

ACVA Newsletter 2025-06 – Jyotish article



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Star Gazers: The Birth Charts of Astrologers, Part 2

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Dedicated to Shri K.N. Rao, who ignited in me the light of *Jyotiṣa*.

“Jyotiṣa is the art of seeing light, of guiding, of counseling based on the truth called the horoscope. Jyotiṣa is the fusion of the divine with the mundane, the metaphysical with the scientific methodology, a divine chorus of the music of the heavens and the dance of the stars.”

Introduction

In last month’s newsletter, I discussed those elements of the horoscope that are generally considered strong significations of one’s talent for doing *Jyotiṣa*. To recap the highlights, Mercury is the primary planetary *kāraka* for astrology, while the secondary *kāraka* is Jupiter, who rules *Veda* and *vedāṅga*. Mercury and Jupiter are also the two educational planets and therefore, people are often first attracted to studying *Jyotiṣa* when they’re running the conjoined periods of those two planets.

In his book *Yogis, Destiny and the Wheel of Time*, K.N. Rao summarized the desirable horoscopic features for a potential astrologer, which include Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn and Ketu:

- A strong Mercury and Jupiter are desirable in general. Mercury is ideal in the 4th house, excellent in the 8th, and good in the 10th. In general, Mercury in the *kendras* is preferred.
- An unafflicted Jupiter in the 10th house aspects the 4th and 2nd house, the latter implying that a person would speak truth, and their predictions would be accurate. Jupiter in any of the esoteric houses (4th, 8th, 12th) aspects the other two in that triad.
- An unblemished Saturn in the 3rd, 5th and 9th houses gives a detached, unbiased view of matters.

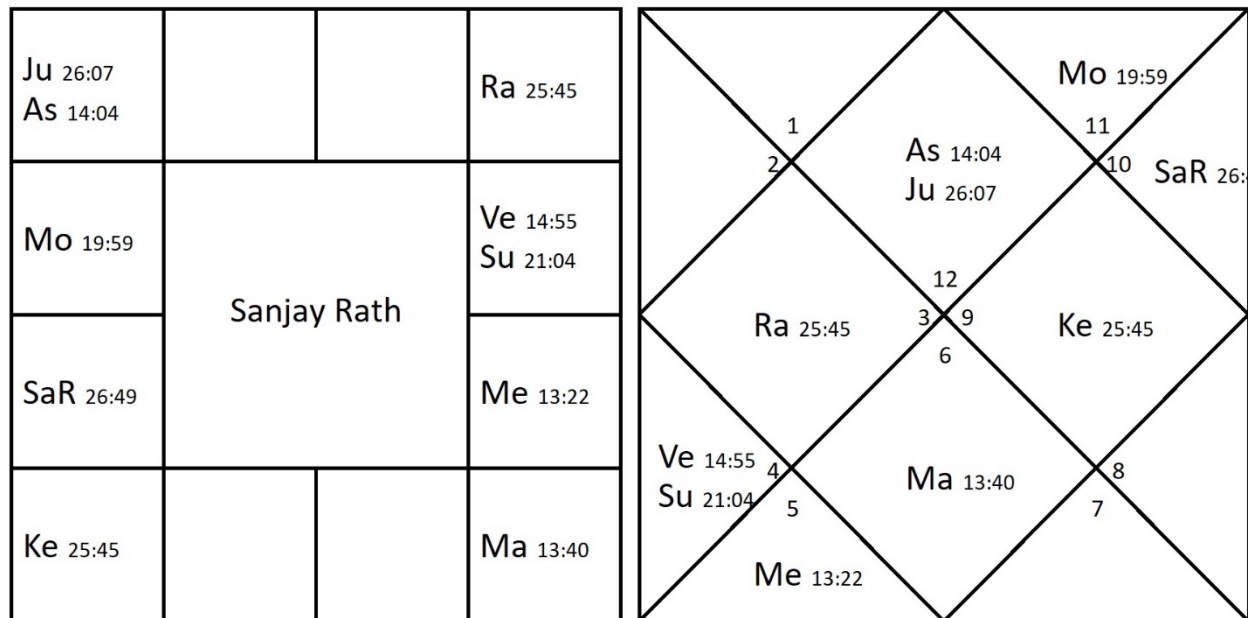
- Spiritual Ketu in the esoteric houses, ie, 4th, 8th or 12th, ideally influenced by strong natural benefics, especially Jupiter or Mercury, or the 5th and/or 9th lords.

