

# Praśna: Horary astrology

## 1.1 Introduction

### 1.1.1 Meaning of 'Praśna'

The word praśna has various meanings. Some of these are -

1. A question or query regarding anything and everything. This includes the 'desire to know' and the 'intention' of the questioner.
2. An inquiry like a judicial inquiry or examination or an astrological inquiry into the future. This is the task of the competent astrologer or such person who is conducting the praśna. The inquiry or praśna can be conducted by a single astrologer or it can be conducted by a group of astrologers as is done in aṣṭamaṅgalaṁ praśna.
3. A subject of inquiry, point at issue, controversy or problem and this is the definition of the question itself and its particular area of focus. This can be a vivāha (marriage) praśna where the query is regarding marriage or such subject matter that defines the area of focus of the praśna.

### 1.1.2 Systematic approach

This makes the scope of the subject very vast and cumbersome. Almost any question on any topic can fall into its scope and it is really impossible for the astrologer to remember all the combinations that give rise to these queries. To make the study meaningful, it is necessary to approach the subject in a systematic and organized manner.

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## 2. Preliminary

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### 2.1.1 Praśna chart

Rule I. A praśna chart is defined as a map of the heavens for the station of the astrologer at the precise moment when the astrologer begins the inquiry.

The question is a thought of enquiry having (1) a desire to know and (2) intention about a subject involving people, places or other matters.

The thought may take some time to become a question. Often thoughts persist in the minds of people and they may not be serious enough to merit an astrological inquiry. Again the person may want to make the query but for one reason or the other there maybe delay in getting an appointment or meeting the astrologer. At other times there he may send a letter or e-mail and this maybe opened and read by the astrologer at a later date. All these delays are to be noted as sakuna (omens or indicators) but the time at which the astrologer is inspired to draw the chart of the heavens to answer the query is to be taken as the praśna time and the station of the astrologer is the station for which the praśna chart is to drawn. Secondly the query should be serious enough to merit the attention of the astrologer. Frivolous questions like the price of potatoes or absurd questions like the end of the world should be ignored by the intelligent astrologer. Remember the overriding factor is Jupiter. If Jupiter associates in any manner with the lagna, then there is a strong element of truth and the Jyotiṣa should answer the query intelligently.

### 2.1.2 Mind & heart of questioner

Rule II. The 'honest desire to know' and the 'real intention' are important aspects about the questioner that are to be determined from the lagna and seventh house respectively.

2.2 The honesty behind the desire to know about something is seen from the lagna as this is the intellect of the questioner. If the lagna is afflicted by (a) malefic planets in it, or (b) weak Moon in it with Saturn in quadrant and combust/severely afflicted Mercury or weak Moon aspected by Mars and Mercury. Instead if benefic planets aspect the lagna the there is no dishonesty. Even the aspect of Mars alone or a strong Moon indicates that the desire to know is honest. If two or more planets aspect or conjoin the lagna then they indicate a desire to know but that there are doubts.

If the lagna is afflicted in this manner then the questioner is not honest about the query and is either trying to play a prank (Mercury) or has some jealousy (Saturn) or anger (Mars). The Moon is definitely weak from kṛṣṇa

caturdaśi (K14) to śukla pratipada (S1) and such a Moon indicates some vile intention in the mind of the questioner and that he is going to do some harm, especially if the other negative indications are also confirmed. The Moon is generally considered strong from śukla aṣṭamī (S8) to kṛṣṇa aṣṭamī (K8).

2.3 The real intention of the questioner is seen from the seventh house as this is the seat of the real desire. If malefic planets are in this house or such malefic yogas occur then the intention is not good and he does not wish to use the information for good purpose. If instead Jupiter and Mercury aspect the seventh house then the intention is definitely good.

A house gains strength if it is aspected by its lord, Jupiter or Mercury (second source of strength). Similarly, merely because the planet in the 7<sup>th</sup> house is a malefic planet we cannot conclude that the intention is bad. If such a planet has good aspects then it shows that the intention is good but there is considerable fear or remorse in the heart. Such positions are seen in questions pertaining to marriage delays or disease. Nevertheless, the chart should be read.

