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Determining precise birth time of Lord Sri Rama

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Abstract

Sage Valmiki in his epic Ramayana has stated that five planets were in exaltation in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart, but he did not mention the precise birth time. We have calculated avastha due to Moon as explained in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra and Sage Valmiki's description of Lord Rama's birth chart, then compared them with Lord Rama's characteristics mentioned in Ramayana to determine precise birth time of Lord Sri Rama.

Keywords: Astrology, Rama, moon, avasthas of planets, prakasavastha

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 Jupiter in the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama in different ways. Stephen Knapp ^[1] refers to Pushkar Bhatnagar's book Dating the Era of Lord Rama and thinks that 10th January 5114 BCE was Lord Rama's birth date and 12:30pm could be his birth time without any further explanation. An article ^[2] mentioned that, based on a planetarium software and from other theory of Pushkar Bhatnagar, Lord Sri Rama's birth date and time could have been 10th January 5114 BC and at 12:30 pm without any explanation on how the birth time was calculated. Arjan Dhanak ^[3] has mentioned that Lord Sri Rama was born at 12.30 p.m. on 10th January 5114 BC, which also refers to the works of Pushkar Bhatnagar. Jwala Narasimha Rao ^[4], also referred to Pushkar Bhatnagar's works on Lord Rama and opines that Lord Sri Ram was born on the noon of January 10, 5114 BC (7123 years back) with no details on how birth time was calculated. Akkinapragada *et al*, ^[5] 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) and further mentioned position of Jupiter in Cancer based on Sage Valmiki's Ramayana. Anik Charan ^[6] had mentioned that Lord Sri Rama was born 9114 years before around noon but did not provide any methodology based on which this was determined. Akash ^[7] mentioned that Lord Rama was born on 10 January 5114 BCE (about 7129 years ago) but has not mentioned birth time. Akkinapragada *et al*, ^[8] reported precise position of Venus by comparing Malavya yoga features mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra with Lord Rama's characteristics as detailed by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana. An article ^[9] mentioned that Lord Sri Rama was born on 10 January 5115 BC at 12:14:31 but didn't provide further details on precise calculation of the birth time. Kshitij Sharma ^[10] had mentioned about possible planetary positions in the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama but did not provide the specific birth time. Akkinapragada *et al*, ^[11] reported precise position of Jupiter by comparing Hamsa (Hansa) yoga's features mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra with Lord Rama's characteristics as detailed by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana. Renay Oshop ^[12], 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. Nandita Pandey ^[13] reported, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Sun, Venus, Rahu and Ketu all in their exalted state along with Mercury in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart but did not mention the birth time. Prof. Desikam ^[14] referred to Thunchath Ezhuthachan's Ramayana and thinks Mars was in Makaram (Capricorn) but didn't give any further details on precise position of Mars with no further details on Lord Sri Rama's birth time. Akkinapragada *et al*, ^[15] reported precise position of Saturn by comparing Sasa yoga's features mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra with Lord Rama's characteristics as detailed by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana.

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Sureshwara [16] reported that, Mars was exalted in Capricorn at 28⁰ but was not backed up by any calculations and also mentioned that Jupiter was in conjunction with Moon. Another astrologer [17] had discussed about various planetary positions in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart but did not mention about his birth time. 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. Gaurav Dave [19] has discussed about various planets and their placements in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart but did not mention about his birth time. Akkinapragada *et al*, [20] reported precise position of Mars by comparing Ruchaka yoga's features mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra with Lord Sri Rama's characteristics as detailed by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana. Author of article [21] tried to explain various aspects of Lord Sri Rama's birth chart but did not provide any clarification on the birth time of Lord Sri Rama. Akkinapragada *et al*, [22] reported precise position of Moon in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart, by comparing Effects of first house from Brihat Samhita Hora Sastra slokas with Lord Sri Rama's characteristics as detailed in Sage Valmiki's Ramayana.

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

1. What could be the precise birth time of Lord Rama?

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

Method and Materials

Now the question is, what Sage Valmiki mentioned about birth time of Lord Sri Rama? With reference to Vālmiki Rāmāyana (Bala Kanda.18/ Slokas 8, 9) [23], five planets were in exaltation in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart. Akkinapragada *et al*, [5, 8, 11, 15, 20, 22] reported Sun's, Venus's, Jupiter's, Saturn's, Mars's and Moon's precise positions in their exalted states. Akkinapragada *et al*, [18] ruled out the existence of planet Mercury (Budha) in Lord Rama's birth chart. This research considers these planetary positions and characteristics of Lord Sri Rama mentioned in Sage Valmiki's Ramayana and proceeds further to ascertain the birth time of Lord Sri Rama.

