

Principles of Praśna

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1.1 Lagna in Praśna

The Lagna is the client, but in Praśna we differentiate between various types of Lagna. The lagna in the Praśna chart is called udāya lagna, which means rising lagna.

From the udāya lagna, we will learn all about the character and sincerity of the client in their question. Tamasic planets like Saturn, Rāhu, Ketu and Mars when joining the lagna indicate lack of sincerity on the client's behalf. Here Saturn and Rāhu could compel the client to lie or be dishonest, whilst Mars and Ketu would compel the client to hold back information or test the astrologer.

Whilst the first question is seen from the lagna, the Moon and Sun will show the second and third question respectively. Treating these as lagna the native should divine the questions posed by the client. An astrologer should normally stick to answering a maximum of three questions (or even less depending on the level of sincerity of the client), but should it be necessary then some astrologers believe that the fourth question is indicated by Jupiter, whilst Mercury or Venus (whichever is stronger) indicates the fifth question. After this the honesty of the client is highly debatable. It should however be kept in mind that the question will usually have sub-questions which are all linked to the same question.

The other houses in the horoscope can then be analyzed to understand the impact of the praśna on the people who are a part of the native's life, i.e. the seventh house shows the spouse, the fifth house children, etc.

1.2 Praśna ārudha

The lagna based on nimitta or śakuna (omens & clients actions) is known as praśna lagna, and should not be confused with udāya Lagna. This is also known as praśna āruḍha. There are various types of praśna āruḍha. One is based on direction of client, limbs touched by client, word uttered by client, such as the name of a flower, animal, place or number. The praśna āruḍha can be also chosen by the client deliberately. Point is that the praśna āruḍha acts as a means to establish the focus of the Praśna. Below are given some very useful methods from the Parampara.

1.2.1 Lagnapada

The lagnapada or āruḍha lagna of the praśna chart must be calculated. It can always be used in praśna. Its house placement will show the root reason/event for the native approaching the astrologer. The lord of the lagnapada and its conjunctions will show the questions the client will ask the astrologer as a result of the events they have experienced.

1.2.2 Praśna Rāśi

The client should be asked to give a number between 1 and 108. The number should be divided by 9. The quotient will represented the Rāśi where the mind of the client is focused of occupied. The remainder represents the Navāmśa and the person thought about in the praśna.

For example: for the number 22, division by 9 gives 2 as quotient and 4 as remainder. The quotient should be increased to next integer i.e. 3 which will represent Gemini. If Gemini occupies the eleventh house from udāya Lagna the client maybe thinking about a friendship. The remainder was 4 which will represent the forth navāmśa of Gemini, i.e. Capricorn. For this example Capricorn is the sixth house, representing some enmity. Hence, the number reveals a praśna regarding a friendship with someone who could be an enemy.

1.2.3 Secret (praśna ārūḍha)

Having ascertained the focus of the clients mind the next step is to understand the real cause of the praśna, should this not be known by the client. This will reveal the underlying cause of the issues that the client is experiencing.

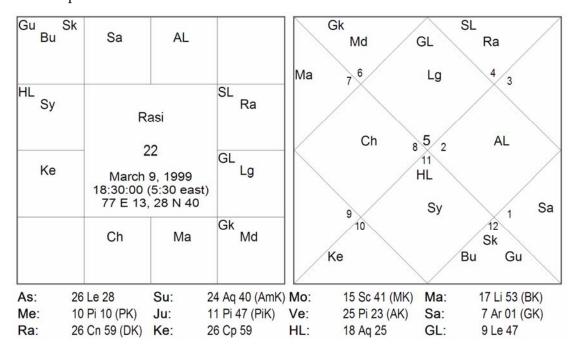
Using the same number; divide the number by 12 and again find the quotient and remainder. The quotient when rounded up represents a planet, whilst the remainder represents a sign called the number lagna. Place the number-planet in the sign indicated by the remainder of the praśna rasi +1. Thus place the number-planet in Leo.

Count from the number-planets placement to the number lagna. Count the same distance from the ascertained planet in the chart.

