



## Manmatha Vedic Year

2015-2016 PREDICTIONS

The new Vedic year, Manmatha which began at 5:37am Washington DC, March 20th, 2015 gives an optimistic, progressive outlook for the upcoming period. Although there will be some ups and downs, the thrust is unmistakably towards growth and progress in economic conditions, employment, production and real estate. This positive impetus is indicated by a strong rising sign and its ruler aspected by Jupiter, as well as a powerful ruling planet, Venus. Venus reigns over the entire year both as Lord of the Manmatha year, and as Yogakaraka Planet for Capricorn Rising, as well as being powerfully placed in the Manmatha chart itself. The domains of Venus including women and women's issues, gender equality, and the creative arts will be energized and enjoy greater visibility and greater success this year.

**The planetary set-up is as follows:** The Rising Sign, which indicates the general disposition and vitality of the chart is Capricorn, ruled by Saturn with Leo Navamsha. This is a strong rising sign, and is one important window into the overall nature of a chart. This rising is also aspected by an exalted Jupiter (although retrograde) in the 7th which gives support and enhances the qualities of Capricorn and its ruler, Saturn, placed in the 11th house, also aspected by Jupiter. This set-up with regards to the rising sign and its overall power in the chart conveys from the get-go a strong horoscope with good potential. The overall vigor of the chart is further supported by the 3rd house, Pisces occupied by four telling planets: Sun, Moon, Mars and Ketu – all powerfully aspected by Jupiter, enhancing their power significantly.

The 3rd house is about neighbors and people who are helping you – so, with these planets deposited here, we can see considerable activity regarding America relating to its neighbors and allies. Because Ketu is there, we know it will not be smooth – there will be those who have misgivings, and there will be disagreements within the country as well. Jupiter is reducing

misunderstandings and stress amongst the parties, but Ketu is there, none-the-less. To give context to the nature of these relations, presently there is a shift with regards to US relationships with other nations, (which I will elaborate on below). The thrust now, and more so going forward is more one of communicating and harmonizing through channels of diplomacy as opposed to intimidation through military power.

Although a cursory look at this Manmatha chart reveals powerful positive influences, the horoscope also suffers a significant, powerfully negative aspect as seen from the strong solar eclipse on March 20th, the Shukla Paksha Pratipada (new year's day, itself). An eclipse at the new year is an inauspicious sign, to be sure. In fact, it would have inflicted far greater negative influence on the country and the government except for Jupiter's protection. Jupiter neutralized the ill effects of the eclipse, although not entirely – some negative effects do remain. Remember, an eclipse blocks the vital energy of the Sun and the Moon, a very significant astronomical event on earth. The resulting status of the solar eclipse on new year's day – with the saving grace of Jupiter's influence is that we will suffer some natural calamities, and the government will face a certain amount of challenges relating to the appearance of losing strength. The eclipse has broad applications - generally speaking, it has to do with loss of vitality or strength or some kind of obstruction. (There will be 2 more eclipses this year in October which are brief but significant events mostly affecting the health of individuals who are ill or physically weak; this will be a vulnerable time for them.)

In summary, there is an overall vitality to the Manmatha chart which suggests a strong energy to make good overall progress, especially with regards to Venus, but the new year's solar eclipse will give expression to problems and some challenges throughout the year.

**Regarding Venus:** We can observe Venus's strength from 3 angles, First, as Yogakaraka for the year, (Yogakaraka or "Significator" essentially refers to the planet that is the path to success for the "lagna" or Rising Sign. Venus, as "Yogakaraka" offers the ways and means for finding satisfaction.) Since Venus rules the 5th (creative intellect and thinking) and 10th, it's own house (house of success), you could say that activities, or the schedule of priorities, or the general outlook suggested by these houses are the road for finding fulfillment to the Capricorn agenda during Manmatha. Secondly, Venus is powerfully placed in the 4th House having to do with family, property and education, aspecting the 10th relating to achievement, work, and creativity. This is a well-situated, strong Venus with regards to house and aspect, so we see that the Venus agenda is also strengthened by its placement in the chart. Thirdly, March 20, Manmatha's new years day, is Friday, the day of Venus, resulting in Venus being the Lord of the year, thus also promoting the causes of Venus and its functions as a kind of overseer of

Manmatha. So we see the stamp of Venus coming from different directions echoing a powerful and benevolent influence throughout the Manmatha year.

