

WISHONTTARI DASHA IN VEDIC CHART PREDICTIONS

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The application of the unique influence of planetary cycles based on the Moon's position in the natal chart—commonly referred to as *Dasha* in Vedic astrology—is presented here. First, its application in traditional Vedic astrology (sidereal zodiac with the Whole House division system) is explained, then its evolution and application to a contemporary Vedic chart (sidereal zodiac with the Placidus House division system) is presented.

Introduction

When it comes to analyzing and interpreting a natal chart one takes into account the interrelationships among the planets themselves, the respective zodiac signs and the houses the planets occupy, and the influence of the house rulers and their intricate connections to other planets through angles and the zodiac signs. The interpretation of a natal chart, typically deals extensively with various

aspects of an individual's life. These may include personality, education, career, profession, business, money matters, relationships, marriages, family life, children, travel, good times, spiritual trends, and religious activities. In addition, it deals with the degree of success a person can have in a particular endeavor. The next obvious question is **when?** When is a certain event likely to happen in a person's life?

In Vedic astrology, one of the popular techniques for working with the “**When**” part is the application of the *Wishonttari Dasha* [1, 2]. *Wishonttari* in Sanskrit means 120 and *Dasha* means cycles. The underlying concept behind the *Wishonttari Dasha* is the great 120 year planetary cycles. And this concept forms the basis for predicting the time(s) when a certain event is likely to occur.

Also, there is another technique

known as *Ashtonttari Dasha* [1, 2] which is a 108 year planetary cycle; although few astrologers use this concept for predicting the time of an event. This article will focus on the 120 year planetary cycles, the *Wishonttari Dasha*.

The basic assumption of the great planetary cycle is that the conventional (astrological) nine planets (Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu, and Ketu) influence an individual only during their respective cycles. Note that the modern planets Pluto, Neptune, and Uranus are excluded from the list. It is because they were not discovered and therefore not known to astrologers more than three thousand years ago when this system was believed to be invented [1, 2]. However, according to the K.P. (*Krishnamurti Paddhati*) [3] system as discussed later, the influence of the modern planets is realized during the cycles of their respective constellations rulers.

Each of the nine conventional planets as mentioned above is assigned a certain number of years [1, 2] for its major cycle and in a certain sequence as follows:

Ketu	7 years
Venus	20 years
Sun	6 years
Moon	10 years
Mars	7 years
Rahu	18 years
Jupiter	16 years
Saturn	19 years
Mercury	17 years
.....	
	120 years

Thus, Ketu's major cycle is 7 years Venus's major cycle is 20 years, Sun's major cycle is 6 years and so on.

Further a major cycle is split into nine intermediate cycles, and the first intermediate cycle begins with the major cycle planet, and the duration of the intermediate cycles of the all planets are proportional to their major cycle years. Thus, as an example, under the Moon's major cycle the intermediate cycles are:

Moon	10 months
Mars	7 months
Rahu	18 months
Jupiter	16 months
Saturn	19 months
Mercury	17 months
Ketu	7 months
Venus	20 months
Sun	6 months
.....	
	120 months
	or 10 years

Furthermore an intermediate cycle of a planet consists of nine sub-cycles. The duration of each of the sub-cycle is proportional to its major cycle year, and the first sub-cycle begins with the intermediate cycle ruler. Thus, under the Moon's major cycle the intermediate cycle of Venus consists of the nine sub-cycles as follow:

Venus	3 months	10 days
Sun	1 month	
Moon	1 month	20 days
Mars	1 month	5 days
Rahu	3 months	
Jupiter	2 months	20 days
Saturn	3 months	5 days
Mercury	2 months	25 days
Ketu	1 month	5 days
.....		
	20 months	

There are a total of 729 sub-cycles, eighty one sub-cycles per every major cycle.

Constellations (*Nakshatras*)

These major cycle rulers correspond to the zodiac divisions called the constellations (*Nakshatras*). According to the system employed here, the sidereal zodiac is distributed over 27 constellations of 13°- 20' zodiac band each. The first, tenth, and the nineteenth constellations which correspond to the first 13°- 20' of Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius are assigned to Ketu. In other words, the first 13°- 20' of Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius are ruled by Ketu.