For example: For the number 22, the division by 12 gives 1 as the quotient, and 10 as the remainder or number lagna. The quotient is rounded up to 2 which is lorded by the Moon, whilst 10 represents the sign Capricorn. The remainder from the number lagna was 4, which we add 1 and get 5 as the sign Leo where the number-planet will be placed.

We must now count from Leo to Capricorn; Capricorn the sixth sign from Leo. In the praśna chart we must thus find the sixth sign from the Moon – this will become the praśna ārūḍha.

Chart 1: praśna arudha



Applying these principles to this example we find that the āruḍha lagna falls in tenth house indicating that a series of events pertaining to profession has brought the client. The lord of the āruḍha lagna is Venus and is joined Mercury and Jupiter indicating the questions that will be asked. The native asked whether he should marry (Venus) or focus solely on his career (Mercury and tenth lord). It may be inferred that since the lord of āruḍha lagna is placed in the eighth house, and this also is the tenth lord, that some unfortunate events in the native's career would have compelled the question. To understand what exactly, we can ask for a number from the client. The client gave the number 22 which will be used in the following analysis;

Praśna rāśi falls in Gemini, the eleventh house indicating that a friendship is under scrutiny by the native. The eleventh lord is placed in the eighth house showing that some back-stabbing is being suspected by the native, which is the cause of the question. Due to the involvement of tenth lord Venus it indicates that this is occurring in the work place. Since the navāmśa of the praśna rāśi becomes Capricorn it shows some enemy or enmity arising as Capricorn is the sixth house in the rāśi chart. Capricorn is occupied by fourth lord Ketu indicating some enmity within the office or some office-politics going on. The native came with a work-related problem and was suspecting that he was the victim of some backstabbing at his workplace.

Next step is ascertaining the secret or praśna arudha. As per the calculations mentioned, the praśna ārūḍha will fall in the sixth from the Moon sign. The sixth from the Moon is Aries. Aries is the ninth house in the chart, and indicates that the father, employer or teacher/guru is the secret cause of the issues faced by the native. At work we could infer that an employer is causing this. Saturn is placed in the ninth and Mars is opposite it forming Matibhramana yoga. It shows that the employer is the cause of the problem and that the employer is suffering from a strange type of madness. The client confirmed that he had suspected the same, and that this would be the cause of the problems.

To avoid the problems of tenth lord in the eighth from worsening in his career the native was advised to change his job.

1.3 Client

A vital step in praśna interpretation is to understand the status of the client. Here the astrologer needs to understand the three navels of Sūrya: bhūta (past), bhavisya (future) and vartamāna (present). Bhūta indicates the past of the client and the events that have unfolded until the present. Vartamāna indicates the present state of the client which will also indicate the issues raised by the client. Lastly, bhaviṣya indicates the future of the client and how their karma up to the present date has changed the future.

In praśna these three times are indicated by the Rāśi (present time), Navāmśa (past time) and Drekkāṇa (future time). In addition it should be mentioned that six divisional charts are used in praśna namely: Rāśi (self and present), Horā (mother), Drekkāṇa (siblings and future), Navāmśa (father and past), Dvādaśāmśa (wife and children) and Trimsāmśa (partners).

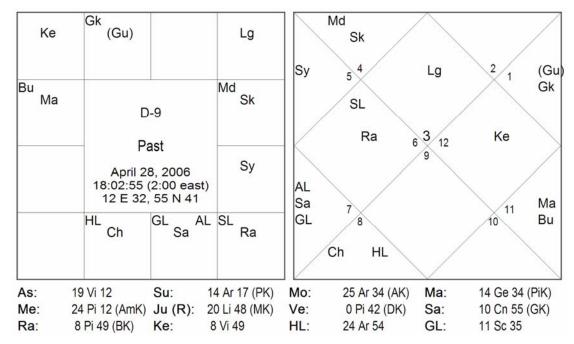
1.3.1 Bhūta - past of client

When analyzing the past of the client, two important aspects of the chart are important: 1) what karma is the natal chart indicating, and 2) what karma have they experienced already. Thankfully, the praśna navāmśa will reveal both these aspects of the chart.

