

Fixed Stars

Interview with Diana K. Rosenberg

By
Edith Hathaway, USA

Rob Hand calls **Diana K. Rosenberg** “the leading authority on Fixed Stars.” She has spent the past 30 years researching the subject of Fixed Stars. Her primary interest has always been research and teaching, rather than the consulting side of astrology. Her preferred astrological techniques outside of the realm of Fixed Stars include Uranian Astrology (90 Degree Dial, Planetary Pictures, etc.), Derived Houses, Planetary Nodes, and Solstice Points.



Diana has been a resident of New York City her entire life, while my residence in NYC spanned only 7 years, and I moved westwards in the USA in Feb. 1983. Our paths first crossed in 1982 when I was a student in Diana’s Uranian Astrology classes in Manhattan, NY. From 1988 to the early 1990s I made a gradual shift from Uranian (tropical) to Vedic (sidereal) astrology, a subject Diana always intended to study, but Fixed Stars came to take up all of her time. She has always been fascinated with very ancient things, and the study of antiquity.

A different portion of this interview, mainly on Fixed Stars, is being published simultaneously by **ISAR Journal** (Journal

of the International Society for Astrological Research), both print and On-line versions. See <http://www.isarastrology.com>. This larger interview at *Saptarishis* covers only a few pages of the same material, but also much more from Diana on stars. It segues at times into a dialogue between us about Fixed stars, mundane astrology, the Vedic *nakshatras*, and the two zodiacs – tropical and sidereal (items #12 through 14), also about her life and birth chart, including my commentary on her Vedic chart, at her request (item #16). We have been in touch over the years, mainly at national and international astrology conferences. One full Saturn cycle later, after being her student in NYC, I am very honored to interview Diana here on Fixed Stars and on her upcoming book: ***Secrets of the Ancient Skies: Fixed Stars and Constellations in Natal and Mundane Astrology***. Her website: <http://ye-stars.com>.

Phone conversations and e-mail exchanges for this interview took place January through June 2010, with much of the content delivered by late Feb. 2010. During this time, Diana was and is gravely ill with pancreatic cancer. Still very spirited and alert mentally, she chose to avoid more radical treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation because they would have weakened her further, making it more difficult for her to finish work on her book. I know the astrological community shares my gratitude for the innate intelligence, diligence and exuberance Diana has for the subject she loves so much, and for her dedication in sharing her knowledge and insights with all of us.

EH: Interview questions for Diana K. Rosenberg:

P. 4 1) EH: How did you get started in astrology? Or what made you decide to study it more seriously?

P. 4 2) EH: How did you get from there to your deep study of the Fixed Stars?

EH: Your book on Fixed Stars has been long awaited – even by you!! As you were researching and writing, did your point of view change about the use of stars in astrology?

P. 8 3) EH: What are Fixed Stars and how are they different from planets? Are Fixed Stars really fixed? (The ancients distinguished between these two, the planets being the “wandering stars.”)

EH: Let’s include here a quick review of the naming of the stars.

P. 8 4) EH: There is a general lack of knowledge about what Fixed Stars are and how they work. Sometimes they get a reputation for being mostly very difficult, or malevolent. Is this justified?

EH: How can we determine if a Fixed star will give results in terms of all that has been attributed to a given star?

EH: Are some stars more important than others due to their magnitude? Or actual size?

EH: On a technical level, what is the orb of influence you use with the Fixed Stars?

P. 10 5) EH: What is your process or your research method in working with the stars?

P. 12 6) EH: Let’s look at some of the other books on Fixed Stars and get your view on them. You used to have a list of recommended books on the subject at your website. At the top of your list was **Reinhold Ebertin and Georg Hoffman’s *Fixed Stars & Their Interpretation*** (1971), followed by **Vivian Robson’s *The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology*** (1923). You even provided reprints of these before they became available on the web.

EH: So this goaded you into doing your life’s work! Was it the paucity of material on the Fixed Stars? I personally am not familiar with all the material available on

this subject.

P. 13 7) EH: I see you decided to start your Fixed Star research in 1980 with **Algol**. Tell us what you found about Algol.

P. 16 8) EH: Are there other stars for which you have a special affinity - ones that you find remarkable and worthy of special attention?

P. 19 9) EH: **William Lilly** established around 50 Fixed Stars in his horary work, and I know some have tallied as many as 290 of them. How many Fixed Stars are there?

P. 19 10) EH: Let's discuss Fixed Stars in natal astrology and in mundane astrology. You have researched **Dwight D. Eisenhower** at some length, and also some mundane events such as the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India Dec. 3, 1984.

EH: Eisenhower is such a great historical example, but I have avoided using him due to his DD (Dirty Data). What convinced you to go ahead and use 3:40 AM? Or is exact birth data less important in the use of Fixed Stars?

P. 20 11) EH: Are there some other historical figures whose charts clearly show the workings of some of the important Fixed Stars?

#12 through 14: The Zodiac Dialogues: Fixed Stars, Mundane Astrology & The Two Zodiacs.

P. 22 12) EH: Let's discuss how Fixed Stars work in a national chart. I know you especially like the chart of the **Republic of India**. Let's give that data: Jan. 26, 1950, 10:15 AM, Delhi, India. Tropical Ascendant is 4:49 Aries. Sidereal Ascendant is 11:39 Pisces.

P. 26 13) EH: Let's introduce some of the issues that come up around your use of the two zodiacs, and how you view Vedic *nakshatras*. We can continue with the India Republic chart.

P. 32 14) EH: The Fixed Stars by their very nature bring up the zodiac issue. Let's go into this a little more. We can call it The Zodiac Dialogues!

P. 37 15) EH: After researching and writing on this subject for over 30 years, what do you think is your contribution to what is already known on this subject? And what for you is the highlight of your book?

P. 38 16) **Diana K. Rosenberg**: biography & commentary on her Vedic chart by **Edith Hathaway**.

P. 57 **Addenda**: Five items (1) Novas & Royalty; 2) Diana's Astrological Education & Certification, 3) Diana's Formal Education; 4) Diana's Work & Career; 5) Diana's Marriage, Family, and Relationships

1) **EH:** How did you get started in astrology? Or what made you decide to study it more seriously?

DKR: Astrology saved my son's life! That convinced me to study it seriously. I was "trying out" astrology in New York City with **Betty Lundsted**. Betty taught the basics, and her friend **Pat Morimando**, upstairs in the same building, taught chart construction. This was back in 1975, before everyone had computers. Pat was teaching me the calculations using my son's birth data, and towards the end of the session she looked a little more at his chart and asked about his health. I said he had mononucleosis, and was struggling to finish his senior year of high school. I left feeling nervous and uncertain, and decided to knock on Betty's door on the way downstairs, because I was worried about my son. Betty quickly looked at his chart. He has Leo Rising, and Sun in Aquarius in the 6th house with Capricorn on the (tropical) 6th cusp. She did think some danger was approaching, and told me to watch him closely. I asked what I should look for and she said: "Leo: Heart, spine, upper back. Capricorn: Bones, teeth, skin." I walked away with those six items etched in my brain.

Because mononucleosis tends to weaken the immune system, Peter had been checked by a doctor every week. He went alone, and he told me that each time he would strip to the waist and the doctor would check his heart and lungs. I was constantly thinking of the list of six items Betty had given me, and one afternoon I noticed Peter rubbing a large birthmark mole on his upper back – the kind that doctors tell you to have removed because sometimes they turn cancerous. I remembered Betty Lundsted: "Heart, spine, upper back – Bones, teeth, skin." I thought: "Upper back, skin!" And I insisted that he have it removed immediately! I gave him money for a taxi, called a dermatologist, who was also a family friend, and urged him to examine Pete that same day. At first the doctor said he'd have to make an appointment, but I kept insisting, not saying why. The dermatologist sent him straight to a surgeon, after he saw the mole should be removed immediately. Pete returned home with a wound three inches long, and 8 or 9 stitches. A few days later, my husband and I got an ominous call from the surgeon's office. They had done the biopsy and wanted us in his office immediately. It was a melanoma, a very fast-growing, extremely deadly form of cancer. They rushed him into the hospital and operated right away – a major surgery. Pete was in the hospital two weeks, and the surgery saved his life. (Later the surgeon told me it was caught in the nick of time. The melanoma was probably about to metastasize).

After the crisis was over, I realized that the doctor who had been examining him every week had not noticed the melanoma, and that astrologers who had never even met him were the ones who saved his life! Right then and there I decided to study astrology seriously. I am from a family of doctors: my stepfather, uncle, grandfather, and maternal great-grandfather were all physicians. My uncle, a prominent surgeon, had been very critical of me for studying astrology, but that event silenced him. I told him and everyone else that without astrology, my son would not have lived beyond 18. My uncle remained skeptical about astrology, but the facts were irrefutable.

2) **EH:** That's a compelling beginning. How did you get from there to your deep study of the Fixed Stars? (Our readers should be reminded that you have spent the past 30 years researching this subject, and that your primary interest has always been research and teaching, rather than the consulting side of astrology.)

DKR: I continued to study with Betty Lundsted, then went on to **Joanna Shannon, Julian Armistead** and, for Uranian and the 90 Degree Dial, **Charles Emerson**. I had only wanted to know the basics of Uranian but it turned out to be such a useful system that I got into it more deeply and became a Uranian astrologer! But through all of this, I noticed that every time a Fixed Star was mentioned, it seemed to “hit the mark” – especially Algol.¹ So I had begun to read the two or three books available on Fixed Stars, but they weren’t very satisfying. For instance, with all the stars in the sky, Ebertin listed only 73, and Robson 110. What about all the others? I kept asking: “Does anyone know where I can find a teacher of Fixed Stars?”

In the meantime, I made up a workbook for myself that listed all the stars in Robson and Ebertin, with room for observations and comments. Then I found that people were coming to me as if I were an expert, and wanted copies of my workbook. After about the 7th or 8th time I photocopied it for someone, I suddenly realized that I could put it in a simple binder and sell it! Then one day at a seminar for advanced and professional astrologers given by **Gary Christen**, a leading Uranian, he put up a standard “12 pieces of pie” chart of an event and, to start, asked us to see if we could discover anything about the event. I saw some familiar star placements, but I thought I had to stick with Uranian aspects; so I said nothing, and no one spoke up. Gary was about to switch to the 90 Degree Dial to demonstrate its usefulness when Julian Armistead said: “Mercury is in the 8th at Algol. Algol sometimes indicates suffocation.” When Gary nodded, I said: “Oh, are we allowed to use Fixed Stars?” He said, “Of course!” So I said, “Well, Saturn is in the 10th at the Beehive Cluster (That’s M44 in the Crab), and that often turns up at fires, and one might suffocate in a fire!” Gary nodded again. Well, to make a long story short, Julian and I were the only ones in the room who discovered the theme of the chart, and we did it by using Fixed Stars. “That’s it,” I thought. “I may have found my specialty!”

But there was a very big problem: How could I get the positions of more stars? The lack of star lists was the reason no further research had been done. Astronomers use right ascension and declination, which are based on the celestial equator, whereas astrologers use celestial longitude and latitude, based on the ecliptic. To convert from the first to the second of these requires some elaborate math, and this was before home computers. Then fate came through for me in the person of **Michael Munkasey**, an astrologer, engineer and mathematician. At a conference he handed me two large boxes of star lists that he had input from the **Yale Bright Star Catalogue** and converted to ecliptic coordinates. He said, “Diana, I have so many projects that I’ll never get around to the stars. So I want you to have these!” Of course, I was delighted, and tremendously grateful. I put them into a huge red notebook, with room between each for notes. That was the beginning of my research, around 1980. I lugged that heavy notebook to every conference and kept adding to it every chance I got. I began to see patterns, and went looking for more.

EH: Your book on Fixed Stars has been long awaited – even by you!! As you were researching and writing, did your point of view change about the use of stars in astrology?

¹ See the article on my website on Algol, called “Medusa’s Head.” (DKR)

DKR: When I began my research, I thought I'd write a normal-sized book. (Okay, maybe a fat book!) It would simply have more stars than the other books out there, with more up-to-date research and new interpretations based on my research. I presumed that what the other books said was probably true, but I was also sure that I could add to their interpretations, and I wanted to check everything out for myself). I was also terribly frustrated by the small number of degrees covered by the stars they used. Tropical Aries, for instance, had only four degrees covered in **Reinhold Ebertin**, and six in **Vivian Robson**.² What about all the rest of the sign? I have a stellium in tropical Aries, and none of the stars mentioned linked to my placements! But once I had Mike Munkasey's list of stars, I discovered that the major links to my tropical Aries degrees were stars of the figure of Andromeda, the Chained Woman. And there I sat, trapped in a dismal marriage – and with not enough education to earn my own living. Chained indeed! That was one of the early indications I had that the constellations themselves deserved more scrutiny. I also wanted to use more mundane material. That's a particular interest of mine, in addition to what I call "Body Parts."

Body Parts: I collected data on people who were blind or had severe eye problems, because some ancient texts mentioned certain stars in connection with blindness. But I did not want to take anything for granted. I wanted to do all my own research. I have about 100 blindness charts now, but when I had collected about 70 of them, I corrected each one for precession (for the then-current 1980 fiducial point), and then entered them in the big red book. For the most part, the ancients were correct, and I found a few additional places that produced a high number of eye problems. Looking at my new Blindness list, I suddenly realized that the afflicted people had planets at the eye of the Bull, the eye of the Crow, the eyes of the Crab, the eye of the Dragon, the eye of the Archer, and so forth. That was a huge breakthrough for me! It was my first realization that the constellations were not just random connected dots, but were placed the way they were for very specific reasons.

At a conference on ancient astrology in Princeton, NJ I gave a lecture on Fixed Stars and mentioned the idea that constellation figures may have been placed deliberately to pinpoint specific parts of the body. Soon after my talk, a New Jersey astrologer came up to me and asked me to check her chart, as her right arm had recently been amputated at the shoulder due to a cancerous growth in the armpit. She wanted to see if there were any constellation positions that would link to that. We sat in a quiet corner with my big red notebook, and went from position to position on her chart, starting at her Ascendant, which was 32 *Virginis*, a star in the Virgin's **right arm**. Then came Jupiter in the 1st house aligned with *Sigma Bootis*, in the **right arm** of the Herdsman; the Moon (in the 2nd house), was *Gamma Herculis*, in the **right arm** of Hercules. Asteroid Juno in the 3rd house was aligned with *Cheleb, Beta Ophiuchi* in the **right shoulder** of the Serpent-Bearer. (By this time, both of us were gasping.) Then in the 5th house, after Venus and the Sun (no hits) came a Mercury-Mars conjunction at *Sadalmelik, Alpha Aquarii*, the **right shoulder** of Aquarius. In the 7th house her Uranus was aligned with 7 *Cephei*, the **right shoulder** of Cepheus, and 22 *Andromedae*, the **right hand** of the Chained Woman. In the 8th house, Chiron aligned with *Gamma Persei*, the **right armpit** of Perseus; the Midheaven was *Beta Columbae*, the Dove's **right wing**; and Pluto in the 10th house was 82 *Geminorum*, Pollux's **right shoulder**. Both of us were speechless.

² Diana is referring to Reinhold Ebertin and Georg Hoffman's *Fixed Stars & Their Interpretation* (1971), and Vivian Robson's *The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology* (1923). (EH)

This was another tremendous breakthrough, and one of the major discoveries I made in researching the stars; the vital importance of the constellations in detail, and not only the ones on the ecliptic (i.e. the zodiac) but those of the *Sphaera Barbarica* – the figures above and below the ecliptic – even those very far from it, near the poles.

Another remarkable example is that of the actress **Natasha Richardson**, who died tragically of a head injury after she fell while skiing.³ Her tropical Ascendant is Libra, with natal Sun and Mercury in the 8th house in Taurus at Gyrus and 32 *Persei*, which are in Medusa's **head**. Her Midheaven is at *Theta Canis Majoris* in the Greater Dog's **head**. Her North Node is in the 10th house at Pollux, *Beta Geminorum* in the **head** of the "Immortal Twin," and Muscida, *Omicron Ursae Majoris* in the Greater Bear's **head**. (About Pollux, the ancient Liber Hermetis says: "Many will be harmed in the **head**.") Her Mars was Algenubi, *Epsilon Leonis* in the Lion's **head**; her Pluto was aligned with Black Hole M106 in the Hunting Dog's **head**; her Neptune was at a set of colliding galaxies called Arp 220 in the **head** of Serpens, the Serpent. Her Moon was Rasalhague, *Alpha Ophiuchi* in the Serpent-Tamer's **head**. Her Saturn, in the 5th house of vacations, was at Kitalpha, *Alpha Equulei* in the Colt's **head**, and Chiron, also in the 5th house, was aligned with Ankaa, *Alpha Phoenicis* in the **head** of the Phoenix.⁴ Jupiter in the 6th house was aligned with accident-prone 13 *Cephei*, in the **crown** of Cepheus, the King. Venus, ruler of her Ascendant and 8th house, was in the 7th house at 18 *Cephei* in the King's **face**.⁵

DKR: Later I discovered that Belgrade astrologer **Alexander Imsiragic** made the same discovery about anatomy and the constellations. We compared notes at the last UAC (United Astrology Conference), May 2008 in Denver, Colorado. He calls it "anatomy" and I call it "body parts."

EH: So you have a whole section in your book on Body Parts?

DKR: No, that's the sad thing. I have not had time to write that. I will have to put it in an Appendix, or mention it in the Introduction.

³ **Natasha Richardson** was born May 11, 1963, 17:00 BST, London, UK. She suffered a blow to the head during a skiing accident near Montreal, Canada on March 16, 2009. Refusing treatment, she succumbed to headaches an hour later and an epidural hematoma (bleeding under the skull, which could have been treated if caught immediately). The situation quickly worsened. She was hospitalized seven hours after the accident, and flown from a Canadian hospital to Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, where she died on March 18, 2009. (EH)

⁴ I have also found that Chiron often pinpoints an area of weakness or health problems on the chart. (DKR)

⁵ Known for her acting talent and her beauty, Natasha Richardson had planetary placements in the King's crown and King's face. She belonged to a prominent and famous family of British actors, the Redgraves: her mother – **Vanessa Redgrave**, her father – director **Tony Richardson**, and her husband – actor **Liam Neeson**. (EH)

3) **EH:** What are Fixed Stars and how are they different from planets? Are Fixed Stars really fixed? (The ancients distinguished between these two, the planets being the “wandering stars.”)

DKR: Fixed Stars are just regular stars. They were called “fixed” because they seemed to stay in the same relative positions over the centuries, while planets (and comets, meteors, etc) moved. In some cultures – China, for instance – the star figures were considered flawless, while the planets were the “troublemakers” who came through and upset things – rather like a motorcycle gang riding through town! Other cultures thought of the planets as messengers and interpreters. By traveling through, or stopping at a constellation, they were sending a message in code to earthlings. Stars do have their own movement, each one different. It’s called “proper motion” – but it is so infinitesimally slow that it takes hundreds of years in most cases to be noticeable, and is usually ignored by astrologers.

EH: Let’s quickly review the naming of the stars.

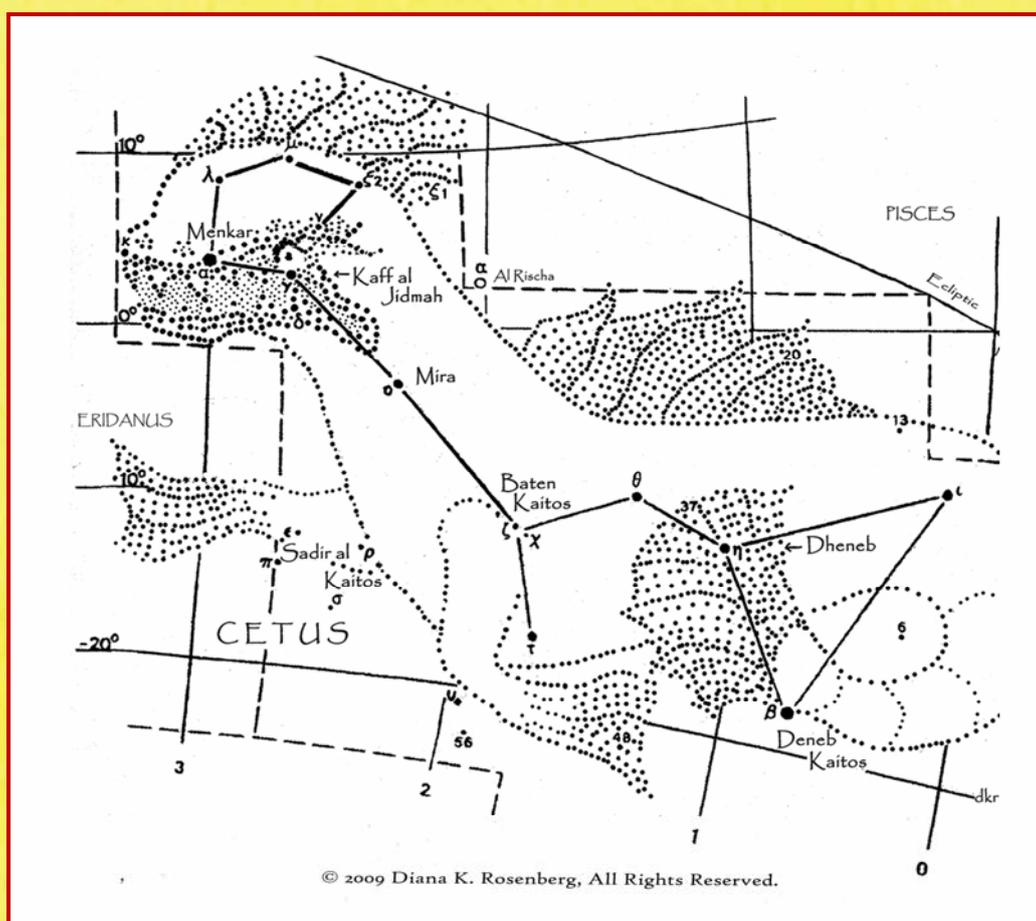
DKR: Most of the names of the Fixed Stars come from the Arabs, and have an additional Greek letter/Latin constellation name designation. The roots of constellations are said to come from the Euphrates Valley (Babylon), which is present-day Iraq. With the star’s name, you will find the Greek letters *Alpha*, *Beta*, *Gamma*, *Delta*, *Epsilon*, *Zeta*, etc combined with the Latin form of the constellation’s name. That tells you what constellation it’s in. (For instance, *Ceti* is the genitive or possessive case for *Cetus*). *Zeta* is the 6th letter of the Greek alphabet, so *Zeta Ceti* means the 6th star of *Cetus*. When it is *Alpha* (the first letter of the Greek alphabet), it is sometimes at the beginning of the constellation, but usually it’s the brightest star. But sometimes they go in the order of progression of the stars, rather than which is brightest. That happens with the Big Dipper and the 7 Sages. In the Big Dipper, the Alpha star is *Dubhe*, from the Arabian *al-dubb*, “the Bear” – which also happens to be the brightest star.