Similarly, the next successive constellations, 13°- 21' through 26°- 40' of the same three zodiac signs (Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius) are ruled by the planet Venus and so on, and the last set consisting of the ninth, eighteenth, and the twenty seventh constellations corresponding to the last 13°- 20' of Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces (namely the zone from 16°- 40' to 30°- 00') are assigned to Mercury as their ruler. Table 1 (opposite page) lists the 27 constellations of the zodiac and their rulers.

Table 2 (opposite page) lists the Sanskrit names of these 27 constellations (*Nakshatras*).

Let us consider an example of President Obama's natal chart [4] as shown below. This is the north Indian style Vedic chart format.

President Obama's Sidereal Natal Chart

In this chart (opposite page) the houses are shown with Roman numerals (I, II, etc.). The cardinal houses (I, IV, VII and X) are full diamond shape houses shown in the middle of chart. The first house (ascendant) begins at the top in the center and the successive houses follow in the counter-clockwise fashion. The non-cardinal houses are half diamond

Table-1

Rulers	Constellations	Constellations	Constellations
Ketu	Aries 0° - 13°:20'	Leo 0°- 13°:20'	Sagittarius 0°- 13°:20'
Venus	Aries 13°:20' - 26°:40'	Leo 13°:20' - 26°:40'	Sagittarius 13°:20'- 26°:40'
Sun	Aries 26°:40'- Taurus 10°	Leo 26°:40'- Virgo 10°	Sagittarius 26°:40'- Capricorn 10°
Moon	Taurus 10° - 23°:20'	Virgo 10°- 23°:20'	Capricorn 10°- 23°:20'
Mars	Taurus 23°:20'- Gemini 6°:40'	Virgo 23°:20'- Libra 6°:40'	Capricorn 23°:20'- Aquarius 6°:40'
Rahu	Gemini 6°:40'- 20°	Libra 6°:40'- 20°	Aquarius 6°:40'- 20°
Jupiter	Gemini 20°- Cancer 3°:20'	Libra 20°- Scorpio 3°:20'	Aquarius 20°- Pisces 3°:20'
Saturn	Cancer 3°:20'- 16°:40'	Scorpio 3°:20'- 16°:40'	Pisces 3°:20'- 16°:40'
Mercury	Cancer 16°:40'- 30°	Scorpio 16°:40'- 30°	Pisces 16°:40'- 30°

Table-2

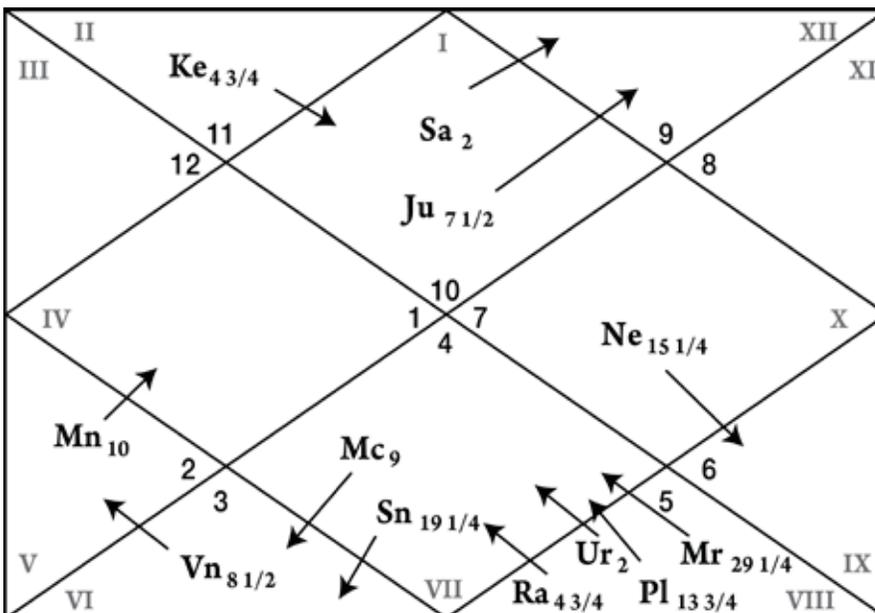
Rulers	Constellations	Constellations	Constellations
Ketu	Ashwini	Magha	Mula
Venus	Bharani	Poorva	Poorwashadha
Sun	Krutika	Uttara	Uttarashadha
Moon	Rohini	Hasta	Shrawan
Mars	Mrug	Chitra	Dhanishta
Rahu	Aadra	Swati	Shatataraka
Jupiter	Punarwasu	Wishakha	Poorwbhadrapada
Saturn	Pushya	Anuradha	Uttarbhadrapada
Mercury	Aashlesha	Jeshta	Rewati

