

# KAMALA HARRIS – DURGA RISING and RAJA YOGAS

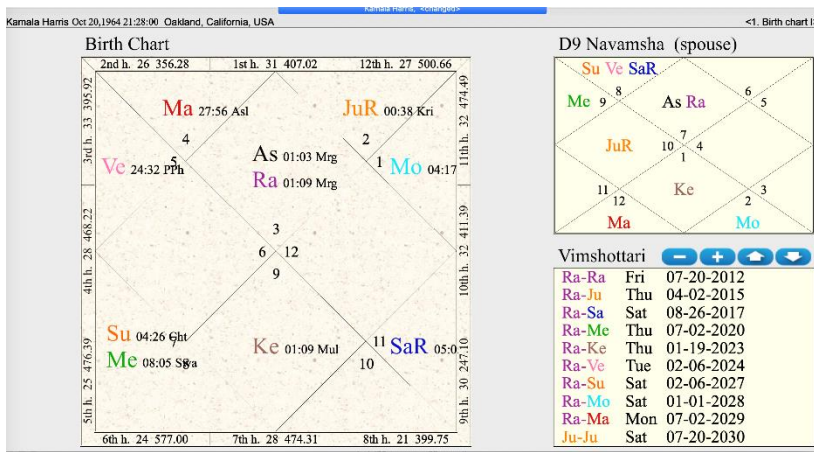


**by Lynn Bootes**  
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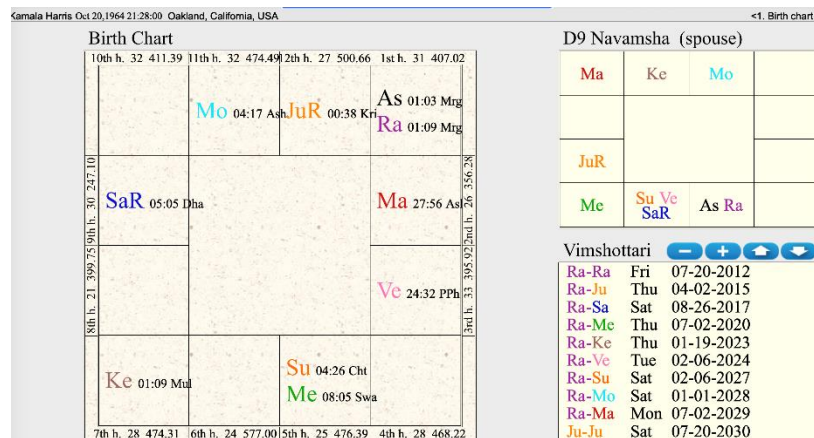
*Kamala Devi Harris became the first Black woman to be elected Vice President of the United States on January 20, 2021. Who is this person, a woman, an attorney, who claims both Black and Indian American heritage? What has her impact been in the fraught time of the 2020 election in the midst of a pandemic, uproar over police violence against Black Americans, and a violent neo-Fascist attempt to disrupt the election and inauguration? What do we make of this lady, whose name Kamala means lotus and whose middle name Devi invokes the divine feminine power or shakti, who has appeared at this time in America? Why does it seem to me at times when watching her on the podium, that one is seeing the Goddess Durga ride her tiger?*

*At the American College of Vedic Astrology, we follow the ancient tradition of training astrologers in how to make sense of the rich vocabulary of Planet, Zodiac Sign and Bhava or House. The chart of US Vice President Kamala Harris offers an excellent example of how special combinations or Raja Yogas in a chart can combine to enhance the potential for leadership. And once the key chart elements are identified, the astrologer can assess if these potentials will come to fruition at a particular time by looking at that unique timing system of Jyotish, the Vimshottari Dashas. Last year I wrote a longer article for Astrologic Magazine. Here I am focusing on the date of the election (November 5, 2020), the storming of the*





Capitol (January 6, 2021), the Inauguration (January 20, 2021) and President Biden's first address to Congress (April 28,, 2021). What has been happening in Ms. Harris' chart? Rather than write a full analysis, my focus will be on a few key features – I want to leave plenty unsaid for our ACVA students to uncover this year and in the years to follow.