4) **EH:** There is a general lack of knowledge about what Fixed Stars are and how they work. They sometimes get a reputation for being mostly very difficult, or malevolent. Is this justified?

DKR: Stars are intense foci of energies that both test an individual and enlighten him. (Sorry about the “him” – the English language does not supply a neutral noun for both sexes, so assume when I say “him” I mean “him or her.”) What you get with the stars are not good/bad, right/wrong, benevolent/malevolent, but issues. For instance, there might be an issue of tolerance versus intolerance, or addiction versus abstinence, arrogance versus humility, greed versus generosity, aggression versus working for peaceful solutions, and so forth. The chart will be set up so that the individual will constantly have these issues come up in his life, and he will have to decide how he wants to deal with them. Very often both ends of these polarities will manifest in one lifetime, pulling and pushing the individual to make choices over and over again. A typical scenario might be that one is born into wealth and comfort, then loses everything and goes through a period of poverty, then works his way back to wealth and might have to decide whether to “play it safe” and stash his money in fear of another “crash,” or to take the lessons of poverty to heart and use his money to help others who are in need.

EH: How can we determine if a Fixed Star will give results in terms of all that has been attributed to a given star?

DKR: The short answer is, you can't! There are too many variables (the rest of the chart, for instance), and how a person lives his life, and what choices he is making. I think a good example here is former **Senator and Vice President Albert Gore**. (Mar 31, 1948, 12:53 PM EST, Washington, DC). His Midheaven (tropical 21:52 Aries) is aligned with a famous shipwreck star, **Baten Kaitos**, Zeta Ceti in Cetus, the Sea-Monster or Whale, (tropical 22 Aries, sidereal 28 Pisces). Baten Kaitos is a stormy star, known for shipwrecks, possibly with rescue, and drowning. (Right opposite it is another shipwreck star, Foramen, *Eta Carinae*.) Baten Kaitos was at the North lunar node at the Titanic disaster, and shows up in many shipwreck charts.



At the peak of his career, when Al Gore ran for U.S. President in 2000, even though he won the popular vote by more than half a million, he lost the election on technicalities and so was “shipwrecked” – left high and dry without even a job or any kind of public position. This is an example of how this star might work in an individual’s chart. With Baten Kaitos, there will be at least one instance in the life where the person will have to deal with a shocking, staggering displacement and have to somehow find a way to restart his or her life. Gore, of course, has become a spokesman for the international environmental movement, and even received a Nobel Prize for his efforts. Here is a quote from my book:

“**Baten Kaitos** is one of the most frequently found stars involved in shipwrecks, and these people may at some time find themselves left ‘high and dry,’ broken on the rocks of life; yet this is an area of great breakthroughs and transformations and after they pull through, they

have much to offer from the depths of their experiences, often ending up with a strong sense of personal destiny.... Baten Kaitos is approaching a World Axis aspect of 22.5° to 0° Aries: the world's oceans are rising, 'drowning' shorelines."

EH: Are some stars more important than others due to their magnitude? Or actual size?

DKR: Among the most interesting and unexpected things I found was that size, magnitude (i.e. brightness), and nearness to the ecliptic had apparently no connection with a star's importance. Some very dim stars, far from the ecliptic, pack quite a wallop! A good example is 4th- to-5th magnitude Al Kurah, Xi Cephei (also called Kurdah) in the chest of Cepheus, the King (24 Aries tropical, 0 Aries sidereal Lahiri), which is 66 degrees North of the ecliptic (the Pole being 90 degrees North). This little, dim, exiled star turns up on the charts of an extraordinary number of great artists, poets, playwrights, composers, actors and dancers!

EH: On a technical level, what is the orb of influence you use with the Fixed Stars?

DKR: Generally I use one degree on either side, called a "moiety." There are a few exceptions: If the star is on the ecliptic, is a 1st magnitude star, and also contacts the Sun, Moon, the angles, or the Moon's node, then there is a wider orb of influence – a two to three degree orb. (Only **Spica** and **Regulus** are 1st magnitude stars that are right on the ecliptic.) I look at both the True node and Mean node. I find there is a kind of a halo effect around the nodes, allowing a slightly wider orb. The Lunar nodes can be very malefic if they link up with the angles of the chart in mundane astrology.⁶

5) **EH:** What is your process or your research method in working with the stars?

DKR: First, using an astronomy catalogue of stars, each one I want to use is converted from right ascension and declination to celestial longitude and latitude (using a module in the CCRS Horoscope Program that does this conversion) and projected perpendicularly onto the ecliptic, in degrees measured from 0 Aries, the Vernal Equinox point. For each chart, I calculate the number of years between the birth or event and January 1, 2000 (the current fiducial point), then I multiply that number by 50.23" (the rate of precession per solar year) and add the resulting degrees-and-minutes to each chart's planets and angles. Next I enter the new positions, each in its appropriate star set. Over the years, as I worked and more stars and DSOs (Deep Space Objects) were added, my original span of 2 degrees per star set necessarily increased to an average of 3 degrees. And there were places where the dividing breaks between sets were difficult to decide upon. A few of them are awkward, necessitated by my reluctance to allow any set to span more than an absolute maximum of 4 or 5 degrees.

⁶ In Vedic astrology, for a full malefic effect we would also include the other Vedic classical malefic planets (Sun, Mars, and Saturn) together with the lunar nodes (Rahu or Ketu) at the angles. For instance, Mars was closely contacting Ketu at 8 degrees Sagittarius at the time the first plane hit the World Trade Center Tower in Manhattan, NY on Sept. 11, 2001. Mercury in Virgo was exactly rising, with Moon, Jupiter and Rahu in Gemini (all sidereal positions). Mars-Jupiter can bring the religious zealot influence, especially in opposition, and even more so on the Sagittarius-Gemini axis. Jupiter is regarded as a "temporal malefic" for Virgo Ascendant. (EH)



The center of the Cancer Crab, for instance (now tropical Leo) runs from about 6° to 13° Leo. It includes Open Cluster M44 (Praesepe, "the Beehive"), North and South Asellus, and, sharing the same longitudes, stars of Puppis (the Stern of *Argo Navis*), early stars of Hydra's head and elements of Draco, the Dragon. This intense area of seething energies, anchored by Praesepe and the Aselli, could very well have spanned a full 7°. I split it at about 10° of Leo in order to keep it manageable, but the split could just as well have been placed earlier or later. Because I wanted to check out all stars, not just the most famous, or brightest, or those nearest the ecliptic, I began with a long list and frequently added to it as I worked, ending up with nearly 2,000 stars and DSOs. The stars in my book were culled from this Master list. Each degree of the zodiac contains not only stars of the zodiacal constellation, but also stars of constellations above and below the ecliptic, which add their energies to each degree and sign of the zodiac.

Precession corrections, especially for ancient charts, may appear to cause a chart's position(s) to change signs. **Michelangelo**, for instance, was born with the Sun at 24:01 Pisces (March 6, 1475). But because of precession, the stars aligned with his natal Sun, then in tropical Pisces, are now at the beginning of tropical Aries. The closest is 26 *Piscium* in the tail of the West Fish, which in 2000 was at 1:43 Aries. His Sun, precession-corrected to 2000, is 1:20 Aries. Thus, because of precession, a person born under one tropical sign might now appear to be placed in another. Even for some born in the 20th century with a planet in a late degree, precession correction may take the planet into the next sign. The important thing to remember in this regard is that for tropicalists – the original tropical signs and rulerships hold sway on each chart.⁷ Precession corrections simply serve to indicate with which stars the original placements were aligned. For charts I wanted to include that had no birth time, I used noon, and left out the Moon and angles.

Precession calculations are easy if you have a hand calculator that has a degree-minute-second option. They are usually called "scientific calculators" and are quite inexpensive. The button often says "deg" or looks like this: ° 9 99. Take the difference between the year of birth and 2000, then multiply that by 0 degrees, 0 minutes, 50.23 seconds; the result comes up in decimal form, and the calculator has a conversion button to turn it into degrees-minutes-seconds. It is important to remember to use the full 0 degrees, 0 minutes first before the 50.23 seconds. If you just feed in the seconds, it won't come out right. Then you add the result to each element of the chart. (Precession increases the planet's longitude as time progresses.) Then when you have corrected each chart position, you can check them against the stars' 2000 positions in my book. I list star positions for both the tropical and the sidereal zodiac.

⁷ Vedic or Western sidereal astrologers would disagree with Diana on this point, though she acknowledges that "sign rulerships in the tropical and sidereal zodiacs are often in direct conflict. For instance, if Venus is in tropical Libra, she is in sidereal Virgo: the 1st is a dignity, the 2nd is a detriment!" Diana intended to do research on tropical vs. sidereal sign rulerships herself, and calls it "a huge area for deep research" and one she is "happy to bequeath to any siderealists or tropicalists willing to take it on!" For myself, I have had consistent results doing client relocation work and Astrocartography, confirming a reference point of sign rulers in the sidereal zodiac - using the Vedic sidereal birth chart as base line. Example: A client might be advised to go live on his or her Venus rising line. But if Venus is rising in sidereal Pisces, even if exalted, and that person has a Pisces Ascendant in their Vedic birth chart, Venus is a planetary enemy of the chart and its Ascendant lord, Jupiter. Venus also rules the 8th house in that case, and should not be emphasized through angularity. (EH, also quoting DKR)



When I do research, I take a chart of a person or an event and precess-correct it. Then I put the corrected positions around the chart; and next I go to the star sets, and put the placements of each person or each event in where they belong. (I decided to be inclusive, which was a very good decision, as it turned out. That's how I made discoveries with unexpected things.) I keep feeding in people and events that fit that category, and feed in the data of their charts in order to confirm a pattern. Sometimes I fail to find a pattern, so I go both ways to try to find what patterns I can, and see if they relate to energies in a given area. It's my Data Monster!

I may think: "Oh, I have several serial killers here," or "I have several apparitions of the Virgin Mary." So I put all the major positions out to Pluto on the chart, and I include the Lunar Nodes. Occasionally I'll mention an asteroid, but generally I stick with the major planets and the angles of the chart. The Moon and the angles have to be omitted if no birth time is available. That's why I tell the reader that if something doesn't quite fit, try the adjacent star sets. All this is in the Introduction to my book.

6) **EH:** Let's look at some of the other books on Fixed Stars and get your view on them. You used to have a list of recommended books on the subject at your website. At the top of your list was Reinhold Ebertin and Georg Hoffman's *Fixed Stars & Their Interpretation* (1971), followed by Vivian Robson's *The Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology* (1923). You even provided reprints of these before they became available on the web.

DKR: They are better than nothing, but are very limited, both in interpretations and number of stars offered. And the star positions are very outdated. Robson was using epoch 1920, so the positions are off by $1^{\circ}07'$ (if you are using 2000 as a fiducial point, the current standard), or $1^{\circ}15'$ for 2010 (precession added as time progresses). Ebertin's positions are for 1950: for 2000, add $0^{\circ}42'$; for 2010, add $0^{\circ}50'$ to each position given.

As to number of stars, Robson listed only 110 stars and Ebertin only 73. But look at the sky! There are so many more than that! And Robson covers only 5 to 6 degrees of Aries. I felt personally very miffed. Where are my stars?!

EH: So this goaded you into doing your life's work! Was it the paucity of material on the Fixed Stars? I personally am not familiar with all the material available on this subject.

DKR: It was the limitations of the material. When I began my research in 1980, Vivian Robson's book was considered the best book on the subject. In his book and others, the examples were often too general, and applied to everyone, or nearly everyone – such as: "This person will recover quickly from adversity." Well, you either recover quickly, or you don't. It's not too helpful.

Bernadette Brady's work on Fixed Stars came later. *Brady's Book of Fixed Stars* was published in 1998. Bernadette Brady works with parans: everything to her is visibility. She turns the chart to where a planet is angular and looks to see if a Fixed Star is angular simultaneously. To me, this seems like an awkward way of working. And she only deals with stars that could be visible at the time of birth. I disagree with that, and I say so in the Introduction to my book. This is what I wrote:



“It has become apparent to me that the universe is imprinted upon and within us; I strongly take issue with the idea that if a star cannot rise (and therefore will never be visible) at a particular location or birthplace it should not be used in the birth chart. The great 1st-magnitude star Canopus, *Alpha Argo Navis* (53 South Declination) for instance, is never seen from Shelter Island, New York (latitude 41N00), yet *its degree of celestial longitude* exactly culminates, with the Sun, on a client's chart who was born there; her parents went to great trouble to arrange for her to be born on their boat, and traveling on water has been a major part of her life. Another client, born Jewish in Chicago (41N52) has Venus and Neptune (the latter co-ruler of his 9th house of religion) *aligned in celestial longitude* with stars of the Southern Cross (56 to 64.5 south declination, 0 - 13.5 Scorpio) in the far southern skies, and although Crux is never visible above 34° north geographic latitude, and thus not visible in the place of his birth, *he became a convert to Christianity*. After years of research, it has become apparent to me that all of the sky belongs to all of humanity, without strictures or curtailments relating to birth latitudes, longitudes or visual passages. The universe is not ‘out there’ - it is within and a part of all of us, our co-creation with God; each of us resides at the focal center of our personal universe, and the entire cosmos is both within and without each of us. Every member of the human race, whatever his or her latitude of birth, is heir to, and part of, the entirety of the cosmos.”

As you can see, I really don't agree with that idea that if the star is not visible at the place of birth it doesn't count. Brady also switches things around. She gets a planet on an angle and then says: Okay, what star was rising when Saturn anti-culminated? Or that star was setting when such and such was happening. And it's not that it's not valid. It just seems a stretch to me to do what she's doing exclusively, but she insists that her way is the only proper way. I'd rather be more direct. I use the planets according to their ecliptic degree, and that works best for me. Brady claims that her method is the only method the ancients used, but I really do question that as well.

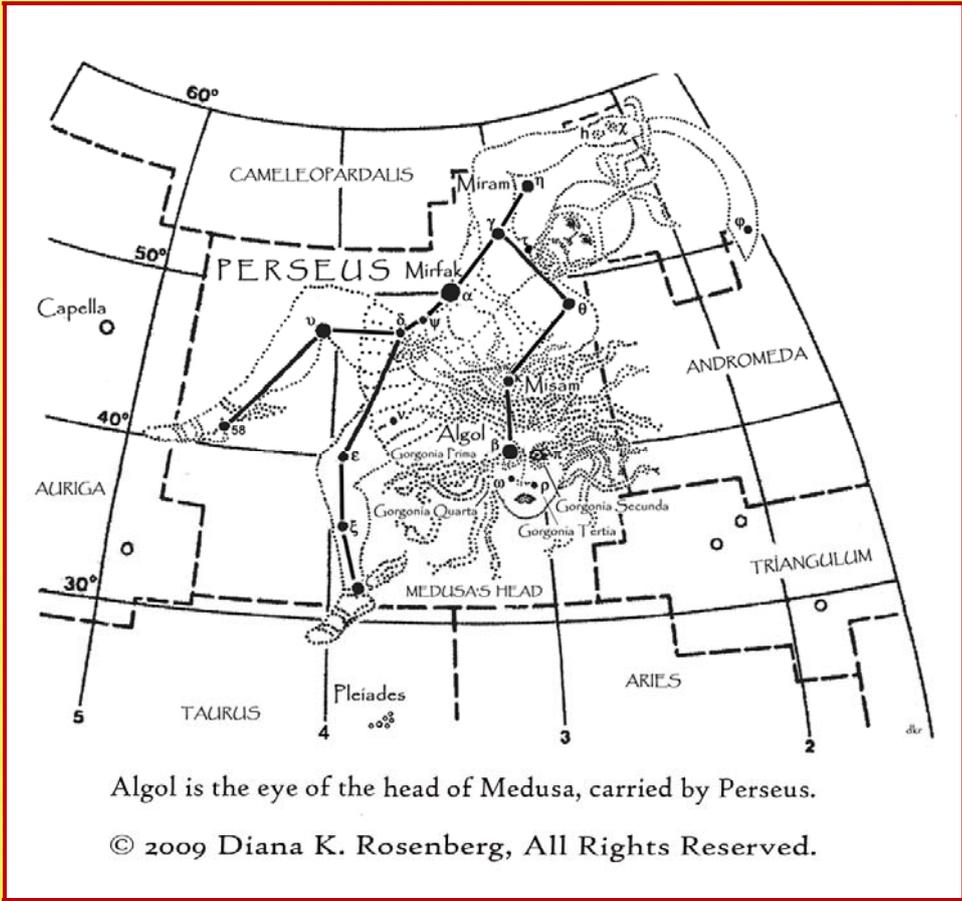
There are also historical matters on which I disagree with Brady. She has a section in her book on **Abraham Lincoln**. She says: “Abraham Lincoln was born the day Sirius culminated as his Venus set. Although the Venus content is not clear, Lincoln is a typical Sirius figure...” I disagree. Sirius is known, for instance, for a tendency to have a fierce temper and uncontrolled rage! She also wrote, on Lincoln: “He strove to achieve the dream of the freedom of all people.” Actually, his dream was to keep the Union together. He was reluctant at first to free the slaves, because that would threaten the Union.

I'm just not comfortable with the idea of working only with parans. However, I want to add that Bernadette Brady has made an enormous contribution to the field of Fixed Stars, and her Starlight program is absolutely first-rate. I recommend it very highly.

7) **EH:** I see you decided to start your Fixed Star research in 1980 with **Algol**. Tell us what you found about Algol.



DKR: Okay. **Algol** – the famous monster that has frightened so many Fixed Star beginners! Since there is a long, detailed article on my website (www.ye-stars.com), I'll just touch on a few important points. I chose Algol first because **Manley Palmer Hall's Astrological Keywords** said (and this is an exact quote), that it was "The most evil, violent, and dangerous star in the heavens." Among its effects were said to be "violence, beheading, hanging, choking, asphyxiation, electrocution, murder, mob violence." And just in case you missed the message, Algol is further described as "unfortunate." No kidding! To the point, the horror did prove out, and I have dozens of examples in the website article. But there is more to this star than that; for instance, it has a strong artistic side as well.



People often ask me how to handle it – especially if it is on their own chart or a client's chart. What I have found is that having Algol represented on a chart does not necessarily mean that you will inflict, or be the victim of, horror and mayhem, but that you will be aware of the depths of suffering that can occur, whether through human depravity or acts of God. You will not be able to ignore suffering and horror, or brush it aside. Your life path will require that you come to terms with that level of experience. A soldier might go through horrible experiences in war. For example, PTSD – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – is common under Algol. A journalist might be assigned to cover tragedies; a clergyman might be called upon to comfort the victims and their families. A black child might hear of the horrors of slavery; and a Jewish child might grow up with the awareness that his grandparents perished in the Holocaust. A police officer might assist victims of a disaster, or a medical student be assigned to work in a trauma center. The Algol placement insists upon a confrontation and assimilation of these harsh aspects of human experience in this lifetime. The polarities of

bigotry or tolerance, violence or kindness, cruelty or compassion, war or peace are issues that are unavoidable and must be dealt with under Medusa's head. (A good example is a young couple that asked for an electional time for their wedding and was not fazed when I told them they had chosen a day with a Sun-Hades conjunction on Algol. When I described the star's reputation, they told me it fit very well: They were devoting all their spare time to the Nuclear Freeze movement!)

Astronomer **Carl Sagan**, another Nuclear Freeze activist, had Algol rising. Poet **Maraquita Platov** (Mercury at Algol) was so moved during her childhood by the horrors of World War I that virtually all her poems were devoted to anti-war themes. What these people did was to act positively against violence and horror, and by thus manifesting the energy in a positive way, diverted its dangers from themselves. (By the way, I have Chiron at Algol, and besides writing about it, I've donated to charities that alleviate suffering, both of humans and animals). And I want to mention that since I wrote the article about it 18 years ago, I discovered that Algol is also a fire star. In a study I did of Fixed Stars and fires, it turned up with a rather high score. Algol was also an element leading up to 9/11. At the Full Moon preceding the attack (Sep 2, 2001, 9:44 PM GMT, New York City), Algol was at the 4th house cusp. The 4th house of a chart describes the final outcome of the matter, and/or the grave or final resting place. In ancient China, Algol was Ta-Ling, the Great Trench, which was a trench full of dismembered corpses. The people lost in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers were never found; their bodies had not only been dismembered, they were pulverized. Another Algol manifestation from that event was that the people who worked devotedly for months to clear the site are now suffering from respiratory problems because of the dust they inhaled, some having died from this, affirming the Algol connection to asphyxiation.

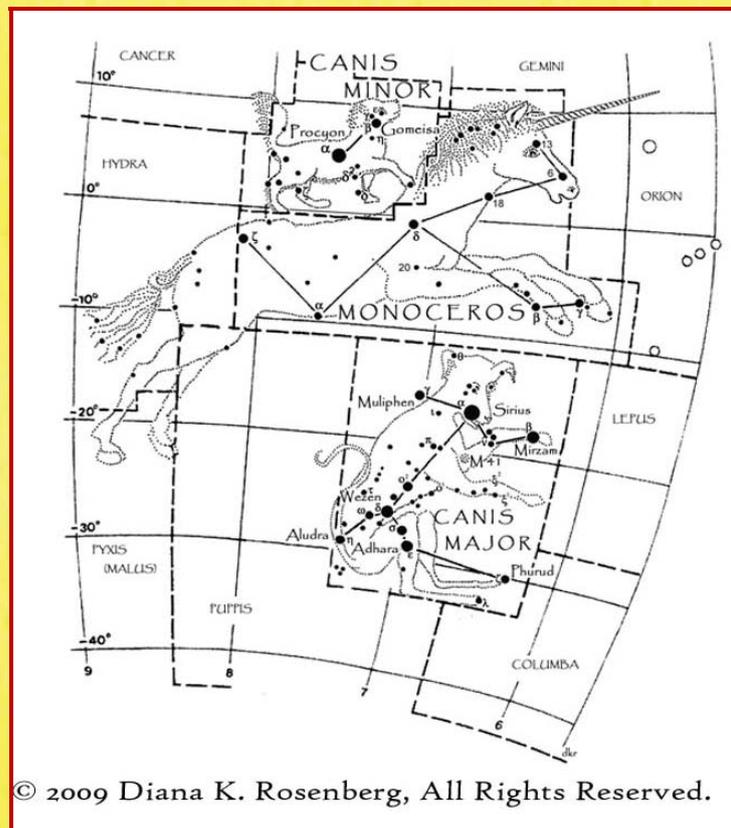
Also, that **Full Moon Sept. 2, 2001** at 10:29 tropical Pisces (16:38 sidereal Aquarius), was in the Chinese Lunar mansion called "Danger: Rooftop" – a very direct message. In the Vedic mansions the Full Moon was at 16:25 Aquarius, in *Shatabisha nakshatra*, the 100 physicians. (One ancient authority has "possessing or requiring 100 physicians.") Transiting Mars (27:07 tropical Sagittarius, 3:15 sidereal Sagittarius) and South Node (Ketu) (4:06 tropical Capricorn, 10:15 sidereal Sagittarius) were both in *Mula nakshatra*, ruled by Nritti, the Goddess of Destruction.⁸ The Ascendant was the ancient Orphic and Platonic Gate of Return of Souls to the Cosmos; and Neptune, rising, was at the Arabic mansion *Sa'd Al Dhabih*, the Lucky Assassin. Venus, setting, was at China's mansion *Kuei*, the Ghosts (spirits leaving their bodies), while Saturn was aligned with the stars of Perseus, the Hero or Rescuer. About 400 rescuers, 343 of them firemen, lost their lives on 9-11. I have given all these details to show how all these ancient traditions have wonderful information to offer. When you put them all together, they are an amazing treasure trove of information! This is why I have them all in my book. This is wonderful, previously lost knowledge that needs to be rediscovered and used. Each culture provides a valuable piece of the "Great Puzzle."