shaped houses. The ascendant, in this case Capricorn, is indicated by the number “10” in the first house, and all twelve zodiac signs are mapped in this chart with the successive houses. Thus, in the second house (which is at the 11 o'clock position indicated by the Roman numeral II), the zodiac sign Aquarius is shown with number 11. The planets are placed in the chart according to their sidereal zodiac sign positions. For instance, Saturn (Sa) which is at 2° Capricorn is placed in the first house as Sa₂, the 10° Taurus Moon (Mn) is placed in the 5th house as Mn₁₀.

In the traditional Whole House based Vedic chart each house maps into a whole zodiac sign. Thus the first house in this case is all Capricorn; the second house all Aquarius; and so on. There are no house cusps. Therefore, in the traditional natal chart of president Obama, Saturn and Jupiter are placed in the first house, Ketu in the second, Moon in the fifth, Venus in the sixth, Sun and Mercury in the seventh, Uranus, Rahu, Mars and Pluto in the eighth and Neptune in the tenth house.

However, in the contemporary (Placidus house division based) Vedic chart the first house cusp is at Capricorn 23° – 53'. Therefore, Saturn which is at 2° Capricorn, is placed in the first

Chart 1: President Obama's Sidereal Natal Chart



house as Sa, and is shown with an arrow pointing towards the 12th house. It means the 2 degree Capricorn Saturn occupies the 12th house.

Notice that all the planets placed in chart 1, shown previously (page 71), have arrows pointing to their previous houses. Thus, when arrows in the above chart are ignored it becomes the traditional Vedic chart and when not ignored it becomes the contemporary Vedic chart. The house cusps for the contemporary Vedic chart are not shown in the previous chart 1 (pg. 71).

In the contemporary Vedic chart of president Obama, Saturn and Jupiter are placed in the twelfth house; Ketu in the first; Moon in the fourth; Venus in the fifth; Sun and Mercury in the sixth; Uranus, Rahu, Mars and Pluto in the seventh; and Neptune in the ninth house.

Computation of *Wishonttari Dasha* cycles for a Vedic Chart

For a given natal chart, the major, the intermediate, and the sub-cycles that were operative at the time of birth are determined based on the Moon's zodiac position at the time of birth.

The computation of *Dasha* cycles,

the major, the intermediate, and the sub-cycles, that were operative at the time of president Obama's birth, is as follow. In his Vedic natal chart (shown above) Moon is placed at Taurus 10^o-7'. Thus, as shown in the Tables 1 and 2, he was born under *Rohini Nakshatra* extending from Taurus 10^o to Taurus 23^o:20', and the *Rohini Nakshatra* is ruled by Moon.

Clearly, thus, at the time of his birth Moon's major cycle was operative. At the time of his birth, the Moon was placed at 7' away from the beginning of the Moon's constellation. In other words, the Moon was 13^o-23' or 793' away before it could reach the end of the Moon's constellation. Therefore, the balance or the remaining duration of the Moon's major cycle at his birth time was (793 / 800 * 10) years or 9 years 10 months and 28 days. In other words, 1 month and 2 days of the Moon's major cycle had elapsed at the time of President Obama's birth. Consequently, the intermediate cycle at the time of his birth also corresponds to that of the Moon that began as the major cycle at the time of his birth. Similarly further computation yields the sub-cycle of Mars at the time of his birth.

The major cycles and the corresponding dates (or duration) according to President Obama's natal chart

are shown in the table below:

Traditional Application of *Wishonttari Dasha* Cycles

According to the traditional application of *Wishonttari Dasha*, the influence of a planet that affects matters related to the house it occupies and the zodiac sign it belongs to is typically materialized during that planet's major or intermediate or sub-cycle.