The navāmśa lagna will indicate the lagna of the client. Here the stronger between the lagna, trines, seventh and lord of lagna, must be ascertained. The stronger of these or the planets strongly influencing the lagna will indicate the same.

Second step is analysis. Here the navāmśa lagna itself is chosen as lagna, and the chart is read in the 'past tense', because all the events have already happened.

Chart 2: Ladies past



In this praśna chart of a lady, the navāmśa lagna is Gemini and its lord is joined Mars making it stronger than the remaining signs. The native has Aries lagna with Mars in Aquarius.

When the lagna lord is in the ninth house and Rāhu aspects the pitṛpada (A9) the natives father may have died prematurely. Indeed this was the case as the natives father passed away very early. This also gives very bad luck ever since the fathers passing, which must be confirmed in the natal chart and remedied.

Upapada is placed in fourth house and in a mercurial sign (vidyā/education) indicating meeting the spouse very early during primary education. The native met their spouse at 16 years of age and married within one year. Venus is placed in the second house and can give sorrow from relationships as the seventh from it is the eighth house. Eighth lord is Saturn and can show that disease is the nature of this sorrow. Saturn is placed in the second from upapada indicating that disease would afflict the spouse, but its exaltation confirms long lasting marriage. A debilitated planet must associate with the second from the upapada to indicate torment of the spouse through disease. Moon is debilitated and lords the sign of Venus and aspects

it – here Venus is the lord of the second from upapada confirming the problem. The nature of the disease is related to the lungs (moon).

The seventh lord is placed in the eleventh house, which is supposed to give bad luck to children and wealth/gains from spouse. Because of the retrogression the prediction is reversed and the children have been a big blessing in the family, whilst the spouse has due to his disease become a burden on the family. The ninth from upapada or its trines can reveal the amount of children. The ninth from upapada has no planets, whilst its trines have a strong Rāhu. Rāhu by virtue of its retrogression can give three children and the native has three children; a boy and two girls. Further details should be learnt from the dvādaśāmśa.

The tenth house is occupied by Ketu in Pisces which can give a practitioner of astrology or mathematics. Jupiter is in the eleventh house and will promote Jyotish. The native is an astrologer and sees clients regularly.

In this manner the past of the client can be analyzed and understood.

1.3.2 Vartamāna – present of client

The present issues, questions, problems, initiatives of the client should all be ascertained from the rāśi chart. Here the present scenario can change the person's karma up to one year, i.e. good results can be delayed up to one year or come sooner due to the native's actions. This is thus judged in the praśna.

Again the lagna represents the client and the houses represent the particular area of life focused on by the client. However, depending on the TYPE of praśna the houses may change their significations to suit the relevant area. This would apply in particular to praśna of the following kind: Deva (deity/god), Raja (mundane), Kūpa (area and land), Bhojana (meals and eating), Suratha (cohabitation), Svapna (dreams), etc. For example: in Bhojana praśna the eighth house indicates how well the food was prepared, whilst the sixth shows the various side dishes. These various areas should be mastered individually by the student

Yet, in most praśna the method of analyzing the rāśi is accepted by most śāstra as being akin to the method of analyzing the natal chart as exemplified in Chart 1.

The success of the praśna must also be carefully divined from the praśna rāśi which will be explained under the paragraphs further below.

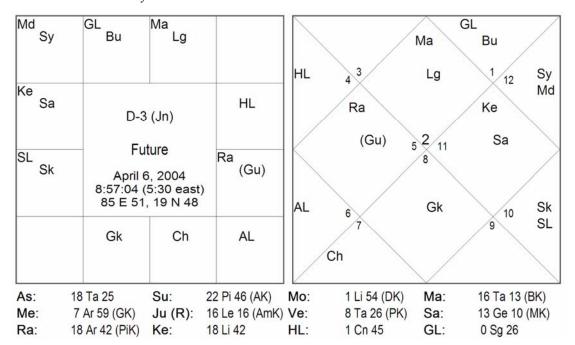
1.3.3 Bhaviṣya - future of the client

The drekkāṇa shows the future of the client, but here the Jagannāth drekkāṇa which shows the karma phala¹ of the native is to be used instead of the normal Parāśara drekkāṇa. Here the 'future' refers to events happening one year after the praśna.