⁸ Diana uses True Lunar Node above, while Edith uses Mean Lunar node. With Mean Lunar Node, Full Moon chart (Sept. 2, 2001) for NYC has Full Moon at sidereal 16:35 Aquarius. Ascendant is 9:50 Capricorn. Ketu is within one degree of the exact 12th house cusp and within 5 1/2 degrees to 4th house ruler Mars. The 4th lord in the 12th house can bring losses to real estate, explosive losses with Mars-Ketu, and/or violent foreign or social misfit elements plotting secretly (12th house) to destroy the house. (EH)

Some of the Fixed Stars are harsh, yes – but to a purpose. Each defines an area that will be tapped for good or ill. Its tests are intense and unavoidable. Algol, like the other stars, confers tasks upon us which, if comprehended and accepted, offer great rewards of power and creativity. The more we understand and use these stellar changes in a positive manner, the less they are to be feared.

8) **EH:** Are there other stars for which you have a special affinity - ones that you find remarkable and worthy of special attention?

DKR: Yes, **Antares** and **Sirius**. I have written about both of them extensively in my book. **Antares** is known as *Alpha Scorpii* (9:46 Sagittarius – tropical; 15:55 Scorpio – sidereal Lahiri). It's the Scorpion's heart. Chinese astrologers considered this asterism the symbol of the Son of Heaven, because man was the heart of heaven and earth; therefore the Son of Heaven was Master of Man. In China Antares was the heart of the Great Celestial Dragon. At the Winter Solstice of 2006, as Mars and Jupiter came together with Antares between them, an ambitious London project was set in motion. By June 1 2007 a Full Moon joined Vesta at Antares as workers set up "The Heart," an exhibition planned as a diverse collection of heart-centric science, art and thought, exploring the "extraordinary medical, spiritual and cultural significance of the heart." They brought together exhibits of all ages and cultures, including the *Egyptian Book of the Dead* showing a heart being weighed against the feather of truth, Aztec sacrificial knives, Christian sacred heart imagery, a telecast of heart valve surgery, a heart-lung perfusion machine, anatomical drawings by da Vinci, etc. The exhibit opened June 21, 2007, the day of the Summer Solstice. On the Solstice chart set for London, Jupiter rose with Antares, the Scorpion's Heart. Antares is prominent in individuals and events marking the great issues of humankind, especially intolerance, racism and human rights.



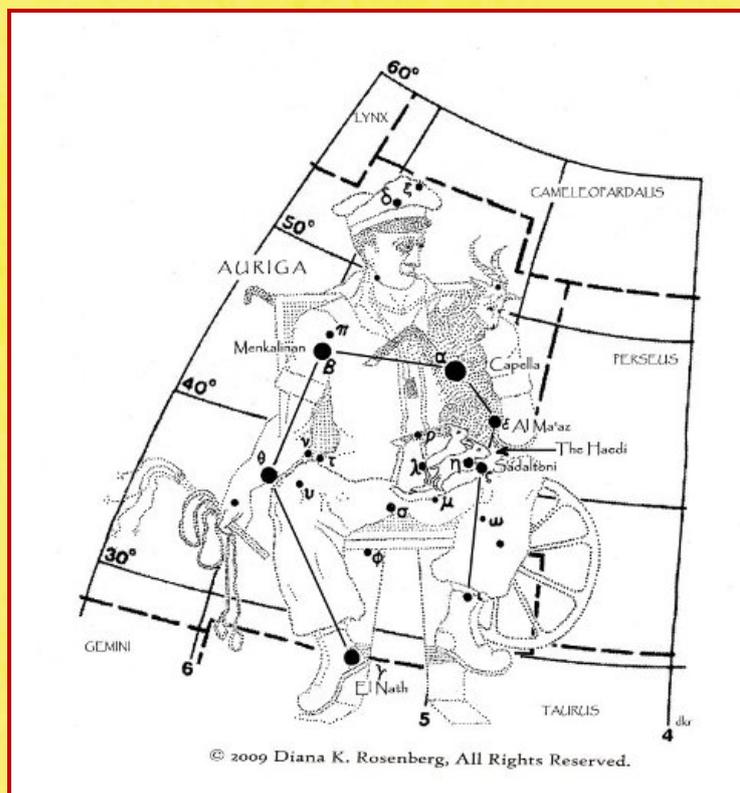


Sirius is known as *Alpha Canis Majoris*, or the Dog Star (14:05 Cancer – tropical; 20:14 Gemini sidereal Lahiri). In apparent magnitude, Sirius is the brightest star in the sky, one of the closest stars to Earth, and has a white dwarf companion star. It is visible from virtually every portion of the globe. In China, it was regarded as the Jackal or Wolf Star, associated with thievery and looting. This correlated with at least two Indian tribes of North America (the Pawnee and Osage tribes) that called Sirius “Wolf Star” or “Coyote Star.”

Sirius is the calendar star! All major calendar changes throughout history have been tied to the Dog Star: The current **Kali Yuga** of the **Hindu Calendar** is said to have begun with the death of Krishna, on Feb 18, 3102 BCE OS at 0 hour. If so, at that exact moment Sirius was setting on the western horizon. The **Sothic Calendar** of ancient Egypt, ca 2773 BCE, was based on the annual heliacal rising of Sirius, which marked the annual flooding of the Nile. In 46 BCE, the year the **Julian Calendar** was established in Rome, a Solar Eclipse aligned with Sirius. Because the Julian Calendar had slipped severely from its original seasonal markers, Pope Gregory XIII sponsored a calendar correction. In 1582 CE, as the **Gregorian Calendar** was adopted by Catholic nations, a Solar Eclipse aligned with Sirius, with the Sun eclipsed as it was rising at Rome. In 1917, Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria and the Balkans also changed to the Gregorian Calendar, with the Sun of a Lunar Eclipse at Sirius.

I also like the constellation of **Auriga, the Charioteer** (span: 13:00 Gemini to 19:30 Cancer tropical, 19:00 Taurus to 24:30 Gemini sidereal Lahiri). And I couldn't figure it out. What was I going to find? Bus drivers? Cab drivers? And for a long time I couldn't see a pattern. Then I read the Greek myth about Auriga (also called Erichthonius) that said he invented the chariot because he could not walk. Suddenly a possible pattern occurred to me, and I thought: “I've got to test this.” Sure enough, those stars turned up on charts of people confined to wheelchairs! The charioteer's chariot is a wheelchair. Isn't that something? And the illustration I made is of a war veteran in a wheelchair. I came to this partly through studying the Chinese, who saw the same pattern of stars of Auriga – a pentagon – as Five War Chariots. And each star had its own job. One administered the Oath of Allegiance; another one took care of the horses, and so on. The Chinese are wonderfully detailed about these things. In ancient China, the stars of Auriga represented a military encampment. Even the author of the book I was using (an astronomer) said: “I wonder if there is any connection to the Pentagon in all this.” So I had a look at the day the cornerstone for the Pentagon was laid. Jupiter was exactly aligned with one of the brightest stars of Auriga! And I put wheelchairs and warfare together and thought of wounded veterans!





EH: Did you work with charts of veterans?

DKR: Well, it's very hard to get charts of veterans in wheelchairs. In fact, another astrologer was looking for them for another reason, and mentioned how hard they were to find. But I did get the birth date of **Ron Kovic**, who was the veteran that was featured in the movie *Born on the Fourth of July*. I didn't get a time for him, but he had two or three things aligned with Auriga. And I did get the son of a famous General called Chesty Puller. His son, **Lewis Burwell Puller, Jr.** was terribly wounded in the Viet Nam war, and was in a wheelchair. He was on heavy drugs for pain, and finally in the end he committed suicide. I tried so hard to get his birth data and almost gave up until I found a website devoted to him, with a photo of his gravestone with a birth date on it! ⁹ He too had several things aligned with Auriga. Wheelchair-bound President Franklin D Roosevelt had his MC aligned with the head of the Bull, and under it Orion, and a whole row of brilliant constellations there. When you project stars on to the ecliptic, you get three or four major constellations. His Midheaven was in that area, and one of the constellations was Auriga, the Charioteer.

Other people who were in wheelchairs because of being wounded were **Larry Flynt** and Alabama **Governor George Wallace**. Larry Flynt was the pornography publisher who was shot. He had Auriga rising. Gov. Wallace was shot in an assassination attempt in May 1972,

⁹ **Lewis Burwell Puller, Jr.** was son of the most decorated Marine in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps, **General Chesty Puller**. He was born Aug. 18, 1945, and died May 11, 1994. Birthplace may have been Hampton, VA. Lewis Puller, Jr. became an attorney and a Pulitzer prize-winning author, after he was wounded as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. (EH)

while he was campaigning as U.S. presidential candidate, and he was confined to a wheelchair. He had Pluto aligned with Auriga.

9) **EH:** William Lilly established around 50 Fixed Stars in his horary work, and I know some have tallied as many as 290 of them. How many Fixed Stars are there?

DKR: A gazillion! Look at the sky! As I was researching (for 30 years!) I came to realize that constellations were of primary importance, and that everything in the sky, not only stars, was meaningful. So I kept adding stars and DSOs (Deep Space Objects, i.e. black holes, neutron stars, galaxies etc) and kept a Master list of all of the ones for which I had calculated positions. The stars and DSOs in my book are culled from this Master list of more than 2,000. My book has more than 750 stars detailed, and another 1,168 with just zodiacal longitude and its place in a constellation. (For comparison, Robson has 110, Ebertin-Hoffmann 73. Brady lists 176 but only has interpretations for 64.) I designed my book to be a tool for astrologers, so that they could use it for their own research, and take the information into new directions, if they wished.

EH: So William Lilly was not that critical to your work?

DKR: No, he wasn't. And he was probably using Ptolemy, and expanding on it a bit. Lilly's work was useful for me, but not that pivotal.

10) **EH:** Let's discuss Fixed Stars in natal astrology and in mundane astrology. You have researched Dwight D. Eisenhower at some length, and also some mundane events such as the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India Dec. 3, 1984.

DKR: The Bhopal disaster still haunts me. The article I wrote on it was recently honored as one of the best articles ever written for an *NCGR Journal*. It is now on my website, under the title "The Mills of God" so I'm going to suggest that readers check it out there. I became interested in Eisenhower after reading his biography.¹⁰ His parents were River Brethren, a pacifist sect that preached that military conflict was a great evil. Yet he loved books about war, so it is likely that at a very early age he knew that he had been born on the anniversary of one of the great turning points of history: the Battle of Hastings (Oct. 14, 1066 OS, 50N55, 0E29, 9:30 AM LMT): **William of Normandy's** invasion and conquest of England. But Ike's birth was not only the anniversary of Hastings; his Saturn-Ascendant conjunction was the Saturn of Hastings. (That is, his birth coincided with the 28th Saturn return of the Battle of Hastings and squared Mars in the battle chart.) His Moon-Uranus conjunction was the Sun of Hastings. The Battle of Hastings was an invasion of England from Normandy, and Eisenhower would lead an invasion of Normandy from England. It seems to me that he was born to this task. His boyhood hero was Abraham Lincoln, and like Lincoln, he was born in poverty and rose to become President of the United States. And like Lincoln, he had a royal star culminating at his birth!

¹⁰ **Dwight D. Eisenhower** was born Oct. 14, 1890, Denison, TX. Birth time is questionable (Rodden rating DD).

One of the things that set him apart from other leaders was his early upbringing that revered peace. He had the Sun, Moon and Uranus in the constellation of the Virgin, who was known in the Greek myths for her longing for – and devotion to – peace. One of the reasons Eisenhower was given the position of Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces was that he was known as a peacemaker, and there were potentially serious conflicts among the allied generals. Hitler was convinced that those conflicts would break apart the alliance. Only Ike had the diplomatic skills that could hold it together. He also kept the U.S. out of hot wars during his presidency, 1953-1961. (The Korean War Armistice was signed July 27, 1953.)

EH: Eisenhower is such a great historical example, but I have avoided using him due to his DD (Dirty Data). What convinced you to go ahead and use 3:40 AM? Or is exact birth data less important in the use of Fixed Stars?

DKR: Astrodatbank has several possible birth times given for Eisenhower: 3 AM, 3:40 AM; 5 AM; 5:11 PM, 5:19 PM 5:54 PM, 6 PM and just “night.” Since the “night” came from a roomer in their house who ran for a doctor, it seemed to me that we could eliminate the 5:11 to 6 PM times, as these would be closer to late afternoon; also if his mother remembered “about 3 AM” that would seem to be closer to the likely time. I think I chose the 3:40 AM time (actually now I think 3:30 AM might be a bit better) because it put Orion at the MC and in ancient China Orion was a great military figure called “The Supreme Commander.” Ike became “Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces.” He had Pluto at Aldebaran, a royal-and-war-star, and 3:30 AM puts Pluto conjunct the MC. Ike’s life epitomizes the classic royal star pattern of poverty-to-prominence. This is an example of using stars in rectification, but of course I have no way of knowing whether I am right about the time. I want to repeat that I now think 3:30 AM is the better time. The precession correction on that chart, from 1890 to 2000, is +1 deg 31 minutes.

11) Are there some other historical figures whose charts clearly show the workings of some of the important Fixed Stars?

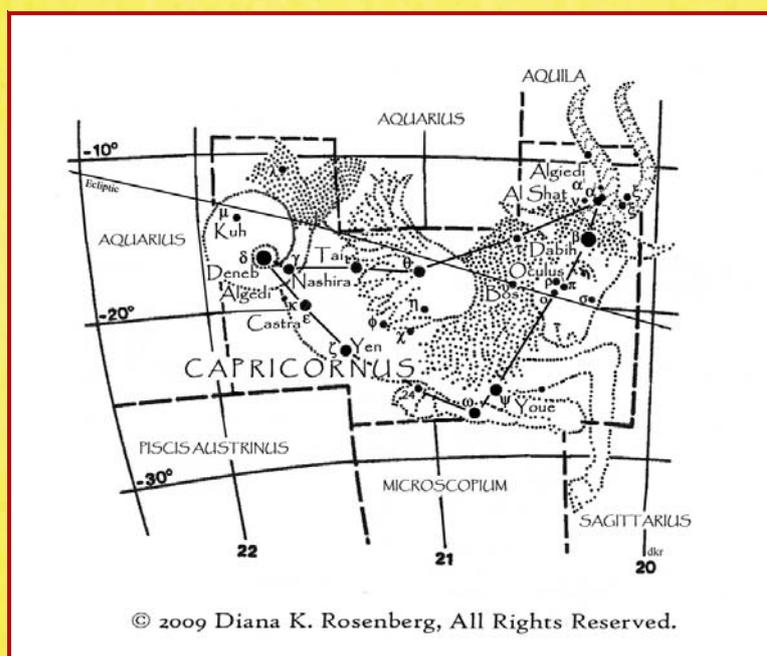
DKR: People often ask me about the four “royal stars:” 1) **Aldebaran**, *Alpha Tauri*, the 1st-magnitude eye of the Bull, it's 9:47 tropical Gemini, 15:56 sidereal Taurus 2) **Regulus**, *Alpha Leonis*, 29:50 tropical Leo, 5:59 sidereal Leo; 3) **Antares**, *Alpha Scorpii* (opposite Aldebaran), 9:46 tropical Sagittarius, 15:55 sidereal Scorpio; and 4) **Fomalhaut**, *Alpha Piscis Australis*, 3:52 tropical Pisces, 10:01 sidereal Aquarius. (All positions are for 2000, Lahiri sidereal used.) Royal stars do not necessarily indicate those who are high born or prominent, although this may be so. Rather they seem to offer a greater-than-average ambition and opportunities to rise high in the world and to associate with those at the top of their field in any profession. For instance, an office-worker might suddenly be given an administrative post, a student be given an opportunity to work with a famous professor, or a new, inexperienced actor be chosen for a major leading role. Even in a small, obscure community, an “ordinary” person with a royal star placement might become influential or associate with those who are. The danger, of course, is that one may rise too high too fast, lack experience or misuse influence, and suffer a harsh come-down as a result. Or there may also be another kind of “royal connection” in their lives.

For instance, biographers might choose royal figures as subjects, actors might play royal parts, etc. **Lord Louis Mountbatten**, last Viceroy of India, great-grandson of **Queen Victoria**, had a Mars-Moon-South Node cluster surrounding Aldebaran, opposite a Jupiter-Uranus-North Node conjunction centered at Antares. Immensely proud of his genealogy, his favorite pastime was musing over a chart of his royal forebears. Unfortunately, he also came to illustrate one of the darker sides of the royal stars: the possibility of assassination.

Because 2009 was the 200th anniversary of the births of **Abraham Lincoln** and **Charles Darwin**, both born Feb. 12, 1809, many people are now aware that these two remarkable souls incarnated on the same day! The Sun on the day of their birth was at the star Kuh, Mu Capricorni, in the tail of *Capricornus*, the Sea-Goat, and Globular Cluster M2 in the head of Aquarius, the Water-Pourer. (These two constellations overlap). For a long time, as I was researching the stars, this area puzzled me. What was I to make of a goat with a fish's tail? And why did early texts call *Capricornus* – one of the most ancient of the zodiac figures – “Father of Light”? In the Chaldeo-Babylonian celestial hierarchy, one of three gods who reigned supreme was Ea, “Lord of the Deep,” preeminently wise and beneficent, enlightener and lawgiver, archetype of Divine Intelligence. The stars of *Capricornus* belonged to Ea.

One of the most ancient of all the zodiac figures, *Capricornus*, the sea-faring goat with a fish's tail also represents the divine Man-Fish. Author **Rupert Gleadow** describes Ea:

“Ea is the only one of the Sumerian and Babylonian gods who was never angry, and always ready to help both gods and men out of difficulties. He is often represented as a man walking in a great fish-shaped cloak, the fish's head over his head and pointing upwards like a mitre, the tail at his heels, and the forward leg showing his human form. He is said to have emerged four times at long intervals from the ocean to teach civilization to men, and during each of these periods would retire into the water at night. Capricorn, his symbolic creature, symbolizes this dual life, and has as yet no association with the planet Saturn, which has never been reputed to help people out of scrapes.”



The teachings of Ea-Oannes, epitomized by *Capricornus*, make his stars an area of emergence and enlightenment, where laws are established, maintained and renewed; where challenges, struggles and experimentation bring about new systems of social contracts and new legal pathways for the just implementation of power.

Aquarians seek unity. Abraham Lincoln dedicated his presidency to saving the Union, while Charles Darwin sought a unified theory that would explain the mysteries of the natural world. His book *On the Origin of Species*, published Nov. 24, 1859, caused intense controversy, unabated to this day. The North Node was then in sidereal Capricorn/tropical Aquarius. In January 1863 Lincoln's *Emancipation Proclamation* freeing the slaves took effect. The New Moon that month was in Capricorn in both zodiacs. Lincoln liberated the slaves, while Darwin liberated the minds of millions who had rejected natural laws that did not conform to carrying on the teachings of Ea-Oannes. Now we can understand why ancient texts called *Capricornus* "Father of Light"!

12) **EH:** Let's discuss how Fixed Stars work in a national chart. I know you especially like the chart of the **Republic of India**. Let's give that data: Jan. 26, 1950, 10:15 AM, Delhi, India. Tropical Ascendant is 4:49 Aries. Sidereal Ascendant is 11:39 Pisces.

DKR: The original **India Independence** chart still works powerfully, but I also like looking at the **Republic of India** chart, for two reasons: First, it was more purely Indian, as the date wasn't imposed on them by the British; secondly, it was the same day they outlawed the caste system that designated some people as Untouchables. They did this under pressure from **Mahatma Gandhi** and **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, who was born an Untouchable, also known as *Dalit* or *Mleccha*. (Dr. Ambedkar was born April 14, 1891, Mhow, India, and I used 12 noon, since the time is unknown.) In both zodiacs his natal Sun is exalted in Aries. His North node-Pluto conjunction is on Aldebaran. And typical of the Royal stars, they lift you up. (You just have to behave yourself, or you get crashed down again!) In his case, he is much admired. Somehow he managed to get an education, and went abroad for his advanced degrees.¹¹ His chart looks better to me in the tropical zodiac, as the Venus becomes exalted in Pisces and Jupiter in dignity in Pisces, though Sun is exalted in both zodiacs. His natal Mars is with Algol, and Neptune-North Node-Pluto in Gemini, with North Node-Pluto conjunct Aldebaran, though Neptune is a bit early for Aldebaran. Noon Moon is in tropical Cancer. I was intrigued to get the birth date of an Untouchable.

