



Chart Reading Template

,... A powerful guide to chart reading for you. Includes

Sam Geppi

Chart Analysis

You can get your chart here:

<http://vedicastrologycenter.net/chart34.htm>

South Indian Vedic Astrology Chart

Pisces	Aries	Taurus	Gemini
Aquarius			Cancer
Capricorn			Leo
Sagittarius	Scorpio	Libra	Virgo


Above is the South Indian astrology chart. For ease, this is a chart we will use in this book. I prefer to use this chart when teaching for two reasons. First of all, it is an astronomically correct chart. Meaning, as seen above, if you visualize the Earth in the center of the circle of squares, you get an accurate picture of the sky represented by the astrology chart. Too often astrology is taught as a way to “read charts,”

as if the chart is something separate from the sky or us. The astrology chart should be seen as a portrait of the living sky at a certain moment. Secondly, it is my experience that aspects and planetary relationships are much easier to see using this chart, as the signs are always fixed in the same place.

Vedic astrology places supreme importance on the rising sign, not the Sun sign, as is popular in modern Western astrology. “Your sign” in Vedic astrology is actually the rising sign, based on the sidereal zodiac. In order to start deciphering the Vedic astrology chart you must first find the ascendant, which is usually delineated by a diagonal line in one of the signs. From there you begin to count the houses inclusively, from the ascendant.

12	1 /	2	3
11			4
10			5
9	8	7	6

In the chart to the left, the native is an Aries, as the box with the diagonal line (ascendant) is Aries. Taurus is the 2nd house, Gemini the 3rd house, etc. Regardless of where the line falls (which sign) the houses are counted inclusively from that point.

			
			1
	etc	3	2

The chart to the left shows another example. In this case it is of a Leo (the sign where the diagonal line exists).

Virgo is the 2nd house, Libra the 3rd, etc.

When reading a chart, it is easy to become overwhelmed with the many possibilities. But actually it is very easy to understand how to read charts conceptually. You simply take the traits of the planet, sign, house and Nakshatra and merge them together. Qualities that the planet, sign, house and Nakshatra share get strengthened. Qualities that are not shared show difficulties and stress. It is really that simple, yet there is much complexity in this process.

Here are the most important things to look for.

Synthesizing the Graha, Rasi and Bhava

It is not possible to assess a Graha, rasi and bhava without considering all three components together. Here are a few rules about determining these three factors:

1. Bhavas are counted inclusive from the ascendant (as we just did in the previous charts).
2. A planet must reside in a house and a sign.
3. To determine the effects for an area of life where no planets reside, simply find the lord of that bhava and how it is affected. The lord rules the rasi of the bhava. For example, Mercury is the 2nd bhava lord for Leo because it rules Virgo, the 2nd sign from Leo.

Keyword Templates for Chart Reading

Using keywords and templates can be an excellent way to jump start your chart reading ability.

Planet Keywords

Sun - soul, confidence, generosity, power, ego, father

Moon - feeling/emotions, connection, family, others, mother

Mars - vitality, focus, aggression, logic, innocence, friends, brothers

Mercury - speech/communication, skills, intellect, flexibility, humor

Jupiter - wisdom, meaning, optimism, children, teachings

Venus - pleasure, sex, happiness, beauty, comfort, laziness, lovers

Saturn - fear, hard work, commitment, stress, isolation, old people

Rahu - obsessions, attachment, exaggeration, expanded perception

Ketu - dissatisfaction, detachment, solitude, scrutinizing, anonymity

Sign Keywords

Aries (Male Mars – HEAD – Moveable Fire) courage, strength, bold, brash, sharp minds, action, impulsive

Taurus (Female Venus – FACE – Fixed Earth) comfort, pleasure, steady, devoted, sensual, family, food

Gemini (Male Mercury – ARMS – Dual Air) speech, knowledge, sensation, skilled, curious, unfocused

Cancer (Female Moon – CHEST – Moveable Water) intuitive, emotional, attached, nurturing, shy

Leo (Male Sun – SOLAR PLEXUS – Fixed Fire) inspired, uplifted, overpowering, burning, domineering

Virgo (Female Mercury – BOWELS – Dual Earth) responsible, dutiful, worried, pure, critical, alone

Libra (Male Venus – HIPS - Moveable Air) hesitant, love of beauty, other people, social, shallow

Scorpio (Female Mars – GENITALS – Fixed Water) obsessive, sensitive, secretive, probing, self-protective

Sagittarius (Male Jupiter – THIGHS – Dual Fire) generous, optimistic, faith inspired, adventurous, orthodox

Capricorn (Female Saturn – KNEES – Moveable Earth) serious, ambitious, reserved, practical, responsible

Aquarius (Male Saturn – CALVES – Fixed Air) humility, servitude, humanitarian, focus on others

Pisces (Female Jupiter – FEET - Dual Water) fantasy, imagination, spiritual, endings, creativity, devotion

House Keywords

1st house (Sun) truthful nature, body, general health, the head, personality

2nd house (Jupiter, Venus) values, self-expression, income, security, childhood

3rd house (Mars, Mercury) self-will, siblings, power and prowess, friends, motivation, zeal, rashness, curiosity

4th house (Moon) emotional state, mother, feeling potential, peace, property, deepest sensitivity, inner life

5th house (Jupiter) intelligence, creativity, children, education, romance, past life merit, mantras

6th house (Mars, Saturn) competition, illness, debt, things breaking, immune system, hard work, service.

7th house (Venus, Jupiter) long-term relationships, general relations with others, business associates

8th house (Saturn) transformation, other people's money, dissolution, sex, death, hidden side of life, research

9th house (Jupiter) religion, philosophical or ethical principles, god's grace, dharma-shaping life events

10th house (Mercury, Jupiter, Sun) career, public status, fame, success, impact on the world, politics.