Again the lagna is the native and the chart should be judged like any natal chart only the perspective should be the future events awaiting the native.

¹ Fruits of karma.

Chart 3: Gentleman's future



The chart of this gentleman has the Venus in the ninth house which carries an inauspicious trait being the lagnesa in the ninth house and can affect the health of the father. With the shraddha yoga occurring in the tenth house along with the ninth lord it also confirms the danger to the father.

The pitṛpada is in Pisces joined the Sun, which should protect the father however the parivartana between Sun and Jupiter has been tainted by the conjunction of Rāhu with Jupiter, and caused the demise of the native's father one year after the date of the praśna.

The same parivartana is also indicating a change in stay/home. Rāhu and Jupiter in the fourth house show lack of stability in the home and also unrest in the same. With tenth lord (world) in the fourth (home) the native had acquired the understanding of the world being his home, and had no particular home. The parivartana occurring between the eleventh and fourth puts a focus on the Sun in the eleventh where not only will a change of this situation occur, but the native will also establish a seat for astrology (eleventh house), due to Sun being the ātmakāraka in the praśna. Within two years of the praśna the native bought a house and began teaching regular classes in astrology. With the Sharaḍa yoga occurring between Moon and second lord Mercury the native will be strongly involved in a group devoted to the knowledge of the rishis.

The tenth house is occupied by Saturn and Ketu which causes a lot of menial work for the person, and can give lack of professional happiness. With the lord joined this same combination and the karaka mercury being negatively placed in the twelfth house the remedy is hard to come by and the native should worship Sri Sūrya with the mantra: 'Om Ghṛni Suryāditya' to overcome the evil of the shraddha yoga which is negatively affecting the profession.

With seventh lord in lagna the praśna shows a strong focus on relationships arising after the date of the praśna. With Venus in the ninth as well, it promises the

establishment of a relationship and good luck after this. The native entered into a serious relationship two years after the date of the praśna.

1.4 Kārya bhāva and Kāryeśa

The issue or focus of the praśna must be analyzed in the praśna rāśi. By understanding the focus of the praśna one can also understand and predict the results of the praśna. The focus of the praśna is known as the kārya, and manifests in the form of a house (kārya bhāva) and kāraka for the focus (kāryeśa). Example: Should the praśna be regarding disease the house of focus would be eighth house, whilst the kāraka would be Saturn.

Through analysis of the kārya bhāva and kāryeśa we can understand the situation faced by the client. Further this will also define the success of the praśna.

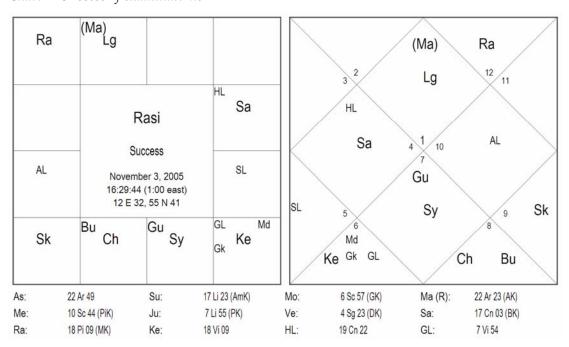
1.4.1 Success of praśna

The success of the praśna is dependant on the strength of the lagna and the kāryeśa. The parampara gives four types of strength in descending order of importance:

- Lagneśa aspects lagna and the kāryesa aspects the kārya bhāva.
- Lagneśa aspects/joins the kārya bhāva and the kāryeśa aspects/joins lagna.
- Lagneśa and kāryeśa aspect/join each other².
- Moon aspects both the karyeśa and lagneśa.

Here it is important to mention that partial formations of these combinations will only give partial success.

