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Raghavendra Sai

Akkinapragada

University of Applied Vedic
Sciences, United Kingdom

Dr. Venkata Chaganti

University of Applied Vedic
Sciences, United States of
America

Precise exaltation position of planet Saturn (Shani) in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart

Raghavendra Sai Akkinapragada and Dr. Venkata Chaganti

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Abstract

Even though it was stated that five planets were in exaltation in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart by Sage Valmiki in his epic Ramayana, he did not mention the precise exalted position of Saturn (Shani). We have analysed 'Sasa Yoga' mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra, and Sage Valmiki's description of position of planets in Lord Rama's birth chart, then compared it with Lord Rama's characteristics mentioned in Ramayana to conclude precise exaltation position of planet Saturn (Shani) in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart.

Keywords: Astrology, Rama, Saturn, Sasa 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 Saturn in the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama in different ways. Sureshwara^[1] reported that, Saturn was exalted in Libra at 20⁰ but was not backed up by any calculations and ill-effects of Saturn weren't discussed. Another astrologer^[2] had discussed that Jupiter and Moon were in ascendant in Cancer and Saturn in Libra, but didn't explain the precise position at which Saturn was exalted. Kshitij Sharma^[3] placed Saturn in Libra with no further explanation. 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 Saturn's precise position was mentioned. Akkinapragada *et al.*^[5] reported precise position of Venus by Malavya yoga features with Lord Rama's characteristics as detailed by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana. Ramana Rao^[6], mentioned that Saturn is exalted in Libra, but didn't given any further details on precise position at which Saturn was exalted in Libra. Ponmari Subramanian^[7], has discussed Lord Sri Rama's birth chart but hasn't outlined further details on precise position at which Saturn was placed in 4th house. Jwala Narasimha Rao^[8], has referred to Pushkar Bhatnagar's works on Lord Rama and opines that Saturn is in Libra of Lord Sri Rama's birth chart, yet again no analysis was made on precise position at which Saturn was placed in Libra. Prof. Desikam^[9] referred to Thunchath Ezhuthachan's Ramayana and thinks Jupiter and Moon in Karkidakom (Cancer) and Saturn in Libra, but didn't give any further details on precise position of Saturn. AstroIsha^[10] reported that Lord Rama had kind Jupiter and caring Moon in first house, and Saturn in fourth house, but didn't provide further details on precise position at which Saturn was exalted in fourth house. Padmini Tamirisa^[11] reported that Saturn is in 4th in Libra and it is exalted, but has not mentioned about Saturn's precise location in Libra. Stephen Knapp^[12] also refers to Pushkar Bhatnagar's book Dating the Era of Lord Rama and thinks Saturn was placed in Libra, where no further details found about Saturn's precise position in Libra were given. Akkinapragada *et al.*^[13] reported Sun's precise position in Lord Rama's birth chart based on tithi and angle between Sun and Moon in Chaitra month (from start of Padyami tithi to the end of Asthami tithi). Nandita Pandey^[14] 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. Also the author reported that, Jupiter, Moon are placed in ascendant but Saturn's precise position in Libra wasn't mentioned. Sanjay^[15] also reported that Jupiter and Moon are in the ascendant but couldn't find any conclusive evidence based on which Saturn's precise position in Libra.

Corresponding Author:

Raghavendra Sai

Akkinapragada

University of Applied Vedic
Sciences, United Kingdom

Akkinapragada *et al.* [16] reported precise position of Jupiter by comparing Hamsa (Hansa) yoga's features with Lord Rama's as detailed by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana. Mesheeka Das [17] reported that, at the time of Lord Rama's birth, the Jupiter and the Moon were in lagna, Rahu in the third house, Saturn in the fourth house, and Mars in the seventh house, Ketu with the true zodiac motion, Venus is in the ninth 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 and also there was no specific mention of precise position of Saturn. Renay Oshop [18], 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 [19] has mentioned that, five planets, Sun, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus, were exalted in their own houses in Karkata (Cancer) Lagna, but didn't give precise position of Saturn in Libra. Akkinapragada *et al.* [20] 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. What could be the precise position of planet Saturn in Libra of Lord Rama's birth chart?
2. Are there any aspects of other planets on Saturn that could help positioning Saturn?

