

Principles of Transits

In these modern times, we see most of the astrologers concentrating only on dashā (period of influence of planets), that too at Mahādashā or Antardashā levels to predict and more often to justify known results or failed predictions. Many think that transits are not very important in timing of events not being mentioned by Sage Pārāshara in his much acclaimed “Brihat Pārāshara Horā Shāstra”. However if the text is read in depth, one will find the importance of transits in the way results of a dashā be told shall become crystal clear to a discerning reader.

The shloka goes thus:

जन्मकालस्थित्या सगोचरग्रहैरपि।
विचारितैः प्रवक्तव्यं तत्तद्राशिदशाफलम् ॥ १७ ॥
janmakālasthityā sagocaragrahairapi |
vicāritaiḥ pravaktavyam tattadrāśidaśāphalam ||17||

Meaning: The results of dashās of rāshis (or that of their lords) should to predicted after taking into consideration the position of planets at the time of birth and also the position of planets, in transit (at that time).

Again we find the sage telling the importance of placement of a planet in bhāvas at the time of the inception of dashās as:

दशारम्भे दशाधीशे लग्नगे शुभदृग् युते।
स्वोच्चे स्वभे स्वमैत्रे वा शुभं तस्य दशाफलम् ॥ ५ ॥
daśārambhe daśādhiṣe lagnage śubhadṛg yute |
svocce svabhe svamaitre vā śubham tasya daśāphalam ||5||

Meaning: If the lord of the dashā under consideration occupies the Lagna or auspicious bhāva or be placed in its own, exaltation or friend's rāshi, the results of dashā are auspicious.

There are many shlokas indicating the importance of the placement of transit planets modifying the results of dashā in not only “Brihat Pārāshara Horā Shāstra” alone, but in also many other ancient texts. Ashtakavarga system of prediction is also primarily based on results of transits of planets through various rāshis/bhāvas, and their results, though from a different perspective.

In any science, and especially in science of trying to understand something in distant space, position of a point can be fixed using three axes (referred to in engineering lingo as X, Y and Z axis). In astrology we see the importance given to trines to enable the squares to deliver their results when Sage calls the trines place of Laxmi, the goddess of wealth and squares places of Lord Vishnu, the God of sustenance of the mortals. Every square is supported by two trines is clear from even visual depiction of a chart in north Indian style and we also know that the sages have talked about four trines of Dharma, Artha, Kāma and Moksha as the respective Trikonas. In a similar fashion for any event to be actually realized at a particular time as promised by the natal chart, the simultaneous operation of appropriate dashā order of

Principles of Transits

relevant planets and transits of the concerned planets become of prime importance. I have commented upon this in “Vedic Astrology Demystified”, at length.

It is also noteworthy that though on the face of it all transits should give identical results for all the Jātaka’s with same lagna, it will be seen that is not always the case and nor is the intensity of results identical. The readers, not familiar with my opinion on transit reference point, might be wondering why I am talking about transit from Lagna not the Moon sign from which transits are generally spoken about. Let me clarify here that in my opinion the Moon being karaka for mind, the transits with respect to Moon sign, though capable of indicating what is going on in mind of the Jātaka might not be indicative of the incidents that are going to happen to his body and other area of his life that are dependent on the Lagna and therefore transits analyzed with respect to the Lagna yields more accurate results on physical level. I find support to my argument in the following shloka from one Nādi text which says:

जन्मलग्नं शरीरं स्यात् चन्द्रं च मन उच्यते।

janmalagnaṁ śarīraṁ syāt candraṁ ca mana ucyate ।

Meaning whereas the ascendant is the body (and physical things, happening etc.), Moon is said to be the mind (influences the mind).

I shall now try to provide insight into how transit of Saturn in some bhāvas, could be interpreted to understand possible results on a chart so that the same principle can be applied with other planets by the reader to understand what is likely to happen in the life of a Jātaka. The reasons for choice of Saturn to show how he can modify or initiate events in life of a Jātaka, are twofold. One is that Saturn occupies one rash for about two and a half year and thus having a larger footprint, its influence on the Jātaka’s life is more pronounced, the other reason is that having 3 aspects, together with his presence in the 4th rāshi, he is capable of influencing one-third of the chart of a Jātaka and areas of his life. Before proceeding ahead to the effects of Saturn in transit on events in a Jātaka’s life, I would like to explain another important factor which results in difference in intensity of results experienced by Jātaka’s with identical lagna on account of transit of Saturn to an identical bhāva. This, phenomenon, for lack of any other word, I choose to call the activation of the natal planets. Let me now explain, the principle behind the activation and how this works.