#### *Example 1*

In Praśna chart 01, the lagna does not have any malefic planets in it but is aspected by Saturn and Mars as the lagna lord Jupiter is exalted. These malefic aspects of Saturn and Mars cannot constitute dishonesty in mind of the questioner. Instead, the aspect of Mars and the strength of Jupiter do indicate that a sincere question has been made. Similarly, the seventh house has the conjunction of a retrograde Saturn and aspect of Rāhu as Mercury the lord of the same is conjoined the luminaries and a beneficial Venus. The questioner seems to be very worried about something but the intention is not evil.

This praśna relates to the health of the natives father and as indicated above, mere presence or aspect of malefic planets cannot indicate that the intention is bad or evil if the lord is well placed and is conjoined benefic planets. The evil planets can also indicate the nature of the question.

#### *Chart 1: Praśna-01*

SL	HL		Ra	(Sa)
AL	Md	Rasi		Ju
		Prasna-01		
	Gk	November 4, 2002 11:57:34 (5:30 east) 77 E 13, 28 N 40		
GL	As	Ke	Mo Su Me (Ve)	Ma

	Gk	GL	Ke	(Ve)
Md	11	10	As	8
AL				7
	SL			
	HL	12	9	6
		3		Ma
	1		(Sa)	5
	2			4
	Ra			Ju

As:	29 Sg 18	Su:	17 Li 46 (BK)	Mo:	9 Li 27 (GK)	Ma:	18 Vi 36 (AmK)
Me:	11 Li 38 (PK)	Ju:	22 Cn 46 (AK)	Ve (R):	11 Li 44 (PiK)	Sa (R):	4 Ge 41 (DK)
Ra:	16 Ta 12 (MK)	Ke:	16 Sc 12	HL:	28 Pi 45	GL:	0 Sg 34

### 2.3.1 Number of queries

Rule III. Satya (truth) is the basis for determining the number of questions that can be answered. Normally it is best to ask one question or to answer one question.

- 2.4 Lagna is the satya pīṭha and the first question is always answered from lagna.
- 2.5 If more than one question is asked at one sitting by one or more people, then the second question is answered from Candra lagna (treating Moon as ascendant), third question from Sūrya lagna (treating Sun as ascendant).
- 2.6 Some astrologers opine that the fourth question should be answered from Guru Lagna (treating Jupiter as ascendant) and the fifth question from Budha/Śukra lagna (treating Mercury/Venus as ascendant whichever is stronger).

The number of questions that should be answered will depend on the number of these lagna that are under beneficial disposition. In praśna chart-01, the main question asked was only one and this can easily be answered from the lagna. However if the lady had asked another question this would have to be answered from Moon lagna. Now Moon is very weak (amāvāsyā tithi) and if another question was asked then it should not be answered. In such charts the second and subsequent questions should not be answered. If instead the Sun is very afflicted then two questions can be answered – first based on lagna and second on Moon. In this manner the intelligent astrologer decides the number of questions to answer.

The main question can have many sub-questions or allied questions and all of them should be treated as parts of the main question. For example, if the main question is 'When will my father recover from ill-health?' then subsequent questions like 'Should we consider the doctors advice for an

operation?’ or ‘Should we shift father to another hospital?’ should be treated as parts of the main question and should be seen from lagna. The main point is that the parts of the praśna i.e. (a) main topic or person about whom query is made and (b) subject matter of the query, should not change. If either changes then this should be treated as a separate question.

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## 3. Reading praśna chart

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A praśna chart should be treated like a regular horoscopy chart for most matters. The various characteristics of planets and signs can be learnt from any standard literature like Kṛṣṇīyaṃ or Praśna Mārga<sup>1</sup>.

### 3.1.1 Strength of bhava

Rule IV. A bhāva associated or aspected (graha dṛṣṭi) by its lord, Jupiter or Mercury is considered strong. The association/aspect of benefic planets causes it to flourish while the association or aspect of a malefic planet causes it to be destroyed.

3.2 A strong house gives support to its adjoining houses as well as to the houses it aspects (rāśi dṛṣṭi) while a weak house damages other adjoining houses and those that it aspects.

3.3 The presence of the ātmakāraka causes a bhāva to gain considerable strength and the four sources of strength should be used independently and intelligently based on the question asked.

### 3.3.1 Success & failure

Rule V. Fulfillment of objective (i.e. success in the praśna) is indicated by strength to the ascendant and the concerned house.

