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Precise position of planet Venus (Shukra) in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart

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Abstract

Sage Valmiki in Ramayana did not mention the exact position of Venus (Shukra), even though it was stated that five planets were in exaltation in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart. We have analysed 'Malavya Yoga' mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra, Sage Valmiki's description of position of planets in Lord Rama's birth chart, and compared it with Lord Rama's characteristics mentioned in Ramayana to conclude precise position of planet Venus (Shukra) in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart.

Keywords: Astrology, Rama, Venus, Malavya Yoga, Panchamahapurushas

Introduction

Sage Valmiki in his Sri Ramayana explained planetary positions in the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama. Many in the past have explored the possibilities of the position of planet Venus in the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama in different ways. Sureshwara ^[1] reports that, Venus was placed in Pisces at 27⁰ in exalted position but no further details on methods and materials that were used to ascertain this. An astrologer ^[2] has discussed about controversial placement of Sun and Mercury in Lord Rama's birth chart and also discussed about commonly used birth chart of Lord Sri Rama and tried to outline what Venus could offer being in 9th house, but precise degrees at which Venus is placed in 9th house was not mentioned. Kshitij Sharma ^[3] had placed Venus along with Mercury in Pisces and as per the author's explanation, it'll create neechabhanga raja yoga but further explanation on degrees at which Venus and Mercury were in Pisces hasn't been detailed. An article^[4] mentioned that, Jupiter, Moon, Saturn, Mars and Venus were exalted in the quadrants and trines of Lord Rama's birth chart and no further details on Venus's exaltation degrees was mentioned. Ramana Rao ^[5], mentioned that exalted Venus is present in 12th house from Sun (exalted) and Mercury (own house) is in 2nd house from Sun. Therefore, Ramana Rao concludes that Mercury is placed in Gemini (Mercury's own house), Sun in Taurus and Venus in Aries, which bring lot many questions should be discussed in our analysis. Ponmari Subramanian ^[6], has discussed Lord Sri Rama's birth chart and opines that Venus and Mercury are both placed in 9th house but hasn't outlined further details on degrees at which Venus and Mercury were placed in 9th house. Jwala Narasimha Rao ^[7], has referred to Pushkar Bhatnagar's works on Lord Rama and opines that Venus was seen in Pisces, yet again no analysis was made on degrees at which Venus was placed in Pisces and what results Venus would give. Prof. Desikam ^[8] referred to Thunchath Ezhuthachan's Ramayana and thinks Venus found its place in Pisces, but didn't give any further details either on degrees at which Venus was placed in Pisces or results of the same. AstroIsha ^[9] reported that ninth house or Lord Sri Rama's birth chart had exalted Venus and debilitated Mercury with aspect of Jupiter, and no further explanation on the reasons why Venus is placed in the ninth house or its degrees were given. Padmini Tamirisa ^[10] reported that there is a lot of conjecture and assumptions in the analysis made on Lord Sri Rama's birth chart and thinks Venus is placed in Pisces and is exalted and further outlined that Venus/Mercury period is when Rama lost Lakshmana and during Venus/Ketu is when his own end came, but didn't explain the degrees at which Venus was placed in Pisces. Stephen Knapp ^[11] also refers to Pushkar Bhatnagar's book Dating the Era of Lord Rama and thinks Venus was placed in Pisces where no further details found about Venus's degrees in Pisces.