11th house (Jupiter) highest aspirations and goals, financial gains, impulse, excess, large groups of people

12th house (Saturn, Ketu) subconscious, hidden nature, isolated through sorrow or peace, liberation, loss

Rhythm of Opposites

Look to the opposite rasis and bhavas to see which traits the native must develop.

Bhavas and Their Opposite

1st house – ourself

7th house – our partner

2nd house – our values, money and security

8th house – other people's values, money, our insecurity

3rd house – what we get through our self-will and intelligence

9th house – what we cannot get by our will, god's grace

4th house – our inner life

10th house – our public life

5th house – personal, creative inspiration

11th house – outer, public aspirations

6th house – duty, things we must work to finish

12th house – freedom from duty, responsibility and work

Rashis and Their Opposite

Aries – Acts on instinct, impulsive, self-motivated

Libra – Acts with caution, careful, other-motivated

Taurus – Wants stability and consistency, practical

Scorpio – Wants intensity and drama, creates upheavals

Gemini – Experimental, quirky, unfocused, literal

Sagittarius – Faith inspired, orthodox yet abstract

Cancer – Subjective and emotional

Capricorn – Material and practical

Leo – Self-interested and confident

Aquarius – interested in others, poor self-image

Virgo – Attached to actions – feels responsible

Pisces – Resigned to karma, irresponsible

A Simple Reading Formula

1. Identify the lagna. The attributes of the lagna are the main qualities of the person.
2. Identify the lagna lord.
3. The sign that holds the lagna lord.
4. The house the holds the lagna lord.
5. The planet that rules the sign that holds the lagna lord.
6. Find Rahu and Ketu in the chart by sign and house and conjunction. Rahu and Ketu are the main forces of karma; Rahu is what we are currently developing, Ketu is what we have recently learned.
7. Planets in the lagna will show personality traits, areas of interest and natural skills.
8. Planets joined to the lagna lord will show their effects on the person.
9. Any house with three or more planets in it will be a major area of focus in life.

WORKSHEET

1. Lagna – As shown by the sign of (*insert rising sign here*) the basic outlook, personality and energy is one which displays (*insert traits of the rising sign here*).
2. It is ruled by the planet (*insert rising sign planetary ruler here*), which shows (*insert traits of planetary ruler here*) will be important qualities of the native.
3. They will be challenged to develop the traits associated with the opposite sign of (*insert sign opposite of the rising sign here*), those traits are (*insert sign opposite traits here*).

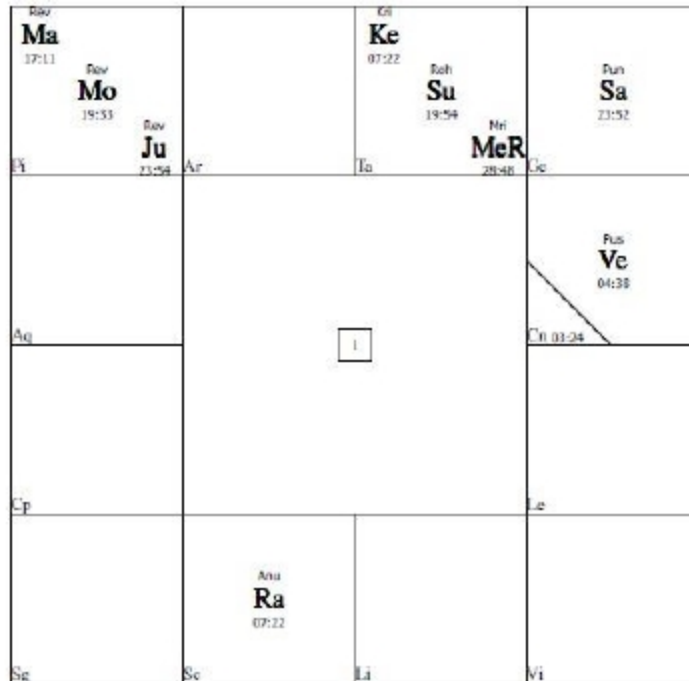
4. Lagna lord is in the (*insert house where the rising sign ruler resides*), which shows (*those traits*) will be very important to the person.
5. Lagna lord is in the sign of (*insert sign where the rising sign ruler resides*), which shows (*those traits*) type of psychology will be influencing their behavior.
6. Rahu is in the (*insert house where Rahu resides*) house, which shows the main attachments and areas of life this person is trying to develop in order for their soul to evolve are about (*Rahu house traits*).
7. Rahu is in the sign of (*insert sign where Rahu resides*), which shows the main mental and emotional energy this person is trying to develop in order for their soul to evolve are (*Rahu house traits*).
8. Rahu is conjoined the planet(s) (*insert planets joined Rahu*), which shows an obsession to develop more (*insert traits of those planets*).
9. Ketu is in the (*insert house where Ketu resides*), which shows the main areas of detachment and dispassion in this person's life. These are generally areas of neglect as having been recently developed in past lives. There may be expertise, but not a lot of satisfaction with (*insert traits of Ketu 's house*).
10. Ketu is in sign of (*insert sign where Ketu resides*), which shows they will likely have mental and emotional skill and maturity with (*insert traits of Ketu 's sign*).
11. Ketu is conjoined the planet(s) (*insert planets joined Ketu*), which shows skill and development, yet dissatisfaction with (*insert traits of those planets*).