3.4 A strong lagna (see previous rule) or (b) vargottama lagna especially with respect to the concerned division or (c) śīrṣodaya sign in lagna or (d) high sarvāṣṭakavarga dots indicates fulfilment of objective.

3.5 If the indications are contrary to those stated above, the object of the query will not be fulfilled or a negative answer is to be given.

3.6 If the influences are mixed i.e. both positive and negative indications exist then success comes after overcoming initial setbacks and hindrances.

Rule VI. Lagneśa & Kāraka have sambandha or yoga. the object of the query will be completely fulfilled if -

3.7 Lagneśa aspects lagna and kāraka aspects the concerned bhāva or

3.8 Lagneśa aspects the concerned bhāva and the kāraka aspects lagna or

3.9 Lagneśa and kāraka have sambandha (relationship-one of the four kinds where the kāraka is to be treated as the lord of the kārya bhāva i.e. concerned house) or

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<sup>1</sup> The house significations given by Nīlakaṇṭha in Praśna Tantra is not acceptable as use of the tenth house for determining father or second house for roads and horses (means of commutation) etc. are in divergence with the standard literature.

- 3.10 The Moon aspects both the kāraka and lagneśa
- 3.11 Success is proportionately lower if the conditions given for the success of the praśna are not completely fulfilled.
- 3.11.1 About 75% success occurs when (a) at least one benefic planet aspects the lagna or (b) lagneśa and a few benefic planets associate with the 10th house.
- 3.11.2 About 50% success occurs when lagneśa is aspected by at least one benefic planet.
- 3.11.3 About 25% success occurs when the ascendant is neither aspected by benefic planets nor its lord nor is its lord aspected by benefic planets.

In all these cases it is necessary that the kāraka has some association with the concerned house or lagneśa to confirm success. The object of the query will not be completely fulfilled if the kāraka does not aspect the lagna or its lagneśa. Even if it is fulfilled through its association with the concerned bhāva, the fruits thereof shall not be fully enjoyed by the native. Benefic planets aspecting the lagna instead of the lagna lord in the above combinations shows that there is success due to the help/support of another

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## 4. Timing results

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### 4.1.1 Past, present & future

Rule VII. The past, present and future can be read by the following methods –

- 4.2 Trikoṇa: Lagna is present, ninth house is past and fifth house is future just as the father (past) is seen from the ninth house, the self (present) from lagna and the child (future) is seen from the fifth house. The lords of these houses signify the positions very accurately. This shows the immediate environment, family or lineage.
- 4.3 Pāka lagna: The recent past, present and future for the native himself is seen from the apoklimas, kendra and paṇapara respectively from the pāka lagna.
- 4.4 Varga: The past from the moment of birth to present is seen from the navāmsā; the present from the moment of query to a period of a year (Saṁvatsara) is seen from the rāśi chart and the future beyond a period of one year is seen from the drekkāṇa chart.

### 4.4.1 Broad Timing of results

Rule VIII. Immediate results are those that occur within a year of the query and can be timed using transits or compressed daśā. Results of the query fructify when -

- 4.5 One of the four saṁbandha between the kāraka and lagneśa exist also involving either of lagna or concerned house. Then the results are immediate (within a year) and are to be timed from the lagneśa.
- 4.6 The kāraka associates with both lagna and lagneśa. Then the results flow from the kāraka and are immediate (within a year).
- 4.7 The kāraka associates with only one of lagna, lagneśa or Moon. Then the results are delayed and are beyond a year.
- 4.8 If the kāraka associates with the concerned bhāva and no other success indicator exists then the results are very much delayed, sometimes beyond a Saṁvatsara Yuga (5 years).

### 4.8.1 Fine timing of results

Rule IX. Fine timing of results is done with the motion of planets and their movement into signs and formation of aspect with other planets and signs. The various daśā like Vimśottari daśā should be used intelligently. Those conversant with the Patyayini daśā and varśaphala can also use them. The moot point is to



use what you are good with and what you understand else the wise saying '*markaṭa ke hātha me śāligrāma patthar hota hai*<sup>2</sup>' shall apply.

