

## **The Nodal Axis Change– Rahu in Gemini and Ketu in Sagittarius**

**By Vachaspati Christina Collins**

Rahu and Ketu, the nodes of Chandra, the Moon represent Karmas.

Karmas are the “law of action – what goes out returns”

The nodes are Upagrahas (upa is shadow, graha is planet – so an Upagraha is a shadow grabber.) Just as graha’s grab energy onto themselves, so do the nodes and they are given full weight as planets in Jyotish. But, not quite the power as they do not have their own houses or “rule” houses. But they do have houses (the experiences here on earth) where they prefer to reside. Rahu is exalted in Taurus, and Ketu in Scorpio. The nodes belong to the Moon or Chandra, and Rahu exalts in Rohini, the Moon’s nakshatra at 20 degrees. The Moon also exalts in Taurus at 3 degrees Kritika, the Sun’s nakshatra. The Moon reflects the Sun.

Rahu and Ketu take on the “energy” of the planets who aspect them, or the ruler of the sign in which they are posited.

Rahu’s basic nature is to seek Power – Rahu is the head of a snake, with the intellect – and with the poison. Rahu’s nature is like Saturn. However, an aspect between Rahu and Saturn, though they are similar in nature is usually very difficult – for Saturn represents grief, disease and life lessons, and Rahu who represents what we are here to learn in this lifetime, will absorb Saturn challenges.

Ketu’s basic nature is to expound moksha or enlightenment. – Ketu is Rahu’s body. Ketu is Moksha karaka because if there is no head, there is no ego, if there is no ego, there is Enlightenment. Ketu is erratic and unpredictable in nature and is chaotic in expression, “now you see me, now you don’t” Ketu’s nature is similar to Mars.

Rahu represents what we have come to learn, and Ketu, moksha karaka assists us in learning. Rahu acts like Saturn – stable, grounded, and focused. Rahu represents our fears, where we are blocked and what we have come to, or are

here to, learn. Ketu, always 180 degrees apart from Rahu conveniently and erratically causes dissolution and change (much like Shiva), thereby assisting Rahu in its point of focus to learn life's lessons.

Rahu is the Head and Ketu is the body. In astronomy they are the eclipses caused by the Shadow of the earth or moon. Planets are called "grahas" which means grabber. They grab energy onto themselves and energetically influence life in general and people accordingly. Rahu and Ketu, while getting full weight as planets, in the Jyotish system of astrology, are shadows without their own "mass." We refer to them as Upa-Grahas or "Shadow Grabbers."

Rahu, as the head, contains the intelligence and the ego or sense of self. Ketu as the body without a head, is moksha karaka or the planetary significator for enlightenment. Simply no head = no ego = liberation. So we look to the placement of each as to what we are here to learn in order to advance the self, and what the placement of Ketu delineates as the process and experiences we will have on the road to enlightenment.

Both Rahu and Ketu as well as having their own natures act like who influences them, the other planets who aspect them – and the planets that they aspect by conjunction, opposition or trine. If no aspect is influencing them, they act like the ruler of the sign in which they are posited, or like their "dispositor."

Every 18 months the nodes change signs. They reverse their natal or original position every 9 years and have their nodal return every 18 years.

For children, this first nodal reverse brings the first flavor of focus on individual karma. The first 5 years of life a child is influenced by the karma of mother, the next 5 years, the karma of father. When a child is about 10, the individual karmas come more into play. One of the reasons, is that at age 9 they have their first nodal reverse. (Rahu over Ketu and Ketu over Rahu). So age 9 is very transformative they become a "Tween" (between a child and an adolescent). The nodal reverse for a child it is the beginning of the road to independence. For an adult, it provides an opportunity to do something you always wanted to do, but never did.

Conversely the nodal return occurs first at around age 18 to 18 ½ (just after experiencing the transits of the two great Teachers of spirit and practicality,

Jupiter and Saturn opposing the natal Jupiter and Saturn. This return ushers in the opportunity to leave traditional organized education to pursue education and dreams according to karma and free will choice.

