

ISAR Book Review

by Dennis Flaherty

In Search of Destiny: Biography, History and Culture as Told through Vedic Astrology

by Edith Hathaway

Vintage Vedic Press, San Diego, CA.

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Website: edithhathaway.com

Edith Hathaway's remarkable new book is an astrological sensation on many levels. It is a tale of destiny, an ambitious, voluminous work, culminating in 544 pages. However, you as a reader will not become distracted, or fatigued, for her subject matter and biographies are revealing and satisfying. Edith's book is vast in its conceptualization, yet appropriate for the novice, as well as the advanced student of Vedic astrology. Once you start reading, each page becomes more compelling than the previous.

Her first chapter commences with a classic discussion of precession of the equinoxes and the calendric complexities of Indian time keeping. However, it is her innovative, non-classical, compelling analysis of the twenty-year Jupiter/Saturn conjunction that marks this as a work worthy of distinction. Her research examines the recurring elemental patterns of those conjunctions, revealing the author's comprehensive grasp of historical trends and events, and includes her current and future predictions for each of the Saturn/Jupiter conjunctions in the sidereal elements of Fire, Earth, Air and Water.

In Search of Destiny features a fabulous annotated list of the 54 Saturn/Jupiter conjunctions, by constellation, Nakshatra, and elemental pattern from 1405 to 2020 with snap shot notes! These carefully crafted tables alone merit the price of Edith's book, as they are an excellent resource guide for the research-oriented, mundane astrologer. I cannot stress enough the value of these tables and snap shot commentaries. Even if you are not a mundane astrologer, you are likely to become one after just a brief glimpse through Edith's historically comprehensive looking glass.

The next chapter successfully gives a succinct overview of Vedic astrology and philosophy, introducing the reader to the fundamental concepts of Vedic astrology, and introducing briefly the differences between the sidereal and tropical systems. It concludes with the differences between the North and the South Indian styles.

The heart of the book is the case studies for each of the constellational rising signs, from Aries to Libra. Each of the covered Ascendants features several penetrating biographies. Each of the Ascendants biographies is a narrative of individual dharma woven into the context of collective destiny. There are review questions at the end of

each of the chapters. So, for those inclined, the book also serves as an excellent study guide to learn Vedic astrology.

I highly recommend Edith's book. Her book thrives on several levels, from the brief introduction to Vedic astrology it quickly gives way to a complex cast of 31 characters playing out their worldly dharma on Edith's stage, like a good PBS or HBO mini-series. It is an astrological tome of spiritual, historical and political theater, engaging, informative and entertaining. Bravo Edith! Buy this book, and for God's sake, don't lend it out ... you won't get it back.

Dennis Flaherty (Washington, USA) Vedic astrologer, President of CVA (Council of Vedic Astrology). From *ISAR Journal*, i.e., Journal of the International Society for Astrological Research, April 2013; also the *CVA Journal*, released March 31, 2013.