

PRINCE PHILIP – A LEO LAGNA CHART?

by Lynn Bootes

American College of Vedic Astrology

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What does a Vedic astrologer have to say about 99 year old Prince Consort Philip Mountbatten, married for 72 years to Queen Elizabeth of England? Born on June 10, 1921 on the Island of Corfu in Greece and died on April 9, 2021, he began life as a royal exile abandoned by his parents and raised by relatives. His exceptionally long life, rise to prominence, an enduring marriage and his role as family patriarch make his birth chart one of interest. Vedic astrologers have a term for the one who rises to power – Raja Yoga – not the kind of yoga you do in the studio but the Yoga or joining of various elements in the birth chart that shows a predisposition for leadership or – literally – kingship (Raja means Royal). Students at ACVA learn about this important Yoga and many others after mastering the basic vocabulary of Jyotish or Vedic astrology.

This birth chart presents a problem because unlike the rest of the British Royal Family, we do not have a confirmed birth time for Philip. Astrodatabank (astro.com) has two possible times – and both are anecdotal. Vedic astrologers love to fool around with challenges of this sort – we call this rectification – another technique we teach about at ACVA. But we also know from reading the ancient classic Jyotish texts such as Parasara and Phalideepika, that astrologers have had to contend with such uncertainty and have strategies.

I used two important techniques in this process: analyzing possible Lagnas and then using the timing techniques of Vimshottari Dashas to fine tune. First, I considered what sign to place in the Lagna, the Ascendant or rising sign in western terminology. The rashi or zodiac constellation rising in the east is the anchor of the whole chart. Once a Lagna is considered, then I look for very prominent characteristics for this individual. For Philip, I found some very unique stories connected with his father and mother – his mother was a strong and compassionate woman who was a nurse and became a Greek Orthodox nun, and overcame deafness. His father disgraced himself in war, was ejected from his country, put his wife in an asylum and abandoned his children to be raised by others. He spent the remainder of his life as a gambler in Monte Carlo. Everything Philip accomplished has to be considered in light of this parental tragedy.

Sagittarius Lagna Chart The 9:46 pm birth time was based upon a report by a servant – no royal state for this birth – the fifth child, he may have arrived rapidly, and the kitchen table of the residence was prepared for the birth. A Western astrologer took the 10:00 pm report and rectified it to 9:46 pm. This birth time has 20:47 degrees Sagittarius in the Lagna (remember for those Western astrologers – this is Sidereal zodiac – subtract 22 degrees from the Western tropical zodiac). I can easily see Philip as a Sagittarius rising – tall, athletic, brave, opinionated, and one who wishes to embody the Dharma of his culture. In this chart the father would be seen in the 9th house – He has Jupiter and Saturn there in Leo. This seems just too uncomplicated to describe his father's story. I would have expected the father to open doors for him and not abandon him. In this chart the Moon is in the 8th house which could easily describe the losses connected with his mother. But the ruler of the 4th house Pisces is Jupiter in the 9th house – rather too positive. Having Venus and Ketu in the 5th house of Children could be accurate – he had a lot of disappointment with several of his children. And the lord of the 10th house of career is Mercury which is in the 7th house of marriage – his marriage was his career. However, from what we know of this 72 year marriage makes me skeptical of Mercury and Mars in the 7th house – I would have expected much more conflict and arguing with the wife which from all reports was not the case.

Cancer Lagna Chart: The other birth time reported by his father was 10:00 am – but it was recorded several months later and may represent the time it was entered in the public record, or be based upon his father's memory. We don't even know if his father was present at the birth. In this second chart, the Lagna would be Cancer with the Moon in the Lagna. I just can't picture Philip as a Cancer Lagna – he did not look the part, and though he was loved by his family he was hardly the subtle diplomat one would expect with Moon in the Lagna (contrast with the silver-tongued Jawaharlal Nehru!) Jupiter and Saturn are together in the 2nd house of wealth, and the Sun is in Taurus in the 11th house. This is a combination for wealth, but he did not inherit wealth from his dad and he was not primarily motivated by wealth. Another problem in this chart is that it puts Venus and Ketu in the 10th house of Career – with this combination of Moon in the Lagna and Venus in the 10th I would be looking for someone with artistic sensibilities or career, not the soldier and sportsman that was Philip.