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Raghavendra Sai Akkinapragada *et al* [12] reported Sun's precise position in Lord Rama's birth chart based on tithi and angle between Sun and Moon in Chaitra month (from Padyami tithi start to Asthami tithi end). Nandita Pandey [13] reported, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Sun, Venus, Rahu and Ketu all in their exalted state along with Mercury, which is neither in exalted state nor in its own sign and also reported that Venus, directly aspecting its own house and aspecting moon. It is unclear as to how Venus is aspecting its own house and also the Moon? Sanjay [14] reported that Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Venus are at their highest position but couldn't find any conclusive evidence based on which these were ascertained. Mesheeka Das [15] reported that at the time of Lord Rama's birth, the Guru and the Moon are in the lagna, Rahu in the 3rd house, Saturn in the fourth house, and Mars in the seventh house, Ketu with the true zodiac motion, Venus is in the 9th house and tried to compare Lord Rama's birth chart with Ravana's, it is not clear about the authenticity of Ravana's birth chart. Renay Oshop [16], who is an astrologer herself, tried to compare Sita's horoscope with Lord Rama's but it was not clear about the source of Sita's horoscope. Sadrish [17] has only mentioned that five planets were exalted and were in their own houses but didn't further provide any details. Also, it is not clear as to how the planets can be exalted and be simultaneously in their own house as this is only possible with Mercury. But, Raghavendra Sai Akkinapragada *et al*. [18] gave a detailed explanation about Mercury's absence in Lord Rama's birth chart which further enhances the mysteries surrounding Lord Sri Rama's birth chart.

Based on above references and their conclusions, below questions were drawn:

1. Where should Venus be placed in Lord Rama's birth chart?
2. What could be the precise range of degrees at which Venus can be placed?

In this research paper, we will explore various aspects to find an answer to the above questions.

Method and Materials

Now the question is, what Sage Valmiki mentioned about the placement of Venus (Shukra) in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart? We find that, in the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama, Venus (Shukra) was meant to be in exaltation as per Ramayana's [19] Bala Kanda but exact degrees at which Venus (Shukra) is placed was not mentioned.

With reference to Vālmiki Rāmāyana (Bala Kanda.18/ Sloka 8, 9) [19], five planets were in exaltation in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart. Raghavendra Sai Akkinapragada *et al*. [12] reported

Sun's precise position along with drawing conclusions that other four planets must be Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Saturn. Raghavendra Sai Akkinapragada *et al* [18] ruled out the existence of planet Mercury (Budha) in Lord Rama's birth chart. This research considers planet Venus (Shukra) to be in Pisces as per above discussion and proceeds further to ascertain the precise location of the planet Venus (Shukra) in Pisces in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart.

ततो यज्ञे समाप्ते तु ऋतूनां षट् समत्ययुः ।
ततश्च द्वादशे मासे चैत्रे नावमिके तिथौ ॥ १-१८-८
नक्षत्रेऽदितिदैवत्ये स्वोच्चसंस्थेषु पंचसु ।
ग्रहेषु कर्कटे लग्ने वाक्पताविंदुना सह ॥ १-१८-९

Fig 1: Excerpts from Ramayana, written by Sage Valmiki - Bala Kanda [19]

As per Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [20], chapter 75, "Characteristic Features of Panchamahapurushas", slokas 1-2, mentions "which yogas are applicable and when certain conditions are met".

अथ वक्ष्याम्यहं पञ्च-महापुरुषलक्षणम् ।
स्वभोच्चगतकेन्द्रस्यैर्बलिभिरच कुजादिभिः ॥१॥
क्रमशो रुचको मद्रो हंसो मालव्य एव च ।
शशरचंते बुधेः सर्वमहान्तः पुरुषाः स्मृताः ॥२॥

Fig-2: Sage Parasara's, Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [20], chapter 75, slokas 1-2

If Venus be placed in its own sign or exaltation, be in kendra to ascendant, then this gives raise to Malavya Yoga. According to slokas 17-19 [20], "The Malavya native has beautiful lips and a slender waist. He is lustrous like the Moon and has fragrance in his body. He is of ordinary red complexion, has a medium stature and clean and beautiful teeth. His voice is like that of an elephant and his arms are long enough to reach up to his knees. His face is thirteen anguls in length and ten anguls in breadth. He lives happily for seventy years as ruler of Sindhu and Malwa and then leaves for his heavenly abode".

Now let us verify Lord Sri Rama's description by Sage Vālmiki's Rāmāyana and compare with Malavya yoga characteristics as described by Sage Parasara and then ascertain the location of Venus in the Lord Rama's birth chart.

