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Why there was no Mercury (Budha) Mahadasha in Lord Sri Rama's life?

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Abstract

Our previous research work ^[14] confirmed that planet Mercury (Budha) was 'not in existence' during Lord Rama's time period. In this analysis, we have made an assumption that if planet Mercury were to exist during Ramayana's time period, then in which signs it could have existed in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart and what Mercury mahadasha could have bestowed upon him? Our extensive research on mahadasha's of Lord Sri Rama ascertained that Mercury (Budha) was 'not in existence' during Lord Rama's time period.

Keywords: Astrology, Shri Ram, Mercury, Budha, Mercury Mahadasha, Budha Mahadasha

Introduction

Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana explained planetary positions in the birth chart of Lord Shri Ram but not the precise positions of those planets.

Akkinapragada *et al* ^[1, 2] reported Sun's precise position in Lord Shri Ram'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 corroborated it with Dasa 'Varga Classifications' and Descriptions.

Akkinapragada *et al* ^[3, 4] reported precise position of Moon in Lord Shri Ram's birth chart, by comparing Effects of first house from Brihat Samhita Hora Sastra slokas with Lord Shri Ram's characteristics as detailed in Sage Valmiki's Ramayana and further corroborated it with Dasa 'Varga Classifications' and Descriptions.

Akkinapragada *et al* ^[5, 6] reported precise position of Mars by comparing Ruchaka yoga's features mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra with Lord Shri Ram's characteristics as detailed in Sage Valmiki's Ramayana and further corroborated it with Dasa 'Varga Classifications' and Descriptions.

Akkinapragada *et al* ^[7, 8] reported precise position of Jupiter by comparing Hamsa (Hansa) yoga's features mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra with Lord Shri Ram's characteristics as detailed by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana and further corroborated it with Dasa 'Varga Classifications' and Descriptions.

Akkinapragada *et al* ^[9, 10] reported precise position of Venus by comparing Malavya yoga features mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra with Lord Shri Ram's characteristics as detailed by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana and further corroborated it with Dasa 'Varga Classifications' and Descriptions.

Akkinapragada *et al* ^[11, 12] reported precise position of Saturn by comparing Sasa yoga's features mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra with Lord Shri Ram's characteristics as detailed by Sage Valmiki in his Ramayana and further corroborated it with Dasa 'Varga Classifications' and Descriptions.

Akkinapragada *et al* ^[13] reported precise birth time of Lord Shri Ram based on Prakasavastha mentioned in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra.

Akkinapragada *et al* ^[14] gave a detailed explanation about Mercury's absence in Lord Shri Ram's birth chart which further enhances the mysteries surrounding Lord Shri Ram's mahadashas. In this research paper, we would like to once again provide further evidence that planet Mercury (Budha) was 'not in existence' during Lord Rama's time period based on astrological predictions of the mahadashas.

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Method and Materials

This research considers planetary positions as detailed in Sage Vālmiki's Rāmāyana (Bala Kanda.18/ Slokas 8, 9) [15] where it was mentioned that five planets were in exaltation at the time of Lord Shri Ram's birth. This research also relies upon previous research work done by Akkinapragada *et al* [1-13] where each planet's precise degrees were calculated based on Yogas and further corroborated with Dasa 'Varga Classifications' and their Descriptions (Fig-1).

Pisces Venus ~17.3 ⁰	Aries Sun ~7.3 ⁰	Taurus	Gemini
Aquarius	Lord Shri Ram's birth chart [1-15]		Cancer Asc ~2.8125 ⁰ Jupiter ~2.8125 ⁰ Moon ~2.8125 ⁰
Capricorn Mars 13.33 ⁰ ± 2 ⁰		Libra	Leo
Sagittarius	Scorpio	Saturn ~10 ⁰	Virgo

Fig 1: Based on Akkinapragada *et al* [1-14] and Sage Vālmiki's Rāmāyana (Bala Kanda, Sarga 18, Slokas 8, 9) [15]

Sun's position and precise degrees in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart was found to be in Aries at 7.3⁰ as per our earlier research work [1, 2]. Planet Mercury (Budha) can only be around planet Sun within ± 28⁰. There can only be three possible signs where planet Mercury (Budha) can exist i.e., Pisces, Aries and Taurus (even for an argument sake if we assume Planet Mercury [Budha] existed during Ramayana time period). Since Sun is at 7.3⁰ in Aries, it is evident that Mercury (Budha) can only be within the range of 9.3⁰ in Pisces to 5.3⁰ in Taurus.

