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.
Method and Materials
This research considers planetary positions as detailed in Sage Vālmiki’s Rāmāyana (Bala Kanda,18/ Soklas 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).

Sun’s position and precise degrees in Lord Sri Rama’s birth chart was found to be in Aries at 7.3° as per our earlier research work\(^{(1, 2)}\). Planet Mercury (Budha) can only be around planet Sun within ± 28°. 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 7.3° in Aries, it is evident that Mercury (Budha) can only be within the range of 9.3° in Pisces to 5.3° in Taurus.

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”.

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”.

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Fig 1: Based on Akkinapragada et al\(^{(1-14)}\) and Sage Vālmiki’s Rāmāyana (Bala Kanda, Sarga 18, Soklas 8, 9)\(^{(15)}\)

Fig 2: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra\(^{(16)}\), Chapter 46, Sloka 16

Fig 3: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra\(^{(16)}\), Chapter 47, Soklas 62-65

Fig 4: Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra\(^{(16)}\), Chapter 47, Soklas 66-70
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 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.

As per sloka in Fig-6, “mahaa tejaa mama bhartaa = great resplendent my, husband; vayaasaa panca vimsahakaaH = 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 [19], Sarga 109 (“Ayodhya Kanda”), the following sloka 34 are given (see Fig-7):

As per sloka in Fig-7, “yathaahi tathaa hi = It is an exact state of the case; saH = that; buddhaH = a mere intellectual; choraH = (is deserves to be punished) as a thief; viddhi = and know; naastikam = an atheist; atra = here; tathaa gataam = to be on par with a mere intellectual; tasaat = therefore; yaH = he who; shaaN^kya tamaH = is the most suspectable; praajaanaam = (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 [17], Sarga 73 (“Aranya Kanda”), the following Sloka 33 are given (see Fig-8):

As per sloka in Fig-8, “raama = oh, Rama; tasya shailasya muurdhani = its, mountain's, on heights; shaayaanH puruSaH = while sleeping, a man; swapne 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):

As per sloka in Fig-9, “tataH = then; vaali sugrivayoH = between Vali, Sugreeva; gagane budha angaarakayoH grahayoh i va = in skies, among Mercury, Mars, among planets, like; su tumulam ghormam yuddham abhuous = very, tumultuous, awful, fight, occurred.”

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

As per sloka in Fig-10, “janitashramau = exhausted; prahaaraaiH = by the blows; rudhirogaariNau = spitting blood; tau suvikraantu = 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):

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

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

As per sloka in Fig-12, “bhavam = the planet; tasya kSasitaH = as his; rishi = the seer; samrakshitaH = protected; bhuvaanaH = the world”.

As per sloka in Fig-12, “bhavam = the planet; tasya kSasitaH = as his; rishi = the seer; samrakshitaH = protected; bhuvaanaH = the world”.

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As per slokas in Fig-12, “su duSTa aatmaa = verily, evil, minded [Ravana]; kaama mohitaH = by lust, maddeened; raakshasaH raavaNaH = that demon, Ravana; priya [vacana] arhaam = for nice, [words,] proper one - to talk to; priya vaadinim = 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 ±28° 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>
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<th>Mercury’s possible placement</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pisces</td>
<td>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 thereafater 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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aries</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>This indicates Mercury cannot be in the Aries sign the birth chart of Lord Sri Rama as it contradicts the results supposed to be bestowed during Mercury mahadasha.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taurus</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<p>| Table 2: Providing correct explanations for “बुध” / “धुध:” / “बुधो” / “बुधा” in Sage Valmiki’s Ramayana (Fig-7 to Fig-12) |</p>
<table>
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<th>Reference</th>
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<th>Explanation</th>
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<td>Fig-7</td>
<td>यथा हि चोः स तथा हि बुधः</td>
<td>In this sloka “बुध:” / “धुध:” means “intelllection” / “wise man” but not planet Mercury.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>सस्ताक्तं नातिकर्मकां बिशिष्ट</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>तत्सर्वे स्या: श्वायकत्वम् प्रज्ञानम्</td>
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<td></td>
<td>न नातिस कृन्दमुनुः बुधः स्यात्</td>
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<td>Fig-8</td>
<td>श्यामन: पुरुषो राम सत्य शैलस्य मृतिः</td>
<td>In this sloka “प्रबुधो” means “pra buddhaH = verily, knowing [himself, on waking up]”</td>
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<td>यत स्यो तमो विबोधतमः तत प्रबुधो अधिगच्छति</td>
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<td>Fig-9</td>
<td>तत: सुतुम्भम् युध्म वालि सुप्रेमोऽमृत:</td>
<td>As per Fig-12, “बुध:” 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.</td>
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<td>गणेण प्रहयो: घोरस्मु बुधः अंगरक्षोऽयः</td>
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<td>Fig-10</td>
<td>रवित्ज्ञातः जीविते स युध्म तत्वं तस्य:</td>
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<td>यमुन: सुभक्तवात्सर्सः बुधाविव</td>
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<td>Fig-11</td>
<td>प्राज्ञावस्यन् च नक्षत्रम् रोहिणीशिनिः प्रियाम्</td>
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<td></td>
<td>समाक्ष्य बुधस्तरी प्रज्ञानामुत्मावह�:</td>
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</table>
| Fig-12    | इति उक्ता मैथिलीम् वाक्यम् प्रियं अहम् प्रियं वादिनीम् || | In this sloka “बुध:” means “the Jupiter” - the
Conclusion

- With reference to Table-2, "बुध" / "बुधः" / "बुधो" / "बुधम्" 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].

Acknowledgement

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