Leo Lagna Chart: But since this 10:00 am chart is near the end of Cancer Lagna, I decided to see what would happen if I supposed a Leo Lagna – which one gets for any birth time after 10:25 am. I chose 11:05 am for reasons I'll discuss below. Now this chart leapt into focus!! Leo Lagna is fiery and dharma motivated and has a natural affinity for being the ruler. But as a fixed sign it is also enduring. While Sagittarius Lagna people may poop out, Leo goes the distance. Lord Mountbatten his uncle took the 8 year old Philip on a hunting and fishing trip soon after his adoption, and was impressed how well he functioned in challenging conditions. In his career he gave hundreds of public speeches per year for 50 years!

Now look at Jupiter and Saturn in the Lagna. If there were ever a person who desired to embody the social ethos of his times, it was Philip. His early life was molded by the events of World War I and the aftermath. In 1939-40, as Jupiter and Saturn came together again, he had met his future wife and went to war as a young naval officer as his adopted country faced mortal peril. In 1960, at his third Jupiter/Saturn return, he faced the challenges of a parent of rebellious teens while maintaining the facade of royalty in a time when the Cold War was at its height. In 1980, he confronted his son and heir Charles of the necessity of producing heirs and pushed him into marriage with Diana. In the year 2,000, already feeling his age, he maintained his schedule of public appearances and speeches while attempting to guide his grandsons through the loss of their mother and supporting the Queen. And finally, as Jupiter and Saturn made their conjunction again in December 2020, he faded into death after a final year in COVID isolation with the Queen.