Chart 4: Success of examinations

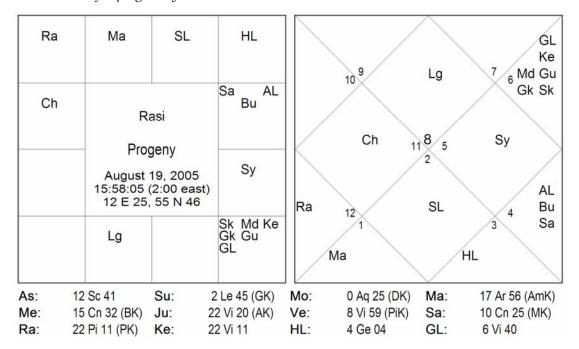


This lady enquired about the success of her exams. The tenth house is the kārya bhāva for completing or succeeding in any karma yoga, whilst the kāraka is Mercury.

² Notably the second and third points are the four types of sambandha: parivartana, yuti, samdṛṣṭi and parivartana dṛṣṭi.

In this case the lagneśa is in the lagna making it strong, whilst the kāryeśa aspects the tenth house, ensuring success. Moon joins/aspects both again which ensures the success after a lot of determination (debilitated Moon). It could be predicted that the success in examinations was guaranteed for the lady. The lady not only passed but with a high grade also.

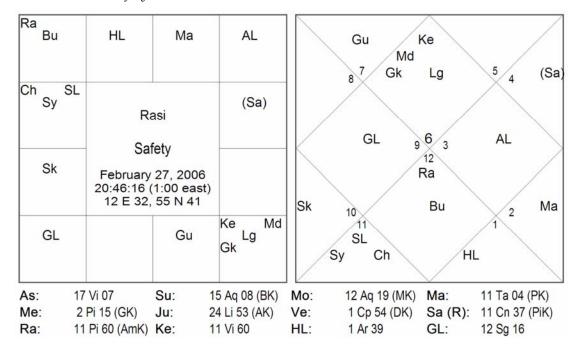
Chart 5: Fruitful pregnancy



In the case of pregnancy the kārya bhāva is the fifth house and the kāryeśa is Jupiter. A lady enquired whether she would be able to have children. The lagneśa Mars is aspecting the lagna making it strong, and Jupiter is also aspecting the fifth house both confirming that the native will be pregnant within a very short period of time. However Rāhu is also in the fifth house and Jupiter joins the Rāhu/Ketu axis confirming a curse of Sarpas³ in the chart, for which the native may suffer delay or loss of progeny. The native became pregnant but suffered a miscarriage prematurely. After this the appropriate remedies were begun to attain a child.

³ Literally curse of snakes, but it actually refers to having done a great injustice towards nature.

Chart 6: Vehicle safety

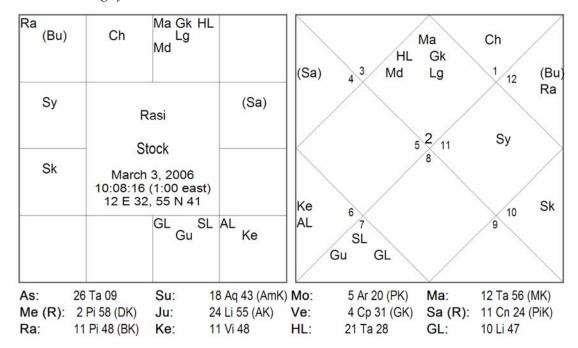


The client approach this astrologer after their car had become vandalized by some youngsters. The query was "will it happen again?" The astrologer should interpret this query as "is the car safe" and analyze the protection of Mars on the fourth house (luxuries and other items).

In the praśna Mars does aspect the fourth house and lagneśa aspects the lagna ensuring the protection of the car and success of the praśna, however the same lagneśa is debilitated and joined Rāhu and can indicate that the native himself could cause future problems to the car, and this will be due to Rāhu – type problems in his natal chart. As Mercury is also tenth lord and lord of ārūḍha lagna, the question has a vital bearing on the natives career.

Shortly after the praśna the native was involved in a car accident whilst driving in a foreign country which completely wrecked the car. Hence the native himself was the cause of the problems here.

Chart 7: Selling of shares



The client approached this author with the question 'is it a good time to sell the shares?' Obviously this is a query regarding the gain of money, and hence the eleventh house and Jupiter become the kārya bhāva and kāryeśa.