12. There are three or more planets in the (*insert house with three or more planets*) house, giving an extra focus on (*insert traits of the house with three or more planets*).
13. There are three or more planets in (*insert sign with three or more planets*) sign, giving a psychology strongly oriented toward (*insert traits of the sign with three or more planets*).
14. They have (*insert planets in lagna*), which shows (*insert traits of the planets in the lagna*) to also be very prominent.
15. They have (*insert planets joined the lagna lord*) conjoined the lagna lord, which shows (*insert traits of the planets joined the lagna lord*) to also be very important to the native.
16. These planets are forming Maha Purusha Yogas, giving these traits:
...

Case Studies Using the Worksheet

Angelina Jolie's Chart Using the Worksheet

Below is the chart of Angelina Jolie.



1. Lagna – As shown by the sign of Cancer, the basic outlook, personality and energy is one that displays qualities such as intuitive, emotional, attached, nurturing, shy.
2. It is ruled by the planet the Moon which shows that feeling/emotions, connection, family, others, mother will be important qualities of the native.

3. They will be challenged to develop the traits associated with the opposite sign of Capricorn. Those traits are: serious, ambitious, reserved, practical, responsible.
4. Lagna lord is in the 9th house, which shows that religion, philosophical or ethical principles, god's grace, dharma-shaping life events will be very important to the person.
5. Lagna lord is in the sign of Pisces, which shows that fantasy, imagination, spirituality, endings, creativity, devotional type of psychology will be influencing their behavior.
6. Rahu is in the 5th house, which shows the main attachments and areas of life this person is trying to develop in order for their soul to evolve are about intelligence, creativity, children, education, romance, past life merit, mantras.
7. Rahu is in the sign of Scorpio, which shows the main mental and emotional energy this person is trying to develop in order for their soul to evolve are obsessive, sensitive, secretive, probing, self-protective.
8. Rahu is conjoined with no planets.
9. Ketu is in the 11th house, which shows the main areas of detachment and dispassion in this person's life. These are generally areas of neglect, having been recently developed in past lives. There may expertise, but not a lot of satisfaction with highest aspirations and goals, financial gains, impulse, excess, large groups of people.
10. Ketu is in the sign of Taurus, which shows they will likely have mental and emotional skill and maturity with comfort, pleasure, steadiness, devotion, sensuality, family, food.

11. Ketu is conjoined with the planets Sun and Mercury, which shows skill and development, yet dissatisfaction with: **Sun** – soul, confidence, generosity, power, ego, father; and **Mercury** – speech/communication, skills, intellect, flexibility, humor.
12. There are three or more planets in the 9th house, giving an extra focus on religion, philosophical or ethical principles, god's grace, dharma-shaping life events.
13. There are three or more planets in Pisces, giving a psychology strongly oriented toward fantasy, imagination, spirituality, endings, creativity, devotion.
14. They have Venus (4th house ruler) in the lagna, which shows pleasure, sex, happiness, beauty, comfort, laziness, lovers to also be very prominent and 4th house qualities of motherhood and emotional peace and comfort.
15. They have Mars and Jupiter conjoined with the lagna lord, which shows vitality, focus, aggression, logic, innocence, friends, brothers AND wisdom, meaning, optimism, children and teaching to also be very important to the native.
16. These planets are forming Maha Purusha Yogas, giving these traits: None.

A synthesis of Angelina Jolie's chart:

To get an overall feeling of someone's mind and consciousness using the astrology chart, we must look for confluence. That is, several themes repeated over and over again. This confluence will affirm important priorities in the person's life.

In Angelina Jolie chart we see her most important tendencies reaffirmed several times. This, in spite of what we see on the surface, her beauty and celebrity.

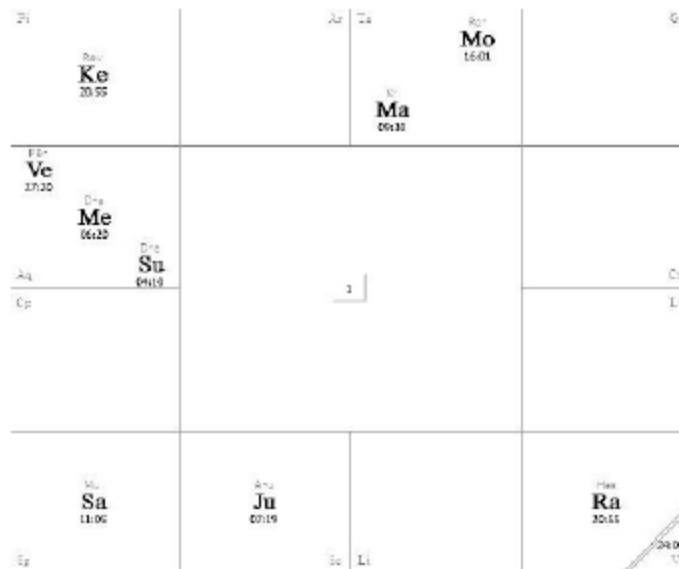
First of all, we see that she has a Cancer rising sign, which is the sign of motherhood and nurturing. In addition, we see that she has the 4th house ruler (the house of motherhood) in the 1st house. That planet is Venus, the planet of beauty and comfort. Of course, she is known for beauty.

In addition, we see that her ruling planet is joined Jupiter (the planet of children) and also Mars, the planet who rules the 5th house (the house of children). Rahu, the planet of obsessions, is in her 5th house, the house of children. But in her case, she is also a “leader of mothers,” having established a new category of service based on the adoption of Third World children.

In addition, she is an inspiring figure to many. The planets in her 9th and 11th houses have elevated her status beyond just celebrity and sex symbol. She has been appointed a special envoy to the United Nations based on her humanitarian concerns and work. In 2013, when faced with a major health crisis, she chose to speak out on behalf of breast cancer awareness, inspiring many women in the process.