- 4.9 Retrograde planets associated with the 11th house give results after they become direct or the concerned planets in transit should be within the orb of the lagna or bhāva cusp or the orb of another planet for giving the results.
- 4.10 The periods of the planets are: Moon –muhurta, Mars – week, Venus – pakśa (fortnight), Jupiter – Māsa (month), Mercury – ṛtu (season – 2 months), Sun – ayana (6 months) and Saturn – Saṁvatsara (year). Dr.B.V.Raman teaches that the period is proportionate to the navāmsā progressed by the planet and this has been found to be very accurate.
- 4.11 The twelve rāśi can also be used to time the results of the 12 months (if the result is immediate) or with Nārāyaṇa daśā periods if it is delayed. In such cases, the order of the rāśi will always be based on dharma (i.e. they will follow the order ordained by the Nārāyaṇa daśā).

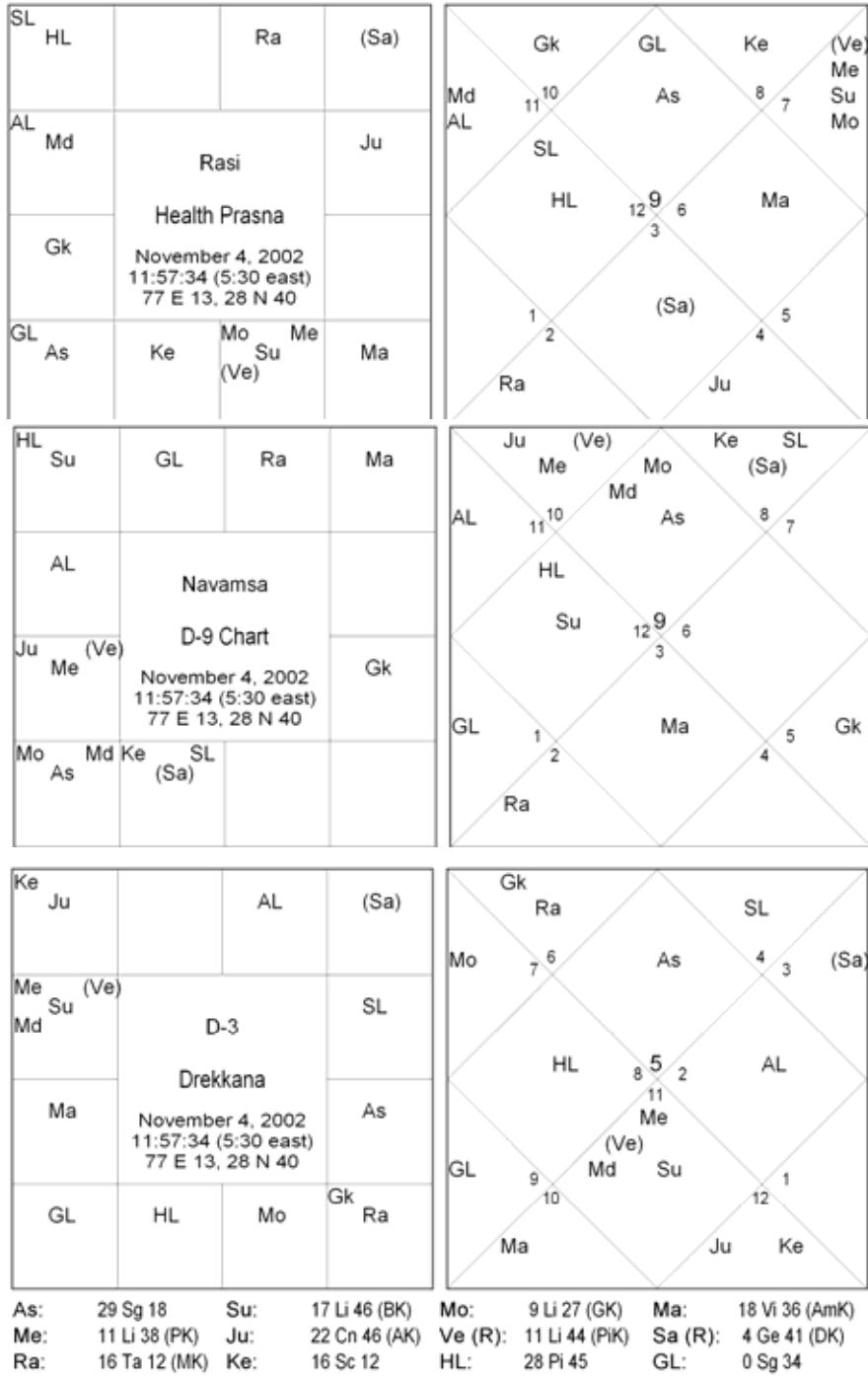
Those of you who have visited the Acyuta ashram at Kakatpur during the Puri conference would have seen how this was used to time results in months. This is a very effective system and we shall show its use along with the one taught by Dr.Raman which is also another standard traditional tool.