In Part 1 of this essay, I used as examples the horoscopes of three prominent Indian *jyotishis* – Dr. B.V. Raman, B. Suryanarain Rao, and my own mentor K.N. Rao. Now, to further illustrate the validity of the key significations recapped above, let’s examine the horoscopes of several other contemporary astrologers.

Sanjay Rath

Sanjay Rath is a prominent contemporary Indian practitioner, teacher and author of *Jyotiṣa*. A distinguishing feature of his birth chart is a *svakṣetra* Jupiter as the *lagna* and 10th lord in the *lagna* giving a good *Harṁsa* Yoga. Jupiter’s mutual aspect with the 9th lord Mars is a very superior, fame-giving *rāja* yoga.

His chart also features a *vargottama* Mercury as the 4th lord and it was in Mercury’s *mahādaśā* that he first came to prominence as a teacher and author.

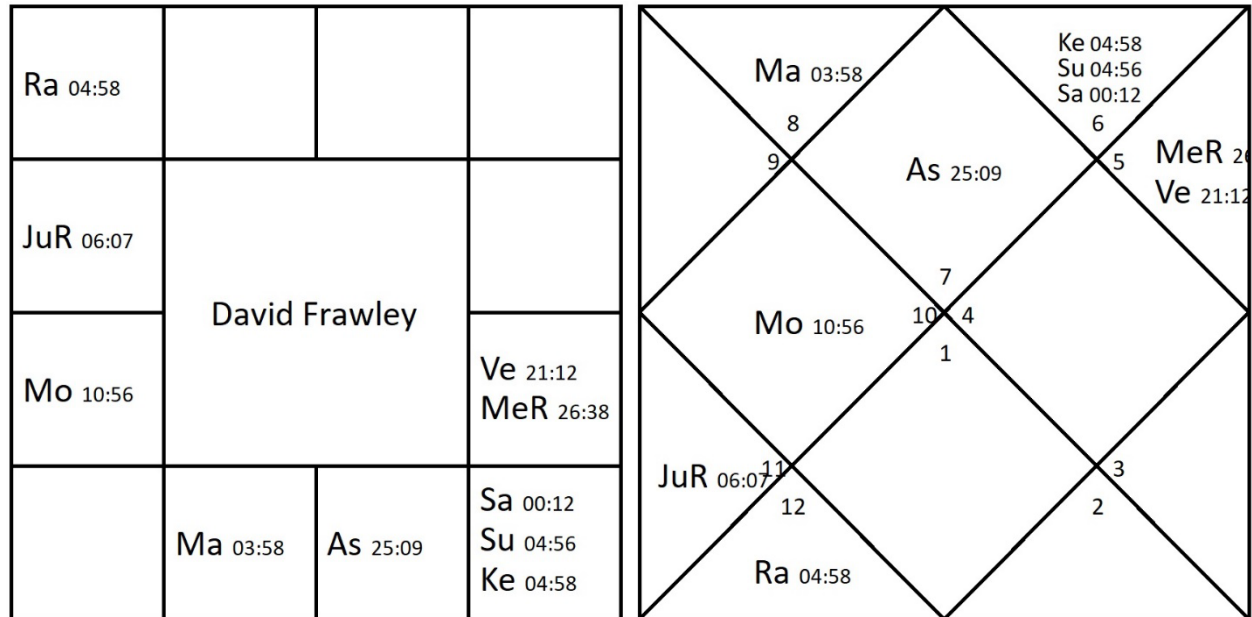


David Frawley

David Frawley is perhaps the most well-known among contemporary American astrologers. He is a prolific scholar of not just *Jyotiṣa* but of the whole Vedic tradition of knowledge, and has authored numerous books on other Vedic sciences such as *Āyurveda*. He was responsible for bringing B.V. Raman and K.N. Rao to the U.S. and was among the organizers of the first conferences here starting in 1992.