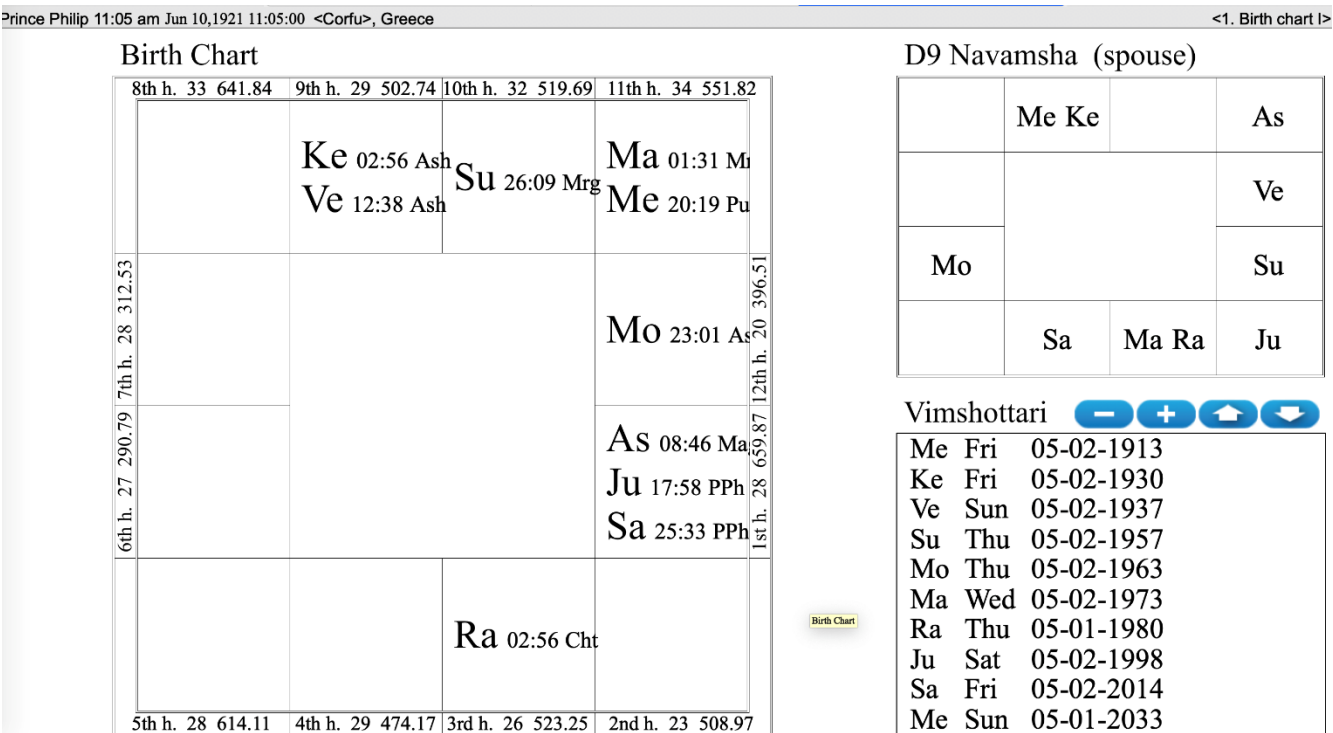
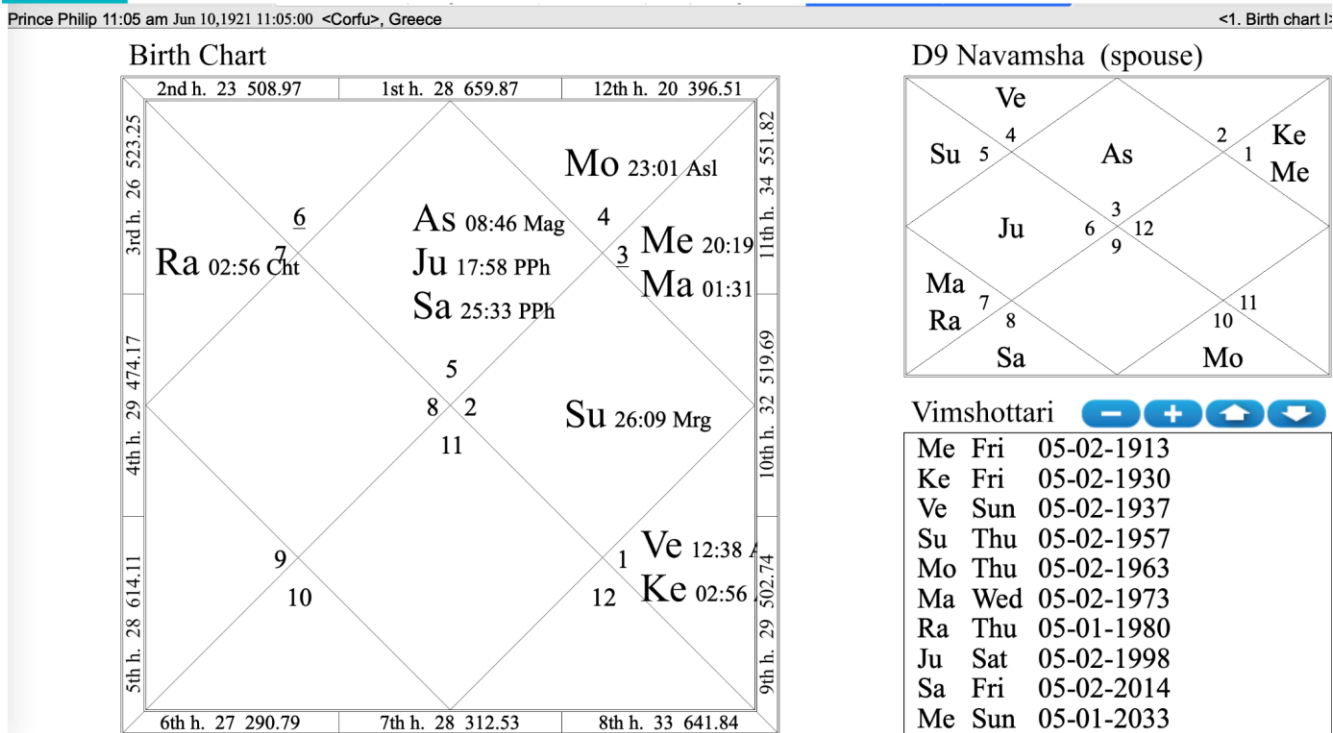
In the Leo Lagna chart, what do we see about the father? The 9th house is Aries, with Venus and Ketu in the house. The Venus/Ketu combination describes accurately his gambler/alcoholic father. The lord of the 9th house is Mars which is combined with Mercury in the 11th house – his father was remembered for all his ill-fated attempts to mount a return as monarch of Greece. Meanwhile, though, Jupiter and Saturn themselves also indicate the father, and Philip embodied the best traits he could pick up from his English tutors and his uncles.