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<sup>2</sup> The holy *śāligrāma* representing Viṣṇu is but a stone in the hands of a monkey.

## 5. Illustration - Health

Chart 2: Same as Praśna-01



A woman made this query regarding her father's health. He was admitted to the hospital in the intensive care unit (ICU) after suffering a stroke.

Question was whether this is going to be fatal either in the short or long term and if there is recovery, when will it happen?

#### 5.1.1 Preliminary

Although there are various factors involved for judging the mind and intention, the fact that the lagna is Sagittarius (owned by Jupiter) is sufficient for us to continue the inquiry. Further, only one question was posed and can be answered from the lagna.

#### 5.2 Reading praśna chart

##### 5.2.1 Strength of bhāva

The praśna pertains to health and disease and Saturn is the significator of disease. Disease can be seen from the 6<sup>th</sup> house (agantuka – external causes) or 8<sup>th</sup> house (nīja – internal causes). Heart and other such chronic diseases that occur due to wrong life styles or past karma are the cause and external sources should not be blamed for this. This is seen from the 8<sup>th</sup> house. Since this is heart disease the Moon should also be involved.

The lagna lord Jupiter is exalted and the lagna has 33 dots in the sarvāṣṭakavarga (SAV) showing that the lagna is strong.

The question pertains to father who is seen in the ninth house Leo. The Sun is debilitated but gets nīcabhaṅga due to the presence of Mars in a kendra from lagna and Venus in a kendra from the Moon. Saturn the lord of Libra where the Sun is debilitated is also placed in a kendra from lagna. Thus the Sun gets complete nīcabhaṅga rājayoga. In addition the ninth house has 37 dots in the sarvāṣṭakavarga clearly indicating that the ninth house is very strong.

Treating the ninth house as lagna for father, the eighth house from it is Pisces. Jupiter the lord of Pisces is exalted and the sign gets 33 dots in the sarvāṣṭakavarga showing that this is also very strong.

When the praśna lagna is so strong and the praśna bhāva (9<sup>th</sup> house – father) as well as the kāraka bhāva (8<sup>th</sup> house from praśna bhāva – Pisces) is also so strong it indicates that the results are going to be positive.

##### 5.2.2 Success & failure

The success of the query is seen from the strength of the lagna and concerned bhāva. As indicated above the lagna and concerned bhāva are very strong clearly indicating success of the query. Further, the lagna is also vargottama confirming that the result is going to be positive.

### 5.2.3 Timing result

The lagna lord is in the concerned bhāva (8th house) as the kāraka Saturn aspects the lagna indicating that the result is immediate i.e. with a year (maximum).

Let us apply Raman's rule – the lagna lord Jupiter is in 22°46'20" in Cancer. The number of navāmśa traversed by Jupiter is 6.831667 [22°46'20" ÷ 3°20' = 6.831667]. Since Jupiter rules the period of a month, the time indicated for complete recovery is 6.831667 months i.e. 6 months 24 days.

We can also time through the method of the 'month equals a rāśi' based on the order of the Nārāyaṇa daśā. Here the seventh house is stronger than the first house and the first daśā shall be for the seventh house Gemini. Since this has the kāraka Saturn the native will recover from the immediate crisis caused by the stroke/disease within a month.

However the most accurate method of timing this is through compressed daśā – either Vimśottari or Nārāyaṇa daśā. Vimśottari daśā clearly shows the period of complete recovery during the Jupiter daśā.