His birth chart features *Sarasvatī* Yoga, with Jupiter in the 5th house strong in Aquarius and in a mutual glance with the *lagna* lord Venus and 9th lord Mercury. It was his Jupiter period that brought him to prominence in the world of *Jyotiṣa* in the U.S., as he was among the first Americans to author a good book on this topic. His *Astrology of the Seers* was first published in

1990 in his Jupiter-Mercury period, and it was in Jupiter-Venus that he was a major figure in the first conferences.

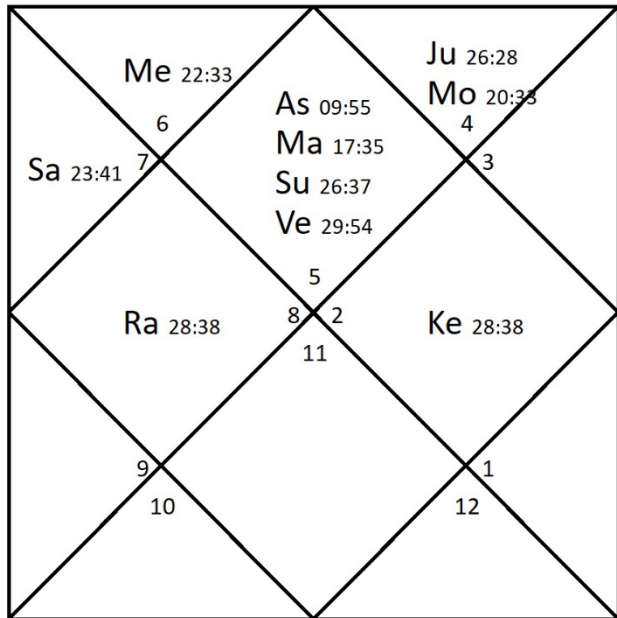


Dennis Harness

Dennis Harness is another prominent American Vedic astrologer. He was also one of the organizers of the first conferences in the early 90s and continued for decades to offer an annual conference in Sedona, Arizona, where he lives. He first made a name for himself by publishing one of the first books by a Westerner on the *nakṣatras*.

Like the horoscope of Shri Rao, his features both an exalted Mercury and Jupiter, in his case forming an excellent *Śubha Katāri* Yoga. The other distinctive feature is the significant *rāja* yoga formed by the combination of *lagnesh* Sun with the *yogakāraka* (4th and 9th lord) Mars with the 10th lord Venus in the *lagna*. It is no surprise that he rose to prominence in the latter part of Venus and then, especially, in the Sun *mahādaśā*.

		Ke 28:38	
	Dennis Harness		Mo 20:33 Ju 26:28
			As 09:55 Ma 17:35 Su 26:37 Ve 29:54
	Ra 28:38	Sa 23:41	Me 22:33