In president Obama's natal chart he has Capricorn rising, and according to the traditional Vedic chart, Venus being the ruler of the 5th and the 10th house [1, 2, 4], it is a very auspicious planet for him, and therefore, under Venus *Dasha* cycles, he enjoys a positive period, and the Sun (being the ruler of the 8th house [1, 2, 4]) is unfavorable and therefore, under the Sun *Dasha* cycles he is likely to face surmountable challenges. One can thus apply the *Dasha* cycles based on the planetary strength, house dispositions and house rulers in a natal chart and predict the possibility of positive and challenging periods.

Obama was elected as president of the United States on November 4, 2008. At the time, his *Dasha* cycles were: Jupiter (major), Moon (intermediate) and Ketu (sub).

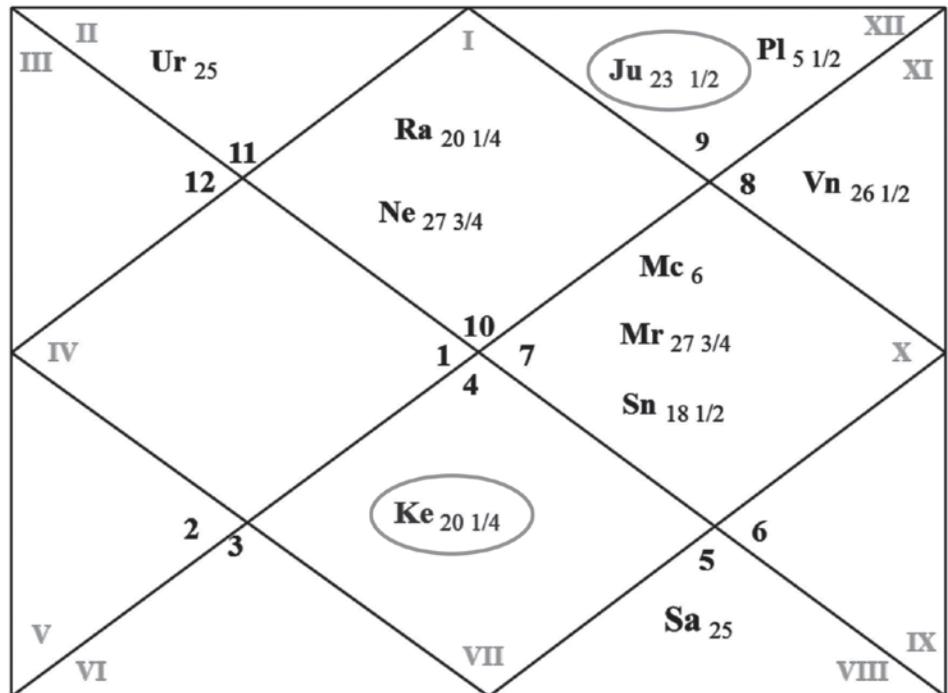
According to his traditional natal chart (the whole house division system) he has Jupiter in the 1st house, exalted Moon in the 5th and Ketu in the 2nd house. Jupiter rules the 3rd and the 12th house, and the Moon rules the 7th house.

In Vedic astrology the planets that influence a person at a given time are not only due to the operating *Dasha* cycle rulers, but also due to the *Dasha* cycle ruler's transiting positions from either the natal ascendant or the moon-sign.[5] Because in President Obama's natal chart, the exalted Moon occupies the fourth house (the

Table-3

Major Cycle rulers	Cycle Duration	Starts on	Ends on
Moon	9 Yrs. 10 Mo. 28 Days	August 5, 1961	July 3, 1971
Mars	7 Years	July 3, 1971	July 3, 1978
Rahu	18 Years	July 3, 1978	July 3, 1996
Jupiter	16 Years	July 3, 1996	July 3, 2012
Saturn	19 Years	July 3, 2012	July 3, 2031
Mercury	17 Years	July 3, 2031	July 3, 2048
Ketu	7 Years	July 3, 2048	July 3, 2055
Venus	20 Years	July 3, 2055	July 3, 2075
Sun	7 Years	July 3, 2075	July 3, 2081

Chart 2: Obama's Traditional Progressive chart November 4, 2008



most favorable house for Moon) the transiting Moon's position (which changes the sign every two and half days on average) is always considered positive and therefore not included in the discussion.