As always we start with the Lagna – the Zodiac sign and degree on the Eastern Horizon at the time of birth. For Harris, we have a time of 9:28 pm from a written birth certificate, which is probably accurate within a minute or so. Rahu, the point of the Lunar Eclipse, is called a "shadow planet" because its existence and movements could

be calculated by the ancient astrologers. Even when there is no Eclipse, Rahu (known as the North Node of the Moon in Western astrology) has its unsettling and varied effects in the chart. Because it is exactly on the Lagna to the degree, it is extremely strong in this chart, while its opposite, Ketu the Solar Eclipse point, is in the 7<sup>th</sup> house and has a lesser effect. The effects of Rahu and Ketu are so unusual and complex that many Vedic astrologers consider them to accurately describe collective and unconscious forces far better than the "outer planets" of Western astrology.

In Harris' chart, Rahu is in the sign of Gemini, at the first degree of the sign. And while Rahu is a Natural Malefic – a challenging influence as it always is, there is an aphorism in Laghu Parashari that Rahu and Ketu in the Lagna for the signs ruled by Mercury and Jupiter – that is Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces – means that Rahu will have positive effects as a Raja Yoga. The person will rise to power even though Rahu may still have other negative effects in the life. The next very important Raja Yoga is that as Rahu is so close to the Lagna – at 1 degree and 9 minutes versus 1 degree and 3 minutes for the Lagna, Rahu will be in the Lagna of ALL the divisional charts or Vargas. So already we have distinguished this chart from the rather common event of merely having Rahu in the Lagna which happens in about 1 out of 12 birth charts!

*What are the characteristics of Rahu? In the teaching story, it is said that Rahu and Ketu were created when the great snake Valkmi had his head cut off by Vishnu as he grabbed a drink from the cup of sacred Soma, the nectar of bliss and immortality. (It's a long story from the Mahabharata, but suffice it to say that the Snake was attempting to set right a perceived injustice committed by Vishnu.) The head of the Snake, Rahu, remained alive but bodiless, and remained in a state of perpetual desire to consume experience and in particular to devour the Sun and Moon. In an individual life it is often difficult to even describe how and why the native born with Rahu in the Lagna wants what he or she wants – it is just part of them. I like to describe Rahu as the "Pac-Man of the Zodiac", after the popular video game of decades past. In practical terms, the person is on a mission and defines themselves by an ambitious mission. We certainly see this in Harris' life story – born to graduate students at the University of California at Berkeley, she was raised in an environment which valued social activism in pursuit of justice. As the child of immigrants raised to identify herself as an American Black, she was always the ambitious outsider and a crusader for reform within the system. At every step of education and career she seemed to be eyeing the next opportunity.*

*Rahu adopts the characteristics of any planet it is associated with, beginning with Saturn most of all. And in this chart, look at Saturn, which is located in the 9<sup>th</sup> house of higher education, dharma and law, and in a Zodiac sign it rules, Aquarius! Saturn is in really good condition here – not quite a perfect Shasha Yoga but close. This is the Pancha Mahapurusha Yoga of a "great person" because it is alone in its own sign in a Trikona (5<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> house). Not quite as powerful as it would be in a Kendra (1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>) but significant anyway. Note that Shasha Yoga has been associated with leadership of the masses in the traditional books. Harris' political career has focused on her role as a member of a racial and ethnic minority, and on her mission to bring her skills as a prosecuting attorney into politics. One of the associations of Rahu has been with the Goddess Durga, the Goddess who rides the Tiger to avenge wrongs done to women.*

*Next we look at the planet which rules the Zodiac sign where we find Rahu: Mercury rules the Gemini Lagna and is itself placed in the 5<sup>th</sup> house in Libra. Simply having the Lagna Lord in the 5<sup>th</sup> house is another Raja Yoga. Then notice that Mercury is located next to the Sun, which is the Budha Aditya Yoga indicative of high intelligence. With these two in the 5<sup>th</sup> house, one of the interpretations is ability to absorb past knowledge and education. Another meaning is punya karma – good karma from past lives. And a third is interest and ability in the arts. Harris was the child of immigrants but of highly intelligent, ambitious ones who both became tenured professors. So her baseline for measuring achievement would have been to become a member of the academic or professional class.*

*And so she did, becoming an attorney. Yet her Raja Yoga took her beyond that to become a world famous political figure. Harris by the way, had a talent for dance which she enjoyed in her teen years, and she has a real gift for public speaking.*

*Then we look at the Nakshatra ruler of Rahu and the Lagna, which is Mars. It is located in Cancer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house and it is not as good, being debilitated or weak in that sign. BUT, it has a mutual lordship with her Moon in Aries – Parivartana Yoga – so it rates a Neecha Bhanga Raja Yoga status. It is not a major player but with both Mars and Moon in the money houses, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, she is able to make a living and raise money. Never underestimate raising money for a politician! Mars does cause problems in this chart but I'm not going to concentrate on those now – suffice it so say I am not surprised to see Harris at the middle of core issues which divide the American public at this time.*