Twelve axis's exist for this duo. Six beginning with Rahu and six beginning with Ketu, beginning from the Lagna or ascendant. Houses represent our experiences here on earth and their distance from the lagna or rising sign give different flavors of learning. As Rahu is what we are here to “learn” and to understand, the transit of Rahu will give us our karmic lessons due to past actions that we need to learn and sort out. Counting from both the Lagna and the Chandra Lagna the category of likely focus:

|                 |                                                           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Houses 1 and 7  | Self and Partnerships with others                         |
| Houses 2 and 8  | Self earned wealth, Earnings or legacy from others        |
| Houses 3 and 9  | Communication and Dharma (life purpose)                   |
| Houses 4 and 10 | Education, and Occupation (Income from dharma)            |
| Houses 5 and 11 | Creativity or Gains (purva punya) , Cashflow , prosperity |
| Houses 6 and 12 | Service to Dharma and Moksha or Enlightenment             |

Rahu is the significator for poisons, smoke, life lessons incarnated to learn, and depending upon the influence from other planets the effect can range from greatness and abundance (like the influence of Jupiter) to suffering, poverty and anger or confusion (like the influence of Mars or Mercury). Rahu, like Saturn can bring disease significant of the house in which they transit over for 18 months at a time, or the house that they are posited in at birth. Rahu at birth or transiting over the 1<sup>st</sup> gives an opportunity to examine the self or Self Discovery.

Ketu, the significator for enlightenment has an apparently destructive effect. Similar to Shiva, to Winter season – and gives the opportunity to focus on the matters of the house in which posited at birth and by transit. Ketu is very erratic – like a garden hose with water turned on at full force will jump around the yard

mindlessly (because with no head/no mind). The trick to Ketu is to remember to **focus on that house and its matters without getting distracted**. Ketu has an interesting correlation to the “karaka” rule which is when the planet that represents a certain topic resides (by birth) in the house that represents the same subject – will deny that subject. For example, Saturn represents death, the 8<sup>th</sup> house represents death, Saturn in the 8<sup>th</sup> at birth denies death and manifest longevity instead. Or Jupiter, who represents children posited in the 5<sup>th</sup> house of children at birth, can deny children.

Ketu however, much like its position as always being in retrograde motion (where the Sun and Moon are always direct – apparent path), when posited in the 12<sup>th</sup> house (who rules moksha and enlightenment) is said to GIVE enlightenment if seated in the natal 12<sup>th</sup> and to produce spiritual experiences when transiting the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Activation for each in their natal placement occurs when their time period (Vimshottari Dasa) operates, and the transit of the nodes through any given axis intensifies when the Dasa of Rahu or Ketu (or both as Maha dasa and Bhukti) is in operation.

Traditionally the natural zodiac of astrology has 12 signs on the ecliptic (beginning with Aries and ending in Pisces). In the distance behind these signs are the 27 nakshatras (asterisms, lunar mansions, constellations) and each have different planetary rulers. Each of the 9 planets rule 3 nakshatras each.

Rahu initially will be in the third pada of Punarvasu the star of Jupiter when it enters Gemini on March 23rd. Those that have placements in the other padas of Punarvasu in Cancer may continue to have an influence from Rahu until it leaves Gemini Punarvasu for Rahu’s star of Ardra.