दशामानं भयातघ्नं भोगेन हृतं फलम् ।
दशाया भुक्तवर्षाद्य भोग्यं मानाद् विशोधितम् ॥१६॥

Fig 2: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [16], Chapter 46, Sloka 16

As per sloka in Fig-2, "To find out the remainder of the Dasa operating at the time of birth, first find out the expired portion of the Dasa of the concerned planet. This is done as follows. Multiply the Dasa period of the planet concerned by the period of stay of the Moon in the janma nakshatra that has expired and divide it by the total period of the stay of the Moon in that nakshatra. The figure in years, months etc, so arrived at will be the expired period of the Dasa. If this figure is deducted from the total period of the Dasa, we will get the balance of Dasa at the time of birth".

At the time of Lord Sri Rama's birth, Moon [3, 4] is in the Cancer at 2.8125⁰ along with Jupiter and ascendant. According to below sloka 16 in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [16], Chapter 46 ("Dasas [Periods] of Planets") on page 508 (see Fig-2), Rama's Vimsottari dasa at the time of birth had 9 months and 18 days of Jupiter mahadasha remaining. Thereafter, Saturn's mahadasha must start and end after 19 years. Therefore, Mercury mahadasha must start at the age of 19 years 9 months and 18 days of Lord Sri Rama after his birth.

In Lord Sri Rama's birth chart (Fig-1), Pisces happens to be the 9th house from ascendant and below slokas 62-65 and 66-

70 in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [16], Chapter 47 ("Effects of Dasas") on Page 585 and 586 (see Fig-3 and Fig-4) give us further details on the Mercury's characteristics in Pisces:

स्वोच्चे स्वक्षेत्रसंयुक्ते केन्द्रलाभत्रिकोणगे ।
मित्रक्षेत्रसमायुक्ते सौम्ये दाये महत्सुखम् ॥६२॥
घनधान्यादिलाभं च सत्कीर्तिघनसम्पदाम् ।
ज्ञानाधिक्यं नृपप्रीतिं सत्कर्मगुणवर्द्धनम् ॥६३॥
पुत्रदारादि-सौख्यं च देहारोग्यं महत्सुखम् ।
धीरेण भोजनं सौख्यं व्यापारात्लभते धनम् ॥६४॥
शुभदृष्टियुते सौम्ये भाग्ये कर्मभिरे दशा ।
आधिपत्ये बलवती सम्पूर्णफलदायिका ॥६५॥

Fig 3: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [16], Chapter 47, Slokas 62-65

As per slokas in Fig-3, "If Mercury be in his sign of exaltation, in his own sign, in a friendly sign or in the 11th, 5th or the 9th there will be during his Dasa, acquisition of wealth, gain of reputation, improvement in knowledge, benevolence of Government, auspicious functions, happiness from wife and children, good health, availability of sweetish preparations, profits in business. etc. If Mercury be aspected by a benefic, be in the 9th, or be lord of the 10th, the aforesaid beneficial results will be experienced in full and there will be great felicity round".

पापग्रहयुते दृष्टे राजद्वेषं ममीरजम् ।
बन्धुजनविरोधं च विदेशगमनं लभेत् ॥६६॥
परप्रेष्यं च कलहं भ्रूत्रकृच्छ्रान्ममभयम् ।
षष्ठाष्टमध्ये सौम्ये लाभभोगाश्चाशनम् ॥६७॥
आतपीडां धनं चैवं पाण्डुरोगं विनिदिशेत् ।
नृपचौराग्निभीतिं च कृषिगोभूमिनाशनम् ॥६८॥
दशादौ धनधान्यं च विद्यालाभं महत्सुखम् ।
पुत्रकल्याणसम्पत्तिः सन्मार्गं धनसाधकम् ॥६९॥
मध्ये नरेन्द्रसन्मानमन्ते दुःखं भविष्यति ॥७०॥

Fig 4: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [16], Chapter 47, Slokas 66-70

As per slokas in Fig-4, "If Mercury be associated with a Malefic, there will be during his Dasa, punishment by Government, inimical relations with Kinsmen, journey to a foreign country, dependence on others and possibility urinary troubles. If Mercury be in the 6th, the 8th or the 12th, there will be loss of wealth due to indulgence in lascivious activities, possibility of suffering from Rheumatism and jaundice, danger of thefts and malevolence of Government, loss of land and cattle, etc. At the commencement of the Dasa of Mercury, there will be gains of wealth, betterment in the educational sphere, birth of children and happiness. In the middle of the Dasa, there will be recognition from Government. The last part of the Dasa will be distressful".

In Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra [16], Chapter 47 ("Effects of Dasas") on Page 576, the following slokas 3-4 are given (see Fig-5):

ग्रहवोर्यानुसारेण फलं ज्ञेयं दशासु च ।
आद्यद्रेष्काणगे खेते दशारम्भे फलं वदेत् ॥३॥
दशामध्ये फलं चाख्यं मध्यद्रेष्काणगे खगे ।
अन्ते फलं तृतीयस्थे व्यस्तं खेते च वक्रगे ॥४॥

Fig 5: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra ^[16], Chapter 47, Slokas 3-4

As per slokas in Fig-5, “The effects of the Dasas of the planets are in accordance with their strength. The effects of a planet in the 1st Drekkana are realised at the commencement of the Dasa. The planet in, the 2nd Drekkana makes its effects felt in the middle of the Dasa. The effects of the planet in the 3rd Drekkana are experienced at the end of the Dasa. If the planet be retrograde the effects would be in the reverse order that is the effects of such a planet in 3rd Drekkana are felt at the commencement of the Dasa and that of the retrograde planets in the first Drekkana are experienced at the end of the Dasa. The Dasa effects of Rahu and Ketu who are always retrograde will always be realised in the reverse order described above”.

In below sloka from Sage Valmiki’s Ramayana ^[17], Sarga 47, sloka 10b (“Aranya Kanda”, see Fig-6), Sita reveals to Ravana the age of Lord Sri Rama as 25 years at the beginning of exile period.

मम भर्ता महातेजा वयसा पंच विंशकः ॥ ३-४७-१०
अष्टा दश हि वर्षाणि मम जन्मनि गण्यते ।

Fig 6: Aranya Kanda ^[17], Sarga 46, Sloka 10b

As per sloka in Fig-6, “mahaatejaa mama bhartaa = great resplendent my, husband; vayasaa panca vimshakaH = by age, five, twenty - twenty-five years; mama janmani = my, from birth; aSTaa dasha varSaaNi hi = eight, ten - eighteen, years, only; gaNyate = reckoned up”.

In Sage Valmiki’s Ramayana ^[18], Sarga 109 (“Ayodhya Kanda”), the following Sloka 34 are given (see Fig-7):

यथा हि चोरः स तथा हि बुद्ध ।
स्तथागतं नास्तिकमत्र विद्धि ।
तस्माद्धि यः शङ्क्यतमः प्रजानाम् ।
न नास्ति केनाभिमुखो बुधः स्यात् २-१०९-३४

Fig 7: Ayodhya Kanda ^[18], Sarga 109, Sloka 34

As per sloka in Fig-7, "yathaahi tathaa hi = It is an exact state of the case; saH = that; buddhaH = a mere intellection; choraH = (is deserves to be punished) as a thief; viddhi = and know; naastikam = an atheist; atra = here; tathaagatam = to be on par with a mere intellectual; tasaat = therefore; yaH = he who; shaN^kya tamaH = is the most suspectable; prajaanaam = (should be punished in the interest of) the people; na syaat = In no case; buddhaH = should a wise man; abhimukhaH = consort; naastikaa = with an atheist”.

In Sage Valmiki’s Ramayana ^[19], Sarga 73 (“Aranya Kanda”), the following Sloka 33 are given (see Fig-8):

शयानः पुरुषो राम तस्य शैलस्य मूर्धनि ।
यत् स्वप्ने लभते वित्तम् तत् प्रबुद्धो अधिगच्छति ॥ ३-७३-३३

Fig 8: Aranya Kanda ^[19], Sarga 73, Sloka 33

As per sloka in Fig-8, “raama = oh, Rama; tasya shailasya muurdhani = its, mountain's, on heights; shayaanaH puruSaH = while sleeping, a man; svapne yat vittam labhate = in dream, which, riches, he gains; tat = that much [money]; pra buddhaH = verily, knowing [himself, on waking up]; adhigacChati = he gains.”

In Sage Valmiki’s Ramayana ^[20], Sarga 12 (“Kishkindha Kanda”), the following Sloka 17 are given (see Fig-9):

ततः सुतुमुलम् युद्धम् वालि सुग्रीवयोः अभूत् ।
गगने ग्रहयोः घोरम् बुध अंगारकयोः इव ॥ ४-१२-१७

Fig 9: Kishkindha Kanda ^[20], Sarga 12, Sloka 17

As per sloka in Fig-9, “tataH = then; vaali sugriivayoH = between Vali, Sugreeva; gagane budha angaarakayoH grahayoH iva = in skies, among Mercury, Mars, among planets, like; su tumulam ghoram yuddham abhuut = very, tumultuous, awful, fight, occurred;”