As a result, women increasingly will command more importance and power this year, however, there is a mitigating factor because Venus is occupying the Ketu Nakshatra – Ketu being the planet of mischief and disorganization. Venus in Ketu brings a certain amount of obstacles to relationships, creativity, romance and the comforts of living. This means that women may go through some challenges and difficulties; it may not be easy for them in that sense. In spite of this, because Venus is situated in the 4th House – especially with regards to education, as well as family and home, women often have the power to triumph over their challenges, becoming all the stronger through the process. Also, the placement of Jupiter in the Manmatha chart further supports an already strong Venus, so the Manmatha Venus is a powerful influence indeed.

To get a sense of the Venus/Ketu dynamic, consider the recent confirmation hearings for Loretta Lynch as Attorney General. While the senate openly acknowledged her qualifications, there was record back-room politicking and delays before she was confirmed. The appointment of an African-American woman in this position was unprecedented and historic, but the process for the Lynch camp was exasperating and prolonged.

Continuing our analysis, Mercury is in the 2nd House ruling the 6th and 9th houses; 6th House is the House of Struggle, 9th is the House of good luck and good fortune, so this is a mixed bag. Mercury placed in the 2nd House, Aquarius debilitated in Navamsha, Pisces is a problematical Mercury. Being ruler of the 6th it does bring some struggle with regards to the 2nd house, meaning there will be budget problems for the country. But with regards to Mercury in the 9th house, it supports finance for higher education, and benefits through foreign trade activities. With regards to business and foreign relations, increasingly we will be exporting more with a slow trend towards importing less although the balance of trade will still not be in our favor. Mercury is also the planet of business, broadly speaking, so good support for business activities is indicated suggesting a generally favorable year in this regard.

**Education:** Further, Venus as ruler of the 5th house which supports creative intellect, including education is well-placed in the 4th house which has the good support of Jupiter. 4th house ruler, Mars which also has the power to support education is in the 3rd, powerfully aspected by Jupiter along with the aspect of the Moon and the Sun. On the negative side, Ketu is also there along with Mars indicating that not all children will complete their schooling, although there is an improvement from the previous years because of Jupiter's aspect. So, with regards to

education, there are some obstacles indicated at the lower levels, but higher education at the university level receives a boon, and research activities will increase. This trend will likely continue into the future.

**Real Estate & Investment Markets:** The ruler of the 4th house, Mars, placed in the 3rd house indicates that real estate in the US will generally be favorable, especially in the coastal areas and urban centers. Real estate is on the upswing, overall, however that trend will be more pronounced in areas where there is typically more movement. In other markets, they will be stable but not necessarily showing pronounced improvement. General improvement is also indicated because the stock market is showing a general uptrend in spite of ups and downs, and this makes for a more liquid market. When Jupiter goes into Leo, mid-July, 2015 there will be a steady rise in gold prices until July 2016, even though on a long-term basis, gold does not have a good future. For the time being an improved gold market will favorably influence general market conditions including real estate.

Because of Jupiter's transit in Cancer (until mid-July, 2015) and Leo thereafter for about one year, the stock market will be on an upward trend. It will fluctuate within this general forward movement, but any downward trend will self-correct until July of 2016.

**Regarding Finances and General Trends:** Ruler of the Rising Sign, Saturn in the 11th house (house of gain), aspected by benevolent Jupiter is an important feature of the Manmatha chart. Jupiter enhances Saturn's ability to bring financial gain to the country's business activities. Apart from the rising sign ruler, Saturn in the 11th house, Saturn is also the ruler of the 2nd house (house of wealth) which is placed in the 11th house, so we see the indication for financial progress is stated in several ways, lending support to an optimistic financial outlook.