There are two principles involved in the way that transit planets can activate the natal planets. We know that planets in square to each other become what is called mutual helpers (Paraspara karaka), especially if they are in strength. Then understanding principles of trine we must also understand that planets can influence the bhāva and in turn the planets occupying that bhāva, that trine the planet’s placement. Therefore let us understand that the transit planets are capable of influencing or activating (for want of a better term) the natal planets they square and trine.

Let us now understand why the activation from square is different from that of a trine position and the secret is hidden in the terms used while describing the planets becoming karaka to others in square to themselves. The term used is “Paraspara karaka”, meaning mutual causative planets (also expressed as mutual helpers). Thus in square position, the planets so placed only help each other perform own duties or work and therefore whether

Principles of Transits

benefic or malefic there is no modification in their results by placement. Both the transit and the natal planets shall initiate actions that are likely by their presence and aspects. In case of trine position, there is some difference in that the planet can influence each other and therefore while there will not be much change in action than as above, if both the transit and natal planets are malefics or benefics, or if one is a malefic and another a benefic then the negative results of the malefic one (by presence and aspects) shall be toned down while the benefic planet shall not be able to deliver its effect to full extent.

Again it is better to understand that, whereas in natal charts the planets' results get modified due to their bhāva lordship and special attributes of Jupiter and Saturn, in transit they generally give results of their basic nature, mostly unaltered by functional nature (more about this can be read in "Vedic Astrology Demystified").

It is also good to understand that in transit, planets Sun and Mars give results almost at entry to a rāshi and are most effective in the first 10 degrees, Jupiter and Venus are most effective between 10 to 20 degrees, Moon and Saturn are at their most powerful between 20 to 30 degrees, while Mercury is capable of delivering its results in the entire duration of its stay in a rāshi it transits.

Let us now look at some charts with natal lagna and Saturn in identical position and transit in different position to understand how the concept will work. We shall take a randomly chosen fixed position of natal Saturn and different positions of transit Saturn from Lagna to fourth bhāva so that all bhāvas get influence of transit Saturn and the principle is understood properly. The readers can then use the logic used to apply to different transit planets and try to work out the end results by themselves so that the principle shall be well understood. We shall use Aries lagna with Saturn occupying 8th bhāva in the natal chart, where we shall try to understand the effects of Saturn occupying different bhāvas.

We should first understand the possible results of Saturn occupying the 8th bhāva in a chart, when it is lord of the 10th and 11th bhāvas. We can see that Saturn occupying the 8th bhāva, in the natal chart, aspects the 10th bhāva, the 2nd bhāva and the 5th bhāva. Its occupation of the 8th bhāva can indicate possibility of breathing or arthritic problems and old and large inherited property, while its aspect on the 10th bhāva shall show either hard work or being lazy at work and possibility of some blemish to reputation as also the possibility of the Jātaka opting for some career rather unexpectedly (lord of the 11th and 10th in 8th bhāva) or destruction of career, losing elder sibling and loss of income. Saturn's aspect on the 2nd bhāva shall be indicative of not revealing what is in mind, some delay in obtaining paternal property that he gets in legacy, eating of not very healthy food and sometimes not very gentlemanly speech. The aspect of Saturn on the 5th is indicative of the Jātaka getting progeny late in life, not learning from experience or the higher education/ utilization of acquired knowledge happening late in life. This is the general pattern that the life of the Jātaka shall follow and it will be experienced more prominently in dashā, antardashā etc. of Saturn.