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

Method and Materials

Now the question is, what Sage Valmiki mentioned about the placement of Saturn (Shani) in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart? We find that, in the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama, Saturn was meant to be in exaltation as per Ramayana's [21] Bala Kanda but exact degrees at which Saturn was placed was not clear.

अथ वक्ष्याम्यहं पञ्च-महापुरुषलक्षणम् ।
स्वभोच्चगतकेन्द्रस्थैर्बलिभिरच कुजादिभिः ॥१॥
क्रमशो रुचको भद्रो हंसो मालव्य एव च ।
शशश्चंते बुधः सर्वमहान्तः पुरुषाः स्मृताः ॥२॥

Fig 2: Sage Parasara's, Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [22], chapter 75, slokas 1-2

If Saturn be placed in its own sign or exaltation, be in kendra to ascendant, then this gives raise to Sasa Yoga. According to slokas 20-22 [22], "The Sasa native has small sized teeth and face but his body is not small. He is valorous. He has a slender waist and beautiful thighs. He is wise and enjoys wandering in forests and mountains. He is well versed in the loopholes (weaknesses) of the enemy. He is lively, virile and fond of women. He usurps other people's wealth. He has marks of mala (garland), veena, mridanga (musical

With reference to Vālmiki Rāmāyana (Bala Kanda.18/ Slokas 8, 9) [21], five planets were in exaltation in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart. Akkinapragada *et al.* [5, 3, 16] reported Sun's, Venus's and Jupiter's precise position in its exalted state. Raghavendra *et al.* [20] ruled out the existence of planet Mercury (Budha) in Lord Rama's birth chart. This research considers planet Saturn to be in Libra as per above discussion and proceeds further to ascertain the precise location of the planet Saturn in Libra 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 [21]

As per sloka in Fig-1, Lord Rama was born on 9th tithi of Chaitra month, in Karkata (Cancer) lagna, where Moon was in its own house along with Jupiter and the nakshatra's lord being Adithi. Since the lord for Punarvasu is Adithi, we conclude that Moon is placed in the 4th pada of Punarvasu within 3.3⁰ of Cancer. Moving forward, let us examine the 1st line of second sloka in Fig-1. "स्वोच्चसंस्थेषु पंचसु" (excerpt from Fig-1) स्व+उच्च+संस्थेषु, स्व = Own, self, individual, उच्च = exalted or highest, संस्थेषु = contained in their positions, पंचसु = collection of five, refers to 5 planets are in their own exaltation positions.

As per Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [22], chapter 75, "Characteristic Features of Panchamahapurushas", slokas 1-2, mentions "which yogas are applicable and when certain conditions are met".

instruments) and weapons in his hands and feet. He rules happily over several parts of the earth and then leaves for his heavenly abode at the age of 70".

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

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

Num	Parasara Hora Sastra - Sasa Yoga reference	Vālmiki Rāmāyana references about Lord Sri Rama
1	Native has small sized teeth and face	Sundara Kanda ^[23] sarga 35, sloka 19 (partially matching with glossy face)
2	His body is not small	Sundara Kanda ^[23] sarga 35, slokas 9-21
3	he is valorous	Sundara Kanda ^[23] sarga 35, slokas 9-21
4	Has a slender waist and beautiful thighs	Sundara Kanda ^[23] sarga 35, sloka 17 (partially matching).
5	He is wise	Sundara Kanda ^[23] sarga 35, sloka 9
6	Enjoys wandering in forests and mountains	No match found
7	He is well versed in the loopholes (weaknesses) of the enemy	No match found
8	He is lively, virile	Sundara Kanda ^[23] sarga 35, slokas 9-21
9	He is fond of women	No match found
10	He usurps other people's wealth	No match found
11	He has marks of mala (garland), veena, mridanga (musical instruments) and weapons in his hands and feet	No match found
12	He rules happily over several parts of the earth	Ruled entire Earth