Table 1: Parasara Hora Sastra Malavya Yoga compared to Valmiki's description of Sri Rama

Num	Parasara Hora Sastra - Malavya Yoga reference	Vālmiki Rāmāyana references about Lord Sri Rama
1	beautiful lips	Bala Kanda [19] sarga 18, sloka 10, 11
2*	slender waist	Sundara Kanda [22] sarga 35, Sloka 17 (but cannot be exactly matched)
3	lustrous like the Moon	Bala Kanda [19] sarga 18, sloka 10, 11
4*	fragrance in his body	Not found in Valmiki Ramayana
5	ordinary red complexion	Sundara Kanda [22] sarga 18, sloka 16
6	voice is like that of an elephant	Bala Kanda [19] sarga 18, sloka 10, 11
7	his arms are long enough to reach up to his knees	Bala Kanda [19] sarga 18, sloka 10, 11
8*	medium stature	Sundara Kanda [22] sarga 35, sloka 16 (but cannot be exactly matched)
9	clean and beautiful teeth	Sundara Kanda [22] sarga 35, sloka 19
10*	face is thirteen anguls in length & ten anguls in breadth	Not found in Valmiki Ramayana

11	Lives happily for seventy years as ruler of Sindhu and Malwa	Ayodhya is located between Sindhu and Malwa.
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* = not found or exact match not found

Results and Discussions

1. With reference to table-1, even though, the Malavya yoga indicates ‘medium stature’ (point 8), Lord Sri Rama had 96 anguls height according to Vālmiki Rāmāyana. This is because, Lord Sri Rama also had Hamsa yoga (one of the Panchamahapurusha yogas), which dominates Malavya yoga.
2. With reference to table-1, Hamsa Yoga is formed because of exalted Jupiter. Also, as Jupiter is in lagna (Cancer), it represents the personality of the person. Therefore for the characteristic of ‘height’, Hamsa yoga should be considered instead of Malavya yoga.
3. With reference to table-1, Lord Sri Rama has 7 out of 11 qualities described by Sage Parasara’s Hora Sastra’s Malavya Yoga (one of Panchamahapurusha Yoga) when compared with Vālmiki Rāmāyana. Malavya yoga is only applicable for persons having Venus exalted in their birth chart.
4. It is a widely known factor that Venus is deeply exalted (see Fig-3) in Pisces ^[23] at 27⁰.

Exaltation

Each planet is held to be exalted when it is in a particular sign. The power to do good when in exaltation is greater than when in its own sign. The Sun, the Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu and Ketu are said to be in deep exaltation in Aries 10°, Taurus 3°, Capricorn 28°, Virgo 15°, Cancer 5°, Pisces 27°, Libra 20°, Taurus 20° and Scorpio 20° respectively. Throughout the sign ascribed, the planet is exalted but in a particular degree its exaltation is at the maximum level.

Fig-3: B.V. Raman’s book on Astrology ^[23], Page 39

Based on above 4 points, we can determine the exact degrees at which Venus should have been present in Pisces of Lord Rama’s birth chart. It is evident that, from table-1, only 7 out of 11 points in Malavya Yoga of Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra ^[20] are an exact match with Lord Sri Rama’s characteristics as described by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana ^[19, 22].

Therefore, the probability of Venus being present at 27⁰ in Pisces is only about 63.63% (7/11). Hence the degrees at which Venus is present in Pisces of Lord Rama’s birth chart must be around 17.3⁰ based on this calculation: 27⁰ * (7 points / 11 points).

Conclusion

Based on above given methods and materials, results and discussions, we can safely conclude that planet Venus (Shukra) was exalted in Pisces of Lord Sri Rama’s birth chart at around 17.3⁰ (see Fig-4).

PISCES	ARIES		
VENUS (around 17.3 ⁰)	SUN (around 7.3 ⁰)		
	Sage Valmiki’s Lord Rama’s birth chart as per Bala Kanda (Sarga 18, versus 8,9)		ASC, CANCER
CAPRICORN			JUPITER MOON
MARS		LIBRA	
		SATURN	

Fig 4: South Indian chart type

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