This trend indicates increased production which in turn brings more money to the working class, fueling increased activity from the bottom up resulting in greater stability within the hierarchy of American businesses. This creates a healthy basis for American businesses to continue to grow and prosper. Although there are forecasts that the American economy will witness greater depressions than we had in 2007 and 2008, I do not agree. There will be fluctuations, ups and downs – but I believe that by some means or the other the country will make progress, economically. Also, Mercury, planet of intellect, business and communication is in the 2nd house, (house of wealth and happiness). A 2nd house Mercury shows that the vehicle for greater prosperity in commerce will be through communication. Communication is also key with regards to foreign relations, the implication being that this is a time for negotiations, compromise, and expanding friendly relations within the world at large. Regarding

the racial unrest we have seen since 2014, this level of agitation will continue until early 2016 when the tension will reduce gradually with time.

Foreign policy based on diplomacy and good communication as opposed to the threats of war and aggression is further supported by the country's transition from the 7 year major Mars Dasha (Mars being the planet of war) to the 18 year major cycle of Rahu beginning in October, 2015. This represents a significant shift and we are already feeling the transition. It also explains why Obama could not end the war – his stated goal from the time he came into office. This was not possible because of the prominence of Mars in the US natal chart, and the reality of the 7 year Mars Dasha we were in. War at that time was inescapable. However, because of the shift from Mars to Rahu, the emphasis has begun to shift from the politics of war to the politics of diplomacy. Iranian negotiations will very likely be resolved and the previous American agenda which was so much about maintaining our status through military might will now slowly give way to leadership with a different emphasis. This new leadership will be guided by the nature of Rahu.

One important thing to remember about Rahu and Ketu, both – they can bring the best of the best and the worst of the worst. They are the planets of extremes; on the one hand they take you to the heights of any given endeavor – to the sublime, but on the other hand, they are the planets that can function like poison. Rahu is the planet that embraces a comprehensive, holistic approach to health allowing for the possibility of complete and total regeneration. In this capacity Rahu has the power to redefine life in profound ways, as in pushing the boundaries of longevity far beyond our current norm, for example. On the other hand, Rahu is the planet of poisonous drugs, descent into madness, and addiction of all kinds. When you are dealing with Rahu you are playing with fire – it carries the potential for enormous power, to whatever ends.

Rahu is the planet of discovery, diversity, innovation, mystery – therefore it supports things like higher education, technological innovations, research in the medical field in things like longevity and the secrets of life, as well as the eradication of diseases and finding remedies for difficult conditions like cancer or ebola. Slowly, as we proceed into the 18 year Rahu Dasha, through education and research the United States will lead through ground-breaking innovations in these areas, and in things like bio-technology, ecology, and in exploring new frontiers in marine biology and space, all of which will help define a new era for America and the world at large.

As I have explained before, the assurance I have in America's continuing role as a world leader is based on the United States natal chart. That horoscope reveals the innovative spirit of America which is the bedrock of its identity. It is its innovation, flexibility and energy that will allow America to find a more healthy and productive course than it is on presently. This ability to self-correct is woven into the fabric of the American soul and will be the vehicle for maintaining its stature as the imminent world power, regardless of how global trends may suggest otherwise.

Rahu is open-minded, egalitarian and flexible in accepting new ways in thinking. Rahu will adopt the Saturnian mission which I have spoken about at length with regards to promoting the issues of the common man, pushing him up and creating an ever-growing middle class. Rahu will adopt Saturn's issues which have come to the fore regarding racial disparities, religious tensions, economic differences and gradually bring an expanded sense of the possibilities for greater balance and understanding amongst the peoples. With time, the racial tensions that we have today will give way to a more peaceful co-existence of racial and religious groups. The acceptance of diversity is part of the Rahu agenda.

**President Obama:** One important dimension to our analysis of the American new year is through the its chief executive, the president. President Obama is currently passing through the major cycle of Saturn which began July 25, 2012 and he is ending the Saturn sub-cycle July 28, 2015 at which point he will be entering into the Mercury sub-cycle. This will bring him certain opportunities. From this angle and his chart in general you can see that he has staying power; his presence will continue to be felt after leaving office.