Results and Discussions

1. Sasa Yoga is formed because of an exalted Saturn^[22].
2. With reference to table-1, Lord Sri Rama has 6 out of 12 qualities described by Sage Parasara's Hora Sastra's Sasa Yoga^[22], (one of Panmahapurusha Yoga) when compared with Vālmiki Rāmāyana. Sasa yoga is only applicable for persons having Saturn (Shani) exalted in their birth chart.
3. It is a widely known factor that Saturn is deeply exalted in Libra^[24] at 20° (see Fig-3).

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^[24], Page 39

Based on above 3 points, we can determine the exact degrees at which Saturn should have been present in Libra of Lord Rama's birth chart. It is evident that, from table-1, 6 (5 fully matched and 2 partial match) out of 12 points in Sasa Yoga of Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra^[22] are an exact match with Lord Sri Rama's characteristics as described by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana^[21, 23].

Therefore, the probability of Saturn being present at 20° in Libra is only about 50% (6/12), because 5 points of 12 points are matching and two points are partially matching, due to which 6 points are considered out of 12 points from table-1. Hence the precise position at which Saturn was present in Libra of Lord Rama's birth chart must had been around 10° based on the calculation as given:

Precise Position of Saturn in Libra = 20° * (6 points / 12 points) = 10° (Equation-1)

4. Are there any ill-aspects of other planets on Saturn that could help positioning Saturn? As per Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra^[22], chapter 34, "Yoga Karakas", slokas 27-28, mentions "for Cancer ascendant: Venus and Mercury are malefics, Mars, Jupiter and the Moon are auspicious.

Mars is capable of conferring a full-fledged yoga and giving auspicious effects. Saturn and the Sun are killers and give effects according to association".

भार्गवेन्दुसुतो पापी भूसुतेज्येन्दवः शुभाः ।
पूर्णयोगकरः साक्षान्मंगलो मंगलप्रदः ॥२७॥
निहन्ताऽर्कसुतोऽर्कस्तु साहचर्यात् फलप्रदः ।
कर्कलग्नोद्भवस्यैवं फलं प्रोक्तं मनीषिभिः ॥२८॥

Fig 4: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra^[25], chapter 34, slokas 27-28

As Lord Sri Rama is Cancer ascendant, Mars, Jupiter and Moon are auspicious according to Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra^[24]. Mars is capable of conferring a full-fledged yoga and gives auspicious effects. Even though, Saturn and Sun are killers for Cancer ascendant, as Mars is in exaltation and as Sun has occupied Aries (Mars's own house) and as Mars is conferring full-fledged yoga, the negative effects of Saturn and Sun are nullified due to Mars's full-fledged yoga.

PISCES	ARIES		
VENUS (around 17.3°)	SUN (around 7.3°)		
		Sage Valmiki's Lord Rama's birth chart as per Bala Kanda (Sarga 18, versus 8,9)	ASC, CANCER JUPITER (around 2.8125°) MOON
CAPRICORN	MARS		
		LIBRA SATURN (around 10°)	

Fig 5: South Indian chart type

Conclusion

Based on above given methods and materials, results and discussions:

1. Jupiter, Moon and Mars are auspicious for Cancer ascendants, and no other planets ill-effects can be seen according to Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra^[25] for Cancer ascendants. Hence, in Lord Rama's birth chart, we see that, Saturn is exalted and the precise position is based only on 'Sasa Yoga' and good aspects of Sun, Jupiter,

- Moon and Mars as no other malefic effects can be counted (see Equation-1).
2. This is the reason Sasa Yoga in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart has lost all ill-qualities such as: 'fond of women', and 'usurps other people's wealth'.
 3. Therefore, we can safely conclude that planet Saturn (Shani) was exalted in Cancer of Lord Sri Rama's birth chart at around 10° (see Equation-1, Fig-5).

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