On the day of the 2008 presidential election, as shown in here (chart 2), Jupiter was in Sagittarius and Ketu was in Cancer. Although the Moon is favorably placed in the natal chart, one could argue that Jupiter being the 12th house ruler is not so favorable. Also, while Jupiter being in Sagittarius at the time of his election, transiting Jupiter occupied the 12th house of his natal chart or the 8th house from the moon-sign Taurus. Thus, the traditional approach of the *Wishonttari* Dasha cycles is not very convincing to justify his victory.

The above analysis reflects that although the great 120 year cycle concept has been popular for over three thousand years, the degree of success achieved by applying this concept with a traditional Vedic chart was not always satisfactory. In some cases it seemed to work well while for others it seemed to fail.

KP application of *Wishonttari* Dasha Cycles

About seventy years ago, a well-known astrologer Mr. Krishnamurti from the Southern part of India applied the traditional method to hundreds of thousands of birth charts and successfully ended up modifying the way the great 120 year cycle was applied. His modified approach of the constellation ruler concept along with the inclusion of the Placidus House division system instead of the traditional Whole House system has come to known then as the KP. (Krishnamurti Paddhati) system [3].

In my opinion, the essence of the K.P. system lies in the realization of

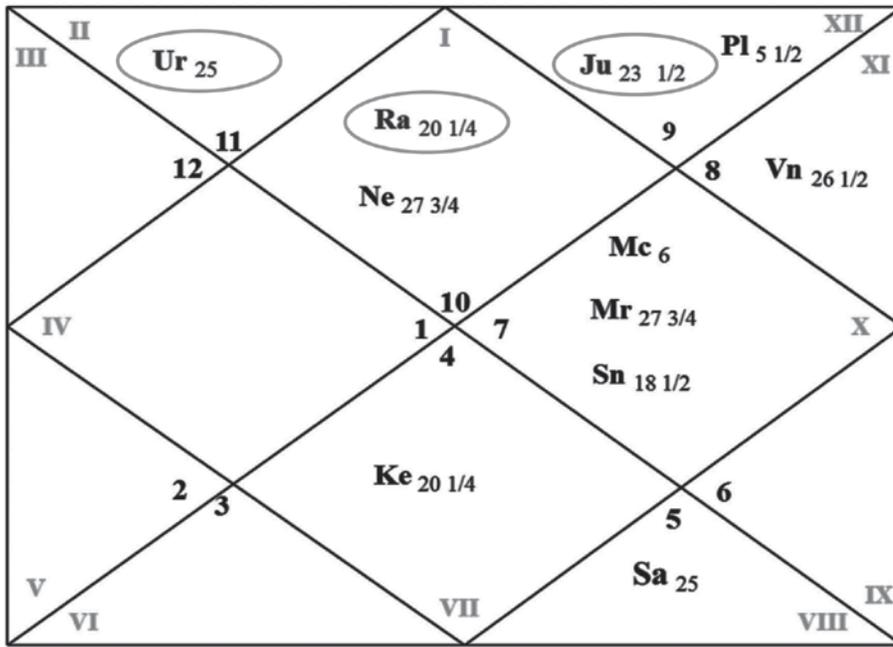
a prediction due to a certain planet occur not during the cycle of that planet but during the cycle of its constellation ruler unless either that planet is in its own constellation or there are no planets belong to the constellations ruled by the planet whose cycle is in operation. This was one of the most brilliant contributions of the K.P. system to the modern Indian astrology. In addition, it allows including the influence of the modern planets Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto during the cycles of their respective constellation rulers.

In president Obama's natal chart he has Capricorn rising, and according to the contemporary (Placidus house division) Vedic chart, Venus being the ruler of the 4th and the 9th house [1, 2, 5], and Saturn being the ruler of the 1st house; Venus and Saturn are very auspicious planets for him, and therefore, under Rahu (Venus is in the constellation of Rahu) and Sun (Saturn is in the constellation of Sun) *Dasha* cycles, he enjoys positive period. Mercury on the other hand, being the ruler of the 6th and the 8th house [1, 2, 5] is

unfavorable and therefore, under the Saturn (Mercury is in the constellation of Saturn) *Dasha* cycle he is likely to face surmountable challenges. One can thus apply the *Dasha* cycles based on the planetary strength, house dispositions and house rulers in a natal chart and predict the possibility of positive and challenging periods.