John McEnroe Chart Using the Worksheet

Below is the chart of John McEnroe



1. Lagna – As shown by the sign of Virgo, the basic outlook, personality and energy is one which displays responsible, dutiful, worried, pure, critical, solitary traits.
2. It is ruled by the planet Mercury, which shows that speech/communication, skills, intellect, flexibility, humor will be important qualities of the native.
3. They will be challenged to develop the traits associated with the opposite sign of Pisces, those traits are: fantasy, imagination, spirituality, endings, creativity, devotion.
4. Lagna lord is in the 6th house, which shows that competition, illness, debt, things breaking, immune system, hard work, service will be very important to the person.

5. Lagna lord is in the sign of Aquarius, which shows that humility, servitude, humanitarianism, focus on others will be influencing their behavior.
6. Rahu is in the 1st house, which shows that the main attachments and areas of life this person is trying to develop in order for their soul to evolve are about our truthful nature, body, general health, the head, personality.
7. Rahu is in the sign of Virgo, which shows that the main mental and emotional energy this person is trying to develop in order for their soul to evolve are responsible, dutiful, worried, pure, critical, alone.
8. Rahu is conjoined with no planets.
9. Ketu is in the 7th house, which shows the main areas of detachment and dispassion in this person's life. These are generally areas of neglect as having been recently developed in past lives. There may be expertise, but not a lot of satisfaction with long-term relationships, general relations with others, business associates.
10. Ketu is in the sign of Pisces, which shows that they will likely have mental and emotional skill and maturity with fantasy, imagination, spirituality, endings, creativity, devotion.
11. Ketu is conjoined with no planets.
12. There are three or more planets in the 6th house, giving an extra focus on competition, illness, debt, things breaking, immune system, hard work, service.

13. There are three or more planets in Aquarius, giving a psychology strongly oriented toward humility, servitude, humanitarianism, focus on others.
14. They have Rahu in the lagna, which shows obsessions, attachment, exaggeration, expanded perception to be important to him.
15. They have Venus and the Sun conjoined with the lagna lord, which shows pleasure, sex, happiness, beauty, comfort, laziness, lovers AND soul, confidence, generosity, power, ego, father to also be very important to the native.
16. These planets are forming Maha Purusha Yogas, giving these traits: none.

A synthesis of John McEnroe's chart:

We see a consistent theme of competition, hard work and aggression with many planets in the 6th house. We also see a connection to large groups of people, service and larger themes, things associated with Aquarius. We must be careful not to just think of John McEnroe as the hot-tempered tennis player, for as ornery as he was, he has managed to be a well-known celebrity, and well-liked publicly. When he was playing, McEnroe was known to be a strong advocate of "doubles," and was one of the best doubles players of all time, if not the best.

McEnroe is also known and respected as one who advocates the "tennis community" and the advancement/progress of the sport, as well as advocating the international competition known as the Davis Cup. He was even the Davis Cup captain for a few years. Three planets in Aquarius, as well as the tendency of Virgo to be of service, reaffirm this theme.

Rahu in his 1st house makes him quite eccentric, even touted as a genius on the tennis court. However, his Rahu-like personality problems and eruptions tended to overshadow his on-court brilliance.

Yet his skill was undeniable, and shown by his Virgo rising sign. Virgo is ruled by Mercury, the planet of skill.

Making Predictions Using Dasas and Transits

I remember when I first started to learn astrology, I found it hard to believe it possible to make predictions about what would happen in someone's life based just on the planets in their birth chart. I was astounded to discover the methods and techniques that show the ripening of karma's descending from the etheric, subtle realms into the realm of form.

When looking into the timing of karmas ripening, there are two main frameworks that are used:

1. The dasa sequence
2. Planets in transit, as they move through the sky.

It is helpful when learning to make predictions to list everything that the planet rules in its dasa sequence, then look for confluence and important repetition/restatement of those themes. In the chart analysis examples below, I will do just that.

Dasa Cycles and Karma

When making predictions about events, the first thing we need to look at is the dasa cycle. The planetary dasas determine which karmas will be ripening at which time. Based on very precise and specific rules, karmas unfold at their given time. This is how the planets deliver their experiences to us, from the subtle to the gross realms.

In dasa cycles, karmas are produced based on the planet as a:

A: Karaka (Planetary indicator)

B: House ruler (Where the signs fall from the rising sign)

C: Ruler of a planet in its rasi

D: Ruler of a planet in its Nakshatra

There is no hierarchy in the above list. You need to look for a confluence of factors to see what the most prevalent issues will be:

KEY:

Pay close attention when a Maha Dasa planet rules the Bhukti planet.

For example: A Mercury/Jupiter cycle with Jupiter in Mercury's sign or Nakshatra will be very active for showing major changes relative to what is indicated.

As it relates to karmas, the planets deliver results based on what they are and what they rule.

For example:

The Sun is the spiritual force of power, which we experience in the form of confidence, etc. That is what it is – called the Karaka. If the Sun rules the 2nd house (Cancer lagna – like Angelina Jolie) it is also the planet of wealth, values and income. Also, if there are planets in Leo, the sign the Sun rules, it will also produce that planet – especially during the sub-cycle of that planet. Also, if there is a planet in Kritikka Nakshatra, it will also get produced, because the Sun rules that Nakshatra.

When the planetary cycles run, events get produced based on a few specific rules.