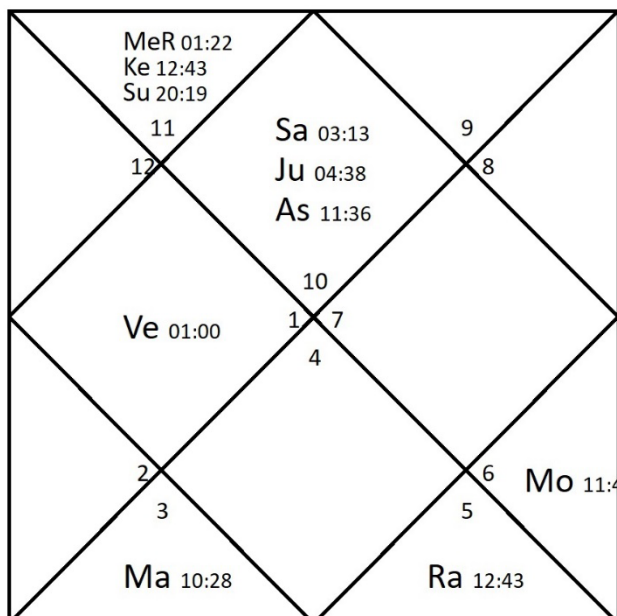


Vaughn Paul Manley

Vaughn Paul Manley is another well-known American *jyotiṣi* who was an ardent student of K.N. Rao. He's authored a number of articles and published an excellent book on the important topic of birth time rectification. Two yogas in his chart are very relevant to his long-time involvement in the Vedic tradition of knowledge. *Sarasvatī* Yoga is present here as well as *Viriñci* Yoga defined by when Jupiter, Saturn and the 5th lord are in *kendras* or *trikonas* in strength. His Jupiter is *nīcabhaṅga* in the 1st house with a *vargottama* and *svakṣetra* Saturn, while the 5th lord Venus is *vargottama* and getting directional strength in the 4th house.

His Jupiter and Saturn *mahādaśās* activated his yoga and promoted a successful career in Vedic astrology. He published his book in Saturn-Moon, with the Moon in the 9th house of publishing.

	Ve 01:00		Ma 10:28
Su 20:19 Ke 12:43 MeR 01:22	Vaughn Paul Manley		
As 11:36 Ju 04:38 Sa 03:13			Ra 12:43
			Mo 11:44