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 [23]

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 (Karkata) 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 [24], chapter 45, Page 460, "Avasthas of Planets", slokas 52-63 mentions 12 different Avasthas based on a planet:

जानुःकाले क्षपानाथे शयनं वेदुपागते ।
मानो शीतप्रधानश्च कामी वित्तविनाशकः ॥५२॥

Fig 2: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 52

रोगावितो मन्वमतिविशेषाद्वित्तेन हीनो मनुजः कठोरः ।
अकार्यकारी परवित्तहारी क्षपाकरे चेदुपवेशनस्थे ॥५३॥

Fig 3: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 53

नेत्रपाणौ क्षपानाथे महारोगी नरो भवेत् ।
अनल्पजल्पको धूर्तः कुकर्मनिरतः सदा ॥५४॥

Fig 4: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 54

यदा राकानाथे गतवति विऋशं च जनने
विकाशः संसारे विमलगुणराशेरवनिपात् ।
नवाशामाला स्यात्करिनुरगलक्ष्म्या परिवृता
विभूषा योषाभिः सुखमनुदिनं तीर्थगमनम् ॥५५॥

Fig 5: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 55

सितेतेरे पापरतो निशाकरे विशेषतः क्रूरतरो नरो भवेत् ।
सदाभिरोगैः परिपीड्यमानो बलक्षपक्षे गमने भयानुरः ॥५६॥

Fig 6: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 56

विधावागमने मानो पादरोगी नरो भवेत् ।
गुप्तपापरतो बीनो मत्तितोषविर्जितः ॥५७॥

Fig 7: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 57

सकलजनवदान्यो राजराजेन्द्रमान्यो
रतिपतिसमकान्तिः शान्तिकृत्कामिनीनाम् ।
सपदि सदसि याते चारुबिम्बे शशाके
भवति परमरोतिप्रोतिविज्ञो गुणज्ञः ॥५८॥

Fig 8: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 58

विधावागमके मर्त्यो वाचालो धर्मपूरितः ।
कृष्णपक्षे द्विभार्यः स्याद्रोगी दुष्टतरो हठी ॥५९॥

Fig 9: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 59

भोजने जनुषि पूर्णचन्द्रमा मानयानजनतासुखं नृणाम् ।
आतनोति वनितासुतासुखं सर्वमेव न सितेतेरे शुभम् ॥६०॥

Fig 10: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 60

नृत्यलिप्सागते चन्द्रे सबले बलवान्नरः ।
गीतज्ञो हि रसज्ञश्च कृष्णं पापकरो भवेत् ॥६१॥

Fig 11: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 61

कौतुकभवनं गतवति चन्द्रे भवति नृपत्वं वा धनपत्वं ।
कामकलासु सदा कुशलत्वं बारवधूरतिरमणपटुत्वम् ॥६२॥

Fig 12: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 62

निद्रागते जन्मनि मानवानां कलाधरे जीवयुते महत्त्वम् ।
हीनेऽङ्गनासञ्चितवित्तनाशः शिवालये रोति विचित्रमुच्चैः ॥६३॥

Fig 13: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, sloka 63

Meanings of slokas mentioned in Fig-2 to Fig-13 are given in the below Table-1:

Table 1: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, slokas 52-63 - Avasthas Results