The **Independence of India** chart (August 15, 1947, 0 hr, Delhi) is certainly a primary chart for the nation, and it does work event-wise. When India's astrologers objected strongly to the date, Viceroy Lord Louis Mountbatten wrote in his diary: "The astrologers are being rather tiresome." But this was not a date chosen by any native Indian(s) or Indian astrologers.¹²

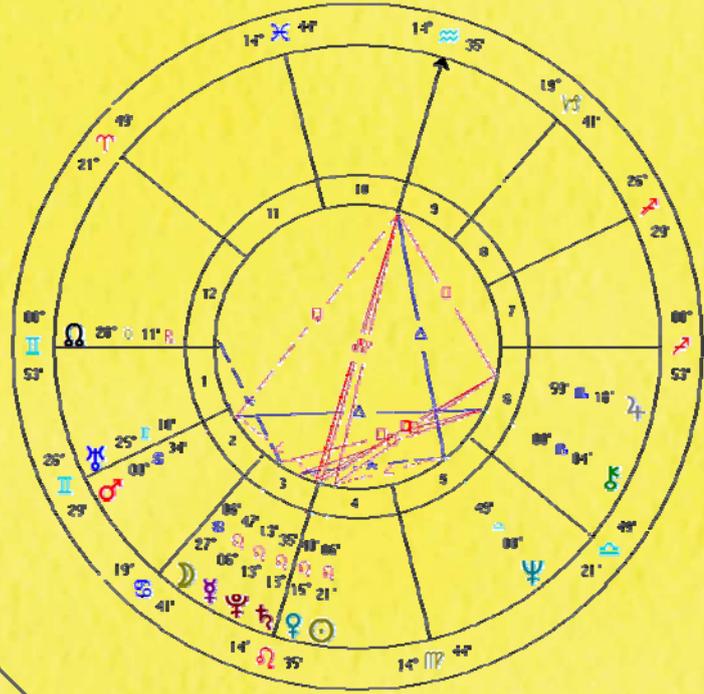
¹¹ Dr. Ambedkar attended the London School of Economics and Columbia University, earning several doctorates for his study and research in law, economics and political science. Returning home as a famous scholar, he practiced law for several years before publishing journals advocating political rights and social freedom for India's Untouchables. (EH)

¹² The date of Aug. 14 was chosen by the British, but the Indian astrologers, having reported that this was not the most favorable date, tried to find a better time, and under pressure – they chose midnight on Aug. 14/15, 1947. Although **Mohammad Ali Jinnah** (leader of the All-India Muslim League and founder



India Independence Chart

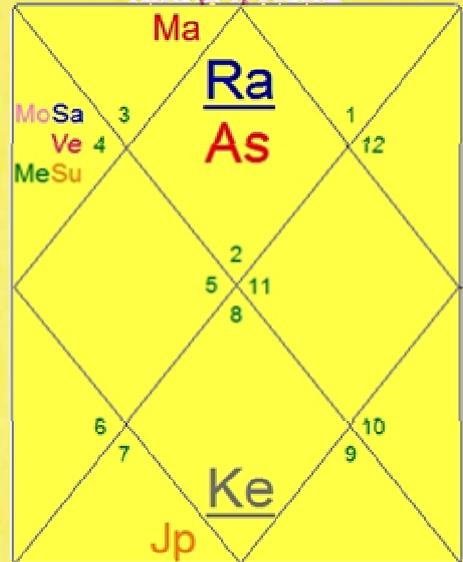
Aug 15 1947, Fri
 8:00 am IST -5:30
 Delhi, India
 28°14'N 77°13'
 Greco-Roman
 Tropical
 Placidus
 Mean Mode



Rashi (D-1) General

		Ra _{5°4'}	Ma _{7°27'}
		As _{7°43'}	
India - Independence Fri. 8/15/1947 0:00:00 New Delhi, India			Mo _{3°59'} Ve _{22°33'} Me _{13°40'} Su _{27°58'} Sa _{20°28'}
		Jp _{25°52'}	
	Ke _{5°4'}		

Rashi (D-1) General



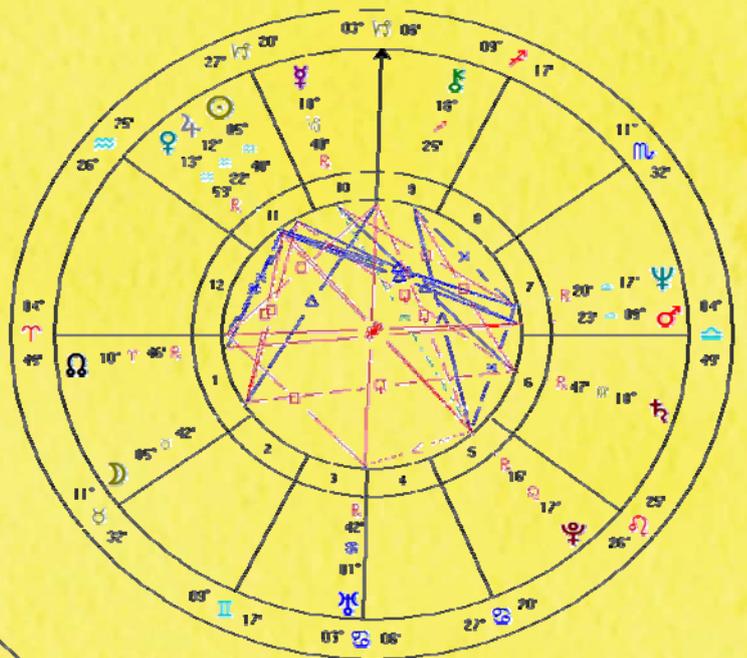
of Pakistan) was unconcerned about the astrology, Hindu leaders were more concerned. Because of this difference in their charts, India's history is regarded as having been more successful than that of Pakistan, whose chart is Aug. 14, 9:30 AM, Karachi. The **Pakistan Independence** chart has 5:46 Virgo Ascendant, with planetary enemy Mars dominant at the 10th house cusp in Gemini, Moon at 24:53 Gemini, and four planets in the royal sign of Cancer (all sidereal Lahiri positions). India's Independence chart has 7:43 Taurus Ascendant, with five planets in Cancer: Moon, Mercury, Saturn, Venus, and Sun. With emphasis in the 3rd house of communications, and Venus *dasa* Sept. 1989 through Sept. 2009, followed by 15 years of *dasas* of 3rd house planets, we could predict ongoing success for India's vibrant Information Technology sector. I favor this Independence chart. (EH).



After reading about how Dr B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi successfully pressed the Constituent Assembly to outlaw the caste system, and that the Constitution came into force at the same time as the Republic of India was announced, I decided that the 1950 chart was worthy of consideration as a true chart of the nation, to be studied alongside the Independence chart. A full reading of these charts is not possible here, but there are some very notable elements in relation to Fixed Stars, constellations and lunar mansions. For instance, the great ancient astronomer/astrologer/mathematician/ geographer **Claudius Ptolemy** (ca. 85-165 AD) assigned India to *Capricornus*, the Sea-Goat, a figure now completely overlaid with tropical Aquarius. The Independence chart has *Capricornus* Culminating, and the Republic chart has the Sun, Jupiter and Venus in the Sea-Goat, and the Republic's Venus was transiting the Midheaven of the Independence chart.

Republic Of India

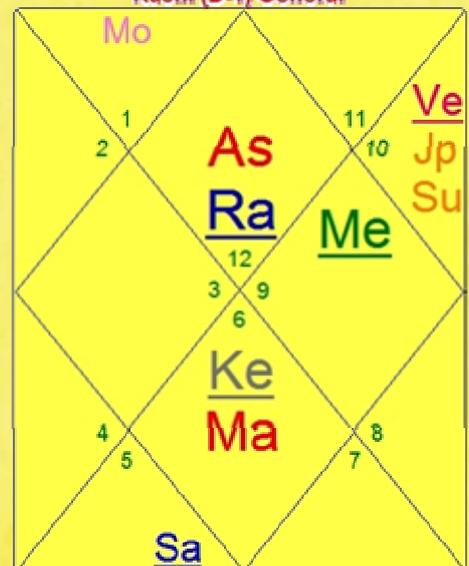
Jan 26 1950, Thu
 10 15 am IST -5:30
 Delhi, India
 28°N40'077"E17
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 Mean Merid



Rashi (D-1) General

As 11°38'	Mo 12°33'		
Ra 17°37'			
	India - Republic Thu. 1/26/1950 10:15:00 New Delhi, India		
			Sa 25°37'
			Ke 17°37'
			Ma 16°13'

Rashi (D-1) General



The **India Republic** chart has sidereal Pisces Rising. Roman astrologer **Manilius**, writing about 10 AD, assigned India (“Asiatic Ethiopia”) to the Fishes. That the Republic’s Sun, Jupiter and Venus were in tropical Aquarius in the 11th house would be considered mostly beneficent to Western tropicalists. They occupy *Shravana nakshatra*, one of four “*Mleccha*” mansions, associated with outcasts.

EH: That would contrast with the Vedic view that Venus and Jupiter are not planetary friends, and their close contact in the same sign would generally be regarded as excessive. And while it’s true that *nakshatras* are classified in numerous ways, including by caste system, we are still waiting for Sanskrit translations of many of the ancient texts on Vedic astrology. From what is available so far, it appears that the four elements are not mentioned, while the four castes (people from classical Hindu society) supplant the elements. But as the symbolism in the Vedic culture is always far broader than it first appears, I would be wary of extracting information like this. It could so easily create distortions in interpretations.

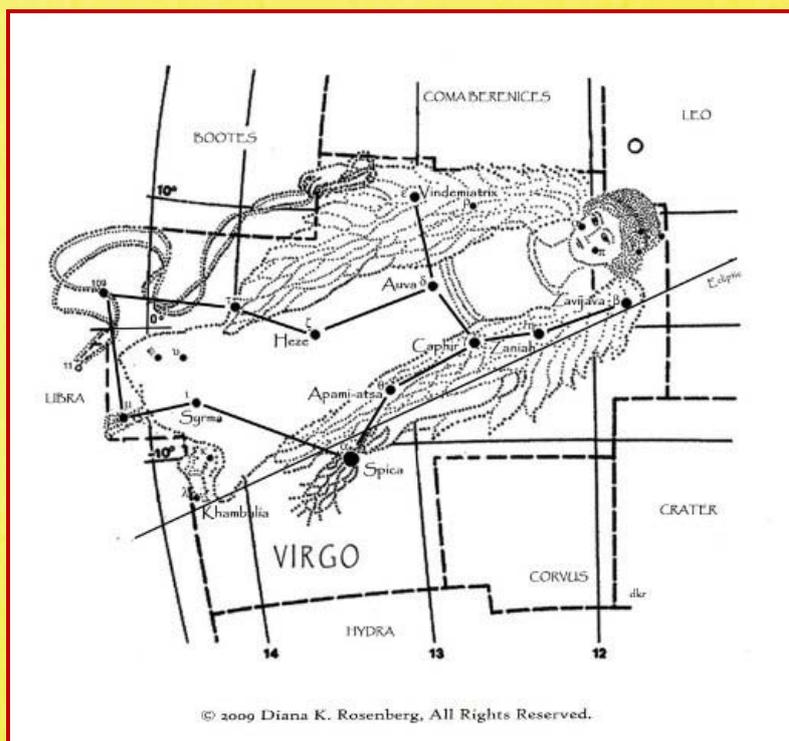
DKR: Well, at the risk of doing so, I still think this illustrates the very issues roiling the new republic. Early Western tropicalists named the 11th house as the “joy” of Jupiter, and here the three planets in air tropically, overlaying earth sidereally, illustrate how the ancient *Shudra*, or Servant castes (sidereal earth signs), have now emerged into the tropical air element – *Vaishya* (Mercantile caste), with opportunities to become educated and join the bourgeoisie. I have been insisting for several years now that both zodiacs (tropical and sidereal) work, and that they are combining, enhancing, illuminating, and giving depth to their counterparts. Both Capricorn and Aquarius are Saturn-ruled signs, so the stern Lord of Karma is still enthroned here. But changes have been wrought in this incredibly ancient and vivid culture that will invigorate and carry it forward. ¹³

Fixed star **Vindematrix**, Epsilon Virginis, is known as the **Star of Widowhood**, and plays a major role in the various charts of India. She is also known as the fruit-gatherer, and she is in the north wing of the Virgin. (In 1950 Vindematrix was at 9:10 Libra, and in 1980 at 9:40 Libra – tropical zodiac.) Why it should be connected to widowhood, I don’t know, but it works consistently. ¹⁴ It is remarkable that all three charts of India in **Nick Campion’s Book**

¹³ India Republic chart’s Venus and Jupiter are in sidereal Capricorn, where Jupiter is debilitated. Both planets are combust the Sun. Sign lord Saturn is not in good placement in Leo, and exchanges signs with its enemy the Sun in Capricorn: struggles with establishing leadership and authority. Classic Vedic astrology delineates planets, signs, *nakshatras*, etc. according to the sidereal zodiac, though *ayanamshas* may vary slightly. Also, according to classic Vedic rules, it would not be recommended to switch or superimpose zodiacs in Vedic chart analysis. (EH)

¹⁴ DKR, cont’d: This includes astrologer **Maria Simms**, who was married to **Neil Michelsen**, and became a widow when he died of cancer very early in their married life. She knew something about Fixed Stars, and she came up to me and said: “Did you know that we were married on a day when the Sun was at Vindematrix? We were crazy that day, running around getting various papers for the company, and talking to lawyers. And one of the things we had to do that day before jumping on a plane was to go get married!” They were so busy they didn’t even look at the planets! Sadly, Michelsen was diagnosed with cancer not too long after that. She volunteered the information, and said she would let me use it. I think **Elizabeth Taylor** married **Mike Todd** when Jupiter was at Vindematrix, and he was killed in a plane crash early in their marriage. There are so many examples of the connection to the loss of the partner. (DKR)

of World Horoscopes have Vindemiatrix prominent: It was rising on Jan 1, 1877, 0 AM LMT, Delhi when **Queen Victoria** – known as the “Widow of Windsor” – became Empress of India; Neptune was at Vindemiatrix at the Independence chart of 1947. (Neptune had come to the Ascendant of the Empire chart, dissolving it.) And on the Republic’s chart there is a conjunction of Mars, Uranian planet Poseidon (enlightenment), and the karmic South Node. Widowhood has been an issue in India since ancient times. For centuries the tradition of *Sati* expected or forced widows to throw themselves on their husbands’ funeral pyres. The Constitution outlawed the ancient caste system, including the Untouchables, but equivocated on many feminist issues. For instance, the treatment of wives is still a concern in India. Despite government efforts, some are murdered so that their husbands, being widowers, might re-marry to gain a new dowry.

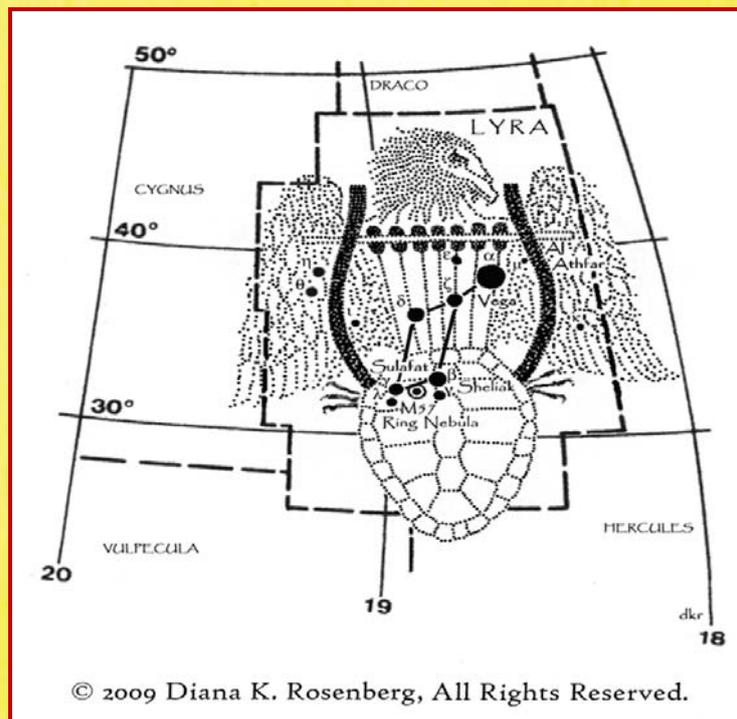


There is a consistent connection between India and Vindemiatrix – also occasionally called Almuredin. Nor does a star have just one meaning. In addition to being the Star of Widowhood, she is also known as the Grape-gatherer, or the Vintager, or the Herald of the vintage. I was able to get the data of a man who started his own winery in California. I don’t know if he is a widower, but in his chart Vindemiatrix is in the Ascendant – confirming another aspect of Vindemiatrix: the cultivator of grapes. She is also called Protrygeter – “the fruit-plucking herald.” When she is rising, she heralds the time of the vintage when the grapes are gathered.

13) EH: Let’s introduce some of the issues that come up around your use of the two zodiacs, and how you view Vedic *nakshatras*. We can continue with the **India Republic** chart.

DKR: In the **India Republic** chart Mercury in the 10th house (18:40 tropical Capricorn, 25:31 Sagittarius – Lahiri sidereal), is aligned with the star *Epsilon Lyrae* in the constellation of

Lyra, the Lyre. ¹⁵ This is one of the stars of the mysterious (and almost never used) *Abhijit nakshatra*. All that is known of this Lunar mansion is that it was said to be of the *Vaisya* caste, to be ruled by Brahma, and that it was under the influence of this mansion that the Gods vanquished the demon Asuras. This remarkable area of the sky is pure celestial fire! Situated here are the natal Suns of physicists **Sir Isaac Newton** and **Stephen Hawking** (born 299 years apart, both of them Lucasian Professors of Mathematics at Cambridge), the Midheaven of physicist-inventor **Nicola Tesla**, called “master of lightning,” who invented radio, Venus of legendary 10th-century Persian scholar-astronomer **Al Sufi**, publisher of *Kitab al-Kawatib al-Thabit al-Musawwar* (“Book of Fixed Stars”), the Moon of astrologers **Lilly**, **Ebertin**, and **Ficino**, to name but a few. In any case, *Abhijit's* constellation of Lyra is way above the ecliptic, far north of the other *nakshatras*, so that's another part of the mystery.



EH: I would add here that *Abhijit nakshatra* has a range from 6:40 to 10:53 sidereal Capricorn.¹⁶ You are correct that *Abhijit nakshatra* is almost never used. It disappeared from the literature after ca. 0 A.D., though it was an inherent part of the system before then, and inserted between *Uttara Ashada* and *Shravana nakshatras*. But it is not used now at all in Vedic chart analysis. *Abhijit nakshatra* should also not be confused with *Abhijit muhurtha*, which is one *Ghati* (24 minutes) on either side of local noon time. It is an auspicious 48-minute time period near mid-day each day, and is considered when an appropriate *Muhurtha* is not available. Only *Abhijit muhurtha* is of any significance to modern Vedic astrologers.

¹⁵ Stars of Lyra were, in ancient India, a vulture or an eagle; in Phoenicia and Greece they represented a tortoise-shell that Hermes used to create a lyre. For centuries celestial cartographers have solved the problem of these different symbols – eagle/vulture and lyre – by depicting a raptor (bird of prey) carrying a harp in its claws. (DKR)

¹⁶ See **K.T. Shubhakaran**, *Nakshatra: Constellation Based Predictions with Remedial Measures*, 1991, p. 285. See also **Dr. K.S. Charak**, *Elements of Vedic Astrology*, 1995, Vol. 1, p. 22. (EH)

DKR: I know *Abhijit nakshatra* is not normally used in Vedic chart analysis, but I am not doing Vedic chart analysis! Since I have been granted the gift of its original determinants, I wanted to experiment with it. (My natal Sun is conjunct Uranus.) Besides, it is so mysterious and intriguing!

EH: Okay, but I wanted to clarify this point, as I think it is potentially very confusing for practitioners of Vedic astrology – or other forms of astrology, for that matter. I understand you want to encourage research and experimentation, and that includes experimenting with superimposing zodiacs and lunar mansions from various different systems. My concern is that regardless of there being no Vedic chart analysis involved, the meaning of the Vedic lunar mansion will be there, no matter what.¹⁷ The Sanskrit word **Abhijit**, for instance, means “complete victory.” In the Vedic Puranic myths, Shiva pulls *Abhijit nakshatra* from the heavens, as it was abused when in the wrong hands. “Complete victory” is perhaps beyond human comprehension, and belongs only to the great spiritual masters. In the *Bhagavad Gita*, Krishna says: “Of the constellations, I am *Abhijit*.”

My concern is that you are applying a now discarded *nakshatra* segment to a degree area that does not coincide with what most Vedic astrologers understand to be *Abhijit nakshatra*.¹⁸ You say Mercury of the Republic of India chart (18:40 tropical Capricorn, 25:31 sidereal Sagittarius), is in *Abhijit nakshatra*. But Vedic astrologers place it between 5 and 11 degrees sidereal Capricorn at the maximum extent.

DKR: But I do not use the “fixed” spans, but rather the original determinant stars (from **Valerie Roebuck’s Circle of Stars**), plus a small allowance at either end. *Abhijit’s* determinants are *Alpha (Vega), Zeta and Epsilon Lyrae*, tropical 15:19 Capricorn, 18:07 Capricorn, 18:38 Capricorn, respectively, and in sidereal Lahiri (2000) are 21:28 Sagittarius, 24:16 Sagittarius, and 24:47 Sagittarius. This brings up an important point that we should discuss. Constellations have been given fixed, regular boundaries of 30° lengths, when of course their actual lengths vary wildly. (Virgo, the Virgin, for instance, is 48° long.) And in Vedic astrology the same fate has befallen *nakshatras*. Since my focus is on stars and the sources of ancient knowledge, I have gone to the trouble of finding the original determinants of each mansion. The degrees you give for *Abhijit*, 6:40 to 10:53 sidereal Capricorn, would, on my list, totally encroach on *Shravana’s* determinants, stars *Gamma, Alpha, Beta Aquilae*, 7:06, 7:56 & 8:35 sidereal Capricorn (0:57, 1:47 and 2:26 tropical Aquarius).

Vedic astrologer K.T. Shubhakaran (see previous footnote) specifically relates *Abhijit nakshatra* to three stars, the brightest of which is *Vega, Alpha Lyrae*. The degrees he gives do

¹⁷ This point becomes clearer later on when we discuss Diana’s Vedic birth chart (Section #16). She considers the Vedic chart incorrectly shows her to be financially wealthy, with Sun as 2nd house ruler of financial wealth, in *Revati nakshatra*, meaning “wealthy.” However, using Vedic whole sign houses, Sun rules the 3rd house – not the 2nd, while Venus (also in *Revati*) rules Houses 5 and 12. Comparatively, financial wealth & nourishment have come through learning & children. *Revati* is also about nourishment, and sign and *nakshatra* rulerships must be applied. (EH)

¹⁸ As the North Pole star some 15,000 years ago, *Vega* seems related to *Abhijit’s* spiritual significance in Vedic terms. Contrast this with some modern Western attributes to *Vega*, such as luck in politics, fleeting fame, wealth, and pretentiousness. (EH)

not match the Lyra stars. This is a very good example of how difficult it has been for astrologers working in both zodiacs to deal with the stars. Shubhakaran talks about Vega and the other two stars, but he doesn't know where they are in terms of degrees. He can only name them as the stars traditionally connected to *Abhijit nakshatra*. In her book *Circle of Stars* (pp. 100, 109), Sanskrit scholar Valerie J Roebuck gives the same three determinant stars.

EH: It is good you can clarify these points, as although it is still potentially confusing – at least we can hone in on why it is so confusing!

DKR: I am using determinant stars even if there is a conflict with the standard Vedic spans, and I consider this part of my learning process and “mission,” as it were. And I am doing this not only with *nakshatras*, but constellations as well. I hope that astrologers will try out and test these differences – standardized spans versus spans based on the ancient, original determinant stars – to see which they find more pertinent, useful, insightful and enlightening.

When I look at a natal chart or a national chart, I see overlays of both zodiacs. With the chart of the **Republic of India**, strengthening the remarkable Mercury is a trine from Saturn in the 6th house, tropically in the earth element where he is comfortable, but sidereally in Leo, where he is in exile (detriment), a graphic illustration of the variances and conflicts inherent in the differences between the two zodiacs, and at the same time, of the deep conflicts within India itself. The star here is 93 *Leonis* in the upper curve of the Lion's tail, a determinant of *Uttaraphalguni*, “The Latter Reddish One” or “Back of the Culprit” ruled by Aryaman, the Aditya of hospitality, connected with favor, kindness, and fruition. On Aryaman I have written:

“The desire to interpret and explain one culture to another makes this an area of translators and diplomats, concerned with forging and maintaining links between disparate races, nationalities, and faiths, stressing elements we have in common, rather than differences that divide us. Idealistic, utopian, perceptive, looking for ways to set the world right, they are concerned with the question of how to live a spiritual, meaningful life.”