Obama's natal Saturn aspecting Mercury in Cancer along with the Sun enhances Mercury's intellectual prowess regarding both his writing and speaking, and clearly shows he is an eloquent speaker. Moving forward into his Mercury cycle, his Mercury is exalted in Virgo in the 2nd house of the Navamsha chart aspected by Jupiter in its own house which enhances his strong natal Mercury even further. This tells us that in the period following his presidency he will be a more charismatic speaker still. He will continue to attract attention after leaving office with many ongoing speaking engagements, although he will always attract controversy because of the Jupiter Saturn conjunction opposite Sun in his rising sign. Obama is vulnerable to the possibility of an accident or an issue relating to his health until the end of 2016. Regardless of any mishap in this regard, his chart indicates longevity.

May, June and July, 2015 are intensely active months for Obama bringing him many conflicts, racial issues, delicate negotiations, and sensitive issues to deal with in general.

Incidentally, Moon is ruler of the 7th house in Obama's chart - representing his wife. That Moon is exalted in the 5th house, Taurus, aspected by benevolent Jupiter and a well-placed Saturn from the Moon. This is an auspicious planetary set-up relative to Obama's wife and suggests the very real possibility that Michelle Obama may enter into public life herself in due course. Currently Saturn is passing through the 7th house of exalted Taurus Moon suggesting that the seeds of this desire have already been germinating.

**General Reflections:** To sum up the Manmatha year, Venus is powerfully placed in the 4th house from the rising sign, influenced by the benevolent Jupiter. The 4th house is a kendra, (an angle house within the square horoscope format – the 4 angle houses have the most influence in terms of the placement of the houses), and is aspecting its own house, the 10th house, Libra. It is the best planet in the chart with proviso that it is occupying the Ketu constellation, the planet of mischief. Generally speaking, it will still yield beneficial results in the area of home, family, property, comforts of living, the arts, creativity, education - in all these areas it has some positive say. Activities or work falling under the general purvey of Venus will receive a boost – people in the creative fields, the arts, education - they can receive more recognition or general support. Also the qualities of family life, of the general domains of the home are given more attention. And lastly, as mentioned before, women and women's issues are given priority – their status is enhanced. It is a good time for women to occupy important positions, in general, and, in fact, it is a good time for a woman to advance to the presidency.

Since Venus is occupying the constellation of Ketu in the 4th house, which is malefic by nature, there can be challenges in Venus fulfilling its objectives; this is the other side of the equation. One must be persistent and tenacious and then often it will bring the desired result. Remember that Venus as Yogakaraka and as the the Manmatha Lord does not have the dampening influence of Ketu, so during Manmatha, independent of Ketu's complications we also may receive the full, unmitigated influence of a benevolent and powerful Venus, boosted by the other great benevolent, Jupiter.

Capricorn Rising is industrious. It makes people to be hard-working, tenacious, perfectionistic, with a desire to communicate. Generally they are looking to succeed – there is an element of self interest in this regard, but they also want to help others. It is a good rising sign for politicians; they want a certain amount of status, and they want to help others, both. Capricorn rising suggests a lot of energy because they are willing to work hard - they assume responsibility and they see it through. Obama is a good example of Capricorn Rising, and that is why the Manmatha year is not bad for him.

In Manmatha, Saturn, ruler of the Rising Sign is powerfully placed in the 11th house, house of gain, but retrograde. This means, Saturn will help bring fulfilment this year – but as always, with Saturn one has to deal with delays, obstacles and hard work. If you can persevere and have patience, Saturn will be your friend. Remember, Saturn is in operation over this entire generation, having replaced a generation of Jupiter before it.

Manmatha, as a whole is a productive year; it brings success through hard work – a very American concept. It is a transitional year for America as we leave the major cycle of Mars and enter into the major cycle of Rahu which heralds a new beginning, a new epoch defined by exploration of new frontiers in science and technology. Rahu gradually expands our acceptance of diversity in all regards - racial, religious, and economic, and slowly it will be helping us find ways of harmonizing the various groups that populate the earth. In this way Rahu promotes the overall Saturnian influence that has been operating for decades, the influence that is behind globalization - making the world a smaller, more connected community.