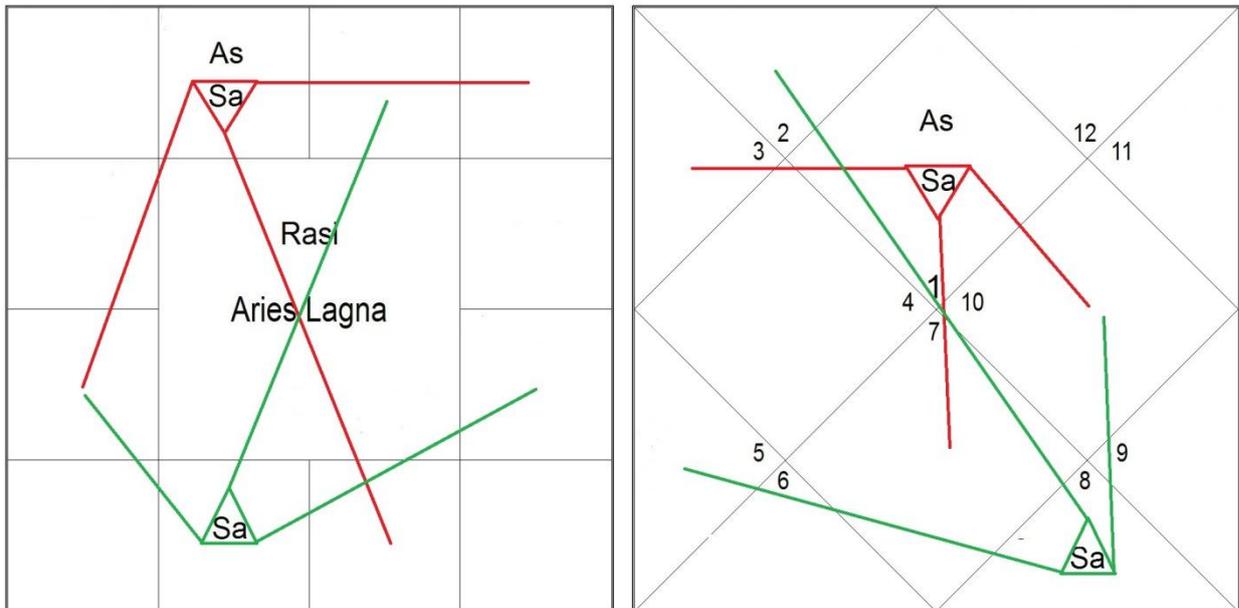
This pattern will be static in all the four example charts that we shall be looking at since we have taken Aries as the lagna with Saturn placed in the 8th bhāva, for all charts. However as can be seen while we discuss the likely results, there will be much difference in results obtained due to placement of transit Saturn in four different bhāvas. The area influenced, and the intensity of results shall also vary, depending on whether the natal Saturn is activated or

Principles of Transits

not and in what manner. We have already seen what I imply when I talk of activation of a natal planet, earlier. We have also seen what results could be delivered by the natal Saturn due to its placement in the 8th bhāva and understood that these will be more intensely experienced during the dashā, antardashā, etc. of Saturn and yet there has to be some additional factor required that shall trigger the event on a certain date or narrow period, it is this trigger that is provided by the transit of planets, results being benefic or malefic in line with the nature of the planet.

Let us, now, begin with transit Saturn occupying the lagna (in red triangle) and natal Saturn in the 8th bhāva (in green triangle). The respective aspects are shown in same colour scheme, i.e. transit Saturn aspects by red lines and natal Saturn aspects by green lines.