Here the lagneśa is strong because it aspects the lagna itself. Jupiter is also aspecting the lagna, but neither Jupiter nor lagneśa aspect or join the eleventh house to support the gain of money. We may infer that a mere partial success can be reaped and this author predicted that the sale could happen but not immediately, and with only partial success.

Now analyzing the actual state of the eleventh house we see that retrograde Mercury is placed there and is blocking the gain of objective. This is also the lord of the āruḍha lagna showing the nature of the questions, and is furthermore blocking the doors of the āruḍha by being placed in the seventh from it.

This author pointed out that there is some paperwork which will inhibit the sale of the shares, and for this reason the sale may not happen.

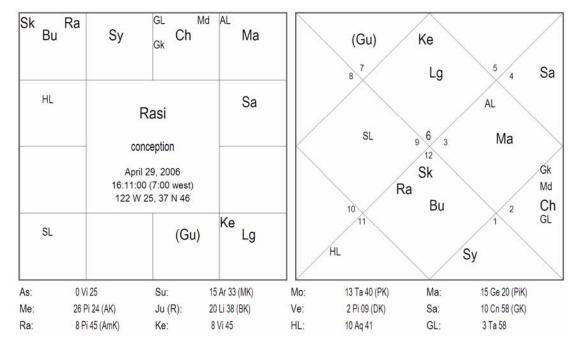
The client tried to sell the shares but came to realize that a special contract (mercury) had been made, due to which the shares could not be sold on an immediate basis. The client is currently performing remedies to remove the bondage caused by the nodes along the axis of the āruḍha lagna and its seventh house.

1.4.2 Intention of Client

Having ascertained the kāryeśa of the praśna, the intention of the praśna must also be known for the sake of understanding the motivation of the client. This is seen from the seventh house in the praśna. If a question is regarding longevity but Mars (enemy of Saturn) is placed in the seventh house, then the client maybe expecting/hoping for the death of someone or themselves. Hence bad intentions should not be encouraged as they end up bringing bad karma upon the client, and also upon the astrologer for giving wrong advice.

The enemy of the kāryeśa should not be placed in the seventh house, otherwise the client has bad intentions.

Chart 8: Conception



A colleague answered a query regarding the client's pregnancy. The client had conceived and due to the circumstances of the conception she wanted to know whether it was a good idea to continue the pregnancy.

Bells should be ringing in any astrologers head as a negative answer would involve the killing of life (jīva - Jupiter). Jupiter itself being the kāryeśa for children is not associated with the fifth house, but is in parivartana with the second lord. As lagneśa is joined second lord, it bridges the gap between lagneśa and kāryeśa ensuring the pregnancy. However, the enemy of the kāryeśa is Rāhu and is placed in the seventh house coloring the clients intention. In other words the client is not sure whether they want to keep the child. As the lord of the lagnapada is joined Rāhu this also colored the clients questions. As Venus is exalted and joined this combination, pressure may be coming from the partner to go for an abortion.

Fortunately the parivartana yoga aspires to change the client's intentions/understanding, and they will decide to complete the pregnancy.

1.4.3 Timing success/failure

Having ascertained the events which will come to pass, the next natural step is timing the events.

At first a broad timing of the events is required based on the chart at hand. If the yogas for success are indicated, then the events will happen within a year. If the yogas for success are only partial then the results can be delayed:

- more than one year if the kāryeśa only associates partially with the lagna/lagneśa or moon.
- more than five years if the karyesa only associates with the kārya bhāva.

Should the event be delayed for more than one year then the use of daśās or other means should be resorted to.

Should the event be promised within a year then a variety of methods can be used.

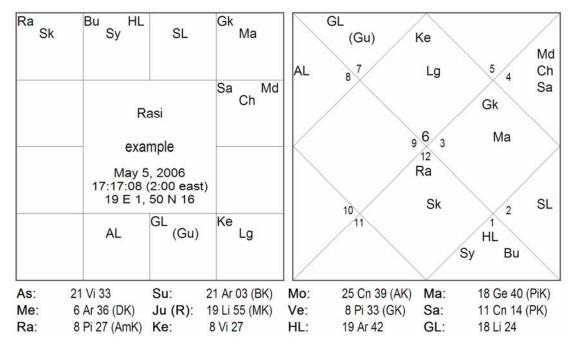
- i) If retrograde planets are indicating the event, then the event will come to pass when that planet becomes direct.
- ii) If no retrograde planets are involved then the event will come to pass in the time period⁴ indicated by the planet, or the daśā indicated by the planet.

