

ACVA Newsletter 2025-08 – Technical article



By Odelia Eskinazi

Vedic Astrologist and Author

Shakata Yoga

Some endings barely register. They pass quietly, and life moves on. But others hit hard and stay with you, leaving a space that feels empty and raw. You find yourself crippled, caught in grief that seems like it may never lift. You refuse to believe what happened, clinging to a past version that no longer exists. And yet, over time, that same space can become fertile ground where something new begins to grow. In retrospect, it's often the moments that stripped away everything I once depended on, what I loved or believed in most, that led to the most powerful transformations.

It's no coincidence that the study of Vedic astrology was bequeathed to me during a difficult time in my life, at the start of my Jupiter *mahadasha*. At that time, transiting Saturn was exactly opposing my natal Moon, determined to aggravate the gloom and doom. Since then, *Jyotish* has never ceased to amaze me nor to nurture the "perpetual student" within. With its vastness and depth, there is always something new to learn. Above all, it truly lives up to its name, illuminating our paths and expanding our awareness through its revelations and quiet, sublime guidance.

One of the great strengths of *Jyotish*, among its many remarkable attributes, is its rich collection of yogas. Yogas are a unique feature of Vedic astrology, playing a central role in its interpretive and predictive power. Our birth chart is essentially a map of our *prarabdha karma*, the karma that has ripened and is ready to be experienced during this incarnation. Like all elements of the birth chart, yogas also carry karmic significance, shaping an individual's destiny, personality, and life events. Some are highly auspicious, bringing blessings, opportunities, and a notable rise in life. Others indicate potential challenges or hardships that prompt growth and transformation.

Among the thousands of yogas described in classical texts, some are specifically associated with reversal: contrasting experiences, unexpected shifts, fluctuations, and transformation. They reflect the unpredictable, often paradoxical nature of existence, where circumstances can

change abruptly, and outcomes unfold in ways no one could foresee. *Shakata Yoga* is one of these.

This yoga is formed when the Moon is in the sixth, eighth, or twelfth house from Jupiter. However, a significant exception arises when the Moon occupies a *kendra* (the 1st, 4th, 7th, or 10th house from the *lagna*), where it tends to stabilize, and prevent the formation of this yoga.

The term *shakata* means “cart,” and the imagery it evokes is that of a cartwheel spinning along the road. One moment you’re at the top, with life seemingly in your favor; the next, you’re at the bottom, facing setbacks. It’s this cycle of ascent and descent that captures the spirit of *Shakata Yoga*.

Phaladeepika (6:17) offers the traditional description of this yoga:

“The native who has his birth in a Shakata Yoga will often be unfortunate and may regain what he had once lost. His will be a very ordinary and insignificant birth in this world. Inevitably he will suffer from much mental agony and be exceedingly unhappy.”

This verse highlights the potential misfortune and emotional hardship associated with *Shakata Yoga*. Individuals born under its influence may face significant hardships, losses, and setbacks that cause deep mental anguish and sorrow.

Yet, the phrase “*may regain what he had once lost*” hints at something more. It suggests that while ill-fated events are likely, recovery is also possible. The essence of this yoga lies in its fluctuation between extremes. It may bring decline and difficulty, but it also holds space for renewal and growth. At its core, *Shakata Yoga* reminds us that life does not remain still; it is always moving. In that constant turning of the wheel lies both challenge and promise.

As the nursery school rhyme goes, *the wheels on the bus go round and round* for each and every one of us. We all have our good days and bad days. But for some, these wheels turn with greater force: not just the usual ups and downs, but major shifts that change the course of life. *Shakata Yoga* often appears in the charts of those who face intense, life-altering circumstances. Yet because of its very nature, it’s also found in charts that show strength of character and resilience, those who choose to remain unyielding and strong no matter what life throws their way.

The reversals brought by *Shakata Yoga* tend to be more difficult when the Moon is weak, destabilized by malefic influences, and/or situated in a *dusthana* (6th, 8th, or 12th house) from the *lagna*, while also occupying one of these houses from Jupiter. Jupiter’s condition matters just as much. Its weakness or affliction may worsen the blow, while its strength can soften the impact.