Chart 1 Aries Lagna with natal Saturn in 8th bhāva, transit Saturn in Ascendant

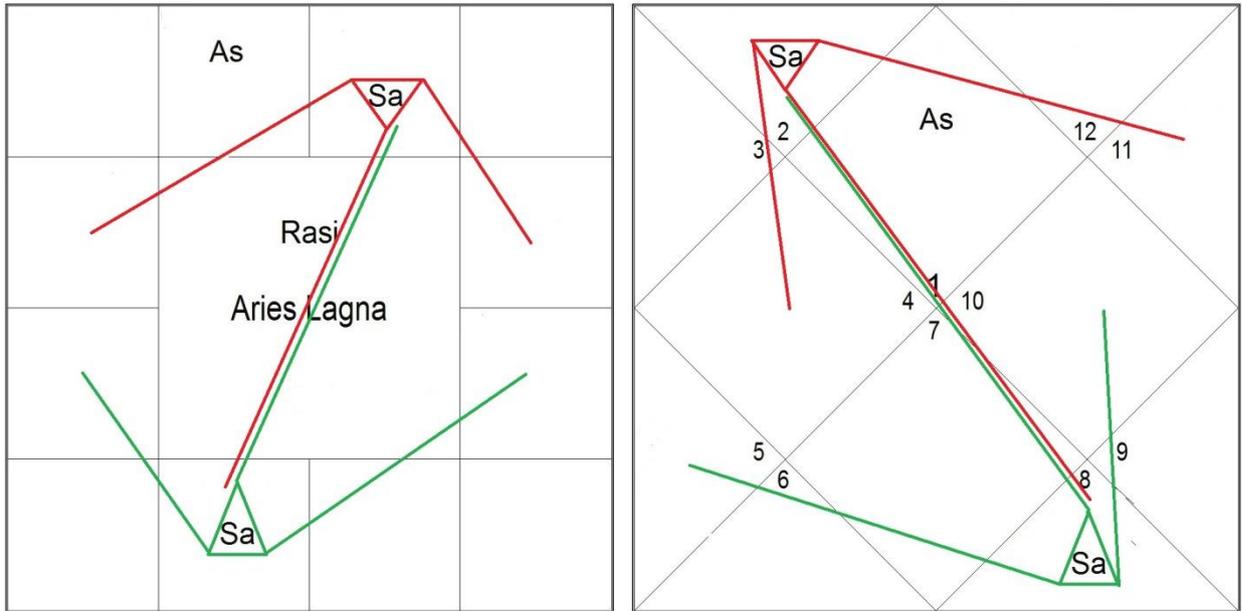


First thing that we note here is that the transit Saturn does neither trine nor square the natal Saturn and therefore the results of the transit shall mostly be felt in the bhāvas that it aspects. We are also aware that sages have told us about aspects of Saturn being harmful while its presence does not harm the bhāva occupied, therefore the aspects of both transit and natal Saturn shall cause some harm to the bhāvas aspected is obvious. The distinction we have to make is that while the natal planets indicate the potential, the transits shall provide the kinetic energy required to turn potential into reality, when ably assisted by dashās. The effects of Saturn will no doubt be felt with more intensity where both the natal and transit happen to cast their aspects, as the natal planets indicate potential for causing benefit or harm. We can see that the transit is aspecting the 3rd bhāva of valour and siblings, the 7th bhāva of spouse/partner/short travels and the 10th bhāva of career/reputation. Therefore something negative in these areas is a possibility (subject to other planets in transit and natal chart). So we can say that there are two possibilities:

Principles of Transits

- A) The Jātaka shall have some tiffs with i) siblings (3rd bhāva) and ii) spouse/partner) 7th bhāva). He will also have iii) slowdown at work or loss to reputation (10th bhāva). Out of these three the possibility of slowdown at work and loss of reputation is a greater possibility since the natal Saturn's aspect on the 10th bhāva indicates the potential for such thing to happen in the Jātaka's life, the other two results could be a product of the slowdown in business and loss of reputation. This result is more likely if at this time dashā, antardashā etc. till the lowest level at that time will be of a functional malefic and more so if it is of Saturn itself.
- B) The second possibility in case the 10th is well fortified due to aspect of a benefic transit planet is that the Jātaka shall i) do some valorous work ii) undertake many short travels or commute long distance and iii) shall undertake a large project that shall take long time to complete. This is more so, if the dashā, antardashā etc, till lowest level at this time shall be of a functionally benefic planet. If a benefic is simultaneously aspecting the 10th bhāva at that time, and dashā of a functionally benefic is running at that time, the results shall be even more intense and the Jātaka's reputation might get enhanced.

Chart 2: Aries Lagna with natal Saturn in 8th bhāva and transit Saturn in the 2nd bhāva



We shall now look at the standard chart when transit Saturn occupies the 2nd bhāva, thereby squares the natal Saturn and thus activates the result of its aspects on bhāvas that it aspects too. So we have a situation that the 4th, 8th and 11th bhāvas are under aspect of transit where its malefic aspects can do some harm and simultaneously the 2nd, 10th and the 5th bhāvas get aspect of natal Saturn and indicate some harm to these bhāvas too. It is to be understood that transit Saturn being square to natal Saturn, the malfeasance of both shall not increase.