Going back to his Leo Lagna, we look at the Lagna Lord, which for Leo is the Sun. The Sun is all alone in the 10th house and is in rather good condition. While the condition of the Sun is not perfect, due to an aspect from Saturn and flanking by malefics, it is pretty darn good – one of the Raja Yogas.

Meanwhile, the Cancer Moon is in the 12th house, not at all the best place for the Moon. But then, how better to describe a woman who was deaf, worked as a nurse, was committed to a mental institution, became a nun, and secretly sheltered a family of Jews from the Nazis?

What about the spouse in this chart? We notice the 7th house is Aquarius and the lord of the house is Saturn which is in the Lagna. Philip's ego managed the challenge of the role of Royal Consort by identifying whole-heartedly with everything about the Royal Family and the British Empire. In fact, ironically, his greatest flaw was his politically incorrect bluntness. Just as he adopted everything Royal, the British Empire was being dismantled, while he continued to reveal the racist and imperialist

vocabulary of the old empire. Yes, Leo Lagna would do that!



Vimshottari Dashas for fine tuning:

In the first year of the ACVA curriculum, we get to the dashas near the end, once the other principles are mastered. It takes a lot of practice just to get this far – your head may be spinning just thinking of different Lagnas as we did above! But this is exactly what Vedic astrologers do. When we add in the Vimshottari Dashas, we find that we can narrow things down to a few months or weeks – in the process I found that 11:05 am matched some important life events very closely.

Before getting to the Dashas, the ACVA students get an introduction to the Nakshatras – the traditional Lunar Mansions of India, which are imbedded in the culture and used in a number of ways in Vedic astrology. There are 27 of them, each being 13d20m of longitude – about the distance the Moon travels against the backdrop of the stars from one night to the next. Philip was born with his Moon in Cancer – for 11:06 am the Moon was at 23d02m and was in the Nakshatra of Ashlesha.

Ashlesha is ruled by the planet Mercury, so he began his Dasha journey in the period of **Mercury**. We notice a few things about Mercury – it is in its own sign of Gemini but is afflicted by Mars and in a not very helpful 11th house. The 11th house has a mixed reputation in Vedic astrology – as being the 6th house from the 6th house of enemies! And the Mercury/Mars combination is often one of conflict. That pretty well describes the situation as his grandfather the King of Greece had been assassinated in 1913 and Greece was facing invasion from Turkey. When Philip was only a year old, on **Sept 22, 1922**, in the **Mercury Dasha/Mars Sub-dasha**, the family had to flee to Italy as his father fell out of favor. King George of England helped them escape and provided support, feeling guilt that he had not saved the Tsar of Russia and the Romanovs from execution a few years earlier. The family settled near Paris.

Next are the 7 years of **Ketu Dasha** which often brings loss. Notice that Ketu is located in the 9th house of the father in the first degrees of Aries along with Venus. Ketu takes on multiple characteristics – it behaves like Mars, like the sign it rules (Aries/Mars), planets it is located with (Venus) and the Nakshatra it is in (Ashwini/Ketu). So it activated the most unstable elements of Philip's chart. **On May 2, 1930**, at the very beginning of Ketu Dasha, his mother was forcibly removed to a sanitarium by the family because of a mental breakdown involving delusions. The children came back from holiday to find her missing. His four sisters were soon married off to German princelings, and Philip sent to boarding school in England. The father took up a rootless existence centered on Monte Carlo. The next seven years were the most difficult for Philip, as the boarding schools were brutal and strict. In these years his home was with the Mountbatten family in London, his maternal grandmother and his uncles.