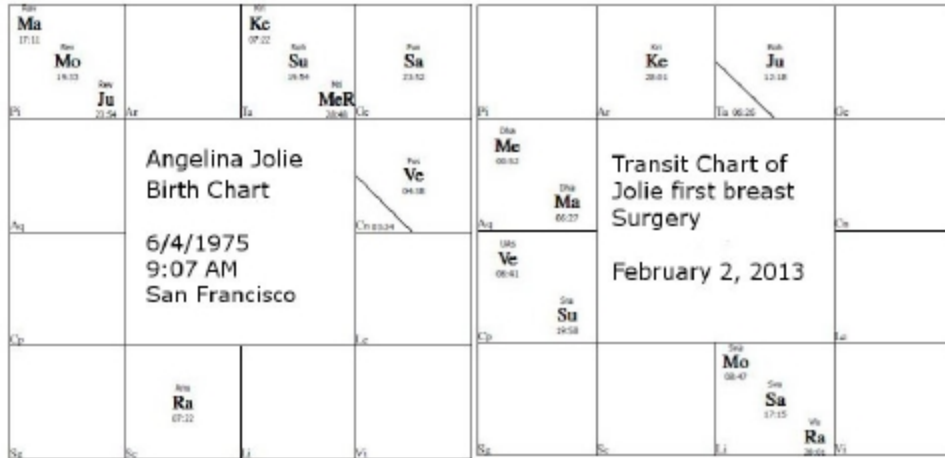
Planetary Transits and Karma

In addition to the dasa cycles, we need to look at where the planets are in the sky. Many times, regardless of the dasa, an intense transit over someone's natal planets brings about strong feelings that color the

events being shown through the dasas. In addition, the planets in the sky by transit aspect each other and those in the natal chart.

We will examine Ms. Jolie’s chart and Mr. McEnroe’s chart, looking at a major event in their lives.

Angelina Jolie Breast Surgery Chart



Quick Chart Analysis:

Ms. Jolie has a Cancer rising sign, which is ruled by the Moon. This makes her naturally sensitive, nurturing and maternal. She also has Venus in her 1st house, which shows beauty and refinement. If planets join our ruling planet they will have a strong impact in our life. When Ms. Jolie was born her ruling planet, the Moon, was in the 9th house with Mars and Jupiter. The 9th house has to do with philosophies, teachings and seeking higher meaning and purpose. Thus, these things will be major themes in her life.

For Ms. Jolie, Mars rules her 5th house (the house of children and creativity) as well as her 10th house (the house of career and impact). Mars is a planet that makes Cancer people often pursue a creative

career, as it combines the 5th and 10th houses. In addition, Mars is a planet of courage.

Jupiter rules her 6th house (life's struggles and problems) and her 9th house (teaching and inspiration). Jupiter is the planet that makes Cancer people experts at finding the higher meaning and purpose in life's setbacks and problems and makes them work hard in order to teach things they believe in.

We can see by her life path, beyond her successful film career, that she is an advocate of children and global peace. We also notice how she lives for higher themes and causes.

Dasa Analysis of Breast Surgery:

Ms. Jolie was in her Venus/Mercury dasa at the time of her first breast surgery.

For Ms. Jolie Venus rules:

- 4th house (Libra) – mother, the breasts, emotional comfort, peace of mind (or not)
- 11th house (Taurus) – the public, ambition, desires, recognition
- The Sun (Taurus) – 2nd house ruler – purification, doctors, surgery, values, self-expression, family and close connections, earned income
- Mercury (Taurus) – 3rd and 12th house ruler – courage, self-will, fears, loss and letting go, hospitals, intelligence, siblings
- Ketu (Taurus) – finishing karma, cutting, precision, skill

For Ms. Jolie Mercury rules:

- 3rd house (Virgo) – skills, interests, courage, communication

- 12th house (Gemini) – loss, expense, fears, letting go, hospitals, foreign countries
- Saturn: (in Gemini) – the 7th and 8th house ruler – partner, illness, death and loss, cancer (the illness), facing hardship, fears
- Jupiter (in Revati Nakshatra) – The 6th and 9th house ruler – teaching, learning, health problems and learning from mistakes/enemies, children
- Mars (in Revati Nakshatra) – The 5th and 10th house ruler – Creativity, children, recognition, career and pressure. Cutting and surgery
- Moon (in Revati Nakshatra) – 1st house ruler. Physical body, identity, breasts, motherhood

Recurring themes by planet and ruler:

- Breasts – 4th house (ruled by Venus), Moon (in Revati ruled by Mercury)
- Surgery – Sun (in Taurus ruled by Venus), Ketu (in Taurus ruled by Venus), Mars (in Revati ruled by Mercury)
- Illness, Danger, Loss, Hospitals – 12th house (Mercury is ruler), Saturn (indicator of death and cancer (disease) – Mercury is ruler), Jupiter (ruler of 6th house – Mercury is ruler), Ketu (in Taurus ruled by Venus)
- Children – Jupiter (Karak in Revati ruled by Mercury), Mars (5th lord in Revati ruled by Mercury)
- Recognition, praise, leadership – Jupiter (in Revati ruled by Mercury), Venus (11th house ruler of three planets)
- Courage and ingenuity – Mercury (3rd house ruler), Mars (in Revati ruled by Mercury)

Venus is in the 1st house, the house of the physical body, in her natal chart. This reveals that her physical appearance and beauty will be important in the Venus cycle. Shortly after it began, in 1995, she became a mega-famous movie star, known for her beauty and sex appeal.

The chart above was drawn on the date of the first procedure in her mastectomy, a “nipple delay.” It was a cosmetic procedure designed to save her nipples. Venus rules cosmetic procedures.

Venus rules the 4th house, the house of the breasts. Venus is also the ruler of Taurus, and as such rules Ketu, the Sun and retrograde Mercury. We see two indicators of loss; both Mercury (12th house ruler) and Ketu are related to loss in the Venus cycle. In addition, Mercury is retrograde, which often shows something being reversed.