Although stars of the Virgin “officially” start with the next degree, her distinct influence begins here, where the wild beast (Leo) is first brought under conscious control, a triumph of intelligence over brutality. The 6th house is the 10th of the 9th, i.e. religious status, and Saturn here describes the conflicts between religions and the constant struggle of each for supremacy. As for the sidereal-tropical combination, Leo's fire makes this a mansion of the *Kshatriya* caste of rulers and warriors, but now it is overlaid with the modifying tropical influence of *Shudra*'s earth element. No longer can hereditary rulers dominate the servant classes; now they must curry their favor to get elected!

EH: This does challenge key concepts in classic Vedic astrology, where certain qualities of royalty are strongly associated with the three fire signs, Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius – the *Kshatriyas* being a royal caste. This especially applies to Leo, ruled by the Sun. (The only two royal planets are the Sun and Moon, so this would also apply to Moon-ruled Cancer.) When you change the element from fire to earth – it does not make sense on several levels in the

Vedic scheme of things. Fire is associated both with royalty, and with military and political leaders, the *Kshatriyas*. Earth is associated with the *Shudras*, or servant class, those who do the real material work in the world. In the classic Vedic sense, the one cannot replace or even duplicate the other.

DKR: But Edith, consider – during the past century, all over the world, royalty has virtually disappeared, or completely lost its real power! And I am not changing the elements. I am saying that they are now combining.

EH: Of course, now we have an overlap of almost one sign and one element to discuss. In several hundred more years, the overlap will be two signs away!

DKR: I calculate it as another 430 years to go in the current overlap: 2,580 years - 2,150 + the 6 degrees.

EH: Okay – somewhere close to that! But I do agree that when the slower moving outer planets (especially Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto) enter each tropical sign, one can observe changes in that arena of life. Then later, when that planet enters the same sign sidereally, there are even more profound or radical stages of development in that area of life. With Pluto in sidereal Sagittarius, for example, the issue of widespread corruption within the Roman Catholic Church has finally reached the Pope himself, making him more vulnerable.

DKR: An interesting observation!

EH: Thank you. And what you say about royalty disappearing is true, in terms of the actual power of royal families per se. Even so, I think what we see now is the real essence of royalty in terms of the king being the victor (or not) in battle. The Vedic royal caste is the *kshatriya* – the military and political leaders, a group that has only become more dominant in our world. The allocation of resources for military purposes dominates all others, and the military industry probably drives this whole process to extremes. That point is made very clear on the Gemini-Sagittarius axis, where the last of the three fire signs, Sagittarius, is opposite Gemini – considered a mercantile sign (the air element). The power of the presidency in most nations, but especially the USA, is dependent on its loyalty and cooperation with the aims of the military and the wealthiest economic sectors, another key to modern royalty.¹⁹ This stratosphere of power is well defined in Vedic terms as to what constitutes “royal status.”²⁰ In fact, military might is so linked with economic might in our

¹⁹ The **USA** chart is one of the best examples of this. I use an 8:59 Sagittarius Ascendant for the USA chart (the Kelleher chart: July 4, 1776, 6:30 PM LMT, Philadelphia, PA), with four planets in sidereal Gemini, out of nine classical planets, including Rahu and Ketu. (Though I do not use Uranus, Neptune or Pluto in Vedic natal or mundane astrology, I do note their planetary placements by sign, or by degree if they are at a power point in a chart, especially Pluto in recent years at the Galactic Center.) (EH)

²⁰ “The king is the root of the subject tree. Efforts should be made to enhance the king’s welfare, since progress and decay of the people are entirely dependent upon the nourishing and injuring respectively of that king-root.” [...Here the Subject tree stands for the entire *state* and consists of seven parts viz. the king, ministers, allies, treasury, territory, fortifications, and army.] from **Varahamihira** (505 A.D.),

era, that in some countries even Drug lords have a higher status among the common people than the legitimate king or rulers, especially if they are perceived as doing more for the good of the people. A battle for “royal” legitimacy is being waged in several countries now – Mexico, Jamaica, Afghanistan – among others. Drug lords, often called “drug kingpins,” are the “renegade royalty,” consistent with Pluto in sidereal Sagittarius.

DKR: In any case, what I have been trying to do is to search out, discover, experiment and perhaps revive the ancient patterns. I’d like astrologers to try both possibilities and decide for themselves.

EH: Okay. But for Vedic astrologers who are classically trained, it is very difficult to see how the tropical zodiac can work with the Fixed Stars, especially the Vedic nakshatras – as their tropical position is changing over time, a degree every 72 years or so.

DKR: Of course tropical positions work with the stars, because whether you label a degree “tropical” or “sidereal” you are still talking about one specific spot in the sky, whatever its “degree label”! And each star can be given its proper “degree label” according to the zodiac you have chosen to work in. For instance, I have the Sun at 19 tropical Aries, 26 sidereal Pisces (Lahiri), which puts it right at the star *Revati*, *Zeta Piscium*. Whichever zodiac you use, my Sun is at *Revati*! Because the Vernal Equinox gradually recedes against the background of the stars, making the distance between it (0° Aries) and the star longer, *Revati*’s tropical degree designation has increased (moved forward) 1 deg 04 min since I was born, and so has my (precession-corrected) Sun. *Revati* is still in the same place it always was, in the cord of the West Fish of Pisces. That does not change. But the “degree label” that a tropicalist gives it advances gradually, and that is why tropicalists must use precession corrections when working with the stars. This is so important and also difficult for people to understand.

And why did so many ancient astrologers, including **Ptolemy**, switch to the tropical zodiac? Because under the old sidereal paradigm, the calendar and the seasons were getting completely out of whack! It is the tropical points (0° of the cardinal signs) that determine when Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter occur, and those points are the ones that gradually precess against the background of the sky. Since all human timekeeping is based on the sky, the switch had to be made, or all the sacred points of the year would fall at the wrong time. If the calendars had not been corrected for precession, we would have the first day of Summer in August, and Christmas in February! Ancient calendar-keepers could simply decree that adjustments had to be made, but it was not that easy for astrologers, who have been dealing with this ever-widening split (between the seasons and the sky-figures) ever since.

EH: But in Ptolemy’s time the zodiacs were nearly in synch, so it was convenient for him to ignore precession in astrology. Here is Nick Campion on the subject:

“It no doubt seemed a simple matter to Ptolemy to rationalize the situation by defining 0 degrees Aries as the vernal point rather than as the beginning of the constellation of Aries,

but the legacy he bequeathed to his successors has not been an easy one. With the shift of the constellations in relation to the tropical Ptolemaic zodiac in the following centuries, they gradually became redundant, while the zodiac itself eventually ceased to have any connection to the awesome symbolism of the fixed stars.” (from his *Astrology, History and Apocalypse*, 2000, pp. 139-140.)

DKR: I disagree with Nick on this. It definitely did not seem “a simple matter to Ptolemy.” He finally declared himself a tropicalist, but since the precession correction of his time was still small, he was still able to use what Nick calls “the awesome symbolism” fully in his work. His *Tetrabiblos* is full of star and constellation references and delineations, and I’ve used them extensively in my book. I had a discussion with **Rob Hand** about Ptolemy’s attributions of certain geographical areas to certain signs. Rob said that since Ptolemy had declared himself a tropicalist, the signs he was using geographically would have to be considered tropical. But I researched the *Tetrabiblos* text, and became convinced that whatever Ptolemy was saying about the signs, he was nonetheless using them sidereally.

In any case, for me this question has been resolved by using precession-correction. But I initially chose the tropical zodiac for my primary research because back in 1980 – when I began this project – that was the zodiac most used by astrologers, at least in the West.

EH: Since that time, of course, has come the rise of Vedic, or Indian astrology in the West and worldwide. And in your Fixed Star book, you list all stars in both tropical and sidereal zodiacs, the latter using Lahiri *ayanamsha*. You ended up using both zodiacs. Yes? Though you lean towards the tropical.

DKR: Yes, I ended up using both zodiacs, as the more I worked with Fixed Stars, the more I didn’t want to be limited by one zodiac. But I want to say, and emphasize very strongly, that I prefer the tropical zodiac. As the lens I have been looking through far longer, I find it closer to the essential message of each chart, just as I know you feel the same using the lens of the sidereal zodiac. And whatever my preference, I always say the sky doesn’t belong to anyone, or any one zodiac! I am more interested in what the sky figures are telling us.

14) **EH:** The Fixed Stars by their very nature bring up the zodiac issue. Let’s go into this a little more. We can call it **THE ZODIAC DIALOGUES!**

DKR: Great! You know, astronomers say, “Why should we bother to look at astrology? You can’t even agree on a zodiac!” Siderealists make the point that tropicalists are constantly changing and adapting their viewpoint because the equinoxes and solstices precess in relation to the stars, making the tropical zodiac movable, and thus, they believe, changeable and unreliable. But tropicalists who see the annual cardinal pillars of the seasons as the steadfast (and sacred) points, could just as well point out that the sidereal constellations are constantly creeping away from their ancient tropical (Sun/Earth) anchors! The sidereal zodiac is profoundly linked to the sky-figures, while the tropical zodiac is profoundly linked to the Earth/Sun’s four-pillared seasons. Both are eternal. Both are sacred.

The *nakshatras* stand alone just as the constellations do. Indeed, they are part of constellations, and the planet that is moving through them, as well as the degree span of the

nakshatra, has been given one degree-label by the tropicalists and another degree-label by the siderealists. But that planet and that *nakshatra* ARE IN THE SAME PLACE IN THE SKY for both zodiacs! Sidereal can't "own" lunar mansions – they belong to everyone!

EH: They do belong to everyone. I would add that each Fixed Star's individual movement (called "proper motion") is so minute that the heavens appear to us much as they did thousands of years ago.²¹ Antares, for instance, would take 170,000 years to move just one degree, as seen from earth, 90, 000 years for Aldebaran. And you are right that the Vedics don't own the *nakshatras*, but they have developed them in a very specific and sophisticated way that is uniquely Vedic, including the deities, the qualities, and the many mythologies surrounding each *nakshatra*. An alternate orientation should not be superimposed on them, and I don't think you mean that. But for instance, when anyone goes into a Hindu temple in India, the only thing the priest wants to know about you before blessing you is where your "birth star" is. This means the *nakshatra* where your birth Moon is situated in the sidereal zodiac. This tells him the most important thing he needs to know about you – how your mind works. It is a key factor to understanding the mind and personality of an individual. If a Western tropical astrologer wants to use the Vedic *nakshatras* in the tropical zodiac, then I would suggest the correct use would be very general in terms of the themes of the *nakshatra* and its ruling deity.

There are great many details about these *nakshatras* which simply do not translate into the tropical zodiac, which is going to keep shifting the zodiacal position of these *nakshatras*. Vedic astrology regards the importance of both sign lords and *nakshatra* lords, and then specific lords and sub-lords of each *pada* (quarter). Much about each and every *nakshatra* derives its significance for all Vedic astrologers due to its specific zodiacal degrees in the sidereal zodiac.

DKR: I realize that to a Vedic expert like yourself, each *nakshatra* has a myriad of meanings, connotations and rules that reveal wonderful and useful information. Even if a tropicalist is ignorant of these, he/she can still distill meaning from the mansion if they know the stars that comprise it. This, I believe, can serve as a bridge between the two factions of our beleaguered trade. We should build on this. Perhaps this conflict between the two zodiacs, so damaging to the reputation of astrology among scientists, can eventually be reconciled by the study and use of the real sky!

I think the debate we are having with *nakshatras* is that you (and I presume other Vedic astrologers) are thinking of them in terms of their degree-spans and boundaries, while I, coming from the deep past stuff when the star-groups were primary, am thinking of them in

²¹ Though the sidereal zodiac is not linked to the seasons (India has six seasons), Vedic astrology does emphasize the northern path of the Sun (the path of the Gods, *Uttarayana*), and the southern path of the Sun (the path of the Ancestors, *Dakshinayana*). *Uttarayana* starts from Winter solstice in the Northern hemisphere (approx. Dec. 21) and ends at the Summer solstice in the Northern hemisphere (approx. June 21), based on the Sun entering tropical Capricorn and Cancer, respectively. The Full Moon calendar is important, but is not in total synch with the solar calendar. Lunar months are named by the *nakshatra* where the Full Moon occurs. The Spring equinox is important as a measure for *ayanamsha*. (Lahiri *ayanamsha* increases by 83 minutes or 1.4 degrees every 100 years.) The Vedic New Year is the New Moon prior to Sun entering sidereal Aries. (EH)

terms of the clusters of stars they inhabit. Don't worry here about determinants. Let's just say that the determinants are telling us, in general, where the *nakshatras* originally resided. And those original determinant stars have very distinct energies, which I believe gave each *nakshatra* its identity!

EH: I strongly disagree! And if you had studied Vedic astrology, I think you might see it differently. The *nakshatras* do not derive their basic identities from the Fixed Stars, just because they are the "determinant stars." The ancient Vedic culture was a lunar culture, the entire philosophy of their tradition involving worship based on the Moon's *nakshatra* position, not its zodiacal sign. The "sky gazers" in this case were the *Rishis*, or Sages, who were Enlightened beings. In their state of Super consciousness, they were able to see the past, present and future.²² Observing the Moon's daily passage, the average speed of the Moon coincides with the exact length of the *nakshatra*: 13 degrees 20 minutes. The Moon's sidereal motion is also 27.3 days, another reason why there are 27 *nakshatras* and not 28, as in the Chinese and Arabic lunar mansions. The Moon's motion is hugely important, but we cannot absolutely confirm whether the seers were more concerned with *nakshatras* as equal segments, or as clusters of stars.

DKR: I don't think it would have been possible for them to measure exact spans when people looked at the sky, even if those distinct star groups (usually of prominent stars) would have given them at least an idea of where a *nakshatra* began or ended. But because "an idea" would not have been good enough for chart analysis, the precise spans, keeping pace with the movement of the Moon, came into use to keep things orderly.

A *nakshatra*, to me, coming from the point of view of those antique sky-gazers, is a great deal more than a set of degrees! If you are going to say that it is the exact degree span that is primary, then you are doing with the *nakshatras* what tropicalists (and, yes, siderealists too), have come to do with signs. That is, no matter what is going on in the sky visually, the exact 30 degree measurements from 0 Aries, from whatever sidereal fiducial point is chosen, are now considered what is important.

That you and other Vedic astrologers use the exact degree spans is fine with me – I just want everyone – siderealists and tropicalists alike, to know what is going on in the sky in that degree span, or any degree span!

The stars and constellations are the ground we all stand on, whatever zodiac we espouse (which is simply a matter of choosing different starting points and labeling planetary positions accordingly). In that example of the pre-9/11 lunation – a siderealist looking at the sky and a tropicalist looking at the sky are going to see Mars in the same place! To me, the *nakshatra* (or *manzil*, or *hsiu*) that it is passing through has a message, and I can't accept that *nakshatras* are solely for the use of the Vedic tradition – as long as one is careful to transpose the degrees correctly, I believe it is quite proper for a tropicalist to say that a planet is in such-and-such *nakshatra*, because a *nakshatra* is not, essentially, just a span of degrees; it is

²² In the Dec. 2000 issue of *Discovery magazine*, a British scientist explains a mathematical formula for being able to see the past, present and future in the present moment, also possible in a Black Hole, and achieved by the ancient Vedic seers, whose cognition of the universe precedes modern Science. (EH)

also a place in the sky. The Vedic tradition, so detailed and complete in so many ways, has, for the most part, lost its heavenly foundation. That's why I keep insisting, to both siderealists and tropicalists, that they become aware of the stars.

EH: The *nakshatra* has never lost its heavenly foundation, though I will agree that most Vedic astrologers today are not much focused on the Fixed Stars and their positions.²³ Even so, Vedic astrology has always been based on the observable, or constellational zodiac, which is much more based on the Fixed Stars than is the tropical zodiac – which is seasonally oriented. The meaning of the signs breaks down totally in the Southern hemisphere, while in Vedic (sidereal) astrology the sign of Aries is not necessarily tied to the spring season but is tied to the idea of qualities. And as the first sign, it is the sign of beginnings and initiations.

In the Vedic literature on *nakshatras*, the Fixed Stars are mentioned on a regular basis. Classic Vedic texts like *Surya Siddhanta* mention their locations. The *nakshatras* form constellations of Fixed Stars and certain Fixed Stars mark their prime and junction stars (*yogataras*). The *Vedanga Jyotish* (ca. 1500 B.C.) confirms that ancient Vedic seers gave planetary and even ascendant longitudinal placements only in terms of *nakshatras*. Sage **Parashara** refers to comets as seen in various *nakshatras*.

Ancient Vedic literature has always referred to *nakshatra* placements at the time of the spring equinox, or summer solstice. In the *Vedanga Jyotish*, the summer solstice ca. 1500 B.C. was in *Aslesha nakshatra* (16:40 to 30:00 sidereal Cancer). In 2500 B.C. the spring equinox was in *Krittika nakshatra* (26:40 Aries to 10:00 Taurus – sidereal). In 3100 B.C. the spring equinox was in *Rohini nakshatra* (10:00 to 23:20 sidereal Taurus). The Harappan seal shows *Krittika*, and the mature period of the Harappan culture of northwestern India is considered to have spanned the period from 2800 to 1800 B.C.²⁴ The *nakshatras* did not move into new degree areas. Those remained the same. What changed was that the equinoxes and solstices were observed to have changed THEIR starting points to coincide with these particular *nakshatras*, always measured in the sidereal zodiac.²⁵

Vedic scholar **David Frawley** recently told me this:

“Vedic astrology has its own special method of polar longitude for determining stellar positions. It connects the stars with a line from the pole position. This changes the determination zodiacal placement of the Fixed Star, especially for stars located some distance north or south of the zodiac, sometimes by several degrees. There is as yet no modern astronomical program set up to calculate this.”

²³ **Ken Johnson** is an exception. In his book *Mansions of the Moon: the Lost Zodiac of the Goddess* (2002), he often refers to the Fixed Stars. For instance, he talks about how Arcturus adds to the meaning of *Swati*, by being the star furthest from the ecliptic. He describes *Swati* Moon people as "Arcturus Moon people" and "Arcturus folk." Thus Arcturus is the main star of *Swati*, but while the *nakshatras* are not identical with their junction or primary stars, there is considerable connection between the two. (EH)

²⁴ Source: *In Search of the Cradle of Civilization: New Light on Ancient India*, by **George Feuerstein**, **Subhash Chak**, and **David Frawley**, 1995, p. 63. (EH)

²⁵ As of April 1, 2010, the spring equinox occurs at 6:00 Pisces (Lahiri *ayanamsha* at 23:59.7) (EH)

This would apparently mean that by doing a polar longitude calculation, a junction star such as Antares is still in *Jyestha nakshatra* and easily within the boundary between the *nakshatras*. Frawley has also said: "It could be argued that the signs arose from the *Nakshatras*." ²⁶

DKR: No, I don't agree. The *nakshatras* are indeed very ancient, but they are also quite different from the signs. The Greek myths are very much connected to the sky figures, and I have long suspected that many of their myths derived from the figures – or at least the energies from each particular part of the sky – not the figures from the myths. But there's no way of truly knowing that.

EH: The Vedic *nakshatras* apparently precede any use of zodiac signs in that system, at least. The ancient Vedic texts are purely *nakshatras*. Greek and Egyptian myths also mirror the Vedic *nakshatras*. In fact, Ken Johnson says: "The Greek interpretations of the important Fixed Stars are exactly the same as the *nakshatras*, almost word for word.... The West slowly lost this tradition during the Middle Ages. India never did." David Frawley discusses the Harappan seal found in India, and dated to around 2400 BCE, showing symbols clearly identifying *Mrigashirsha nakshatra* (late Taurus/early Gemini), or Orion, and also Scorpio, marking the other end of the zodiac. Frawley notes: "There is much commonality between the constellations, the signs, and the *Nakshatras* that is worthy of exploration." (*Ibid.*)

On the zodiac issue, another Vedic colleague **Andrew Foss** told me this recently: "The Fixed Stars are where they are, as are the planets at any moment in time. The signs and *nakshatras* are also fixed. The only thing that changes in the tropical zodiac is the distance from the Vernal Equinox point. Stars don't change constellations because one uses the tropical zodiac unless you make the *nakshatras* mobile, which is completely contrary to their fundamental definition which is as fixed as the stars and is with reference to certain Fixed Stars within them (*yogataras*).

Don't let anyone else's confusion confuse you. We must keep a grip on the fundamental astronomy. The stars, planets and star groups (*rashis* and *nakshatras*) are as we see them in the sky. How we measure their location is simply a matter of choice. We can measure starting from the equinox or some fixed point, or whatever we like. That does not change or move anything. It is just like time zones. Once they used to measure from Ujjain, and later they chose Greenwich. London or Boston did not move anywhere or change countries because of this."

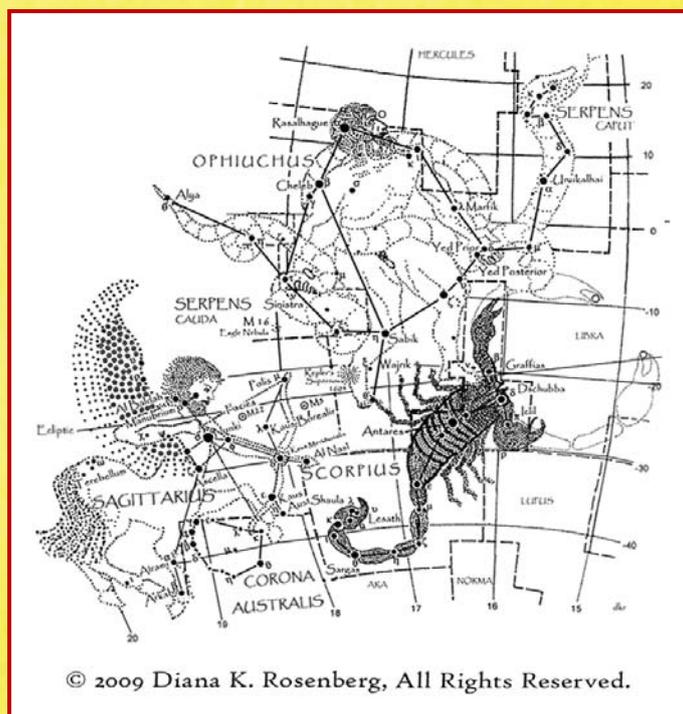
Andrew makes many good points. And in the end, I think it is about choosing the lens you want to look through. What is your starting point? From there, what are you looking at? And can that be superimposed on to a system that was not intended to be observed from that lens? Beyond the transcendent symbols, each system has its underlying inherent symbolism, and we cannot make cultural assumptions. Chinese astrology and culture, for instance, is very secretive and assigns planetary attributes that differ from most other systems. In the past, I have made many valid astrological observations using the tropical zodiac. Then I changed my lens to the sidereal/Vedic. As we know, it is not the same as sidereal/Western – without the Vedic orientation. That is why I say tropical/ Vedic is really stretching it, unless you are being very

²⁶ Quoted in Dennis Harness's *The Nakshatras: The Lunar Mansions of Vedic Astrology*, 1999, p. xvii. (EH)

general, though apparently there is at least one Vedic astrologer (Ernst Wilhelm) using the tropical zodiac for natal analysis, sidereal for dasa analysis. But that is extremely rare.