The 20 year **Venus Dasha** began on **May 2, 1937**. Although afflicted by Ketu in the 9th house, Venus rules the 10th house of Taurus where he has the Sun. The possibility of a prominent career came up – he could be an excellent Naval Officer. As lord of the 3rd house, Venus connected with Rahu which is there, and the favorability of siblings and uncles helping his career. With the 3rd house we see his athleticism. And Venus is the karaka or significator for the woman a man might marry. Behind the scenes the Royal Family was beginning to face the necessity of marriage for young Princess Elizabeth, who because of her uncle's abdication was now in line for the throne. In **August, 1939**, just before the start of WWII, Philip was in the **VE/VE** dasha period when the Royal Family toured the Dartmouth Naval College and Philip was their tour guide. The 13 year old Elizabeth immediately formed a crush on the dashing young officer five years her senior. But he was away most of the years of the War, serving on various ships and rising through the ranks. He proposed in the summer of 1946 in **VE/Rahu**, and they were married on **November 16, 1947**. Using the 11:05 am birth time, he would have been in the extremely auspicious **VE/Jupiter** period. Prince Charles was born the following November in **VE/JU** and Princess Ann in August 1950 in **VE/Saturn**. On February 2, 1950, the King died and Philip became Prince Consort as Elizabeth became Queen. (**VE/SA**). Here we see that the sub-periods of Jupiter and Saturn were active in those pivotal years of marriage and coming to

his highest position.

Sun, Moon and Mars Dashas passed during the years of raising children to adulthood. I am going to fast forward to **Rahu Dasha**, which for Philip ran from 1980-1998. Prince Charles, the son and heir, had yet to marry, or even propose. He had been dating Diana since 1977, and in 1981 Philip told him to propose to Diana or to find someone else. **(RA/RA)** Charles married Diana and fathered two children in 1982 and 1984, all the while carrying on a secret affair with his old flame Camilla. Diana and Charles separated in 1992 **(RA/VE)** and divorced in 1996 **(RA/MO)**. Diana's death on August 31, 1997 **(RA/MA/SA)** occurred in the last months of Philip's Rahu Dasha. Rahu in this chart behaves like Saturn, its sign lord Venus, and like its Nakshatra lord Mars. In addition, Rahu gets a special aspect from Saturn. All these planets were activated by Dasha sub-periods at critical times in these traumatic years. Philip's personal reactions as a family member were well-shielded from the public, but William and Harry have stated after his death that his emotional support after their mother's death was very meaningful to them – his own losses as a child gave him the voice to reach their injured hearts.

Charles was nearly 80 when he entered the 16 year **Jupiter Dasha** in 1998. In one interview he said he was finding age burdensome, but he continued a strenuous round of Royal duties. He apparently committed himself to standing strong by the Queen, who showed every sign that she would reach 100 years or more. Jupiter is in Leo in the Lagna and is ruler of the 5th and 8th houses. Jupiter makes special trine aspects to the 5th house of children and the 9th house of grandchildren – during these years Charles finally married Camilla on April 9, 2005 in a civil ceremony **(JU/KE)**. Grandson Prince William married on April 29, 2011 **(JU/MA)** and great grandson Prince George, fourth in line to the throne, was born on June 30, 2013 at the very end of Philip's Jupiter Dasha.

Saturn Dasha began in 2014 when Philip was already 93 years old. After nearly 8 years of slow decline he died on April 9, 2021 in **SA/KE** period. The Maraka houses which in addition to their other functions can bring death if the time is ripe, are Saturn (7th lord) and Mercury (2nd lord). He had just finished the **Mercury sub-period** and had passed into **Ketu**.

All of these key dates fit the Dashas as calculated for 11:05 am in Leo Lagna, and the dates of separation from his parents and for meeting Elizabeth fit very closely. Therefore, I am making a case for Leo Lagna for Prince Philip.

In the ACVA curriculum there are a number of opportunities to work with such unknown birth times, and Vedic astrologers love to debate among themselves. I am by no means stating that this is the ONLY way to read this chart, just merely it is one way to work with the data. In the process I hope the readers have got a little glimpse into the workings of Jyotish and how astrologers think.

Charlotte Benson had these thoughts on comets and royalty:

“When beggars die there are no comets seen; The heavens themselves blaze for the death of princes.” It may seem strange to quote Shakespeare while thinking about Jyotish principles regarding the influence of comets – but that, quite succinctly, is the effect of many visible comets.

Much in the same way that comet Hale-Bopp, which blazed in the night sky for weeks preceding Princess Diana's death in 1997, comet Neowise, visible in June and July of 2020, may have been a contributing factor in the demise of Prince Philip. Varhamihira in his classic Brihat Samhita also mentions similar political effects of “Dhumketu” - comets.

Lynn Bootes