We will get a glimpse of what is to come with regards to the mystical side of Rahu tackling questions that go to the core in defining the terms of our existence on this planet. Ultimately Rahu will redefine the boundaries of life by increasing longevity, expanding performance of the human body, finding cures to previously debilitating conditions, expanding functions of technology in many domains, and exploring frontiers of previously uncharted territories which will dramatically affect how we approach our daily lives.

Lastly, in many ways Manmatha is year of the woman. It is the time for women to harness the energy of Venus for making greater strides forward. Traditionally, patience has often been woman's path; during the Manmatha year women would do well to draw upon this native strength, persevering toward their goals, whatever they may be. Ketu will likely test her in this regard, as well as Saturn. Men will do well to follow her lead as far as exercising diligence, nose-to-the-grindstone – through hard work many things are possible, and action independent of expectation is always the best way. This, it would seem is the lesson of Manmatha.

Have faith – best of luck to you,

Chakrapani  
May, 2015



# Frequently Asked Questions:

## **Chakrapani, isn't the idea of New Year's predictions rather like fortune telling?**

Unlike reading tea leaves, the Tarot, or other psychic undertakings that rely on free-form intuition or special sensitivities of the practitioner, Vedic Astrology is a science that follows established mandates and requires that the practitioner learn many rules and formulas, and combinations of formulas. The practice of interpreting a horoscope involves an evaluation of these energetic formulas. It is a science because it is based on precise mathematical criteria which can be tested, repeated and verified. However, to practice Vedic Astrology beyond a superficial level, the interpretation of the horoscope requires that the practitioner make subtle energetic distinctions, bringing the practice into the realm of an art form. For this reason we refer to Vedic Astrology as both a science and an art.

As far as making predictions, a Vedic astrologer compiles a forecast in a manner similar to that of a weather forecaster. A forecaster considers all the various elements at play, and then as an expert in that field, makes an estimate of what will be the probable future outcome. It is the same principle that is operating with an economist who makes an assessment regarding the financial markets, or other experts in their respective field who use their knowledge of the conditions and variables at play to anticipate a probable outcome regarding future events.

The difference in Vedic Astrology is that anticipating probable outcomes is a core function of its practice. However, predictions are not intended to be taken in a passive spirit like a fortune teller delivering an edict; rather the contrary. Vedic Astrology holds paramount the notion of free will such that the individual, on being given astrological guidance has the opportunity to reflect on their innate tendencies, strengths and weaknesses and the general issues in their life. Armed with greater awareness the aspirant can better consider their choices and the implications of their actions. Certainly astrology is intended to aid us in taking advantage of our inherent strengths or personal resources to be in the best position to maximize opportunities with regards to the timing of events, as well as how to best cope with obstacles and challenges. If one knows that it may rain, one can then choose to take out an umbrella, after all. There are countless ways in which afore-knowledge can be useful and practical, and the deeper our knowledge of self and the ways of the world, the better. Vedic Astrology aids the aspirant in becoming more self-aware so as to be more conscious of the choices of action at hand. Anyone who is looking to an astrologer to be an "authority" of their life – or to usurp their responsibility for their own life decisions, would be misusing astrology at its essence. Vedic astrology is meant

to be a tool for self-empowerment, a means of becoming more pro-active in approaching the issues of their life.

Vedic Astrology is known as the "Science of Indications" because essentially, it evaluates the energetic influences and considers what future outcome is indicated. It never says that something "has" to be so, as you have doubtless heard me say. Rather, it indicates what will probably be without intervening influence.

So when we talk about making predictions for the Vedic New Year, we are looking to any number of factors pointing to the conditions in this upcoming period. This forecast is based on my expertise in the field of astrology; I hope that you will find these thoughts worthy of your consideration, and that they may stimulate you to reflect on your own life in the context of what is going on in the world around you.