In any case, it will be very interesting to see how research on all this unfolds, with your concept of original determinant stars versus standardized *nakshatra* spans. Your dual sign natal orientation is uniquely equipped to put yourself in multiple lenses at the same time. You do that brilliantly! The less adaptable and mentally adept astrologer will be more challenged in maneuvering through the many layers and lenses you do with such enthusiasm!

15) **EH:** After researching and writing on this subject for over 30 years what do you think is your contribution to what is already known on this subject? And what for you is the highlight of your book?



DKR: I have written the book that I wish I could have had when I was first studying astrology. I've tried to dig up the most ancient sources available, from every culture. Lunar mansions (Hindu, Chinese and Arabic) are extremely ancient, so I have included them and named their determinant stars. I kept inputting people and events to see if patterns emerged, then I wrote up interpretations based upon what I found. In most cases, the quotations that lead off each section are from people who have placements there. I did the illustrations myself because I wanted to show them against the background grid of right ascension and declination, with the names of the surrounding figures included to show where each one is in relation to the others. I also included the major stars and DSOs. Some of my figures are untraditional, but based on what I discovered – Auriga the Charioteer, for instance, is shown as a war veteran in a wheelchair, because in the myth he was a person who invented the chariot because he could not walk. What I found at those stars confirmed the myth, and China had a military encampment at the same stars. Corona Borealis, usually shown as a spiky metal crown, I have as a wedding wreath, because that's what it is in the myth. Ophiuchus is shown struggling with Serpens, instead of just holding him. There I used Kepler's Ophiuchus as a model. The Scales of Libra are shown with ghostly Scorpion's claws

behind them, because that's what they were, earlier. Sagittarius has a wing in the place of the usual flowing cloak, because the earliest depictions of him are winged. Aquarius was described as a naked youth, so that's what I made him. And so forth.

16) Diana K. Rosenberg: biography & commentary on her Vedic chart (by Edith Hathaway)

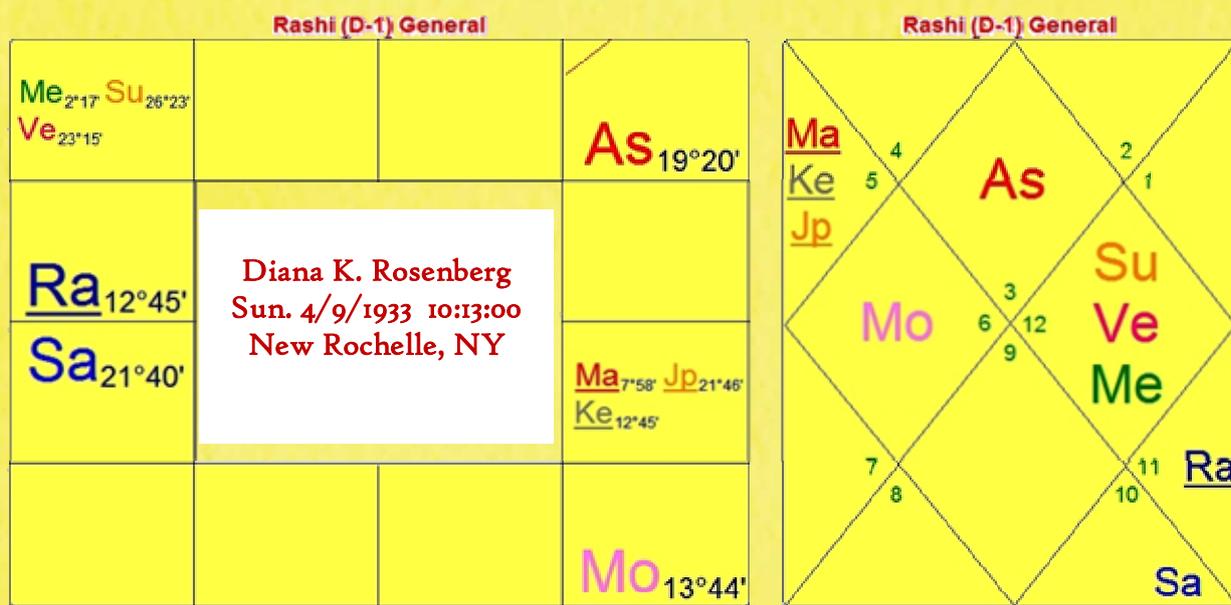
EH: What would you like people to know about you?

DKR: I'd like them to know my data and my current situation. Usually I tend to be pretty free about details of my life. It's a little awkward for me analyzing me, but I don't mind if you do it. And I am very interested in what the Vedic chart says, because I always intended to study Vedic astrology.

EH: If you'd like a Vedic snapshot of your chart, I can do that, but only if you want.

DKR: I'd love it. Please go ahead.

EH: Okay, let's give your chart details, and put it in the Vedic framework. Your birth data is: April 9, 1933, 10:13 AM EST, New Rochelle, NY. Using the sidereal zodiac (Lahiri *ayanamsha*), your birth Ascendant is 19:20 Gemini with Sun, Venus, and Mercury in Pisces in the 10th house, and Mars, Ketu, and Jupiter in Leo in the 3rd house. (Ketu is the South lunar node; Rahu is North lunar node.) Rahu is situated in Aquarius in the 9th house.) Moon is in Virgo in the 4th house. Saturn is in Capricorn in the 8th house, good for longevity – so has protected you for some time.



You have Gemini Ascendant with Pisces planets in both tropical and sidereal zodiacs. I see that very much in working with you – how your Ascendant lord Mercury in a water sign is very linked up with Jupiter. It's in Jupiter's sign and in Jupiter's *nakshatra*. Mercury with Jupiter, probably in most systems – has a lot to say, and doesn't want to put limits on the parameters. In any case, Gemini Ascendant gives a natural mental curiosity and versatility, with diverse interests in life that are desire-driven. Gemini can be obsessed with making

knowledge accessible, the cultural level depending on various factors, including the condition of the classic benefic planets Venus and Jupiter. In your case both of them are very involved with Mercury, including exalted Venus, which adds refinement. You have made your study and your book on Fixed Stars in a very broad spectrum. You are dissatisfied with parameters that seem artificially reduced, and **Mercury-Jupiter** defines this broad spectrum you have.

At the same time, **Mercury-Jupiter** also creates the most difficulties for your physical health, as described by Vedic astrology. For instance, you have had allergy problems with pollen. This is a watery situation related to lungs and breathing. Aside from Mercury in a water sign, this is because Mercury and Jupiter are not planetary friends, and Jupiter can cause problems for the Mercury-ruled Ascendant person. I will footnote the Vedic myth about Jupiter and Tara, as that is helpful in understanding Mercury's tension with both Jupiter and the Moon.²⁷

This is further emphasized because you are in Mercury *dasa* (cycle) in the Vedic system, and Jupiter is so linked with Mercury in your chart, and they are in 6-8 house relationship. That is, Mercury is in the 8th house from Jupiter in Leo, and Jupiter is in the 6th house from Mercury in Pisces. (When two planets are in 6th and 8th positions from each other, it is called *Shastashtaka* – pronounced shas-TASH-ta-ka.) You are dealing with problems with the pancreas (pancreatic cancer), and Jupiter is connected with sugar, which is what the pancreas regulates.

DKR: Yes, and Jupiter can be careless, and too much of a good thing. And I ate too much!

EH: Well, and the fact that Jupiter is lord of both the sign and the *nakshatra* where Ascendant lord Mercury resides, that is further emphasizing the Mercury-Jupiter connection. We call the planet which is *nakshatra* lord *Jiva*, or the life force. So Jupiter is providing so much that describes you! The same way you look at research is the way you regard food. It would not be so if Mercury were not also your Ascendant lord, describing your physical body. Who is to say where the boundaries are for that? And then we combine the fact that you move into Mercury *dasa*, and your Ascendant lord Mercury comes into Center stage for this time period. For you, this is from June 2000 for 17 years.

²⁷ “In the Puranic myth, Mercury is born to Jupiter’s wife Tara, but is not his own child – though he is later forced to accept him as his own. Mercury comes from the union of Tara and Soma – the Moon in an incarnation as a man in this story. Mercury is finally accepted by Jupiter in large part to quell dissent among the gods, and also because the child Mercury is so witty and clever; thus, the association of Mercury with youthfulness, mischief, and sexual desire, sometimes bringing messy relations due to the inability to settle for one choice and the unease with an abundance of confusing choices. Another understanding from this teaching myth is Mercury’s relationship with both Jupiter and the Moon (Soma). Though Mercury is heavily dependent on Jupiter for higher knowledge, and Jupiter’s aspect to Mercury is considered the blessing of a guru, even so there is an uneasy relationship between them. The same is true to some extent between Mercury and Moon, in spite of Moon’s acceptance of everyone. (The Moon has no planetary enemies, whereas for Mercury – Moon is its enemy. Soma is the interloper in the myth.)...Moon accepts Mercury as his true child, but to Jupiter he is a surrogate child.” (EH, quoted from my upcoming book on Vedic astrology)

DKR: May I comment on that? You said that I didn't want any limits, any boundaries. It was more that I didn't want to take for granted what the other books said, even though with *Algo!*, right away I saw that most of it was true. But I wanted to see for myself.

EH: Right! And Jupiter is the planet of knowledge, after all.

DKR: Yes, and you can always tell them that my earliest two-word sentence – you know, when babies first start connecting words – was: “BY SELF.” As in, I want to do it by myself! My mother told me that. I wanted to cross the street without holding her hand. And many things like that. With research, I wanted to see for myself: How do these stars work – other than the famous ones? How many of them do work? I wasn't into the constellations at all at first. That was one of the things that evolved. But it wasn't just not wanting boundaries. I wanted to see what I could see. And I threw all this data in to see what emerged, whether it was a lot of fires, volcanoes, tsunamis, whatever. In terms of people, it could be a lot of Low lifes, or Empire builders.

EH: Was your pioneering spirit enticed by the fact that there wasn't very much about it out there?

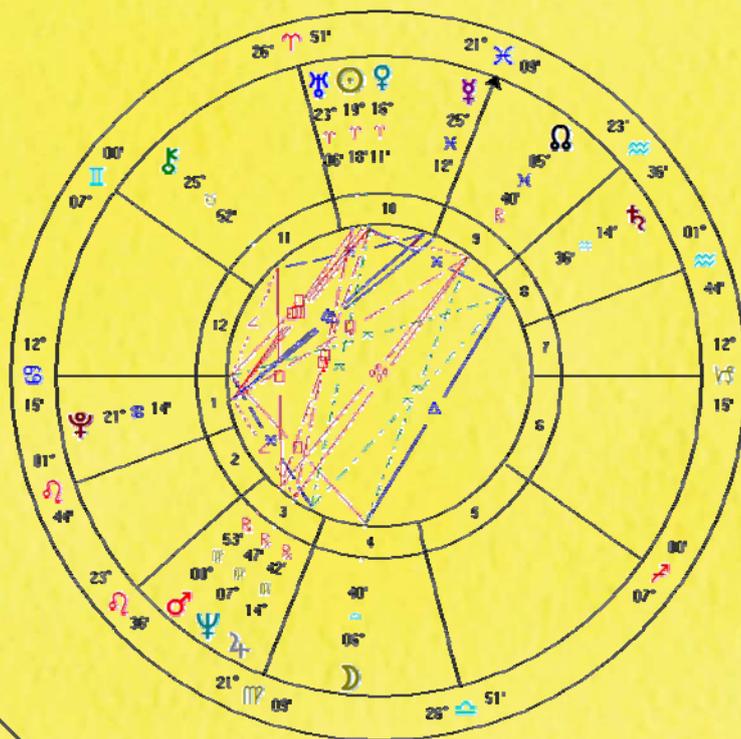
DKR: Yes, yes. For instance, very early on, I realized I could sell my little work book on Fixed Stars – which I created simply for myself to work in and study. And people kept asking me for xeroxes of it. All it had was what was in Robson and Ebertin. But nonetheless, it was all put in one place, and with up-to-date positions. And that was valuable to people. But I kept asking: Can anyone direct me to a teacher of Fixed Stars? And finally someone said to me: “Diana, you're the teacher. You know more than anyone else.” And I realized that by that time it was true.

EH: That's wonderful! Now to recap: From your Gemini Ascendant, your natal Sun, Venus and Mercury are all in Pisces in the 10th house. Your Mars, Ketu, and Jupiter are all in Leo in the 3rd house from the Ascendant. But those planets are all in the 6th house from the Pisces planets, while the Pisces planets are in the 8th house from all the Leo planets. The fact that the Leo planets are all in the 3rd house from the Ascendant – this is the 8th house from the 8th, which is a kind of setup for obstacles and setbacks. And of course, 8th house is also research. You did all this research, but it wasn't easy. It took you much longer than expected doing the research, and getting the material to publication. The lord of 9th house of publishing is in the 8th house of loss and setbacks. So we know it wouldn't be easy for you to go about it.

DKR: Well, on the other hand, I enjoyed it SO MUCH! And now I want to say something before I forget. For some reason the 8th house has something to do with the universe, the sky, etc. Maybe that's why when Uranus came along, some people decided it was exalted in Scorpio. And I find that a lot of times when I'm looking for something connected to the sky, I'll find it in Scorpio, or the 8th house. And I don't know what the connection is, but there it is.

Diana K Rosenberg

Apr 3 1933, Sun
10 13 am EST +5:00
New Rochelle, New York
40°54'41" 073°46'53"
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
Mean Time



EH: Well, in the Vedic chart Saturn in its own sign in the 8th house is good for longevity. So that Saturn in your 8th house has protected you for a long time, especially during its 19-year *dasa*, from June 19, 1981 through June 19, 2000.

DKR: Yes, and it's in its own sign tropically too, because it's in Aquarius. The 8th house is also a house of financial wealth, and actually financial wealth doesn't interest me at all. I don't even research it very much, though interestingly, I did find that the strongest sign for wealth tropically was Aries. And would you believe it? My Sun is exactly in *Revati nakshatra*? This is supposed to be a *nakshatra* of wealth, and I can make a strong point about this: I am not, nor have I ever been – wealthy.

But my father's father was very wealthy. He was a self-made man, a cigar manufacturer. And he did leave some money for my sister and me, which was immediately gobbled up by his greedy relatives. My mother was at a grave disadvantage. She divorced my father when I was about four years old, in an era when divorce was still rare and a real stigma. She didn't have enough money to pay a good lawyer, and decided she was so fed up with that family anyway – she didn't want to have anything more to do with them. That's Saturn in the 8th, you know. During my childhood, money was a big issue in the family when I was growing up, with arguments and fights about it swirling over my head. It affected me very much and it made me move away from wanting to have anything to do with money.

I didn't want to consider money any more than I had to. Maybe that was why I have never had much money or interest in making any, and it drove my husband crazy, because it put a burden on him! So with wealth, I have Saturn in the 8th, and was denied the inheritance. But the Sun, ruler of my 2nd house – is 19 degrees Aries tropically. It's at the star *Revati*, which is at the ecliptic.

EH: True. Your Sun at 19 Aries is the tropical equivalent of 26:23 Pisces sidereally, so in *Revati nakshatra*, whose span is 16:40 to 30:00 Pisces in the sidereal zodiac. But in your Vedic chart, Leo is the 3rd house, using whole sign houses. So in Vedic terms, your Sun rules the 3rd house, not the 2nd house.

DKR: Both the star and the Lunar mansion of *Revati* are supposed to be wealthy.

EH: Yes, the Sanskrit word *Revati* means “wealthy.” But this is where I think that freely interchanging the tropical and sidereal zodiacs may be interesting for research, but in practical chart analysis it breeds confusion. We have to go to a deeper level of the Vedic chart, and consider that just because your Venus and Sun are both in Pisces in *Revati nakshatra* – that does not guarantee financial wealth, even with Venus near its maximum exaltation in Pisces.

We have to consider what houses these planets rule – the ones occupying *Revati*. And that differs from the Western tropical chart to the Vedic sidereal chart. (The Vedic orientation is generally whole sign houses, no matter what degree is on the Ascendant. And though we have other ways of assessing houses, this is the primary one.) Also, the house and the planets have to be well aspected, and the lords of the sign and the *nakshatra* should be unafflicted for best results. Since Mercury, as *Revati nakshatra* lord, is debilitated, though *Neecha Banga* (i.e. corrected over time through Venus), this is one factor changing the results for wealth, and has implications for physical health as well. Due to its exaltation, Venus helps to “correct” and elevate this Mercury, and benefits your life both through your zest for knowledge and through your children. These are both associated with the Venus-ruled 5th house. In the Navamsa chart, the 5th house lord (Moon) is also exalted, doubling the impact.

The deity Pushan, the nurturer, rules over *Revati*, so this *nakshatra* also gives a very nourishing quality to the person, which you have. Further, Pushan is a finder of lost things and lost animals. This may apply to your research of the Fixed Stars! Its symbol is the drum, which being an instrument for keeping time, relates to the whole sense of time and rhythm, musical or otherwise. Your love for dance is shown here. Your research has also shown more wealthy people in tropical Aries. Not only would those have been likely to coincide with the 13 degree 20 minute span of *Revati nakshatra*, but the planetary positions would have to be unafflicted and related to wealth in the Vedic sidereal chart. ²⁸

²⁸ A stunning example of this is the chart of American financier **J. Pierpont Morgan**, founder of J.P. Morgan & Co., born April 17, 1837, 3:00 AM, Hartford, CT. His Vedic chart has Aquarius Ascendant, with Venus exalted to the maximum degree, at 27:15 Pisces in the 2nd house of income. The 2nd house lord Jupiter is also exalted in Cancer in the 6th house. This brought huge wealth and huge conflicts (Jupiter in the 6th house), with Morgan twice rescuing the U.S. govt. from bankruptcy. His Sun and Saturn are also exalted. (EH)



Mercury's sign lord here is Jupiter, which is six houses away – bringing conflict in these matters. Mercury is at 2:17 Pisces, and debilitated in this sign, whose lord is not a planetary friend to Mercury, and – as noted earlier – there is a 6-8 house relationship between Mercury and Jupiter: not at all easy on many levels. Mercury could have been raised up by Jupiter, but was not. The translation is that there was financial wealth in the family, but it was mostly destroyed before it could be passed on to you. Even so, you were protected to some degree by your husband (also Jupiter in a Gemini Ascendant chart, as ruler of Sagittarius, the 7th house), and by your ability to learn and educate yourself (Jupiter, as significator of knowledge). Jupiter in the 12th house from your Moon shows charitable giving, and despite relative lack of financial wealth, you have given to charities to alleviate suffering by people or animals.

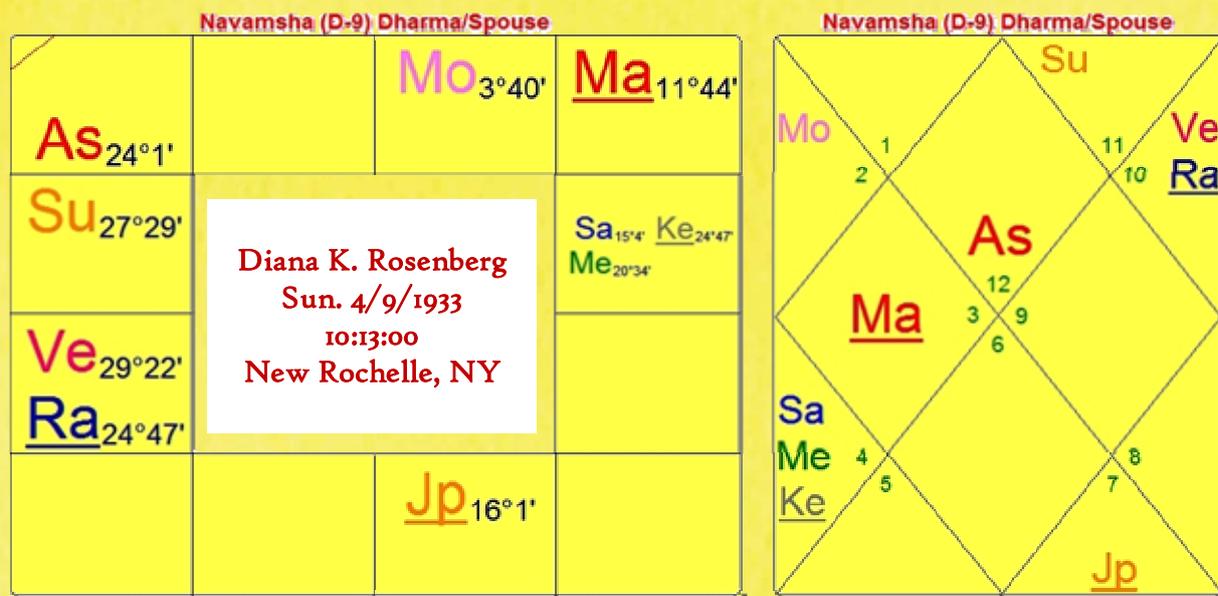
You have said your husband was “kindly, but extremely tight-fisted with money.” This is described astrologically by Saturn in the 8th house (2nd house from the 7th house of partner). But it helps that Saturn is in its own sign. Some degree of financial protection also comes from your two children (Venus as 5th lord), who are both successful.

Fortunately, Venus is the best planet for Gemini Ascendant, so it is serving you well in the birth chart, and brings much closeness to your children and good fortune to them. Venus exalted in an angle of your chart is a great blessing for you, especially as your best planet. It is called a *Mahapurusha* (MAH-ha pu-RUH-sha) yoga, in this case a *Malavya* (mah LAV-ya) yoga, specific to Venus.²⁹ This yoga brings beauty, learning, and sensual pleasures, but in the 10th house it is especially associated with learning you can share with the public. Venus in Pisces brings a devotional aspect to it. You give everything to it, as if on an altar.