Here are two example charts from my book *Patterns of Contrast in Vedic Astrology*, featuring *Shakata Yogas* in the horoscopes of Christopher Reeve and Romina Power. These not only help illustrate how this pattern can change the course of life through some sudden, profound occurrence but also reveal the strength of character and resilience often associated with this yoga.

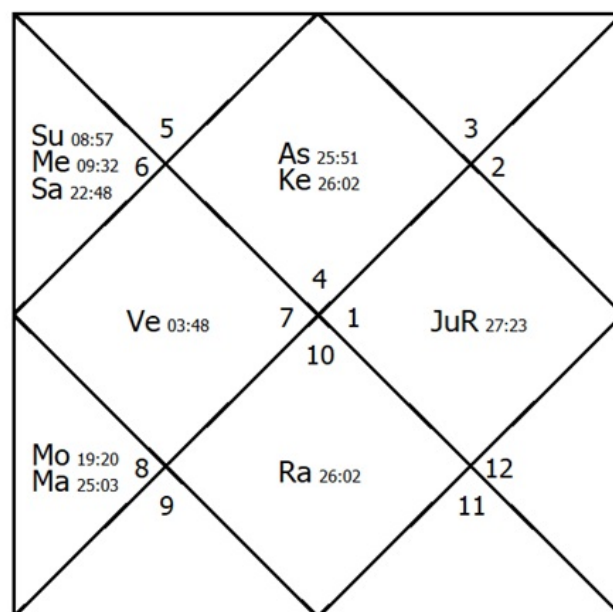
Christopher Reeve

Reeve (1952-2004) was an American actor whose life became a story far greater than any role he played. Born into a well-established family in New York, he studied at Cornell University and, in his final year, was one of two students, together with Robin Williams, selected to attend the prestigious Juilliard School. Although already active on stage and television, Reeve became a household name in 1978 when, after a two-year search, he was cast as Superman. He brought not only charisma and grace to the role but also emotional depth.

In 1995, a horse-riding accident left Reeve paralyzed at the age of 43. Confined to a wheelchair and reliant on a respirator, he faced immense physical and emotional challenges that came with this life-altering injury. Despite these limitations, he became a passionate advocate for spinal cord research and disability rights. Founding the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, he tirelessly lobbied for federal support and advancements in medical care.

Reeve passed away at the age of 52, but he remains a lasting symbol of heroism, both on-screen as Superman, and off-screen through the quiet strength and resilience he exhibited in the face of adversity. His life stands as a powerful example of transformation, showing how adversity can inspire greater purpose and leave a meaningful impact.

	JuR 27:23		
	Christopher Reeve		As 25:51 Ke 26:02
Ra 26:02			
	Mo 19:20 Ma 25:03	Ve 03:48	Su 08:57 Me 09:32 Sa 22:48



Reeve's chart, while promising in areas such as home, family, creative and artistic pursuits, career, and public recognition, presents significant challenges regarding physical health and overall well-being.

His ascendant falls in Cancer, in the *nakshatra* *Ashlesha*, and is tightly conjunct Ketu, with an orb of just 8 minutes. Ketu signifies detachment from the material world, making it conducive to spiritual growth and inner strength. However, it also suggests vulnerability, such as a predisposition to illness, some form of disability, or a heightened risk of injury, especially given its Mars-like nature and association with sudden accidents. *Ashlesha*, symbolized by the coiled serpent, can distort planetary energies, yet carries immense transformative and healing potential.

Reeve's *lagnesh* Moon is debilitated in Scorpio, afflicted by Mars (by association) and Saturn (by aspect), with no mitigating influence from benefics. This weak and afflicted Moon compromises emotional stability, disturbs inner peace, weakens vitality, and amplifies health struggles.

These adverse implications are compounded by the presence of a *Shakata Yoga*, formed by the Moon placed in the eighth house from Jupiter. As the Moon occupies the fifth house rather than a *kendra*, the yoga remains active with no neutralizing factors.

The Sun, *karaka* of vitality and the physical body, is conjunct two natural malefics, Saturn and Mercury. While Mercury is generally neutral, it is highly impressionable and takes on the qualities of the planets with which it associates. Thus, in this chart, Mercury is rendered a natural malefic due to its association with Saturn. Additionally, both Mercury and Saturn are also functional malefics, ruling the twelfth and eighth houses, respectively. These houses are linked to loss, isolation, accidents, suffering, and chronic conditions.