Remember, one of the key rules is:

“Pay close attention when a Maha Dasa planet rules the Bhukti planet.”

We see this in full force with Ms. Jolie, as Venus rules Mercury, and the loss ripens in Venus/Mercury.

These losses are magnified because Mercury himself as a planet of loss (the 12th house ruler). In addition, Mercury rules planets of struggle, loss and fear (Saturn in Gemini in the 12th house and Jupiter the 6th house ruler).

These losses come in the form of things being cut or removed (all three indications of surgery are activated, Sun, Mars and Ketu). We see that the breasts are vulnerable because both indicators of the breasts are also getting activated, Venus (4th house ruler) and the Moon, the ruler of the breasts (in Mercury’s Nakshatra).

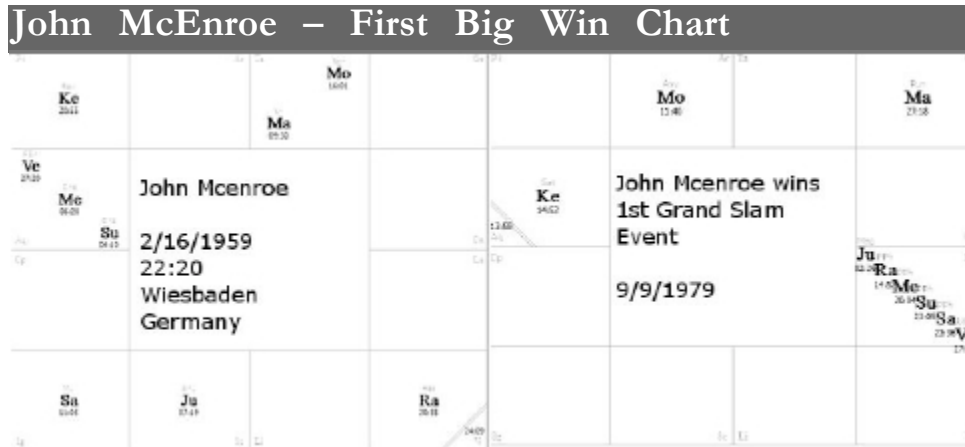
Much of the public admiration and appreciation is also shown by the heavy Mercury influence, as Mercury is the communicator and speaker. Mercury is also the 3rd house ruler and the ruler of Mars (both indicators of courage). Thus it is not surprising that Ms. Jolie was regaled for her courage.

Also, it is not surprising that the strong themes of “children” surrounded the entire issue: both her children and her lineage (to her as a child). This is due to Mercury ruling both Jupiter (the Karaka of children) and Mars (the 5th house ruler). As was said, they are both in Mercury’s Nakshatra (Revati).

Transit Analysis:

The Chart of February 2, 2013 shows the nipple delay transits. If we compare that with the chart of Ms. Jolie, we see:

- Her natal Mars at 17° 11 min. of Pisces. It is in exact 8th house aspect to transiting Saturn, at 17° 15 min. of Libra. This is a case where the natal special aspect is potent. Transiting Saturn is hitting the 8th house aspect of natal Mars to the 2nd!
- Mars on Feb 2, 2013 is at 6° 27 min. of Aquarius, in a very tight 4th house aspect to Ms. Jolie’s natal Ketu at 7° 20 min. of Taurus. Again, we see an aspect to within 1° of orb.
- Saturn is aspecting her ascendant. Even though Saturn has gone past the exact degree, we can infer that months earlier Ms. Jolie was feeling the enormous pressure of Saturn passing over the exact degrees of her ascendant, by aspect.
- 7th house Venus aspect to her ascendant and natal Venus, showing the “cosmetic nature” of this surgery.



Quick Chart Analysis:

McEnroe is a Virgo in Vedic astrology, because Virgo was the rising sign when he was born. He has the north node, Rahu in the 1st house, bringing a strong emphasis on his own identity and personality. We may call this “self-interested,” or even “selfish.” But generally, Rahu in the 1st house makes a person who is developing a strong identity. They can be a very polarizing figure.

Wherever the ruling planet goes, much importance is put into that area of life. Mercury is the ruling planet, and it goes to his 6th house with the Sun and Venus. The 6th house has to do with competition, and facing life’s struggles.

However, the conjunction of Mercury and Venus for a Virgo person, like McEnroe, is very auspicious, regardless of which house it falls in. This is because Mercury rules two angular houses and Venus rules a trinal house. Based on the rules of Raja Yogas, this brings together accomplishment (angular houses) with luck and skill (trinal house). In McEnroe’s case we see this clearly. The Raja Yogas fall in the 6th house of competition, enemies and overcoming obstacles. It is noteworthy

that he is known as much for his temper tantrums, outbursts and battles as he is for his tennis victories.

Dasa Analysis of Success:

John McEnroe was in his Rahu/Mercury dasa when he won his first US Open tennis tournament. During this cycle four of his seven career Grand Slam tournament wins occurred.

For Mr. McEnroe, Rahu produces:

- 1st house effects – (Rahu is in the 1st house) - self-growth, identity, fitness, health and vitality

For Mr. McEnroe, Mercury produces:

- 1st house effects – (Mercury rules the 1st house) - self-growth, identity, fitness, health and vitality
- 10th house effects – (Mercury rules the 10th house) – career growth, personal impact, power, responsibility
- Rahu effects – (Rahu is in Mercury's sign – Gemini) – self-growth, personal growth, fitness, health and vitality
- Ketu effects – (Ketu is in Mercury's Nakshatra) – 7th house matters, other people, relationships, compromise and cooperation.