As mentioned before, on the day of the 2008 presidential election, president Obama's *Dasha* cycles were: Jupiter (major), Moon (intermediate) and Ketu (sub). According to the KP system during the Jupiter-Moon-Ketu period of president Obama, planets in the constellations of *Dasha* rulers (Jupiter, Moon and Ketu) are: none in the constellation ruled by Jupiter, Moon in the constellation ruled by Moon, and Uranus and Rahu in the constellation ruled by Ketu. According to the KP system, if there's no planet in the constellation ruled by *Dasha* ruler, then the *Dasha* ruler becomes the planet of influence. Thus, the *operating planets* that influenced president Obama at the time of the election were: Jupiter, Moon, Rahu and Uranus.

Chart 3: KP Based Obama's Progressive chart November 4, 2008



Notice that the KP system allows the inclusion of the modern planets, such as Uranus in this case.

As shown by arrows in the natal chart (page 71), Jupiter and Moon occupy the 12th and the 4th house respectively. Since Jupiter rules 2nd (the house of gain), 11th (the house of success) and the 12th house (spirituality, righteousness), and since Jupiter conjuncts the auspicious 1st house ruler Saturn in the 12th house, Jupiter is extremely favorably placed in his natal chart. Thus, while in the traditional Vedic chart Jupiter seems to be not so favorable, in the contemporary Vedic chart it's extremely favorable. Also the exalted Moon (the ruler of the 7th house) is favorably placed in the 4th house. In addition, Uranus and Rahu being in the 7th house (the house of dealing with the masses) are also favorably placed.

At the time of election, the transiting Jupiter was in Sagittarius, transiting Uranus in Aquarius and transiting Rahu in Capricorn. Although Jupiter, Moon, Rahu and Uranus being favorably placed in his natal chart, one could argue that the

transiting Jupiter, being in Sagittarius at the time of his election, gets placed in the 12th house of his natal chart or in the 8th house from the moon-sign Taurus. This placement of the transiting Jupiter is not favorable [5]. Similarly the transiting Capricorn Rahu and Aquarius Uranus get placed in the 1st and the 2nd house of his natal chart

or in the 9th and 10th house from the moon-sign. And these placements of the transiting Rahu and Uranus are somewhat favorable but not favorable enough to justify the victory.

Application of *Wishonttari* Dasha Cycles with Ninefold (*Navamansa*) Ascendant

I was exposed to the KP system in late sixties. I extensively employed it by applying it to almost every birth chart I analyzed. However, while it did appear to work better over the traditional approach, there were still some cases where either of these approaches would not yield a satisfactory result. I tried a few variations of the K.P. system on my own but they did not prove satisfactory either. I continued my pursuit to find better approach. It was not until early nineties when I accidentally discovered a new approach that blends the concepts of a ninefold (*navamansa*) chart progression, the constellation rulers of the popular K.P. system, and the great 120 year planetary cycles. In this new approach, instead of using