Shakata Yoga adds yet another layer of difficulty to the already fragile and compromised physical profile indicated by the threefold affliction involving the ascendant, ascendant lord Moon, and *karaka* Sun. The Moon's debilitation and multiple afflictions intensify the effects of this yoga, which ultimately manifested in a dramatic reversal of fortune, one that forever altered the course of his life.

His accident took place on May 27, 1995, during his Sun *mahadasha* and just one week into his Jupiter *bhukti*, triggering the full expression of his *Shakata Yoga*. At the time, transiting Saturn in Aquarius was closely aspecting his natal Jupiter (with less than a one-degree orb), while Ketu transited his tenth house, where Jupiter is placed. Roughly two years later, Reeve entered his Moon *mahadasha*, marking a period dominated by the very significations of his debilitated, afflicted Moon and active *Shakata Yoga*, which defined the remainder of his life.

Romina Power

Power is an American-born actress, singer, and writer, the daughter of Hollywood stars Linda Christian and Tyrone Power. Though raised in fame, she made her own mark, especially in Italy, where she became a household name.

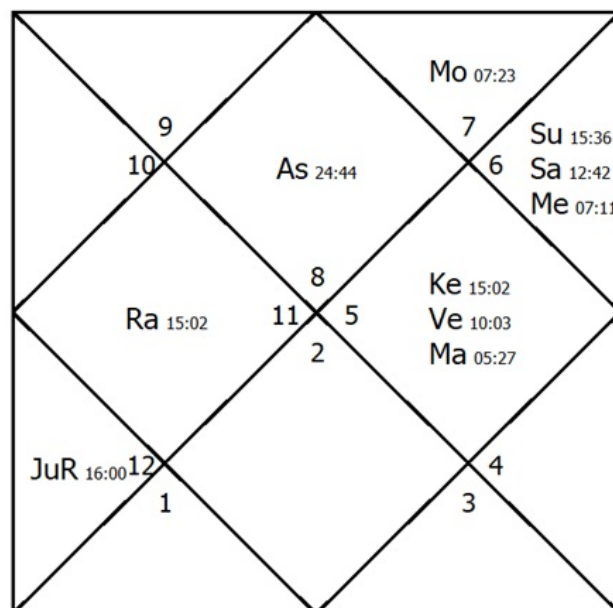
In the 1960s, Power starred in Italian films, often cast in roles that highlighted her beauty and sensuality. Her true breakthrough came in 1967 when she met singer Albano Carrisi. Their personal and professional connection captivated audiences. As one of Italy's most iconic musical duos, they shared massive success with hits like *Felicità* and *Ci sarà*. Their onstage chemistry radiated warmth and unity. They married in 1970 and had four children.

At the height of their fame, they were adored by the public, seen as inseparable, and envied for their storybook romance. But in 1994, tragedy struck and altered Power's life forever. Their daughter, Ylenia Carrisi, went missing while traveling in New Orleans, sparking a global search that never provided answers. The pain of this loss, combined with the emotional toll on their relationship, strained the couple's bond. They separated in 1999 and eventually divorced in 2005.

Ylenia's sudden disappearance left a hole in Power's heart that, despite years of attempts to find answers, remains unbearably raw. In the years that followed, she took a step back from public view, retreating into a more private life. She left the chaotic noise of the cities behind to live in

nature, surrounded by animals, where she painted and wrote books. Her first book was a tribute to her famous father, actor Tyrone Power, whom she lost at the age of six. She wrote four more books, as creative work helped her endure pain. She also found solace in Tibetan Buddhism, a path that helped her cope with her grief.

JuR 16:00			
Ra 15:02	Romina Power		
			Ma 05:27 Ve 10:03 Ke 15:02
	As 24:44	Mo 07:23	Me 07:11 Sa 12:42 Su 15:36



Power's chart strongly illustrates *Karako Bhavo Nashto*, a principle that translates as "the destruction of the house by its significator." This occurs when a planet, which is the *karaka* (significator) of a particular house is placed in that very house. While such a placement may seem beneficial at first glance, it can paradoxically weaken or diminish the house's positive expressions.