Fig	Avasthas	Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [24], chapter 45, Page 460, slokas 52-63, Effects of Moon's Avasthas at birth
Fig-2	Sayanavastha	If at the time of birth, the Moon has gone in the Shayanavastha, the native will be honourable, sluggish, given to sexual lust and will face financial destruction.
Fig-3	Upaveshnavastha	If Moon is in Upaveshnavastha, the native will be troubled by diseases, be dull-witted, bereft of wealth, hard hearted, will do undesirable acts and will be a stealer of others wealth.
Fig-4	Netrapaniavastha	If Moon is in Netrapaniavastha, the native will be troubled by great or chronic diseases, be very garrulous, wicked, and will indulge in bad deeds.
Fig-5	Prakashavastha	If Moon is in Prakashavastha, the native will be famous in the world, will have his virtues exposed through royal patronage, be surrounded by horses, elephants, females and ornaments, and will visit shrines.
Fig-6	Gamanavastha	If Moon is in Gamanavastha, with decreasing rays, the native will be sinful, cruel and always troubled by afflictions of sight; if with increasing rays, the native will be distressed due to fear.
Fig-7	Agamanavastha	If the Moon is in Agamanavastha, the native will be honourable, will suffer diseases of feet, will secretly indulge in sinful acts, be poor, and devoid of intelligence and happiness.
Fig-8	Sabhavastha	If the Moon is in Sabhavastha, the native will be eminent among men, honoured by Kings, and King of Kings, be very beautiful, will subdue the passion of women, be skilful in sexual acts and be virtuous.
Fig-9	Agamavastha	If the Moon is in Agamavastha, the native will be garrulous, and virtuous and if the said Moon is of dark fortnight, the native will have two wives, be sick, highly wicked, and be violent.
Fig-10	Bhojanavastha	If the Moon is in Bhojanavastha, the native will be endowed with honour, conveyances, attendants, social status, wife and daughters, provided it is a full moon; if it is in dark fortnight, these auspicious effects will fail to come.
Fig-11	Nrityalipsavastha	If the Moon is in Nrityalipsavastha and be endowed with (fortnightly) strength, the native will be strong, will have knowledge of songs, and be a critic of beauty of things; if the said Moon is of dark fortnight, the person will be sinful.
Fig-12	Kautukavastha	If the Moon is in Kautukavastha, the native will attain kingship, lordship over wealth and skill in sexual acts and in sporting with harlots.
Fig-13	Nidravastha	Should increasing Moon conjunct Jupiter be in Nidravastha, the native will be quite eminent. Devoid of Jupiter's conjunction, if the Moon is in the said Avastha, the native will lose his wealth on account of females, and female jackals will be crying around his adobe (as though it were a cemetery).

प्रोद्यमाने जगन्नाथं सर्वलोकनमस्कृतम् ।
कौसल्याजनयद्रामं सर्वलक्षणसंयुतम् ॥ १-१८-१०

Fig 14: Excerpts from Ramayana, written by Sage Valmiki - Bala Kanda [23], sarga 10

As per Sage Valmiki's Ramayana [23] Fig-14, we see that, the meaning of प्रोद्यमाने = when raising - when ascendent; [Abhijit lagna = advancing daytime]. Based on this, we calculated the midday time for the past 10 years (2014-2023) sunrise, sunset times for Ram Navami, Varanasi, India location and this data was used to further calculate 'Ghatis (g)' to determine Lord Sri Rama's precise birth time. Details are in below Table-2:

Table 2: Last 10 years (2014-2023) Ghatis (g) calculation for Ram Navami, Varanasi, India

Year	Ram Navami Date	Ram Navami Sunrise	Ram Navami Sunset	Time Diff	Time elapsed from Sunrise in hrs: min	Midday Time from Sunrise in Minutes	Ghatis (g) (ghati = 24 min)	Possible Lord Rama's Birth Time
2014	08 April 2014	5:43:00	18:18:00	12:35	06:17	377	15.71	12:00:30 PM
2015	28 March 2015	5:54:00	18:13:00	12:19	06:09	369	15.38	12:03:30 PM
2016	15 April 2016	5:36:00	18:21:00	12:45	06:22	382	15.92	11:58:30 AM
2017	05 April 2017	5:46:00	18:16:00	12:30	06:15	375	15.63	12:01:00 PM
2018	25 March 2018	5:57:00	18:11:00	12:14	06:07	367	15.29	12:04:00 PM
2019	14 April 2019	5:37:00	18:20:00	12:43	06:21	381	15.88	11:58:30 AM
2020	02 April 2020	5:48:00	18:15:00	12:27	06:13	373	15.54	12:01:30 PM
2021	21 April 2021	5:30:00	18:24:00	12:54	06:27	387	16.13	11:57:00 AM
2022	10 April 2022	5:41:00	18:18:00	12:37	06:18	378	15.75	11:59:30 AM
2023	30 March 2023	5:52:00	18:13:00	12:21	06:10	370	15.42	12:02:30 PM

Results and Discussions

- With reference to Table-1 and Table-2, we need to determine, which Avastha did Lord Sri Rama had, based

on below factors and formula given in Chapter 45^[24], Page 454, slokas 30-37.

$$Avastha = remainder\ of\ \left[\frac{(s*p*n)+(a+g+r)}{12} \right] \dots (Equation-1)$$

Where, the logic to determine values for s, p, n, a, g, r are given in below Table-3:

Table 3: Formula and its explanation as given in Chapter 45^[24], Page 454, slokas 30-37