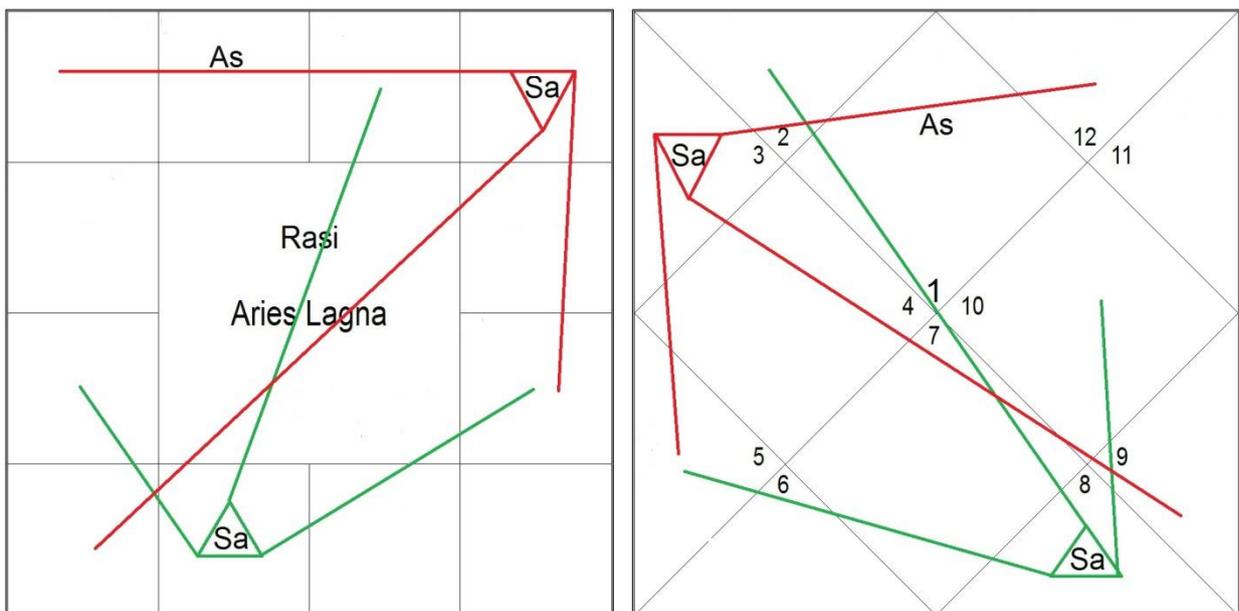
Principles of Transits

Therefore how to analyze the possible results of such a transit, and find the possible end results, is the natural question that must rise in the minds of the readers. Let us understand that in the above scenario we observe that there is likelihood of i) harm to family and accumulated wealth (2nd bhāva) ii) House/vehicle/mother/motherland and general happiness (4th bhāva) iii) Progeny or state of mental stress and negative thoughts and disturbed mind (5th bhāva) iv) possibility of harm to ancestral possibility/disease (8th bhāva), slow down in income (11th bhāva) and stagnation/slowdown at work or loss of reputation (10th bhāva). So this transit has two possibilities about what can happen with the Jātaka, subject to other planetary aspects and functional nature of dashās running at lower levels around the time the transit occurs. These are:

- A) If there are malefic planetary aspects on the bhāva/ dashā of functional malefic is running at the time of transit, His work will experience slow down/ reputation will be harmed, incomings will be held up, he might suffer damage to vehicles/ house or fight with mother and/or he might fall sick leading to expenditure from accumulated wealth, and inability to work as be a result of this sickness.
- B) If there are benefic aspects/dashā of benefic operate at this time, the Jātaka might relocate or travel away from home, undertake large projects requiring much time, undergoes major change in the way he works/ conducts business and his legacy matters get resolved and he might get income from sale of house or ancestral property.

I must comment here, that in my opinion choosing the option B) voluntarily, by the Jātaka, will tend to nullify the results of option A) as its results will be still obtained by the Jātaka, but end results shall be good for him. This as a matter of fact, is applicable to all transit results and all planets.