Karako Bhavo Nashto may result in extremes, disarray, or destruction, instead of nurturing growth and prosperity. In particular, the living beings represented by the house may experience distress or hardship due to the overwhelming influence of its *karaka*.

In Power's case, Jupiter, the *karaka* for children, occupies the fifth house, which governs children, creativity, and romance. This placement signals challenges and suffering in these areas, especially related to her children. Jupiter is double-strong, being retrograde in its own sign Pisces, in the *nakshatra* of *Uttara Bhadrapada*. Pisces, the twelfth and final sign of the zodiac, symbolizes endings, renunciation, and spiritual liberation. Adding further depth to the symbolism, *Uttara Bhadrapada*—represented by the back legs of a funeral bed—carries themes of mortality, closure, and the cyclical nature of life and death.

However, Power's chart is not just a textbook case of *Karako Bhavo Nashto*. In her chart, Jupiter is not only the *karaka* or the generic significator of children but also the lord of the fifth house. Despite being *swa rashi* and strong, Jupiter is severely afflicted by several malefic planets: Saturn, the Sun, Mercury, and Mars with the latter two concurrently ruling *dusthanas*, houses of illness, adversity, and trauma.

Thus, we have here a rare scenario where the fifth house, its lord, and its *karaka* are all afflicted simultaneously by multiple malefic forces. This configuration indicates significant karmic lessons

and suffering in this lifetime, particularly in connection with motherhood, love, creativity, romance, but also the husband, as Jupiter also represents the husband in a woman's chart.

At the heart of Power's chart, Jupiter participates in a *Shakata Yoga*, where the Moon is placed eight houses away from Jupiter. Additionally, Power's chart features a Type B *Viparita Raja Yoga*, another yoga of reversal, formed by the association of sixth lord Mars and twelfth lord Venus. Neither planet is under the influence of *non-trik* lords, and Mars is strong given its *dig bala* (directional strength) in the tenth house.

These yogas of reversal, especially *Shakata Yoga* involving her Jupiter and *Putrakaraka* Moon, deeply mirror Power's life: sudden misfortune, profound loss and the emotional hardship that altered her path. Besides Jupiter being severely afflicted, the condition of the Moon further intensifies the effects of *Shakata Yoga*. The Moon is dark, weak, and placed in a *dusthana*, where its significations are damaged. Specifically, it is positioned in the twelfth house of foreign lands, endings, and loss, where it is aspected by Rahu in the *nakshatra* of Swati, which is ruled by Rahu itself. Swati is symbolically linked to the "wind" that carries things away.

Rahu's influence often brings unconventional, erratic energy, and a sense of mystery. It's often linked to foreigners and foreign lands as well as circumstances that are confusing and difficult to pinpoint. These themes align eerily well with the disappearance of Power's daughter in a foreign country, suggesting that the truth behind the event may forever remain elusive.

Yet, reflecting the spirit of these yogas, this life-shattering event also ignited inner strength, resilience, and personal growth. This fortitude guided her toward healing through altruistic endeavors, writing, painting, and spiritual exploration.

Notably, Jupiter is also Power's *Atmakaraka*, the soul-indicator, being the planet with the highest degree of longitude in her chart. As *Atmakaraka*, Jupiter has deeply influenced her soul's journey in this lifetime. It is no surprise that the heartbreaking event involving her daughter sits at the core of her destiny, making it a central chapter in her spiritual evolution, one marked not only by sorrow, but also profound transformation and the pursuit of meaning beyond suffering.

~ ~ ~

Odelia Eskinazi has been studying and practicing *Jyotish* since 2014, with a keen interest in its psychological and medical dimensions. She's studied with Joni Patry, James Kelleher and Alan Annand, and was the editor for Annand's book *Kama Yoga*. She also writes the "Who's in the News" column for Patry's *Astrology Insights*. Widely traveled, she has a deep appreciation for foreign cultures and cross-cultural exchange. Her interest in consciousness, healing, and transformation has led her to explore related fields, including attending several workshops with Vernon Frost. In her "real life," she works as the financial controller of a multinational company. Her recently-published book ***Patterns of Contrast in Vedic Astrology*** offers a thoughtful examination of several yogas in *Jyotish* that illuminate the phenomenon of reversals in life.