In the end, we seek out specialists so that we may benefit from the insights of those who have studied any given subject in depth. But just as we may seek a doctor for their medical expertise, or a lawyer for their legal opinion, in the end we must use our own common sense and inner knowing to guide our way to our own personal truth.

**What determines the beginning of the Vedic calendar year, since it is different each year, rather than the calendar year which always begins January 1st?**

The Vedic calendar is organized around concentric time cycles; the largest measuring in thousands of years, the smallest founded on a 60 year cycle. The Vedic New Year follows a lunar calendar beginning on the first day of spring when the Moon and the Sun are together, (of equal degrees) in Pisces, the particular day varying from year to year. This year, New Year's Day, or Shukla Paksha Pratipada fell on March 20. Shukla PakshaPratipada, or a few days thereafter is considered the most auspicious time to commence new projects or undertakings. Any new venture begun at this time will be in harmony with the rhythm of nature and will benefit from the thrust of energy ushering forth the new year. It is also considered a good time to "clean house", both literally and figuratively.

**What is the significance of the Sanskrit name assigned to each Vedic lunar year?**

Traditionally each year is given a Sanskrit name to describe an over-riding theme or purpose of the year. The Vedic calendar year, March 2015 to March 2016 is called Manmatha which roughly translated means something akin to the ability to be liked or the fulfillment of desire. It

is associated with the 29th year of the 60 year Jupiter cycle. In the context of this year I would interpret Manmatha to mean that some of the desires will be fulfilled this year which in previous years was not possible. Manmatha has the potential to bring some satisfaction.

### **How do you determine the major astrological influences for the coming year?**

When calculating predictions, we must start with a horoscope that represents the entity from whence we are focusing our perspective. In this case, the entity is the United States; we will be looking at the U. S. natal chart, July 4, 1776, (including the Dasha and Bhukti cycles), as well as the yearly Manmatha chart, March 20, 2015. We will also look to the principal leader or representative of the country, President Obama (August 4, 1961, 7:24pm Honolulu, HI) whose chart will provide added insight to the portrait of America during this period. Our intention is to evaluate current issues and trends in America. As an astrological analysis the study requires a horoscope, ours is based on the seat of power for the government, which is Washington DC.

The study of any given horoscope will reveal certain themes, because if it is a salient feature it will be restated in a number of different ways. Likewise, when we are assessing a horoscope or horoscopes representing a composite entity, the sum of several relevant charts will create a certain portrait. Regarding the case of the United States and Obama, there is a certain symmetry created, as each of the charts restate and underscore particular themes. By this process, we gain insight and conviction as to the agenda of the United States during any given period.

Thus, our analysis is centered on the Manmatha yearly chart, as well as the natal charts of the U.S. and President Obama's chart, the current Dasha and Bhukti operating, and the planetary transits of this period.

### **What is the role of your yearly predictions relative to my personal horoscope?**

A horoscope of the country is about a group destiny – it's about the time and place that we share together - it's about the issues that bind us despite our apparent differences. Regardless of our individual destiny we are on this earthly sojourn, sharing the same life purpose in terms of honing our character, growing always towards ever-greater perfection. However our paths may twist and turn, it is inevitably for our greater good and our continued growth in the knowledge of life. Developing self-acceptance, expanding in our knowledge of self and achieving greater wisdom and understanding of the nature and purpose of life – this continuous unfolding is the whole point, after all.

One truth of life: to attain greater knowledge, inevitably we have to step out of our comfort zone, otherwise the tendency is to cling to what is safe and familiar. Meaningful steps forward in our evolution do not come easily because it is human nature to resist change in favor of what is easy and comfortable. For continued insights and ever greater understanding we have to be nudged out of comfortable complacency; we need to be pushed a little to reconsider values and belief systems that no longer serve us. Thus...through the myriad of experiences that we are presented with in life, we learn...and we grow. This is God's grace. The expression, "the gift of life" refers not to just the breath of life, but to the myriad of circumstances that are always being presented to us; each offers us opportunities to learn more such that life is a dynamic process of self-discovery. Our choices reflect who we are and are emblematic of our underlying character.