In Sage Valmiki’s Ramayana ^[21], Sarga 54 (“Yuddha Kanda”), the following Sloka 28 are given (see Fig-10):

रुधिरोद्धारिणौ तौ तु प्रहारैर्जनितशमौ ॥ ६-५४-२८
बभूवतुः सुविक्रन्तावङ्गारक बुधाविव ।

Fig 10: Yuddha Kanda ^[21], Sarga 54, Sloka 28

As per sloka in Fig-10, “janitashramau = exhausted; prahaaraiH = by the blows; rudhirodgaariNau = spitting blood; tau suvikraantau = those valiant warriors; babhuuvatuH = were; aN^gaaraka budhaaviva = like the planets Mars and Mercury”.

In Sage Valmiki’s Ramayana ^[22], Sarga 102 (“Yuddha Kanda”), the following Sloka 33 are given (see Fig-11):

प्राजापत्यन् च नक्षत्रन् रोहिणीं शशिनः प्रियाम् ॥ ६-१०२-३३
समाक्रम्य बुधस्तस्थौ प्रजानामशुभावहः ।

Fig 11: Yuddha Kanda ^[22], Sarga 102, Sloka 33

As per sloka in Fig-11, “budham = the planet Mercury; tasthau = stood; aakramya = assailing; rohiNiim = the constellation Rohini; praajaapatyam = presided over by the god Prajapati (the lord of creation); priyaam = the beloved; shasinaH = of the moon nakShatram = the heavenly body; ashubhaavahaH = and spelling disaster; prajaanaam = to the created beings”.

In Sage Valmiki’s Ramayana ^[23], Sarga 49 (“Aranya Kanda”), the following Slokas 15b, 16 are given (see Fig-12):

इति उक्त्वा मैथिलीम् वाक्यम् प्रिय अर्हाम् प्रिय वादिनीम् ॥ ३-४९-१५
अभिगम्य सुदुष्ट आत्मा राक्षसः काम मोहितः ।
जप्राह रावणः सीताम् बुधः खे रोहिणीम् इव ॥ ३-४९-१६

Fig 12: Aranya Kanda ^[23], Sarga 49, Slokas 15b, 16

As per slokas in Fig-12, “su duSTa aatmaa = verily, evil, minded [Ravana]; kaama mohitaH = by lust, maddened; raakshasaH raavaNaH = that demon, Ravana; priya [vacana] arhaam = for nice, [words,] proper one - to talk to; priya vaadiniim = nice, talker; maithiliim = to Maithili; vaakyam iti uktvaa = words, this way, on saying; abhi gamya = nigh, drawing - approaching her; khe budhaH rohiNiim iva = in firmament, Budha - the Jupiter, with Rohini, as with; siitaam jagraaha = Seetha, he grabbed”.

Results and Discussions

It is a known fact that, Mercury can only exist within $\pm 28^\circ$ of Sun's position, so in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart, if Mercury (Budha) were to be present, then it can only exist either in Pisces or Aries or Taurus as Sun ^[1,2] is at 7.3° in Aries. Therefore we discuss these three possibilities below. Mercury can only be within the range of 9.3° to 30° in Pisces because Sun is at 7.3° degrees in Aries in Lord Sri Rama's birth Chart.

Table 1: Possible placement of Mercury (Budha) in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart

Mercury's possible placement	Discussion	Result
Pisces	With reference to Fig-2, Mercury mahadasha starts at the age of 19 years, 9 months and 18 days after Lord Sri Rama's birth. According to Fig-6, Lord Sri Rama's was 25 years at the time of going into exile. Hence after entering Mercury mahadasha, Lord Sri Rama spent about 5 years 2 months 12 days in Ayodhya and thereafter spent 14 years in forest. Since we are considering Mercury in Pisces it is supposed to be in debilitation. Therefore Mercury mahadasha is supposed to be deprived of comforts and luxuries for the native. Therefore there shouldn't be any possibility of comforts, luxury life or royal patronage for Lord Sri Rama in the first 5 years 2 months and 12 days of the Mercury mahadasha, but according to Sage Valmiki's Ramayana, Lord Sri Rama enjoyed comforts, luxuries and royal patronage between his 20-25 years of age.	This indicates Mercury cannot be in the Pisces sign in the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama as it contradicts the results supposed to be bestowed during Mercury mahadasha.
Aries	Mercury becomes combust and impotent when it comes within 14 degrees on either side of Sun (refer to Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra ^[24] , page 99, slokas 28-29). Also, Mercury in Aries means it is in enemy sign lorded by Mars, which should not have given any kind of comforts or luxuries to Lord Sri Rama, but on the contrary he had comforts, luxuries and royal patronage for 5 years 2 months 12 days in Ayodhya at the beginning of Mercury mahadasha between his 20-25 years of age.	This indicates Mercury cannot be in the in the Aries sign the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama as it contradicts the results supposed to be bestowed during Mercury mahadasha.
Taurus	Mercury can only be within the range of 0° to 5.3° in Taurus because Sun is at 7.3° degrees in Aries in Lord Sri Rama's birth Chart. Mercury in Taurus means, it is in its friend's sign which should have given lot of comforts, luxuries and royal patronage all through its mahadasha, but on the contrary Lord Sri Rama had enjoyed comforts, luxuries and royal patronage only for 5 years 2 months 12 days (between his 20-25 years of age) in Ayodhya at the beginning of Mercury mahadasha and after which he went into exile for 14 years and experienced lots of difficulties, agony, dangers and faced many near to death situations.	This indicates Mercury cannot be in the Taurus sign in the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama as it contradicts the results supposed to be bestowed during Mercury mahadasha.