In Mr. McEnroe's case only a few areas of life are affected in the Rahu/Mercury cycle. If Rahu is not joined to any planets, as in Mr. McEnroe's case, then Rahu will only give the results of planets in his Nakshatras. And in Mr. McEnroe's case, there are no planets in Rahu's Nakshatras either. Thus, Rahu only gives the results of the 1st house.

The lack of variety should not be mistaken for a lack of intensity. In fact, many times karmas become highly concentrated when the dasa

planet is not ruling many different things. This is the case with Mr. McEnroe. His karma at this time is highly concentrated around a couple of themes: himself (1st house), his power and his career (10th house). Everything points in this direction.

There is a strong 6th house quality to these life lessons, as both the ruler of Rahu and Mercury are in the 6th house (of course, as we have seen, Mercury is ruled by Rahu). Therefore, the important themes of hard work, overcoming adversaries, competition, arguing and battling are important.

In addition, the important conjunctions with Mercury, joined with the Sun and Venus, give invaluable insight into how these karmas unfold.

Mercury is McEnroe's ruling planet, his lagna lord, and also the ruler of Rahu. It is in his 6th house (competition) and joined with his 2nd and 9th house ruler Venus (2nd and 9th houses are wealth producers). Mercury also rules McEnroe's 10th house (Gemini), his career house.

Thus, in Rahu/Mercury, with Mercury actually ruling Rahu, we see fame and wealth being produced through career, competition and with a certain amount of grace and luck.

Transit analysis:

As we would expect, the transits should be concentrated around the same influences we outlined above, Rahu and Mercury. Also, because this is a career success, the 10th house (from his natal chart) should also be involved.

- Remarkably, Jupiter, Mercury, Saturn, the Sun and Venus all aspected his natal Mercury in Aquarius on the day in question! This brings together luck (Jupiter), skill (Mercury), vitality (Sun),

hard work and commitment (Saturn) and a sense of desire and happiness (Venus) to the event.

- Mars is closely aspecting his ascendant on the day in question (4th house Mars special aspect), from the 10th house, the house of career. This shows the fighting spirit and competitiveness needed to win, elevating his status and power.
- Saturn's special aspect by transit is affecting his 9th house, the house of luck and wealth, and his Mars/Moon conjunction in the 9th house. Saturn had been in Leo for the previous 1.5 years influencing his 9th house and his Mars/Moon conjunction, steadying his mind and volatile emotions.
- The special aspect of Jupiter falls on his natal Saturn in the 4th house, conferring grace after years of sacrifice and hard work. His natal Saturn forms a powerful Raja Yoga – being the 5th house ruler in the 4th house.

Mantras, Remedies and Devotion to Planets and Deities

In Vedic astrology the planets are not just big rocks moving around; they are the activating forces of life. When you have a problem in your life, it comes directly from the cosmos. Problems present a challenge for you to learn greater awareness and awaken to a higher intelligence within. Or, to put it in the language of yoga, problems are *tamas* (darkness, fear and confusion) compelling you to learn greater *sattwa* (light, love and wisdom).

As was said in the beginning, the planets are the agents of *sattwa*. They have all the power to create and influence events (astrology houses), your feelings about those events (astrology signs), and the deeper wisdom and lessons you are supposed to learn from those events (the planets themselves).

The Vedic rishis developed many remedies to help us heal with difficult planetary energies. Many of these remedies come from Ayurveda, or at least have a correlation. Traditional astrological remedies include herbs and diet, mantras, pujas (religious ceremonies), gemstones, aromatherapy, yoga postures as well as many bewildering combinations of activities that correspond to days of the week, colors and other things (Such as “feed black seeds to a black dog wearing an iron collar, facing West on Saturday” – for Saturn).

I personally feel that too much is made out of certain types of remedies, especially gemstones, pujas and the strange actions mentioned above. I’m not saying those things are ineffective, just that too often people are looking for these Vedic remedies to be a certain

“Indian Prozac,” to take away the pain by masking the symptoms of their karmic ills.

So often a client or friend will tell me that a certain astrologer recommended they get certain pujas, wear certain gems or perform certain activities, yet the astrologer didn’t even explain why they were doing it. Meaning, they might know it’s “for Saturn,” but specifically what is Saturn doing in their life that’s difficult and how is this remedy healing them remains unclear.

The truth is, remedies can certainly help us. But what really helps us is our intention, our understanding of the self-creating aspect of that problem, and our sadhana (spiritual practices). If the Vedic astrology remedy becomes part of your spiritual routine, that’s fantastic. But as was said, sadly people simply approach remedies as a way to take away some karmic work that they must do or get something they want – and it is usually the fault of the astrologer that they see it this way.

The other danger I see in this approach the remedies is it can really obfuscate the entire path of devotion and path of wisdom: when we approach spiritual principles with selfish aims, the merit is lost and an opportunity for authentic self-growth is wasted. So often people get astrological remedies so they can get more money, or a relationship they want, etc. – so they can increase their attachment and karma. And again, often Vedic astrologers play right into the entire system – profiting personally from the whole promise of “overcoming your karma.”

As a practicing Vedic astrologer, often people expect me to give them a puja or a mantra that’s going to help them get what they want, even if it is something that I can see is going to be painful and difficult for them.

All of these things must be watched very carefully. For the most part in my practice, I prescribe remedies for people who I know have a strong sadhana. I do not profit from any gem deal or puja ordered. As someone giving advice, I also have to be responsible for the karma that results. I do not want to be guiding people with the notion that they can “overcome the bad karma” by wearing a certain gem or getting a certain puja. I want that to augment their sadhana and be a visceral reminder of awakening that force more consciously. I make sure to explain these things.