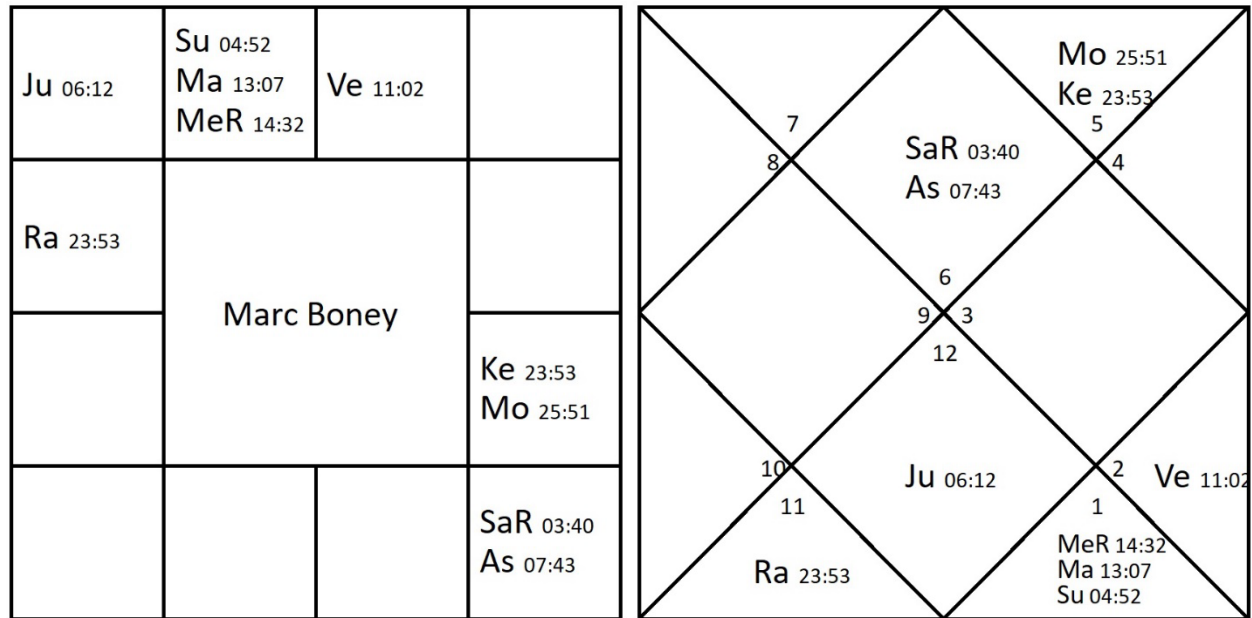


Marc Boney

My own journey with *Jyotiṣa* started just after I began my Jupiter major period, *svakṣetra* in a *kendra* and ruling the 4th house. By the time I moved into Jupiter-Saturn I was already teaching, writing articles, and presenting at conferences. This continued in a low-key way throughout the remainder of the Jupiter *mahādaśā* while I was earning my living through other career activities.

In Jupiter-Mercury I was invited to teach at the Deepak Chopra's Center for Well-Being in La Jolla, California and it was at this time that I wrote the instructional material that became my books, *Jyotiṣa for Beginners*, Volumes One and Two.

But whatever name I may have in the world of *Jyotiṣa* today has come mostly in my Saturn major period, starting in Saturn-Mercury when I began to author in earnest and to teach courses online. It was in this period/sub-period that I also began teaching abroad, both in India at Shri Rao's school as a guest lecturer, as well as in Russia. The result on the authorship side is now 75 articles and 24 book publications. I will leave it to the reader to see why Saturn has given this.



Summary

As can be seen from the horoscopes of the astrologers discussed in both Part 1 (ACVA's May newsletter) and this Part 2, Mercury and Jupiter played a key role.

- Out of the eight horoscopes featured, four had a bright-phase (Rx) Mercury, two had Mercury in a *kendra*, two had Mercury exalted, two had Mercury *vargottama*, and two had Mercury in a *Parivartana*.
- Among those eight horoscopes, five had Jupiter in a *kendra* (of which two had *dig bala*), and four had Jupiter *svakṣetra* or exalted.

- Among those eight horoscopes, two featured Mercury or Jupiter as *lagnesh*, while another three had their respective *lagnesh* in *sambandha* with Mercury and/or Jupiter.

Finally, as noted in both Parts 1 and 2, many of these astrologers commenced their studies in *Jyotiṣa*, or began to teach, or published books, or came to prominence, in major or minor periods of Mercury and Jupiter.

Indeed, *Jyotiṣa* is a divine ballet, and as astrologers we are both participants and observers. Such is the profound engagement of our profession with the lives of those around us.

In conclusion, let me say again that my gratitude towards K.N. Rao for what he taught me, to the benefit in turn of my clients and students, is eternal and unbounded.

Birth data of featured astrologers:

- Sanjay Rath, 07 August 1963, 21h15 IST, Sambalpur, India.
- David Frawley, 21 September 1950, 10h18 CST, La Crosse, Wisconsin.
- Dennis Harness, 13 September 1955, 04h38 CST, Kansas City, Missouri.
- Vaughn-Paul Manley, 04 March 1961, 05h07 CST, Des Moines, Iowa.
- Marc Boney, 18 April 1951, 16h54 EST, Toledo, Ohio.

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Marc Boney is an internationally renowned astrological teacher, writer and consultant. He received his training in *Jyotiṣa* primarily from K.N. Rao, one of the world's foremost practitioners. Marc has been a featured speaker at international conferences, and is the author of 32 e-books available on Amazon. He is an adjunct faculty member of the Institute of Astrology, *Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan*, of New Delhi, India, and recipient of their Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to advancing Vedic astrology in the West. Marc holds an MA in Counseling Psychology from Northwestern University and, prior to becoming a full-time *jyotishi*, held positions in corporate human resources. <http://marcboney.com/>