The unfolding of life's circumstances is unique to each of us as dictated by our own personal karmas. These circumstances, the fund of our resources, strengths and weakness and the timing of opportunities and challenges are revealed in our horoscope and can be interpreted by a skilled astrologer. However, there are karma's, or life lessons that we share with others who are a part of the global community in which we live. The character of the times at hand dictate certain issues that we all must come to terms with and suggest certain truths from which we can all benefit an understanding.

For example, this year, America begins a shift from the Mars cycle to the Rahu cycle, an energetic influence which will become more and more familiar to us as the years progress. Also this year, Venus is very prominent; as a community, these influences, amongst others will be in evidence. My yearly predictions consider the broader influences that define our times.

Considering the general trends of our time help us to better understand the problems that we face as a global society. Certain challenges will be there, this we cannot alter. Resistance, complaining or blaming anyone or anything is not productive. Only greater understanding can help us face our challenges with fortitude and with faith in the higher purpose. Understanding that penetrates deep within us can yield true insights and acceptance. That is different than superficial, intellectual understanding which does not bring real wisdom because the knowing has not yet become truly a part of us. There is no substitute for life experience that brings knowing to the deepest, farthest reaches of our being. This process is facilitated by experience and the blessing of being challenged. It allows us to know and to demonstrate what we are.

**Chakrapani, can you explain a little about how you read a horoscope and how looking at just two charts like the United States and President Obama could give you so much information about the world ? It looks like you have just a few symbols and numbers on those few pieces of paper!**

You would be surprised by the scope and depth of information that is reflected in one horoscope! I can study and analyze one chart for hours...or days, depending. In fact, it says so much, that for me, it is like a living, breathing person! I confess that when I run into a client on the street, I may recognize their face, but really, I remember people mostly by their horoscope. When I look at a chart, I am immediately reacquainted. The person is an expression of the horoscope, not the other way around. For me, their features, gestures, and manner are all expressions of planetary energies. Whereas a handsome man or a lovely woman may create, for you, an enduring memory, I remember more the confidence of Mars, the brightness of the Moon, or the pleasantness of Venus. That is how I perceive people and the world around me!

Perhaps because I grew up in a family of astrologers where astrology was embedded within the day-to-day routines and customs of my upbringing, I became habituated to thinking in astrological terms. Of course, I have been a practicing astrologer for over 60 years, so looking at charts everyday keeps astrology at the forefront of my mind.

Basically, astrology is the lens through which I view the world; it is my life's study and my passion. I am grateful to have work that is endlessly fascinating to me, and that doing what I love also allows me to be of some service.

A comprehensive evaluation of a horoscope will reflect all of the complexities and nuances of that entity. Vedic Astrology is comprised of many systems and methodologies that allow the astrologer to go into great depth regarding any given issue. For example, the Moon is divided into 27 divisional charts called Lunar Mansions, or Nakshatras. If I want to understand the Moon better, or if there is some question as to how much emphasis to give a particular lunar influence, I will look to the Nakshatra for more insight and understanding of that question.

Deep analysis of a chart requires patience and reflection. At some point, one becomes so intimately connected with the energies that insights flow...one hardly knows from where. Perhaps it is similar to the way that a musician can lose themselves in their music; it's a kind of merging of the person with the focus of their attention. In such instances there is a sense of becoming a kind of "vehicle" for expressing something that comes from somewhere beyond one's self, as though one has tapped into some primal source.

In any case, just as continued immersion into any field of study yields certain sensitivity to that subject; likewise, with time, an astrologer develops a keen sensitivity to the planetary energies. Anyone can benefit a great deal from gaining some basic understanding of astrological principles, especially if they study their own chart and observe, over time, how the energies are expressed in their daily lives. This is the best way to learn.

However, to function as an astrologer, one must undertake focused study and meet with many, many hundreds of people to even begin to understand the complexities and subtleties involved in an in-depth analysis of a horoscope. There is no shortcut to the understanding that comes from this experience.

That is the process that comes to mind when you ask about reading a horoscope. I hope that answers your question!