Here the daśā systems in vogue are usually compressed Vimśottari daśā and especially the tradition uses a Nārāyaṇa daśā variation. This Nārāyaṇa daśā variation will now be taught in this article.

The Nārāyaṇa daśā is the daśā of the twelve signs, and specifically for this purpose the twelve signs occupy a period of one month each. Here using the normal method of calculating the sequence of the daśā, the period of one month is allotted to each sign. For results expected beyond one year, the normal method of calculating Nārāyaṇa/Vimśottari daśā is used, and the results are applied to the Jagannath Drekkāṇa.

⁴ Here Parāśara states: Moon rules a horā (on hour), Mars rules a vāra (day), Venus rules a pakṣa (fortnight or half-month), Jupiter rules a māṣa (month), Mercury rules a rtu (a season or two months), Sun rules an āyana (six months), Saturn rules a varṣā (one year).

Chart 9: Nārāyaṇa Daśā example



For the given chart, the seventh house being occupied by two planets is stronger than the lagna. The seventh house is Pisces and is a dual sign, thus the Nārāyaṇa daśā will progress through the trines.

The ninth house from Pisces is an odd footed sign, thus giving the daśā a forward sequence (i.e. Pisces, Cancer, Scorpio, etc).

Based on this we can derive the following sequence, to which every daśā is allotted one month beginning from the praśna date.

Table 1: One year Nārāyaṇa daśā

#	Daśā	Starting date
1.	Pisces	2006-05-05
2.	Cancer	2006-06-05
3.	Scorpio	2006-07-07
4.	Sagittarius	2006-08-07
5.	Aries	2006-09-07
6.	Leo	2006-10-08
7.	Virgo	2006-11-07
8.	Capricorn	2006-12-07
9.	Taurus	2007-01-05
10.	Gemini	2007-02-04
11.	Libra	2007-03-06
12.	Aquarius	2007-04-05

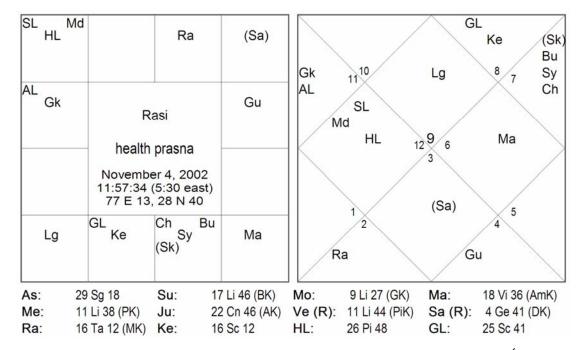
Here the exact solar progression of 30 degrees is required to determine the exact dates of the Nārāyaṇa daśā.

EVENT TIMING

To understand which planets will give the event we differentiate between the lagnesa (self-initiative), the kāryeśa (circumstances/world) and the Moon (community/family) bringing the event.

- o If lagneśa is the stronger to promote the event, then the timing is based on the placement of the lagneśa.
- o If the kāryeśa is the stronger, then the timing is based on the kāryeśa itself.
- o Should the moon be stronger, then naturally it will promise the timing.

Chart 10: Health Praśna



This praśna was presented by Pt. Sanjay Rath in the article: 'Praśna: Horary Śāstra', presented at the SJC-USA conference 2004.

The question was regarding the recovery of the father's health. Here the lagneśa is placed in the eighth house whilst the kāryeśa Saturn has rāśi and Graha dṛṣṭi on the lagna, promoting a positive answer and that he father would recover. Jupiter is placed in the eighth and exalted whilst Saturn is weaker to promote due to its aspect, hence we may infer that the lagneśa will facilitate the timing in this case.

Next step is analyzing the actual circumstances of the father. Here the ninth house is lorded by the Sun who is placed in debility in the third there from. This can indicate the nature of the problem being related to the heart.