### 5.2.4 Vimśottari Daśā (started from Moon):

Rah: 2002-10-24 (4:49:23) - 2002-12-16 (18:04:11)

Jup: 2002-12-16 (18:04:11) - 2003-02-01 (21:30:16)

Sat: 2003-02-01 (21:30:16) - 2003-03-30 (17:33:48)

Merc: 2003-03-30 (17:33:48) - 2003-05-22 (2:03:28)

Ket: 2003-05-22 (2:03:28) - 2003-06-12 (23:49:49)

Ven: 2003-06-12 (23:49:49) - 2003-08-14 (19:26:58)

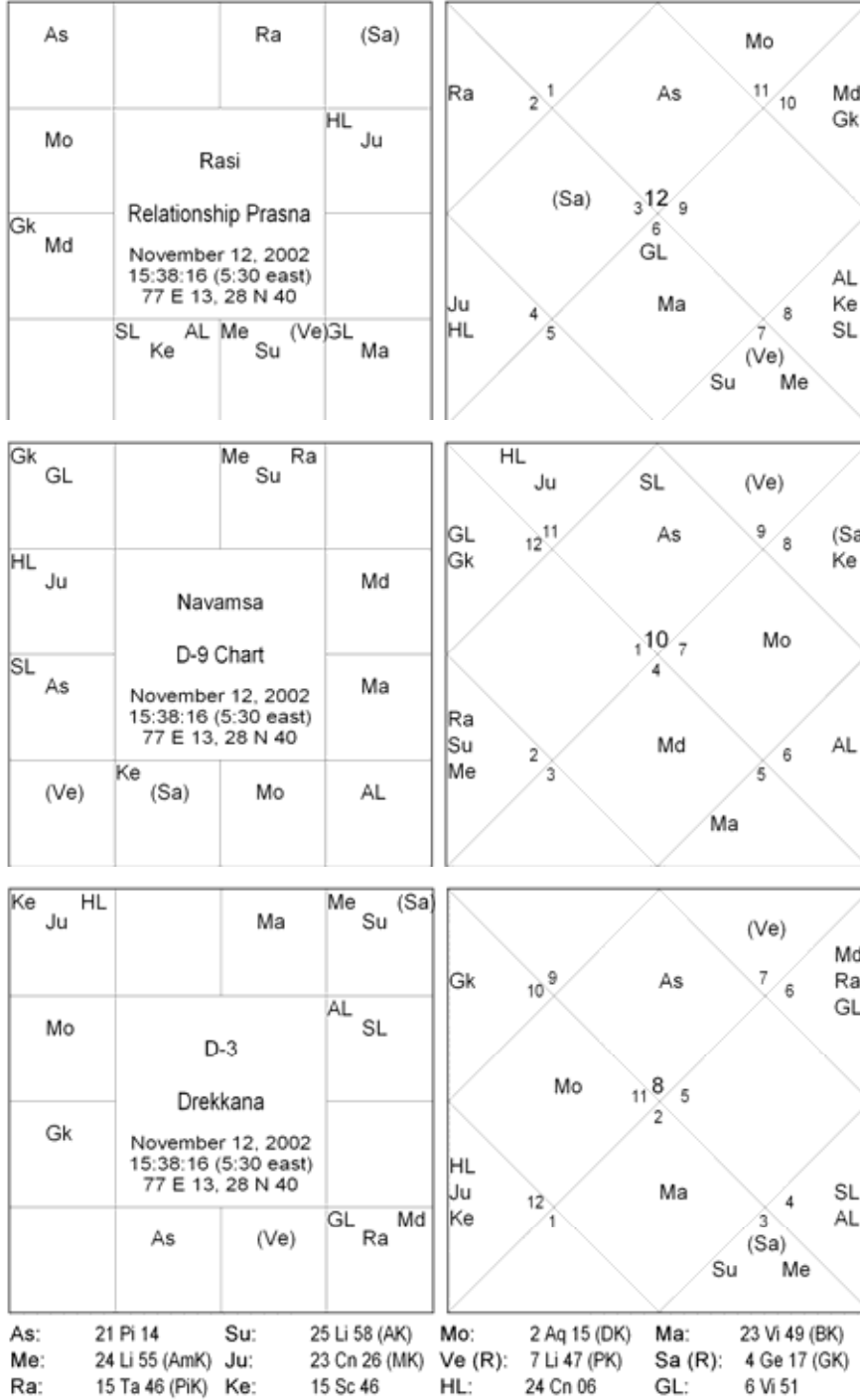
Sun: 2003-08-14 (19:26:58) - 2003-09-02 (11:32:43)