*Now on to another important category of Raja Yoga for this chart – the interaction of the trikona lords and lagna lord. The Lagna Lord is Mercury which is in the 5<sup>th</sup> house of Libra with the Sun. The 5<sup>th</sup> lord is Venus which is in Leo in the 3<sup>rd</sup> house, and Saturn is the 9<sup>th</sup> lord in its own sign of Aquarius in the 9<sup>th</sup>. Notice that the 9<sup>th</sup> lord Saturn is aspected by the 5<sup>th</sup> lord Venus! And Venus itself contributes to her performing abilities in the third house in Leo. And then we see that Venus in Leo is in a mutual lordship or Parivartana Yoga with the Sun which is in Libra in the 5<sup>th</sup>, so the Sun's energy is drawn into this mix. And finally, because Mercury is with the Sun, it gets drawn into the connection with its ruler Venus so there is a 1<sup>st</sup> lord, 3<sup>rd</sup> lord and 5<sup>th</sup> lord connection. All of these contribute to the effect of the many Raja Yogas in this chart.*

*Now let's look at what was happening in the Vimshottari Dashas for the period around the 2020 election and up to the present. Harris has her Moon at 4 degrees 17 minutes of Aries at birth – in Ashwini, ruled by Ketu. At age 4 years 9 months, she went into Venus Dasha – we have already noted the very favorable condition of Venus as lord of the 5<sup>th</sup>, in aspect to the lord of the 9<sup>th</sup> and in Parivartana Yoga with the Sun in the 5<sup>th</sup> house. Highly auspicious for her education!*

*Harris' Rahu dasha began on July 20, 2012, when she had already been elected Attorney General of the State of California. In the Antardasha or sub-period of Rahu/Jupiter, in 2015, she was already close to Biden through a close friendship with his son Beau. Beau Biden died of a brain tumor, and Harris received the endorsement from the California Democratic Party for her successful Senate campaign. Note that Jupiter is the lord of her 10<sup>th</sup> house of career. On this same day, Donald Trump was elected President of the United States.*

*Her Rahu/Saturn antardasha started on August 20, 2017. She was appointed to the Senate Judiciary Committee after the resignation of Senator Al Franken over sexual misconduct allegations. She was in the midst of hearings on Trump Supreme Court nominee Kavanaugh, the Mueller investigation, investigation of hate crimes, and the first impeachment of Trump. With Rahu in the Lagna and Saturn in its own sign in the 9<sup>th</sup> house, she was a rapidly rising figure. In May, 2019, after protests of the death of George Floyd, Biden made good on his pledge to choose a woman of color as his running mate, and that person was Kamala Harris.*

*Rahu/Mercury began June 30, 2020. Note Rahu in the Lagna and the Lagna Lord Mercury in the 5<sup>th</sup> house. Again a power combination. On August 20, 2020 she was officially nominated as Vice Presidential candidate at the virtual Democratic convention and gave a stirring speech. Election Day on November 3, 2020, occurred with Harris' Dashas being RA/ME/ME/SA! Normally it can be difficult to pinpoint the sub-periods down to this level, but in this case we see the Lagna, the Lagna Lord and the 9<sup>th</sup> lord all active. This is what is meant by activation of a Raja Yoga.*

*The storming of the Capitol on January 6, 2021 and the Inauguration on January 20 both occurred in Harris' RA/ME/VE/VE sub-period. Here we have Rahu in the Lagna, the Lagna Lord and the 5<sup>th</sup> house lord. Another powerful activation.*

*And on April 28, 2021, her appearance alongside President Biden for his speech to Congress took place in her RA/ME/VE/SA sub-period – Now we have Rahu plus all three trikona lords active.*

*Looking ahead, she will be in the very favorable Rahu/Mercury period through January of 2023. The Rahu/Ketu period may prove more challenging but is soon followed by another extremely favorable antardasha, Rahu/Venus, beginning in February 2024 and extending past the 2024 Presidential election.*

*Most of the time, when we look at birth charts of more ordinary people, the patterns are more complex and actually more challenging to interpret. That is our work most of the time as astrologers. But such a clear cut example of Raja Yogas gives the teachers and students at ACVA a paradigm to remember – an example which sticks in our minds. This is the world of Jyotish study, which has its delights.*

**BIRTH DATA: OCTOBER 20, 1964, 9:28 PM, OAKLAND, CA, USA.**  
*Source: Astrodatbank from birth certificate, AA data*