Sun gets nīca bhañga from Saturn and Mars in Kendra, thus ensuring the recovery through operation (mars) and long rest/sick leave (Saturn). Venus also gives nīca bhañga by being placed in a Kendra from the Moon indicating a mantra for Venus or Mṛtyunjaya mantra would ensure the complete recovery.

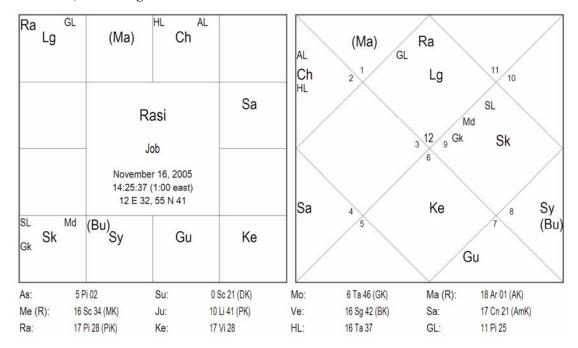
The daśās start from Gemini and progress forward and zodiacally due to Saturn's placement.

Table 2: health and recovery

#	Daśā	Starting date
1.	Gemini	2002-11-04
2.	Cancer	2002-12-04
3.	Leo	2003-01-02
4.	Virgo	2003-02-01
5.	Libra	2003-03-02
6.	Scorpio	2003-04-02
7.	Sagittarius	2003-05-02
8.	Capricorn	2003-06-02
9.	Aquarius	2003-07-04
10.	Pisces	2003-08-04
11.	Aries	2003-09-04
12.	Taurus	2003-10-05

The daśā of Gemini is very auspicious and will promote the drive to improve the health and take the necessary rest, whilst the next daśā of Cancer, which houses lagneśa, will be the actual healer. During Cancer daśā the father underwent an operation after which his health improved considerably.

Chart 11: Job hunting



In this chart the query was regarding Job and Marriage. The native had been out of a job and was searching desperately. This author gleaned that due to Moon joined the āruḍha lagna that the pressure for marriage and job was mainly coming from mother. Since the lord of āruḍha lagna is Venus (relationships/marriage) and is placed in the tenth house (job) it indicated the nature of the query.

The nodes are along the 1/7 axis showing a desperate situation for the client, and a feeling of being stuck. The only link between kāraka and lagneśa is the moon who aspects both of them by rāśi and graha dṛṣṭi. Otherwise the strong parivartana between Venus and Jupiter also links the lagneśa strongly to the tenth house. It can be inferred that this promises a broad timing of maximum one year for the event to fructify.

Next step is fine tuning the timing. Moon is dominating in its association with the kāraka and lagneśa and should indicate the timing. The seventh house is stronger to start the Nārāyaṇa daśā, as the seventh lord occupies a higher chara kārakatva than the first lord. The ninth from Virgo is an odd-footed sign, thus moving the dasas in a forward direction, but since Ketu is in the Virgo, this will be reversed. Virgo is a dual sign and the daśā will traverse the trines. The timing is given in Table 3:

Table 3: Job timing

#	Daśā	Starting date
1.	Virgo	2005-11-16
2.	Taurus	2005-12-16
3.	Capricorn	2006-01-14
4.	Sagittarius	2006-02-13
5.	Leo	2006-03-15
6.	Aries	2006-04-14
7.	Pisces	2006-05-15
8.	Scorpio	2006-06-15
9.	Cancer	2006-07-17
10.	Gemini	2006-08-17
11.	Aquarius	2006-09-17
12.	Libra	2006-10-17

The first daśā of Virgo has neither moon, lagneśa nor kāryeśa but it aspects the tenth house by rāśi dṛṣṭi and will promise knowledge/information about jobs in its daśā. During this time the native was given a job offer and accepted it. Probably the parivartana between Jupiter and Venus has made Venus act as lagneśa for the native, and given the deciding power to accept a job. The native accepted the job on the 7th of December 2005.

However, it was not until Taurus daśā, which is occupied by the Moon, that the native entered the job on the 2nd of January 2006.

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