These are just my own personal views, but I feel it’s much more important to explain the living process of the planet being healed than it is to give a remedy that someone does not even understand.

Something else needs to be understood. The bewildering remedies in the ancient texts were from the astrologers of those days interacting with the people of those times and of that culture. Too often Vedic astrology is treated like a religion. It is thought that the only way to heal certain energies is by following what is written in the ancient scriptures.

Personally, I have no doubt that the ancient rishis would modify remedies to suit the culture we now live in, just as when you go to an Indian puja now, they are speaking English and modifying certain things for our modern culture.

My approach as a practicing astrologer is to explain the nature of the planet being healed, then teach the person how to invite that energy more into their life. This approach to remedies is never harmful, unlike the constant “this astrologer said I should wear a Saturn gem, and this one said I shouldn’t” confusion. Wearing the wrong gem can be harmful.

The truth is, gem therapy is a part of “color therapy.” It is always auspicious to wear a little bit of the planet’s color on its day of the week, for example.

Below is a list of remedies you can do for weak planets of just for the days of the week that correspond to the planet.

Hymn to the Nine Planets:

Brahma- Muraari-s- Tripuraant-kaari, Bhanu, Shashi, Bhoomi-Suto
Budha-scha Guru-s-cha Shukra Shani Rahu Ketavah

Kuruvantu Sarve Mam Suprabhatam aadityaaya somaaya maN^galaaya
budhaaya cha | guru shukra shanibhyashcha raahaveketave namaH ||

Navagraha Stotra (Nine Planet Verse)

Sun:

Japaakusumasa.nkaashaM kaashyapeyaM mahadyutim.
tamo.ariM sarvapaapaghnaM praNato.asmi divaakaram.

Translation: I pray to the Sun, the day-maker, destroyer of all sins, the enemy of darkness, of great brilliance, the descendent of Kaashyapa, the one who shines like the japaa flower.

Moon:

DadhishaN^khatushhaaraabhaM kshiirodaarNavasaMbhavam.
namaami shashinaM somaM shambhormukuTabhuushhaNam

Translation: I pray to the Moon who shines coolly like curds or a white shell, who arose from the ocean of milk, who has a hare on him, Soma, who is the ornament of Shiva’s hair.

Mars:

DharaNigarbhasaMbhuutaM vidyut kaanti samaprabham.
kumaaraM shaktihastaM chamaNgalaM praNamaamyaham.h

Translation:

I pray to Mars, born of Earth, who shines with the same brilliance as lightning, the young man who carries a spear.

Mercury:

PriyaNg gukalikaashyaamaM RuupeNaapratimaM budham.h
SaumyaM saumyaguNopetaM taM budhaM praNamaamyaham.h .

Translation:

I pray to Mercury, dark like the bud of millet, of unequalled beauty, gentle and agreeable.

Jupiter:

DevaanaaM cha R^ishhiiNaam cha guru.n kaaJNchanasa.nnibham.h .
buddhibhuutaM trilokshaM taM namaami bR^ihaspatim.h

Translation:

I pray to Jupiter, the teacher of gods and rishis, intellect incarnate, lord of the three worlds.

Venus:

HimakundamR^iNaalaabhaM daityaanaaM paramaM gurum.h .
sarvashaastrapravaktaaraM bhaargavaM praNamaamyaham.h

Translation:

I pray to Venus, the ultimate preceptor of demons, promulgator of all learning, he who shines like the fiber of snow-white jasmine.

Saturn:

Niilaa.njanasamaabhaasaM raviputraM yamaagrajam.
ChhaayaamaartaNDasaM bhuutaM taM namaami shanaishcharam.h

Translation:

I pray to Saturn, the slow moving, born of Shade and Sun, the elder brother of Yama, the offspring of Sun, he who has the appearance of black collyrium.

Rahu:

ArdhakaayaM mahaaviirya.n chandraaditya vimardanam. si.
nhikaagarbhasaMbhuutaM taM raahuM praNamaamyaham.h

Translation:

I pray to Rahu, having half a body, of great bravery, the eclipser of the Moon and the Sun, born of Simhikaa.

Ketu:

Palaasha pushhpa sankashaM taarakaagraha mastakam.
RaudraM raudraatmakaM ghoraM taM ketuM praNamaamyaham.h

Translation:

I pray to Ketu, who has the appearance of Palaasha flower, the head of stars and planets, fierce and terrifying.

For Sage Vyasa ((the Author of the Stotram))

Iti vyaasamukhodgiitaM yaH paThetsusamaahitaH.
Divaa vaa yadi vaa raatrau vighnashaantirbhavishhyati

Translation:

Those who read the song sung by Vyasa, will be joyous, sovereign and

powerful, and will succeed in appeasing obstacles, occurring by day or by night.

Naranaariin RipaaNaaM cha bhaved duHsvapna Naashanam.

AishvaryamatulaM TeshhaamaarogyaM pushhTivardhanam.

Translation:

Bad dreams of men, women and kings alike will be destroyed and they will be endowed with unparalleled riches, good health and enhancing nourishment.

GRihanakshatrajaaH piiDaa Staskaraagnisamudh bhavaa

taaH sarvaaH prashamaM yaanti vyaaso bruute nasanshayaH

Translation:

All the pain, devastation caused by fire, planets and stars will be of the past, so spoke VyAsa, emphatically.

Iti shriivyaasavirachitaM navagrahastotraM saMpuurNamah.

Translation:

Thus ends the song of praise of the nine planets composed by VyAsa.

* Sanskrit translations: Dr. Vidhyanath Rao and Dr. Srinivasan Kalyanaraman.