However, another major factor for the Vedic astrologer is analyzing each planet in the *Navamsa* (9th harmonic) chart. Venus is more fraught in the *Navamsa* chart, where it is in the 11th house in Capricorn closely contacting Rahu, opposite Saturn-Mercury-Ketu in Cancer, and aspected by Mars. *Navamsa* Venus receives aspects from three classical malefic planets, capable of separating you from whatever that planet offers. Vedicly, this shows there could be money problems or sacrifices incurred in the family during your first major or minor Venus *dasa*. From birth to age 7, you were in Moon *dasa* and in **Moon-Venus *dasa*** (i.e. Venus sub-cycle) from April 19, 1938 to Dec. 19, 1939. This coincided exactly with the time when your parents split up and your mother was disinherited from any wealth from her former father-in-law, since she initiated the separation and divorce. (For your own children, it shows more exotic choices of career and life paths, with *Navamsa* Venus near Rahu-Ketu. Your daughter is an actress and your son is in media technology, both relatively “exotic” professions – even if media technology seems central to our modern life.)

²⁹ Only five planets can have this status: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. They must be in their own sign or exalted, and in an angle from the Ascendant. They must also possess inherent strength. (EH)





DKR: I love it when you do the Vedic analysis of the chart.

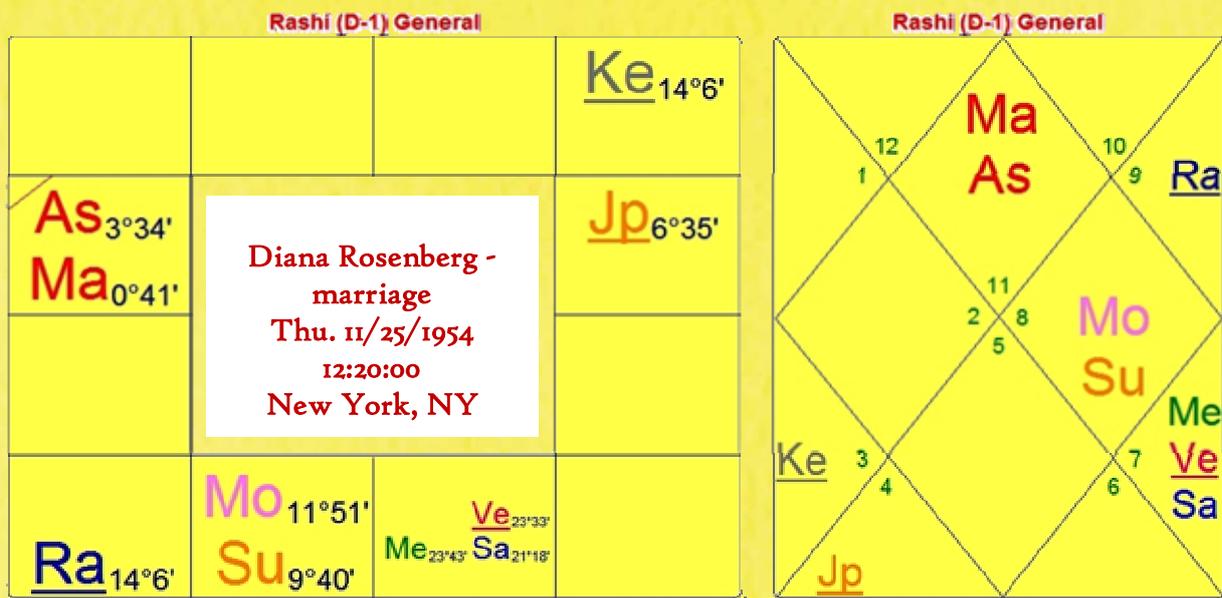
EH: Thanks. We can go a bit further then. But first, I wanted to bring in how this whole configuration also fits in with your discovery about your husband, many years after you married. A long time after you started studying astrology in the 1970s, you looked back at your marriage chart, and you thought those planetary patterns were more appropriate for a business contract. When you put all the factors together (astrological and otherwise), you then suspected your husband may have married you for the money he assumed you would inherit. When you confronted him about it, he admitted how “ashamed” he was of doing that. So there was another whole theme of conflict around money that you were unaware of until the astrology revealed it to you many years later.

DKR: Yes, my husband was good at hiding things, but when I told him that I thought he had married me for money, he turned instantly as white as a sheet, so I knew it was true. We were together a long time – just over 35 years from when we married. We lived together from Nov. 1954 until summer 1976, about 22 years. Then we remained friends, but lived apart. Even so, we shared many social occasions with our children. We never divorced up until his death in Jan. 1990.

EH: Let’s give that **marriage date and time:** Nov 25, 1954, 12:20 PM EST (time approx.), New York, N.Y. Yes, I see what you mean. The Vedic chart has a New Moon in Scorpio in the 10th house of career, and in your own 6th house. (The exact New Moon at 9:28 Scorpio was at 7:30 AM EST that day, just five hours earlier.) Venus is retrograde, not good for marriage. It is in Libra tightly contacting Mercury and Saturn, also in Libra. This Mercury loses the planetary war (*Graha Yuddha*) with Venus, and so loses power dramatically. You said there were major communication issues in your marriage, and that he refused to talk when it came



to discussing problems between you. This would create a lot of tension for a Gemini Ascendant person, whose symbol Vedicly is the intertwined couple. (It seems Gemini is much more associated with sexual desire in the Vedic system than in the Western system.)



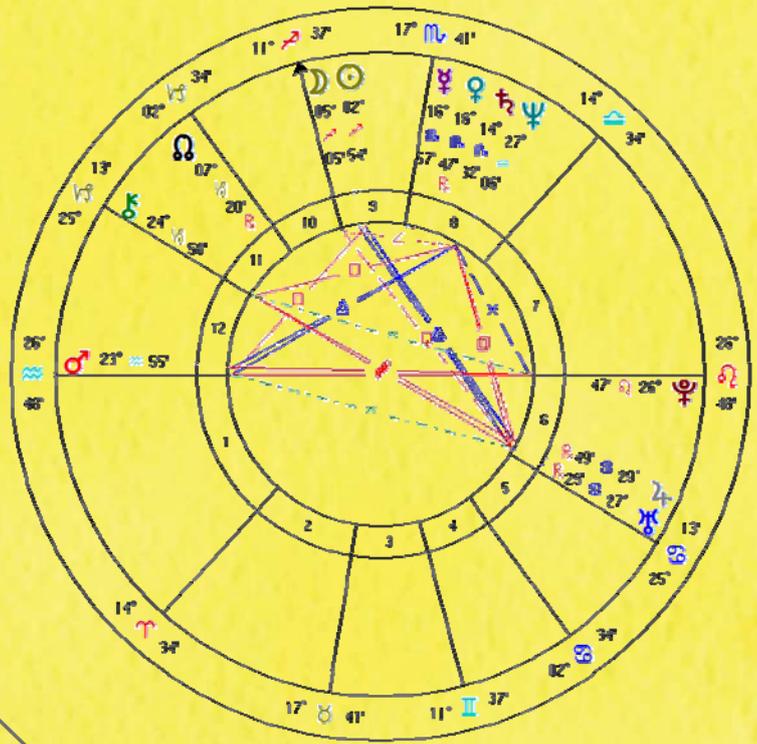
The **marriage chart** has an Aquarius Ascendant (sidereal zodiac) between 12:11 and 1:23 PM EST. Mars is in the Ascendant aspecting the 7th house. So I would agree with you that the planetary signatures here are more about work than marriage. But with Sun and Moon in the fixed sign of Scorpio, aspected by Jupiter – at least it did endure. And you remained friends for 14 years after the 22 years you lived together and raised your children. The sidereal fixed signs were angular, and Sun and Moon were both in *Anuradha nakshatra*, ruled by Mitra, the deity of friendship, human solidarity, and respect for laws and treaties. The Libra planets are in a good house, the 9th house. You were married on a Thursday, Jupiter’s day, with retrograde Jupiter exalted in Cancer in the 6th house. Its close aspect to the Sun and Moon in Scorpio was crucial for the longevity of the marriage – though as you say, coming from the 6th house and aspecting the 10th house speaks more of a business contract than marriage, especially with Mars on the Ascendant. This is just looking at the marriage chart, and not at either of your birth charts. The Moon is newly waxing, thus invisible from the earth. The bride was also perhaps not really seen by the groom, or in the context of the marriage. You have described yourself as being “chained” in this marriage, and you related this to having your tropical Aries planets aligned with the figure of Andromeda, the Chained Woman. Sidereally, those planets would be in Pisces.

In your Vedic birth chart, you have a **Full Moon chart** across the Virgo-Pisces axis: Sun in Pisces, Moon in Virgo. You have four planets in dual signs, along with the dual sign Ascendant. The dual (or mutable) signs give the most versatile person.



Diana's Marriage

Nov 25 1954, Thu
12:20 pm EST +5:00
New York, New York
40°14'42"51" N 074°00'23"
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
Mean Merid



DKR: Well, I do feel I'm very Piscean. It's very hard for me to tell, because in the tropical I have Mercury-North Node and Midheaven in Pisces, and my Sun is in Aries. It's very difficult for me to tell how much of it is sidereal (Sun, Venus and Mercury in Pisces), and how much of it is that I have three things there tropically.

EH: Do you get insights in your dreams? Flashes of intuition at random moments?

DKR: No, first of all I almost never remember my dreams. I get insights while I'm working, and I get some of my best ideas when I'm in the bathtub! (Must be my Neptune conjunct Jupiter!)

EH: I'd lay it on your three planets in Pisces: Sun, Mercury and Venus in the 10th house. Two of those planets relate to the physical body: the Sun and Ascendant lord Mercury. **Albert Einstein** also has Sun, Mercury, and Venus in Pisces, with Gemini Ascendant, same as yours, his at 19:28 Gemini, very close to yours at 19:20 Gemini, giving you both the Pisces Navamsa Ascendant, emphasizing the Pisces qualities.

DKR: (Laughing) Oh, well go ahead and compare!

EH: Einstein also has Saturn in Pisces, very close to Mercury. So in his case he was not talking until he was eight or nine years old.

DKR: That wasn't true of me. I was jabbering away from an early age.





EH: We can compare your early *Dasas* in the *Vimshottari* system. For Einstein, he was born in Mercury *dasa*, and entered Ketu *dasa* at age nine, just after completing 20 months of Mercury-Saturn *dasa*. His natal Mercury in Pisces was within two degrees of his natal Saturn, and in the end gave him extraordinary focus and intellectual abilities, but caused delays in his ability to speak in coherent sentences. This was obviously not due to lack of intelligence, but to his own innate eccentricities. Your earliest childhood period was Moon *dasa* – from birth, and you have a Full Moon in Virgo in *Hasta nakshatra*, symbolizing the hand. You wanted “hands-on” experience from an early age, and not to have your hand held when crossing the street! You are good with your hands, and have enjoyed doing handicrafts, especially embroidery and mosaics. You also learned crochet, knitting and stained glass work, and have done the original illustrations for your book on Fixed stars. When Moon is in the 4th house, as yours is, it is considered *Dig Bala*, or best possible angular house position. Your Full Moon also gave you plenty of verve and early speech, as Moon is the lord of your 2nd house of speech. For that matter, Sun is *Dig Bala* in the 10th house, so that too is a boon.

DKR: Of course Moon is also mother. My mother was quite bitter that she was stuck with the whole responsibility of raising my sister and me. She worked (very hard) to support us. My sister was jealous of me but had to look after me while Mom worked. And I did have a lot of difficulties with my mother. She was a very controlling person. I think she may have been Sagittarius in both zodiacs. Anyway, I was not an easy child to raise, I'll say that for her. But I had a lot of conflicts with her, and I also did a very Piscean thing, which was to try to disappear myself. Part of that is Pluto rising square my tropical Aries Sun.

EH: So what would you do? How did you hide?

DKR: It's not that. I disliked myself, because I was constantly criticized. And I daydreamed a lot. The huge money arguments in the family just made life at home more wretched. I was fine when I was alone. I read a lot and daydreamed and built my own inner world. But it wasn't too many years ago now that I realized my daydreams never contained Diana. Usually when people daydream, they daydream themselves in a love relationship, or a heroic deed, or something like that. Diana did not exist in the daydreams. I deleted Diana. I did not like Diana. And at one point in my life I had a very severe nervous breakdown.

EH: Yes, you mentioned that. You said it was around 1966-67. And the fact that you had just entered **Jupiter *dasa*** is extremely important. (That was June 19, 1965 – for 16 years.) Jupiter's rulership over Mercury extends the whole theme of sacrifice that is described by Pisces. This is emphasized even more so with Venus in Pisces, exalted there to the maximum degree, and yours is approaching that, within a few degrees. There is often a major sacrifice in life, often through love matters. And look at how you sacrificed a lot to stay in that marriage, and to stay close to your children.

DKR: That was instinctive. I didn't say: “Oh, I am going to sacrifice myself for my children.”

EH: No, but your children are involved with Venus, being the 5th house lord.





DKR: It was a natural thing for me to say: “I’m not going to leave the marriage.” First of all he might have gotten custody. I just followed my instincts. And also, my maternal grandmother was an influence. She was a Catholic, from a Cuban family. She had a lot to do with my upbringing, because my mother had to work.

My grandmother had Venus in Cancer on the Midheaven tropically. She was Catholic, Spanish-speaking, traditional, an archetypal matriarch, loving and warm. She also had the Leo pride. She had four children, ten grandchildren, and loved children. She had a chance to go to college (unusual at that time), but turned it down to have the traditional motherhood role. She was a role model for me, and she was the most nurturing member of the family. She married a German-Jewish medical student – Irving D. Steinhardt. Her name was Clara Aurora Luis, and she was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. of aristocratic Cuban parents. She was patrician, and very regal. Her father was a close friend of José Martí, who was like Cuba’s Abraham Lincoln. He was a medical clinician and a gun-runner for Cuba in the Spanish American War, when Cuba was trying to achieve independence from Spain. My grandmother Clara was torn between pride and embarrassment of her father, who was jailed as a gun-runner for Cuba. She married a German/Jewish medical student, as I said. He developed a medical practice in New York City as a pediatric orthopedist. He was also very active in the Boy Scouts, and ran a troop. He died in the 1940s. These grandparents born in the 1870s and 1880s were an important early influence for me. They probably contributed to my streak of conservatism culturally, though I am a liberal politically.

My paternal grandfather was a Hungarian Jew. He left Hungary and came to the U.S., settling first in the Midwest (Ohio, I think), then later came to New York. He built up a cigar manufacturing company, and became very wealthy. He was the source of the family wealth. But “family wealth” was certainly not part of my experience. Saturn in the 8th house cut me off from that. He blamed my mother for the divorce, which in those days was a great disgrace, and cut her off totally. He barely had anything to do with me and my sister.

EH: Back to Mercury and its connection to speech and language ability. Were you good at languages? You must have had other languages spoken all around you.

DKR: I can mimic an accent, but I’m not good at languages and not good at memorization. My family didn’t want me to learn Spanish. Clara, my Cuban grandmother had five sisters who were always gossiping together in Spanish, and they didn’t want me to be able to understand what they were saying! One of the most repeated stories in the family was this one: After her marriage to Irving Steinhardt, Clara was at the butcher shop asking for a specific cut of meat. She overheard the staff saying in Spanish to give her some old piece from the back room. Since Steinhardt is certainly not a Spanish-sounding name, they obviously had no idea she understood until she let out a stream of invectives in Spanish that sent them running for their best possible cut! They never messed with her again.

EH: What a great story! And one way of looking at **Mercury in Pisces** is as language or expression that can be used either to hide something, or to choose to reveal it, especially something which has not been generally known – such as Fixed Stars.





A debilitated Mercury, or Mercury in a water sign can be very intuitive, as we know. But it is not ideal for memorization of language or of facts, which can leak out the memory door, so to speak, as if through a sieve. (This is my own analogy.) I should add that you're in famous company. In addition to Mercury in Pisces, Albert Einstein also had natal Moon debilitated in Scorpio in the 6th house. As his 2nd house lord of speech, this Moon added to his Mercury-Saturn problem, and gave him that initial disadvantage, to the point where his early teachers expected him to achieve very little in life. Furthermore, his Moon was in *Jyestha nakshatra* ruled in turn by debilitated Mercury. Sign lord Mars was in the 8th house – a difficult house, though in Capricorn, an exalted sign for Mars. After finishing Mercury-Saturn *dasa*, his language problem was resolved. That was at age nine. In your case, your natal Saturn is in Capricorn and so has a little more distance from Mercury, as it aspects the planet. It helps to focus the Mercury without stopping it. They are planetary friends, so Saturn can give some good structure and focus to Mercury, especially when one of them is ruler of the Ascendant, as is as your Mercury.

When we look at your 30-plus years of dedication to collecting data for study of the Fixed Stars, we can also point to this Mercury in Pisces aspected by Saturn in Capricorn.³⁰ You see the vastness of the Universe as symbolized by these billions and billions of Fixed Stars (very Piscean), and you want to gather them up and study as many of them as you can. You don't want to be limited in the scope of your study, but Saturn helps you to focus your attention on patterns revealed from your ever-increasing collection of birth data, what you call your "Data Monster."

You were saying that your mother worked after your parents split up.

DKR: Yes. My parents split when I was about three or four years old. You see that with the Sun directed to Uranus (in my Western tropical chart). And my father was severely manic-depressive. I loved him. He was my handsome daddy, and he indulged me. But what did I know? Years later I understood he was utterly dishonest in money dealings. That was part of the disease, I think. And my mother was certainly right to divorce him. My father was terribly unstable, and when he went into a manic phase he was impossible. He wouldn't sleep. He would talk non-stop, and drive everyone batty. He would borrow money and never return it. Later I found out he had never intended to return it. He was typical Pisces, probably sidereal Aquarius. And because he couldn't hold a job, he stayed home and read all day long. So he was extremely well read, knowledgeable, and encyclopedic. And I think that side of me comes from him.

Later in his life, people who knew him simply as a friend in a church group, or elsewhere, loved to go to museums with him, because he knew so much, and he was so entertaining as a raconteur. People said that at his funeral. And my kids adored him. They couldn't understand why I suddenly blew up at him one day. They didn't know and had never seen him in his worst phases.

³⁰ This is a classical Vedic aspect for Saturn, which aspects houses 1, 3, 7, and 10 from itself, always forward in the zodiac, in whole sign houses. (EH)



EH: In Vedic astrology, we look at the father as the Sun, but also as 9th house lord. (That is South Indian, which I use. North Indian prefers 10th house lord for father.) In your case, 9th lord Saturn is in the 8th house of loss. So there is the loss of the father in some way.

DKR: By the time I was six I knew how unstable he was. It put a lot of pressure on me, because he would announce to everybody: “Diana and I have a wonderful relationship. We adore each other!” And I’m sitting there, hearing this, and thinking “No.” But I couldn’t say so. The family was enraged with him, and I was the only one speaking to him. I couldn’t do that to him. The Piscean sympathy and compassion came in there, and I just could not say to him: “No, Dad. That’s not true.” And so I was caught in the middle.

EH: Oh my – very tough, especially for a young child.... Okay, let’s move on a bit and discuss another point in your Vedic chart. Have you heard of the term *maraka*? (pronounced MAH-ra-ka).

DKR: No, I don’t think so.

EH: *Maraka* is a Sanskrit word, and is something Western tropical astrologers don’t tend to like about Vedic astrology because it’s one of those more definitive associations – similar to the ones around many of the Fixed Stars. *Maraka* planets are considered “death-producing.” Length of life is not solely determined by *Maraka*, but it is a factor. There are different ones depending on the birth chart Ascendant. With a few exceptions, the 2nd and 7th house lords from the birth chart Ascendant are usually *Maraka* planets. Natal Moon is not assigned that role, and since that is 2nd house lord for Gemini Ascendant, only Jupiter, as 7th house lord, is *Maraka* for your Ascendant.

You like derived houses. Think of derived houses here. The reason it is 2nd and 7th house lords is that the 7th house is the 12th house (of loss) from the 8th house (of longevity). The 3rd house is also considered a house of longevity, being the 8th house from the 8th. Since the 2nd house is 12th house from the 3rd, it too becomes *Maraka*. Albert Einstein died eight months prior to the start of his 16-year Jupiter *dasa*, at age 76. He died in his Rahu-Mars *dasa*, these two planets being in the 8th house in his birth chart. But even with a better placement of Jupiter than yours (his was in Aquarius in the 9th house), that Jupiter would not favor longevity during its sub-*Dasa*, and especially its *Maha* (or major) *dasa*, being the *Maraka* planet for Gemini Ascendant.

There are two groups of planetary friends in Vedic astrology: Sun, Moon, Mars and Jupiter are in one group; Mercury, Venus, Saturn, and Rahu are in another group. Rahu is Saturn-like, so is often included with the 2nd group. Ascendant lord is always a friend, so Mercury’s friends are Venus, Saturn and Rahu. To recap, Jupiter is not a friend to Mercury, and they are in 6-8 house relationship to each other. From this combination, we know there is going to be some conflict for you in matters symbolized by each of these planets, individually, and in relation to each other.

Why could this cause problems to your health? Because it is related to your Ascendant lord Mercury. Mercury is not only in the sign of Pisces, owned by Jupiter, but in a *nakshatra* owned by Jupiter, *Uttara Bhadra Pada*. This spells major problems for Mercury in connection

with Jupiter, but it also describes some of the basic things about you, and these are assets as well, being mentally stimulated by so many things in the process of your research. You have mentioned the nervous breakdown you suffered soon after the start of your 16-year **Jupiter dasa** in June 1965: an overload of the nervous system.

You spoke of a tendency to eat too much, and too many sweets. Jupiter is associated with sweet tastes, and when there is an imbalance, there can be either a lack of sweets or a craving for sweets, as in your case. That is on the physical level, which has set up a disease centered in your pancreas, whose job it is to regulate the sugar (glucose) level in the body, and to produce insulin in just the right amounts to control the constant level of glucose in the body.

With your three planets in Pisces (Mercury, Venus, and Sun), and three planets in Leo (Mars, Ketu (or South lunar node), and Jupiter), when you are in a major period or sub-period of planets combining from these two houses, especially with Mercury, as Ascendant lord, you have the possibility of the **Mercury-Jupiter** problem coming up. For you, this could start sometime during the 17-year Mercury *dasa* (in the *Vimsottari Dasa* system). This began for you on June 19, 2000. The Ketu sub-period came earlier (Nov. 15, 2002 through Nov. 13, 2003), and could have brought some health issues. But even more demanding would be the unbroken sequence of Mars, Rahu and Jupiter sub-periods within the Mercury *dasa*. These occur as follows:

Mercury-Mars: Dec. 18, 2008 through Dec. 16, 2009

Mercury-Rahu: Dec. 16, 2009 through July 4, 2012

Mercury-Jupiter: July 4, 2012 through Oct. 10, 2014

Since Mercury and Mars are planetary enemies, the Mars sub-period was due to produce a greater than usual number of problems. Heightening the Mercury-Mars contact even further is the fact that natal Mercury and Mars are both very close to their Stationary Direct degrees. The *dasas* work regardless of transits, eclipses, or any other factors, although those too can be corroborating factors. You said your diagnosis of pancreatic cancer came in April 2009, and your surgery on May 21, 2009. All of this was within **Mercury-Mars *dasa***.³¹

During this period you also had some major difficulties which could be summarized as conflicts experienced in the process of trying to publish your book on Fixed Stars. There was even some litigation involved, which is not surprising, given that Mars is in the 6th house (of conflict) from *Dasa* lord Mercury. Of course, Mars does well in the 6th house. But this destiny comes into play during Mercury-Mars *dasa* in particular. Mars aspects Mercury, but not vice versa. (Vedic astrologers view the *Dasa* lord as an important Sub-Ascendant, and that applies during its *Maha Dasa* – or major period.)