Table 2: Providing correct explanations for “बुध” / “बुधः” / “बुद्धो” / “बुधा” in Sage Valmiki's Ramayana ^[Fig-7 to Fig-12]

Reference	Sloka	Explanation
Fig-7	यथा हि चोरः स तथा हि बुद्ध स्तथागतं नास्तिकमत्र विधि तस्माद्धि यः शङ्क्यतमः प्रजानाम् न नास्ति केनाभिमुखो बुधः स्यात्	In this sloka “बुद्ध” / “बुधः” means “intellection” / “wise man” but not planet Mercury.
Fig-8	शयानः पुरुषो राम तस्य शैलस्य मूर्धनि यत् स्वप्ने लभते वित्तम् तत् प्रबुद्धो अधिगच्छति	In this sloka “प्रबुद्धो” means “pra buddhaH = verily, knowing [himself, on waking up]”
Fig-9	ततः सुतुमुलम् युद्धम् वालि सुग्रीवयोः अभूत् गगने ग्रहयोः घोरम् बुध अंगारकयोः इव	As per Fig-12, “बुधः” means Jupiter. In Fig-9, the fight mentioned was between Budha and Angaraka (Mars), here Budha must be considered as Jupiter but not Mercury as Mercury is far away from Mars and fight can only happen between the nearby planets.
Fig-10	रुधिरौदारिणौ तौ तु प्रहारैर्जनितशमौ बभूवतुः सुविक्रन्तावङ्गारक बुधाविव	As per Fig-12, “बुधः” means Jupiter. In Fig-10, the warrior reference given for “बुधा” must be considered as Jupiter.
Fig-11	प्राजापत्यन् च नक्षत्रन् रोहिणीं शशिनः प्रियाम् समाक्रम्य बुधस्तस्थौ प्रजानामशुभावहः	In this sloka “बुधस्तस्थौ” means not able to distinguish with the buddhi (mind) a.k.a buddhi (mind) becoming stagnated.
Fig-12	इति उक्त्वा मैथिलीम् वाक्यम् प्रिय अर्हाम् प्रिय वादिनीम्	In this sloka “बुधः” means “the Jupiter” - the

अभिगम्य सुदुष्ट आत्मा राक्षसः काम मोहितः जग्राह रावणः सीताम् बुधः खे रोहिणीम् इव	Vachaspathi or Brihaspati.
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Conclusion

- With reference to Table-2, "बुध" / "बुधः" / "बुद्धो" / "बुधा" in Sage Valmiki's Ramayana is not connected with planet Mercury (Budha).
- With reference to Table-1, Mercury (Budha) cannot exist in Pisces or Aries or Taurus in Lord Sri Rama's birth chart, which are the only three possible placements for it. Hence with these evidences, we reiterate that planet Mercury (Budha) was 'not in existence' during Lord Rama's time period which is complementing and supporting our earlier research work ^[14].

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15. https://tinyurl.com/ycxxxxk5_
16. <https://tinyurl.com/yc5f6fwc>
17. <https://tinyurl.com/39728xa6>
18. <https://tinyurl.com/4wb58eyu>
19. <https://tinyurl.com/4pdkynwu>
20. <https://tinyurl.com/5n92d5w6>
21. <https://tinyurl.com/crsvr7j9>
22. <https://tinyurl.com/y4w2weha>
23. <https://tinyurl.com/bdcm78dx>
24. <https://tinyurl.com/4vsynncb>