Substitutes	Description	From Lord Rama’s birth chart (Bala Kanda ^[23])	Derived Values
s	serial number of star occupied by the planet, counted from Aswini at birth	as Lord Sri Rama’s birth star is Punarvasu, it is at position 7 counted from Ashwini (including Ashwini)	7
p	status of planet counted from Sun	Sun’s number is 1, Moon’s is 2 and so on.	2
n	planet’s Navamsa position	As Moon must be within 3.3 ⁰ as it is in Punarvasu’s 4 th pada, the Moon’s Navamsa position is also in 1 st house	1
a	janma nakshatra (ruling star, the one occupied by Moon at birth)	as Lord Sri Rama’s birth star is Punarvasu, it is at position 7 from Aswini	7
g	ghatis	From Table-2, take average ghatis for last 10 years	15.6625
r	ascendant’s order counted from Aries	In Lord Rama’s birth chart, Cancer is the ascendant, so from Aries, Cancer is at position number 4.	4

By substituting the derived values from Table-3 into Equation-1, we get the remainder as: 4.6625. As the avastha value (remainder) 4.6625 falls within the scale of 4-5, we can determine that Lord Sri Rama had Prakashavastha, which as per Table-1 (Fig-5), explains that

“native will be famous in the world, will have his virtues exposed through royal patronage, be surrounded by horses, elephants, females and ornaments, and will visit shrines”. This perfectly matches with the description given by Sage Valmiki in Ramayana about Lord Sri Rama, see Table-4.

Table 4: Comparing Prakashavastha attributes with Lord Sri Rama’s characteristics

Prakashavastha attributes (From Table-1, Fig-5)	Sage Valmiki Ramayana about Lord Sri Rama
be famous in the world	Bala Kanda ^[25] , sarga 19, slokas 9b, 10a, 10b, 11, 14b, 15a
virtues exposed through royal patronage, be surrounded by horses, elephants, females and ornaments	Bala Kanda ^[26] , sarga 1, slokas 7, 17, 19, 20 Ayodhya Kanda ^[27] , sarga 1, slokas 9, 19, 27, 31, 32, 34, 38, 40, 41 Ayodhya Kanda ^[28] , sarga 2, 26, 27, 48, 49, 54 Ayodhya Kanda ^[29] , sarga 17, all slokas
visit shrines	Ayodhya Kanda ^[30] , sarga 54, slokas 7-12, 35, Aranya Kanda ^[31] , sarga 5, slokas 3b, 4, 20, 37, 38 Aranya Kanda ^[32] , sarga 7, slokas 1, 17, 22b, 23 Aranya Kanda ^[33] , sarga 12, slokas 1, 15b, 16a

Conclusion

Based on above given methods and materials, results and discussions

1. As per Table-2, the average Ghatis for last 10 years is 15.66.
2. When these Ghatis 15.66 were substituted into Equation-1, we get the avastha as Prakashavastha, and the qualities of Prakashavastha are perfectly matching with Lord Sri Rama’s characteristics as explained in Table-4. With this we can safely conclude that Ghatis 15.66 is correct.
3. 15.66 Ghatis = 15.66 * 24 minutes = 375.84 minutes (where 1 Ghati = 24 minutes).
4. 375.84 minutes = 6 hours 15 minutes and 50 seconds.
5. From Table-2, we find that in year 2016, the time of Sunrise was at the least at 5:36:00. To this we add 6:15:50, which is 11:51:50 am.
6. Similarly, from Table-2, we find that in year 2018, the time of Sunrise was at the maximum at 5:57:00. To this we add 6:15:50, which is 12:12:50 pm.
7. Since we do not know the ‘precise year’ in which Lord Sri Rama was ‘born’, we calculated Lord Sri Rama’s time of birth by adding Ghatis to the Ram Navami’s sunrise time. Based on minimum time of Sunrise 5:36:00

the time of birth is 11:51: 50 AM and maximum time of Sunrise 5:57:00 the time of birth is 12:12:50 PM.

8. Based on these, we can safely assume that, Lord Sri Rama’s time of birth should be anywhere between 11:51:50 am to 12:12:50 pm on Navami Tithi of Chaitra month (Fig-1).

PISCES	ARIES		
VENUS ^[8] (around 17.3 ⁰)	SUN ^[5] (around 7.3 ⁰)		
			ASC, CANCER
			JUPITER ^[11] (around 2.8125 ⁰)
			MOON ^[22] (around 2.8125 ⁰)
CAPRICORN			
MARS ^[20] (13.33 ⁰ ± 2 ⁰)			
		LIBRA	
		SATURN ^[15] (around 10 ⁰)	

Fig 15: Lord Rama’s Birth Chart (South Indian)

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