³¹ I am focusing here on the **Vimshottari *dasas***, but Vedic astrology also considers the **Sade sati** a pivotal lifetime period. This is the (on average) 7 1/2 year period when Saturn transits houses 12, 1, and 2 from natal Moon. Diana's current *Sade Sati* began when Saturn entered sidereal Leo July 15, 2007. The second phase began when tr. Saturn entered Virgo from Sept. 9, 2009, coinciding with the Mercury-Mars *dasa*. (EH)

One's physical well-being comes into sharp focus during the *Dasa* of the Ascendant lord of the birth chart, as do the matters over which Mercury rules. This includes communications, writing, and publishing. The Mars aspect to Mercury galvanizes it and sharpens the intellect and the ability to speak concisely and even with wit – which you have, but also with the possibility of controversy, since Mars adds heat and gives courage to speak out when needed.

³² Mercury is also aspected by Saturn, giving it depth and seriousness, and the tendency to clarify and edit. Saturn's aspect to Mercury can also bring delays, as it has done in the publication of your book, which you had hoped to publish several years ago – not an uncommon experience for authors!

Jupiter's connections to Mercury here give difficulties, but also many assets – including the tendency to have much to say, and to speak or write voluminously. Since Mercury is debilitated in Pisces, one goes through periods in life of feeling “less than” and at times victimized. What lifts up this Mercury, and provides corrective action for it is its proximity to exalted Venus, within four degrees of its maximum exaltation. This creates what in Vedic astrology is called a *Neecha Banga Raja yoga*. The planet (in this case Mercury) starts from a place of disadvantage, and then gets elevated over time. You admired the knowledge your father had, and tried to emulate it. But in this case, the reason he was able to read so much and broaden his knowledge was because he couldn't hold a job. This provided some early conflict for you around knowledge itself: What is it good for?

Though Mercury is debilitated, Venus gives it some correction, but does not entirely remove the affliction. However, this yoga can elevate the person to a higher level of understanding and compassion. A higher status and level of achievement is implied. In your case, Diana, you have described in your life story how you were unable to get a higher education, but also in many ways you were resistant to it, and refused to study what you were supposed to study. Your father's example taught you that knowledge could be problematic. Nor did you trust the Master's degree your mother had attained.

Since Mercury for Gemini Ascendant also rules the 4th house of education, home, and mother, we know these may be some problematic issues, especially with Mars *dasa* running from ages 7 to 14. Tell me about your education, all of it in New York City. Yes?

DKR: Yes, I went to Hunter College Elementary School, then Hunter High. (Latin was a required subject, and now I wish I had applied myself. I could have used that!) I hated school and was in full-scale rebellion. I refused to do homework, etc. My mother had gone to school there and taught there, and everyone remembered her and expected me to be like her. They were about to expel me, and then the High School of Performing Arts opened (the school featured in the movie *Fame*) and I auditioned for the Drama dept. and made it. I had to go back one year to get in, but I didn't care. I was so relieved to be out of Hunter! I was still not a good student, but it was much better for me than Hunter, and I managed to get a High school diploma. I then started at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, but it was the spring semester and I suffered horribly from spring allergies. (Pollen allergies have always been a major health problem.) Antihistamines were very new and undeveloped then, so it

³² As with Saturn, which has its own special aspects, Mars aspects houses 1, 4, 7, and 8 from itself, forward in the sidereal zodiac. (EH)



was either suffer without them, or take them and fall into a heavy, drugged sleep. Not only that, but I had some unpleasant experiences at college, and then I had a bad fall down a flight of stairs and landed in the local hospital. I think I may have – subconsciously – done that to myself. I had to get out of there.

After about a month of recuperation, my mother gave me an ultimatum: "You either have to go to college somewhere, or you have to get a job." I got a file clerk's job at NBC (National Broadcasting Company) for the summer while I took speedwriting, then got a secretarial job at a small office, and started studying ballet, which at the time was my great love. I was much too old to start studying seriously, but I looked much younger than my real age, so I lied and got into the School of American Ballet (the Balanchine NYC Ballet school, which had a special program for older beginners). I was about 18, but I went in wearing braids and carrying schoolbooks and told them I was 14. They looked at me hard and said "You're not 14!" "You are not a day over 12!" Whew! Then I met Werner (a Holocaust survivor), got married at 21, got pregnant at 23, and that was the end of my ballet "career" – though I did get enough training to be able to teach later on.

EH: At age 18, you would have been in **Rahu-Jupiter dasa** (March 1, 1950 up through July 25, 1952), and that would bring some excesses in the process of self-discovery and rebellion, but also some possible change of luck (being a classical benefic). Also, Jupiter is in the 7th house (of partnership) from Rahu, and aspects the 7th house in the Gemini Ascendant birth chart, and so can bring a partner or partners around this time. (In classical Vedic astrology, only Jupiter is allowed to form a trine aspect – 120 degrees.)

You distrusted academia, and you preferred the world of performing arts to that of academia. You chose the world of dance and ballet in particular, which gets special attention in Pisces, ruling over the feet, and also in the 3rd house in Vedic astrology. Six out of nine of your natal planets are in one of these two (whole sign) houses: Pisces or Leo. You pretended to be years younger to qualify, which is another shifting quality that Pisces (or any of the dual signs might have), especially a dual water sign – which is more emotional than all the other dual signs. This was your escape from a more rigid and conventional education, which you rejected in part because of your experience in that setting and because of your mother. Though she was a good student, her diligence didn't impress you.

DKR: Yes, I always assumed her Master's degree was in Literature. Only later I accidentally discovered it was in Psychology. (She was cleaning out a closet one day and I saw the framed diploma.) My shock was so great, I began to giggle and then laugh hysterically. She had no idea why. My mother, a control freak who couldn't get along with anyone in the family for more than two minutes and was considered to have a "personality disorder" – she had a Master's in Psychology. From that moment on I recognized that academic credentials mean very little. Yes, they do show that you worked hard to get them, and I do respect that, but they are NO guarantee of superior knowledge! And in order to get them, you have to toe the academic line and spout back to the professors what they want or expect to hear. Forget astrology, psychic research, the psychological roots of disease, karma, etc. I think Uranus conjunct Sun makes me too independent-minded to settle into an academic routine.





EH: Apropos the need for freedom from a rigid education, I tend to see it in the context of a controlling mother (Moon in the 4th house) and education (also Moon in the 4th house, ruled by Mercury in Pisces, in turn in conflict with Jupiter, ruler of Pisces.) Later on, the job you had for the longest period of time was as a dance teacher, and later on as a legal proofreader.

DKR: Yes, I worked as a Dance teacher at the YMCA's Morningside Dance Center in Manhattan in the West 60's Lincoln Center district – a thriving area for the performing arts. I loved it! I was never good enough to dance professionally, but I loved teaching the kids. I taught ballet there for about 10 years, between 1965 and 1975. I know that I left the Dance Center when transiting Saturn hit my 2nd house cusp (Western tropical chart), and that was in 1975. I had seen that coming and saved up some money, luckily!

After that I was a legal proofreader, and later an astrologer. I've always been "a night owl." In the late 1970s while I was studying astrology I worked as an all-night legal proofreader in the Wall Street business district.

EH: Back to the topic of physical health, notice how in the 16-year Jupiter *dasa*, you had nervous system issues. **Jupiter *dasa*** came from June 19, 1965 through June 19, 1981. You said it was soon after the start of Jupiter *dasa* in June 1965 that you had a nervous breakdown, and even had electric shock therapy. This is related to the **Mercury-Jupiter** contact and to Mercury debilitated in Pisces, being at times overly empathic, taking in too much. In any case, Jupiter is pushing your boundaries to the maximum. In the realm of Fixed Stars, you don't want to be limited. Nor in any field of study that interests you do you want to be limited, even if your own sense of it is that you want to find things out for yourself.

DKR: When I had that breakdown, it was when Pluto and Uranus were running together – remember, in the 1960s. There was a Uranus-Pluto conjunction.

EH: Uranus and Pluto transited within a few degrees of each other all during 1965, close to a conjunction in late Sept. 1965. Their exact conjunction was June 30, 1966 at 16:06 tropical Virgo, 22:43 sidereal Leo. Your natal positions in the tropical zodiac are: Mercury at 25:12 Pisces, Midheaven at 21:09 Pisces, and Jupiter at 14:12 Virgo. The Uranus-Pluto conjunction made a wide opposition to your natal Mercury and MC, but was much closer (2 degree orb) to your natal Jupiter. Note too that in the Vedic system, **Jupiter** was your **Dasa lord** from June 19, 1965 for 16 years, and is connected to your Ascendant lord Mercury through the Vedic circuitry I have described. As *Dasa* lord, Jupiter has center stage, so to speak. In Vedic terms, Jupiter has a larger than usual influence on the affairs of your life, and we'd have to say its impact is already over-sized. Then the *dasa* of this planet comes along, and when that happens, it is THIS planet whose karmic fruits are delivered at this time. Those karmic fruits depend on how Jupiter is configured in the chart.

We ask: What is the planet bestowing you? And we would have to say Jupiter is bringing you some good things, but also the fruits of the difficulties of that expansion. Jupiter is also with Ketu and Mars. Ketu (the South lunar node) is Mars-like, and being an eclipse planet it tends to destabilize whatever planets are in close contact to it. So for instance, with the sugar intake and the sugar (glucose) balance in the body – that's out of whack.

DKR: Well, Neptune is on my South lunar node.

EH: Yes, but even without that, or any of the outer planet transits, we'd say that Jupiter *dasa* is alerting us to a lot about the physical body – since Jupiter owns the sign and *nakshatra* where Mercury is situated. You entered Jupiter *dasa* June 16, 1965. And even though it's a 16-year period, we can identify the period within that *dasa* when any of the planets in Leo with Jupiter (Mars and Ketu) are interacting with the three planets in Pisces (Mercury, Venus, and Sun) – especially Mercury, for your physical and/or mental health. During **Jupiter *dasa***, it was more about your nervous system and your mental and emotional equilibrium, which is also connected with Mercury. When you entered **Mercury *dasa*** on June 19, 2000, was there already something a little more delicate about your health – from that time onward?

DKR: I can't remember anything off-hand.

EH: Okay, but then you don't really enter a more difficult sub-period within the 17-year Mercury *dasa* until you enter either Ketu, Mars or Jupiter sub-period. This is because they are all in the 6th house from that natal Mercury. So you have sub-periods within Mercury *dasa* when all the Jupiter-Mercury questions come up, and those heavily weighted karmic fruits come due, according to Vedic principles.

Your three planets in sidereal Leo are all within 14 degrees of each other in the same sign. Mercury-Ketu *dasa* didn't show too much yet. It was followed by Venus, which is your best planet, so its sub-period would be bound to be good. That ran from Nov. 13, 2003 through Sept. 13, 2006. The next sub-period was Sun, which relates to your physical health. Here below is the entire sequence of sub-*dasas* within the 17-year Mercury *dasa*.

Mercury-Mercury:	June 19, 2000
Mercury-Ketu:	Nov. 15, 2002
Mercury-Venus:	Nov. 13, 2003
Mercury-Sun:	Sept. 13, 2006
Mercury-Moon:	July 20, 2007
Mercury-Mars:	Dec. 18, 2008
Mercury-Rahu:	Dec. 16, 2009
Mercury-Jupiter:	July 4, 2012
Mercury-Saturn:	Oct. 10, 2014
Ketu-Ketu:	June 19, 2017

It is when you enter **Mercury-Mars *dasa*** that there are bound to be the most number of problems. This is because Mars is planetary enemy of Mercury, and is in a challenging 6-8 house inter-relationship in any case. Mercury-Mars runs a full year, and covers the time when you had your medical diagnosis of pancreatic cancer (April 2009), the surgery (May 21, 2009), and conflicts and problems around getting your book to publication.

Currently you are in the Rahu sub-period of Mercury *dasa*. Since you have said you want to be up front with your readers about all this, we would have to say the current indications are



that your disease has moved recently to an even more advanced stage. That was as of your last birthday – April 9, 2010 – which you spent at the hospital. The doctor noted that the tumor on your pancreas is growing larger, and given your advanced stage of pancreatic cancer, we note that the current *dasa* period is followed by the **Mercury-Jupiter *dasa*** (July 4, 2012 to Oct. 10, 2014). Mercury-Jupiter *dasa* highlights everything we have been saying about the Mercury-Jupiter issues for you in all areas, including physical health. There are other important markers, one of them just having occurred: the Saturn Stationary Direct on May 30, 2010 at 3:50 Virgo – just opposite your natal Mercury at 2:17 Pisces. This is a very close opposition, and puts a lot of extra pressure on your physical vehicle.

But looking back, the Mercury-Mars *dasa* ushered all this in. We have described why it is likely to be the first most challenging sub-period within the Mercury *dasa*, due to the inherent difficulties Mercury and Mars have with each other, and in the conflict arising from 6th house matters. As astrologers, we know 6th house matters can mean legal issues or medical issues, and sometimes both. You experienced both during the Mercury-Mars *dasa*. The 6th house concerns the working efficiency of the body and of so many things, while the 8th house can bring suffering. Vedic astrology identifies this period for you as Dec. 18, 2008 through Dec. 16, 2009. This one year sub-period would be described in advance as very challenging.

DKR: That's an amazing system.

EH: It is. And this is not dependent on transits, eclipses, or any other astrological factors. And if you would like me to include this chart analysis in the interview material, I can do that.

DKR: Yes please. I am fine with it, as long as the editor wants it.

EH: I'm pretty sure that will be fine. And my guess is that he will see it as a privilege for the rest of us to be able to share your chart and your concerns – especially at this time. As all of us get older, we can choose – or not choose – to share our feelings and thoughts as we approach the end of this particular chapter. You have been very generous in sharing yours.

DKR: Well, I'm delighted with the opportunity.

EH: We should close now, but let's have you share your response to receiving this "Life Time Achievement Award" from *Saptarishis Astrology* magazine! This is in recognition for your all your distinguished work in Fixed Stars.

DKR: I kept saying "Wow!" I feel so very honored by this award. In my whole life, I have never received an award, and now, to have such a remarkable one conferred upon me goes beyond my wildest dreams! My love and gratitude goes out to *Saptarishis Astrology* magazine for this great honor. I do not feel worthy of it, but the fact that they think I am worthy of it makes it all the more wonderful!



Addenda

1) Novas & Royalty

DKR: Here's an interesting story: In 1936 a Nova appeared. And they called it Nova Lacertae 1936. But when I saw it on a sky map, I thought: "That's the crown of Cepheus the King!" It was right on the border between the two constellations, but slightly more towards Lacertae. And knowing that Lacertae is modern, I thought: "I'll bet that's part of the original figure of Cepheus." And sure enough, an old map showed that the Nova was part of the crown of Cepheus the King. And in 1936 the King of England abdicated, and there was a new king. ("Nova" also means "new.") This is the kind of thing that I delight in! Cepheus the King constellation is in the northern sky, and dates back 23 centuries. It was recognized by the Chaldeans, and is one of the oldest constellations in the night sky.

EH: Here is more on that story: There were also an unusually high number of novas that appeared in 1936. Novas can come but not be observed, for whatever reason. Nova Lacertae was discovered on the night of June 18, 1936, but attained its greatest brilliance on June 19th, thereafter fading rapidly, then slowly. The King – later the Duke of Windsor – was born June 23, 1894, while Mrs. Wallis Simpson – later the Duchess of Windsor – was born June 19, 1896! She was the key reason why he abdicated, since as a twice-divorced woman, a commoner and an American – she was unacceptable as his royal Consort and created a Constitutional crisis when the King was pushing for this outcome.

2) Diana's Astrological Education & Certification

EH: Did you get NCGR (National Council of Geocosmic Research) certification, or any other type of certification in astrology? Or did that not appeal?

DKR: I never did get beyond that NCGR Level One. (There are four levels.) By then I was using a computer, and I would have had to go back and re-learn calculations, and there were just too many other things I wanted to do more. So no – no other certification. Reading has always been the best way of educating myself, I think. I was invited to speak on Fixed Stars (also Derived Houses) at the 1st UAC in San Diego (1986), and have been invited to every UAC (United Astrology Conference) since. I was also usually asked to speak at the NCGR Conferences.

EH: How did you get into Fixed Stars?

DKR: Early on it became my niche, as I discovered I got answers to things by looking at the Fixed Stars, in addition to the techniques of Uranian astrology. This all happened right around 1980. But I'll tell you a little story that was a kind of omen of this trend in my life. I call it "Navigating by the Stars."³³

³³ Coincidentally, my first book (on Western tropical astrology and astrocartography, with Uranian influence) was titled *Navigating by the Stars: Astrology and the Art of Decision-Making*, 1991. (I wrote it in 1988-89, as I was transitioning into Vedic astrology.) When I reminded Diana about this book & title, she suggested I include it in a footnote. (EH)

I was at an astrological conference in Cape Cod (Massachusetts) sometime in the early 1980s. A bunch of us had driven to a nearby town to a restaurant. After dinner together, we were driving back to the town where our conference was being held. There were two carloads full of astrologers, and we became terribly lost in the back woods on our way back. I was driving one car, and Carol Jepson was driving the other one. She was in the lead car. Charles Emerson, the eminent Uranian astrologer, was in my car, and was the senior member of our party. Finally, he instructed me to slow down and stop, and motioned for Carol to do the same. He had us all get out of our cars, and he said to Carol: "What's your sign?" And she said: "Charles, you know perfectly well I'm a Libra."³⁴ "Diana," he said: "What's your sign?" And I said: "Charles, you know perfectly well I'm an Aries." "All right then," he said. "Aries leads. You're Aries, Diana. You go first!" (Charles had the Sun in tropical Leo, with sidereal Leo rising, and usually got his own way.) We thought that was sort of silly, but Carol and I looked at each other, shrugged, and went along with it.

So we all got back into our cars and I drove the lead car. I had no idea where I was going, and I turned this way and that way. (This was in the era before GPS.) Then suddenly I looked up, and there was a wonderfully clear view of the sky, and I saw the Big Dipper (the 7 Rishis). I said: "There's the Dipper! The Dipper is always in the North! Now I can tell which direction to go in!"

Charles nodded sagely and murmured "Aries leads the way." I said, "Oh Charles, everyone knows the Dipper is in the North!" He said: "I didn't know!" Soon after that, I managed to get us on the right track, and we found our way back.

3) Diana's Formal Education

Hunter College Elementary School (Manhattan, NY)

Hunter High School (Manhattan, NY)

High School of Performing Arts (High School diploma, Manhattan, NY)

Bard College (one semester, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY)

School of American Ballet (the Balanchine NYC Ballet School, Manhattan, NY)

4) Diana's Work & Career

Ballet teacher for the YMCA at the Morningside Dance Center in Manhattan, NY: 1965 to 1975.

Legal proofreader (incl. all night legal proofreader) in the Wall Street business district of NYC, while studying astrology: late 1970s

Astrologer, researcher, lecturer, writer. Astrological studies began in Feb. 1975. Fixed Star research from around 1980 to the present.

³⁴ Tropical Sun sign Libra for Carol Jepson, tropical Sun sign Aries for Diana Rosenberg. (DKR)

5) Diana's Marriage, Family & Relationships

Husband **Werner Rosenberg** (born Dec. 6, 1923, Berlin, Germany. B.C. says 3:00 AM. DKR rectified it to 2:47 AM). Werner was a Holocaust survivor. He lost his grandparents and several other relatives. He also lost the chance for college because of the war. His family escaped to Shanghai and lived there in poverty until after the war when he managed to get to the US. In Shanghai he apprenticed to a typewriter repairman, and once in the States, he set up his own business and handled a variety of business machines until everything turned electronic. At about the same time, he became very ill with heart disease and cancer, and died at age 66. His appearance was that of an artist or a writer, not a businessman, though he was intensely focused on money.

Marriage date and time: Nov. 25, 1954, 12:20 PM EST (time approx.), New York, N.Y. They lived together from Nov. 1954 until summer 1976, about 22 years. Though they lived separately, they remained friends, and shared many social occasions with their children. They never divorced up until his death in Jan. 1990, a span of just over 35 years from when they married.

Diana on relationships: "Pluto rising dominates my chart. You can pretty much ignore everything else! I'm a total loner, and only recently have become fully aware that I have a huge need for freedom. My Venus-Sun-Uranus combination lines up with stars of Andromeda, the Chained Woman, which is very involved in freedom versus entrapment issues. To me, relationships mean limitations."

Son **Peter Rosenberg**, born Feb. 11, 1957, 17:34, Manhattan, NY. Peter is a computer expert and works in Media technology for NBC (National Broadcasting Company). He received an Emmy award for his work at the Beijing Olympics. He is divorced, with one son. Lives in New York City.

Daughter **Wendy Makkena**, born Oct. 4, 1958, 20:17, Manhattan, NY. Wendy is a stage, television and movie actress, whose many credits include her role as Sister Mary Robert in the movie *Sister Act* (1992), and *Sister Act 2* (1993), with Whoopi Goldberg. On the stage, she starred on Broadway in *Side Man*, Off-Broadway in *The Shawl*, and in NY and LA in *The Water Children* for which she received the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Actress. She is married, with one daughter. Lives in Los Angeles and New York City. See www.wendymakkena.net

End Of Addenda

We at *Saptarishis Astrology* wish to thank Diana K. Rosenberg and Edith Hathaway, who in spite of her busy schedule due to her active life as a professional astrologer, gave more than five months to this project that is very dear to our hearts. This interview in its pristine high quality would not have been possible if not for the patience & selfless dedication of Edith Hathaway.

Edith Hathaway is among the few contemporary astrologers trained and certified in systems of both East and West. She began her astrological studies in 1976, and her private practice in 1980. Prior to her transition into Vedic astrology from 1988, she received the Level IV certification as Consulting Astrologer from the National Council of Geocosmic Research (NCGR), Master Astro*Carto*Grapher certification from Jim Lewis, and in 1996 the Jyotish Kovid award from the Indian Council of Astrological Sciences (ICAS). An international consultant, writer, teacher, and lecturer, she was a Board member of the American College of Vedic Astrology (2002-2010) and on its faculty from 1992. The first volume of her book on Vedic astrology is in preparation, and expected out in the next year. Her website: www.edithhathaway.com



Edith will lecture at the World Conference on Mundane astrology, to be held October 1-4, 2010 at the campus of Andhra University in Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), India. The conference features 12 Vedic astrologers from India and the West, and is sponsored by Sanathana Dharma Charitable Trust, Bhemunpatnam (Andhra Pradesh), India.

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