Moon: 2003-09-02 (11:32:43) - 2003-10-03 (5:30:36)

Mars: 2003-10-03 (5:30:36) - 2003-10-24 (10:40:53)

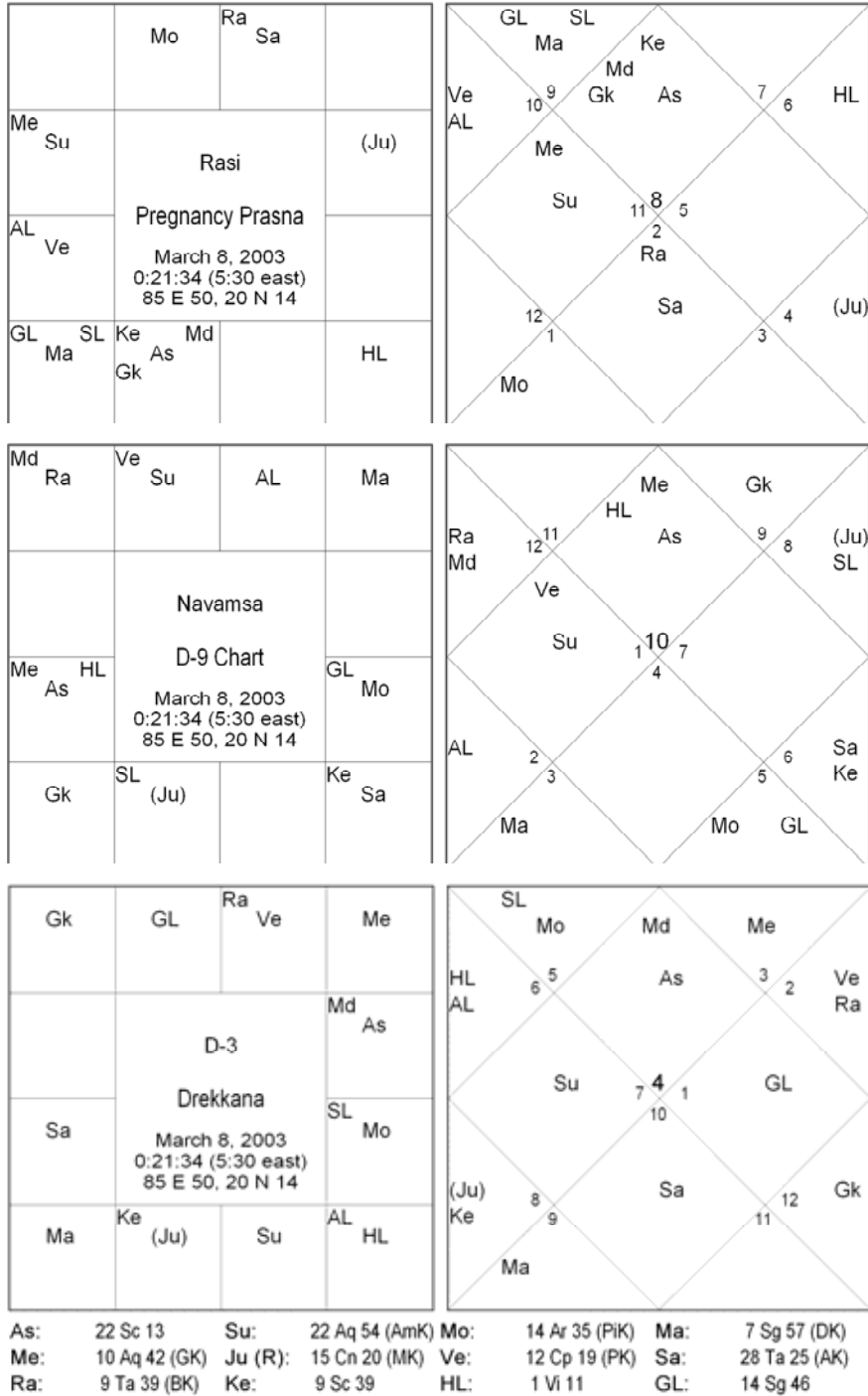
## 6. Illustration –relationship (lesbian)