The initial movement into the 29<sup>th</sup> degree of a sign will place Rahu continuing in the Jupiter ruled Nakshatra Punarvasu (since January 11<sup>th</sup>) and – will enter Gemini in the Nama sound HA (as in Haiti)

| Gemini | Punarvasu | JU | 30'00 TO 26'40 | HA  | 3 |
|--------|-----------|----|----------------|-----|---|
|        |           |    | 26'40 TO 23'20 | KO  | 2 |
|        |           |    | 23'20 TO 20'00 | KAY | 1 |

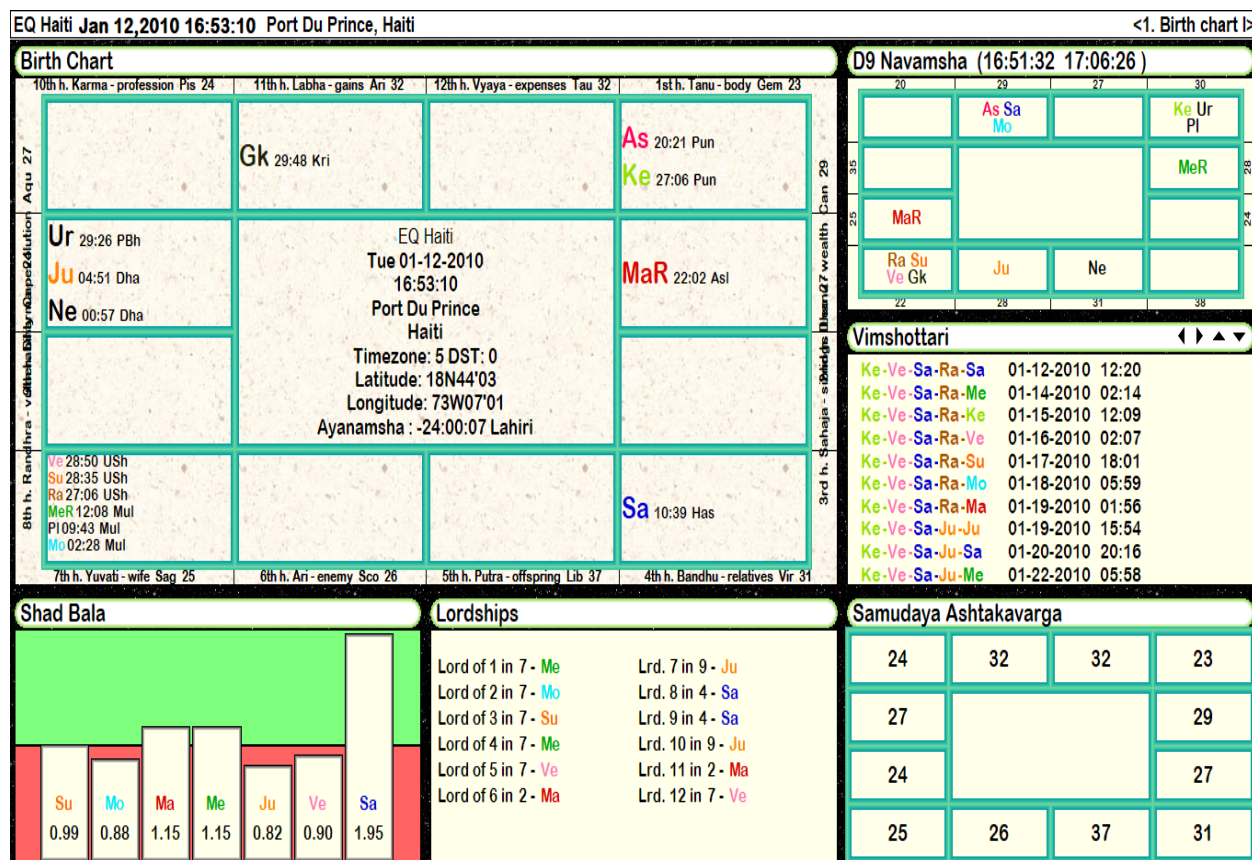
And Ketu into Sagittarius into 29<sup>th</sup> degree of the Sun's Star Uttara Ashada who's nama (name) nakshatra sound is BAY

|     |               |    |                |     |   |
|-----|---------------|----|----------------|-----|---|
| SAG | Uttara Ashada | SU | 30'00 TO 26'40 | BAY | 1 |
|     |               |    | 26'40 TO 23'20 | DHA | 4 |
|     |               |    | 23'20 TO 20'00 | BHA | 3 |

So, I decided to check back in my files and look at the chart of the big Haiti earthquake – which happened in 2010 – about 8 to 9 years ago, and you guessed it! The Nodes were reversed, in the same nakshatras and Ketu and Rahu activated the sound HA of the name of the country Haiti when it reached 27 degrees.