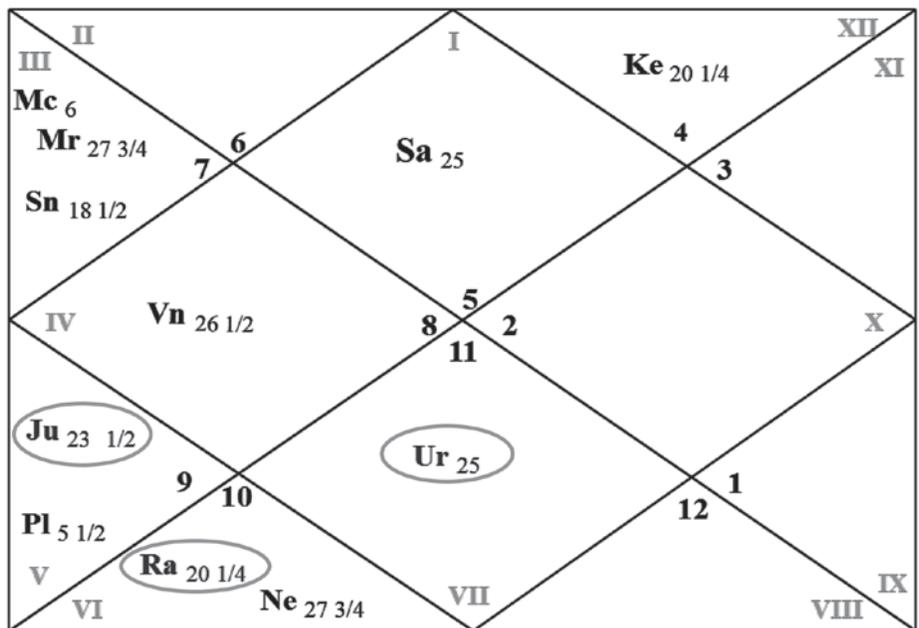


Chart 4: Obama's progressive chart with Ninefold ascendant for November 4, 2008

either the natal ascendant or the moon-sign as the reference sign for the operating planet's transiting positions, it uses the ninefold (*navamansa*) ascendant of the natal chart (natal Ninefold ascendant)

The ninefold natal ascendant [6] for president Obama's chart is Leo, [4] and his progressive chart for the 2008 Election Day (below, opposite page, 74).

At the time of election, the transiting Jupiter was in Sagittarius, transiting Uranus in Aquarius and transiting Rahu in Capricorn. Therefore, as shown in the progressive chart (page 74), transiting Jupiter, being in Sagittarius at the time of his election, gets placed in the 5th house (the house of success) of this chart [5]. Similarly the transiting Capricorn Rahu and Aquarius Uranus get placed in the 6th (the house of victory) and the 7th house (the dealing with the masses) respectively in this chart. Thus, the placements of the transiting operating planets Jupiter, Rahu and Uranus are very favorable to guarantee him the victory.

As listed earlier, president Obama's major Jupiter cycle ended on July 3, 2012 and the next major cycle of Saturn began. There is only one planet in the constellations ruled by Saturn (3^o:20' - 16^o:40' of Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces as shown in Table 1) in Obama's natal chart, and that is Mercury. Mercury being the ruler of the 5th, 6th (adversaries, hidden enemies) and the 8th house (delays, disappointment, less opportunities, obstacles and frustration), he started facing more political challenges with less and less success in overcoming them. The assassinations of US ambassador and three other Americans to Libya by Al Qaeda militants in Benghazi occurred soon after his major Saturn cycle began with Mercury as the operating planet. The second term presidential election was not easy for him and he barely



managed to survive. His popularity has been going down since then. The latest event supporting the influence of Mercury is clearly reflected in losing the both Houses (Congress and Senate) to the Republicans in 2014 midterm elections.

The traditional application of *Wishonttari Dasha* doesn't quite explain the influence of Saturn's major cycle because Saturn, being the ruler of the first house as auspicious planet was expected to provide him with the positive period and success in dealing with the political challenges. But the KP based application does explain the difficulties that Mr. Obama has been facing with diminishing success and consequently his dwindling popularity.

Furthermore, the comparison between the KP based application and the ninefold ascendant based application of the *Dasha* reveals that Mercury's transit through the zodiac signs is better correlated with the events that happened in last two years using the Ninefold ascendant based application of the *Dasha*, rather than the KP based application [7].

Endnotes

1. Bruhat Jatak—Sage Varahmihir (530 AD)
2. Bruhat Parashari—Sage Parashar (sometimes before 400 AD)
3. K. P. (Krishnamurti Paddhati) System, K.S. Krishnamurti, Astrology and Athrishta, 1971
4. http://www.astroinsight.com/G_comments/uselections/2008/index.html
5. *It's All in Timing*, Maheshri, J.C., Noble House, Baltimore, Maryland 1997.
6. "The importance of the Ninefold Chart in Vedic Prediction," NCGR Research Journal, summer 2008.
7. www.astroinsight.com



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NCGR Research Director since 2010, Jagdish Maheshri presented papers on the "Earthquake Prediction Model" at NCGR conferences in Baltimore, MA, and Philadelphia, PA. In 2012 he spoke at UAC in New Orleans, LA. Jagdish holds a PhD in chemical engineering, and teaches Vedic astrology (online). Author of several articles, he also conducts workshops and appears on radio shows. He is a self-taught contemporary Vedic astrologer. His prime research interests are natural and man-made calamities (e.g., earthquakes). In 1995, he discovered a unique "Ninefold Progression Technique" explained in his book, *It's All in Timing*. His website is www.astroinsight.com. Use jmaheshri@astroinsight.com to reach him by email.