Chart 3: Aries Lagna with natal Saturn in 8th bhāva and transit Saturn in the 3rd bhāva



Principles of Transits

Let us, now, try to analyze how the result of transit Saturn in the 3rd bhāva, when Aries is ascendant at the time of birth of the Jātaka with natal Saturn occupying the 8th bhāva. Using again the methodology adopted earlier, we first observe that the transit Saturn is neither in trine nor in square to the natal Saturn, therefore the results that shall be apparent would be mostly in the area aspected by transit Saturn and more prominently in the bhāva that receives aspect of natal as well as transit Saturn, indicating possibility of potential indicated by the natal Saturn being intensified on account of energy provided by aspect of transit Saturn. The results will be even more prominent if the dashā of Saturn is running, at lower level at the time of such transit.

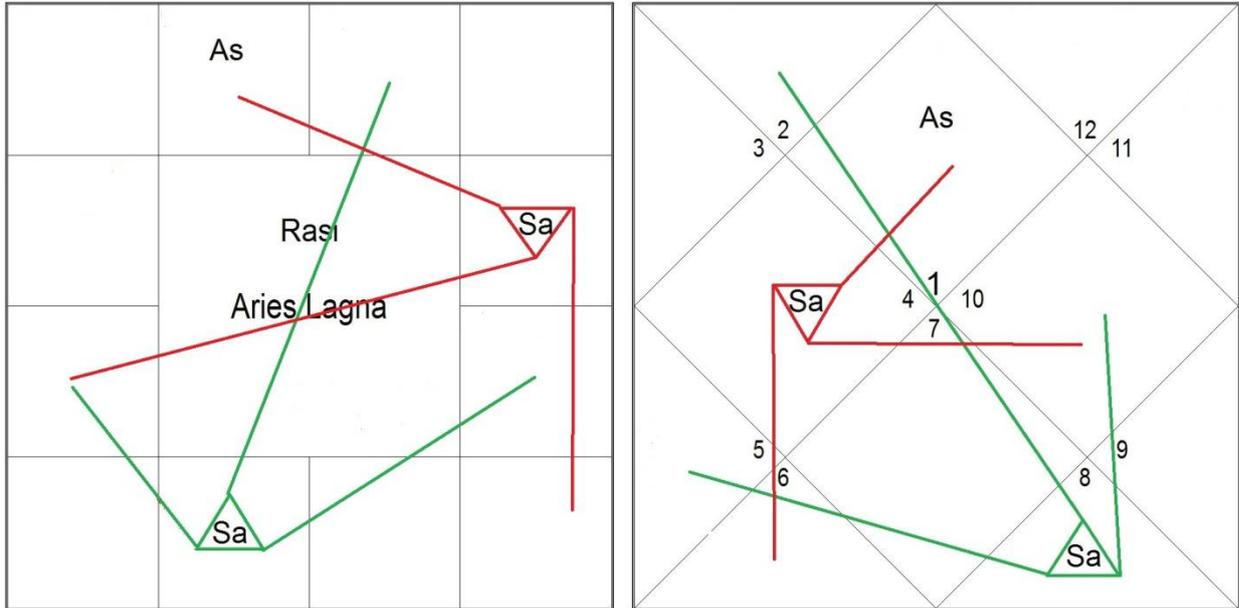
We find transit Saturn aspecting the i) 5th bhāva of progeny/emotions/higher education, which also receives the aspect of the natal Saturn also. So there is a greater likelihood of the Jātaka being much disturbed on account of progeny, higher education results or emotions connected with affairs of heart and even might be thinking about giving up job (the 5th bhāva being 12th to the 6th bhāva of service/hard work), ii) 9th bhāva representing father/superior at work and righteous behaviour, therefore this can indicate the Jātaka might have some tiffs with father, possibly on account of differences about his choice of person in affairs of heart, alternately his father might have health issues or there could be some issues related to property of his father (as Saturn, simultaneously aspects the 12th, which is 4th from 9th) or his superior might have problems. Next we find that Saturn also aspects the 12th bhāva, in transit. We know that 12th bhāva indicates, bed pleasures, distant lands, sleep etc. and this ties up with the indications of the aspect of both transit and natal Saturn on 5th bhāva. Therefore the major effect of this transit of Saturn in the 5th bhāva of the chart with natal Saturn in the 8th bhāva is more likely to be:

- A) The Jātaka wanting to change job/profession and go to distant lands in search thereof, if he be of appropriate age and occupation at that time.
- B) Alternately he might experience setback in higher education or want to marry someone of a lower caste, as perceived by his family. It is also possible that the Jātaka is under mental tension on account of him having some tiffs with his superior at work.