Chart 3: Relationship praśna



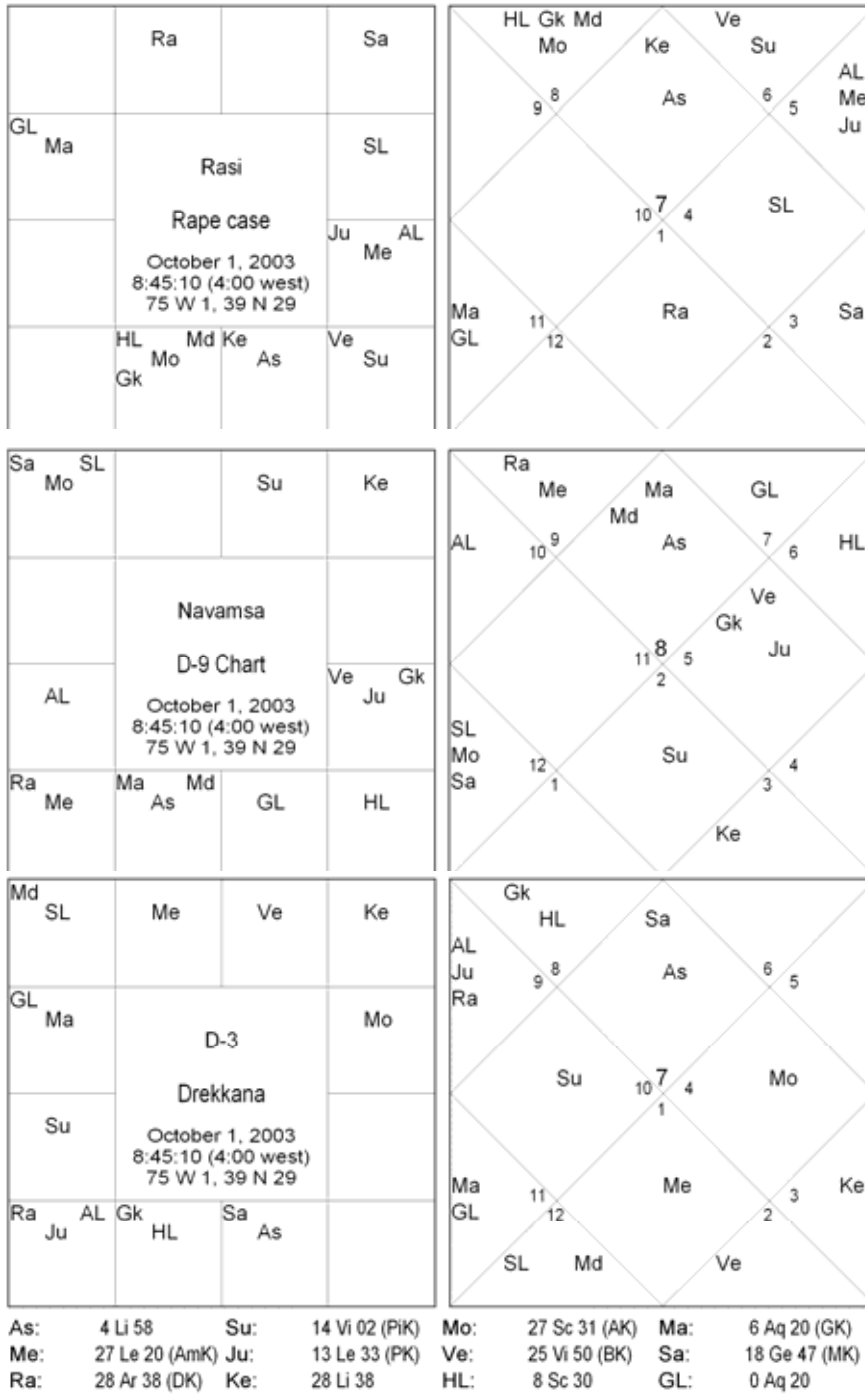
## 7. Illustration – Pregnancy Praśna

Chart 4: pregnancy praśna



## 8. Illustration – Rape case

Chart 5: *Balatkāra praśna*



## 9. Illustration – Naṣṭa Jātaka

Chart 6: Śrī Kṛṣṇa praśna