Of course, the sounds of other planets are indicators as well and this topic will be illustrated in more depth in my upcoming books. For example, the earthquake placed the sound Virgo as the 4<sup>th</sup> house (home) of the quake, and Saturn (in an earth sign Virgo was transiting at 10'39 in the Nakshatra Hasta - which is the nama nakshatra sound PU (Port du Prince)

|       |       |    |                |    |   |
|-------|-------|----|----------------|----|---|
| Virgo | Hasta | MO | 10'00 TO 13'20 | PU | 1 |
|-------|-------|----|----------------|----|---|



So, if you are a mundane astrologer (which is a great way of learning) observe planetary events and check to see how many occur in a place, or a person's name with the initial sound, the sound of the transiting Rahu and Ketu.

As the nodes change from Nakshatra to Nakshatra the influence changes.

In the eighteen months it takes the nodes to transit through a set of opposing signs:

Rahu in Gemini will transit through the star of Jupiter, the star of Rahu and the star of Mars -- Punarvasu, Ardra and Mrigashira.

|        |           |    |                |      |   |
|--------|-----------|----|----------------|------|---|
| Gemini | Punarvasu | JU | 30'00 TO 26'40 | HA   | 3 |
|        |           |    | 26'40 TO 23'20 | KO   | 2 |
|        |           |    | 23'20 TO 20'00 | KAY  | 1 |
| Gemini | Ardra     | RA | 20'00 TO 16'40 | CHHA | 4 |
|        |           |    | 16'40 TO 13'20 | JNA  | 3 |
|        |           |    | 13'20 TO 10'00 | KHAM | 2 |
|        |           |    | 10'00 TO 06'40 | KU   | 1 |

|        |            |    |                |    |   |
|--------|------------|----|----------------|----|---|
| Gemini | Mrigashira | MA | 06'40 TO 03'20 | KI | 4 |
|        |            |    | 03'20 TO 00'00 | KA | 3 |

Ketu will transit through Uttara Ashada, Purva Ashada and Mula -- the Star of the Sun, the Star of Venus and the Star of Ketu

|     |               |    |                |      |   |
|-----|---------------|----|----------------|------|---|
| SAG | Uttara Ashada | SU | 30'00 TO 26'40 | BAY  | 1 |
| SAG | Purva Ashada  | VE | 26'40 TO 23'20 | DHA  | 4 |
|     |               |    | 23'20 TO 20'00 | BHA  | 3 |
|     |               |    | 20'00 TO 16'40 | THHA | 2 |
|     |               |    | 16'40 TO 13'20 | BU   | 1 |
| SAG | Mula          | KE | 13'20 TO 10'00 | BI   | 4 |
|     |               |    | 10'00 TO 06'40 | NA   | 3 |
|     |               |    | 06'40 TO 03'20 | YO   | 2 |
|     |               |    | 03'20 TO 0'00  | YAY  | 1 |

We are now completing 18 months of Rahu aspecting the feminine, the Earth (Capricorn) and Water signs, Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces. We witnessed the “Me Too” where women came forward in power (because this time, Rahu in Cancer was aspected by Jupiter in Scorpio the planet of truth and righteousness. We will now change from the nodes aspecting water and earth signs (the feminine)

To the nodes aspecting fire and air signs (the masculine). Rahu is very much at home in the sign of a friend (Mercury) where it will aspect by trine the intellectual air signs ruled by his other friends, Venus and Saturn. For the most part Rahu is comfortable in Gemini, because of the rule that the nodes take on the energy of the ruler of the sign where posited. So, we observe Mercury in its transit for that will have a direct influence on the effects delivered by Rahu.