The result A) is likely, if benefics also aspect the respective bhāvas and dashā of functional benefic runs at that time, whereas results B) are possible if the dashā operating at the lowest level at the transit is that of a functional malefic, especially that of Saturn and with malefic aspects on the relevant bhāvas operating simultaneously.

Principles of Transits

Chart 4: Aries Lagna with natal Saturn in 8th bhāva and transit Saturn in the 4th bhāva



Let us now look at the last of the example charts where transit Saturn is occupying the 4th bhāva and is thus in trine to the natal Saturn occupying the 8th bhāva in Aries ascendant standard example chart. Unlike in chart 2 where transit Saturn occupied the 2nd bhava and squared natal Saturn thus activating it and became its mutual helper, here transit Saturn not only activates natal Saturn but both become more malevolent in delivering results of their aspects, as they also influence each other. Let us approach this transit in our usual manner. We can see here that the transit Saturn aspects i) the 6th bhāva or work/disease/litigation, ii) the 10th bhāva of reputation and place of work and iii) the Lagna bhāva that indicates the entire personality/body and self confidence of the Jātaka. The natal Saturn, as we have seen earlier, aspects the 10th, the 2nd and the 5th bhāva of the chart and these aspects tend to harm these bhāva indications. Both the transit and natal Saturn aspect the 10th bhāva indicating that maximum impact will be obtained in that bhāva. As ever, there are two scenarios that are possible.

- A) There is stagnation or slow down at work of the Jātaka, leading to loss of reputation (10th bhāva) as his accumulated wealth can be wiped out (2nd bhāva) resulting in litigations or Jātaka becoming sick (6th bhāva) due to extreme mental tension (5th bhāva) and lack of self confidence (Lagna bhāva), on account aspects of both the natal and transit Saturn becoming active in delivering results with much malevolence.
- B) The Jātaka decides to undertake some large project (10th bhāva) that will take about 2 and ½ years to complete, shall employ much labour or work hard at the project (6th bhāva), invests his accumulated capital (2nd bhāva), but is a bit apprehensive (5th bhāva) if he can complete the project in time (Lagna bhāva).

Principles of Transits

Here too if malefics aspect the bhāva involved, dashā of functional malefic is operating at the time of the transit, malefic results shall be distinct while benefic aspecting the concerned bhāva and dashās of functional benefics operating shall give less malevolent results or even benefic results if the Jātaka chooses the correct option.

Before coming to close of this article on transits, let me clarify that when I talk of dashā, operating they are the ones operating at the lowest level at the time of transit of planets and the period targeted shall be at entry of the transit planet into a bhāva and also during the time the planet is most effective in transit as indicated earlier in the article. We must also understand that in divining the end results, the astrologer will have to bring to bear his understanding of Kāarakatwas of planet, their bhāva lordships and how they shall manifest while occupying other bhāvas to be able to arrive at right conclusions about what is the likely result. Again it is better to remember that if an astrologer applies his mind and sense of proportion and takes into consideration the age, country and culture that the Jātaka belongs to and also the times in which the prediction is being made, he can not only divine what are the possible negative results but also what action should be suggested to the Jātaka to reduce the negative effects of a transit or increase its positive results by the action that the Jātaka should take. It must also be understood that the planetary transit is not in isolation and therefore one should also consider the results of other transit planets and their possible effects and then transpose these with the natal position of planets and considering the activation of planets etc, come to a final conclusion.

It is never possible to give all the permutation combination in a single article or even in one single book. That is why I try to give the principles involved so that the sincere seeker of astrological knowledge can understand how to analyze chart using different tools available in convergence. I am sure that, though I have not commented on transits of other planets, the readers who have read all the articles and other astrological texts written by the learned shall be able to understand the effects of other planets too.

I must mention here, that I would perhaps not have written this article on transits and perhaps not in this much depth but for my dear student Jane wanting me to write on transits indicating how I look at transits. So this is for you Jane.