

10-How would you advise a student to study financial astrology?

One should note falls and rises of the commodities in market, note those date and try to make research in finance for what reason these rises or falls have taken place (Very often retrogradation date and direct date of planet of Kujadi indicate turning point.)

11-How did R.G. Krishnan come to study with you?

In November 1982 one astrological society in Gujarat honored me and R.G. Krishnan by conferring a title. Still then we are friends.

12- You are well known for finding interesting and important but over looked combination in Vedic books. How did you get interested in this?

There some important verses containing 'Paribhashik' words, it is difficult to translate such verses.I start to read these verses over and over again for days together after that I try to translate each copulate (Pada), after translating all four padas of verse I try to

come correct meaning of verse.

13- How do you know if a lesser known technique is working? Do you apply any tests?

By Applying to practical examples if it is found giving some results, I accepted it. (Bhrigu Bindu)

14- Are there any classical texts that you find more valuable or that you prefer – over others?

Practically all Standard texts.

15-Are there any contemporary author that you think should be studied carefully? Any one you would recommend for an aspiring student?

There are very few authors who have tried to translate Sanskrit standard texts into English such as V. Subramaniam Shastry , No body has done so.

16-Do you do individual reading for people ? Have you ever?

No I have not given life reading for any one. Casually some one comes and asks two or three question I have helped them.

17-Do you use remedial measure at all? Which do you recommend if any?

No I don't recommend remedial measure but in an unmarried girl's case I will recommend seventh house's Lord's Day to observe fasting in a particular way. Similarly if some one wants fifth house results I will recommend fifth house's Lord's Day for fasting.

18-How would you prefer to be remembered for your contribution to Jyotisha?

I recommend students and astrologers to read my books more than once.

19-Is there any recommended period of time a student should study before applying astrological knowledge?

There is no period of time for study. It all depends upon how he studies the science for my part any major event in my life, I tried to justify by the rules mentioned in my books. Still I am satisfied.

20-Any advice for a student to avoid the confusion of multiple schools of thought we see in Jyotisha?

My advice is to study Standard books in Sanskrit and their translation and apply these rules in life-in practice and study.

21-You are known to have deep study in nadi astrology can you tell us, which nadis you have studied?

I have studied Devkeralam(Chandrakala Nadi)Dhruv Nadi By Jaymuni,Bhargav Nadi, Bhrigu Nadi, Saptrishi nadi and others partially as mentioned in articles published in various Astrological magazines.

22-You are known for your immaculate translation of Sanskrit verses where many previous stalwarts went wrong, how do you get right? Do you ponder over a shloka (verse) for days?

Yes, I go on reading again and again till I am satisfied with the meaning .I tried to translate each couplet (Pada) separately. Then I think the meaning of the verse.

23-At this age of 92 are you still active in Jyotisha and are you writing on any subject?

Yes, I am writing a book on retrogression against heavy odds. (Death of my daughter, my ill health etc.)

24-For over 30 year many have asked you translate FULL Devakeralam, would you still oblige your fans or least to least would you create errata for us knowing that you have corrected previous mistakes in the translation.

At this age of 92, it is impossible to translate FULL Devakeralam but I think to publish some pamphlets over sight of R. Santhanam in translating to Devakeralam (Three Volumes)

25-Can you give us an example of Bhrigu Bindu & Rahu Ketu Kendra transit influence on it,this aspect seems to have not been written at all in your old articles on the same but we have heard that had evolved further on Bhrigu Bindu.

Read the articles 1-(13), 2(31) in the book- "Prediction through Navmsa and Nadi Astrology"

26-When you are casting a chart, how do you at times predict the SAV bindus of each house with near about accuracy? We have heard that somehow you can do this and we find this fascinating.

Refer my book 'Ashatakvarga' chapter-14 verse no.11. if there more than two or three planets in sign –bindus in eleventh house from that house will be 33,34 or more and at the same time bindus in the seventh house will 20-19-18 or less.

27-Please tell us the drawback of "Ego" when it comes to Jyotisha learning

When some become egoistic advancement in study of astrology cease.

28-The current generations do not know much about the chronology of your written work

My published books – Ashtakvarga Published in -1957, Prediction through Navmasa and Nadi Astrology Published in -1996, Navmasa in Astrology Published in -1997, Nadi Astrology Published in -1998, Arudha system of prediction Published in -2000, book on retrogradation is under preparation.

29- Can you expand on Devakeralam, how many shloka in total as compared what is present in R. Santhanam's translation, how many versions of Devakeralam are there, when was it released.

There are 9182 verses in Santhanam's book on Devakeralam, it is ¼ of the total verses
There are three versions of Devakeralam. There are some manuscript in GOML library (Chennai) Adhiyar Library (Chennai) and Mysore Library (Mysore)