

Prasna without Astrology

**By Michael Laughrin,
Friend of ACVA**

Nature is giving us clues as to what's happening all the time. Such a sign is called "*nimitta*" in Sanskrit, which translates as "omen" in English.

Although clients often pose questions to their astrologers, there are some prerequisites for a *prashna* (the Sanskrit term for question). The client must want to know the answer with great intensity and unity of purpose. This is not a game. One should never use *prashna* of any kind just to fool around, or test the astrologer. Otherwise, the whole system will not work.

Following is a description of two methods, the first of which has its origins in *Tajika*, and was taught to me by Hart de Fouw, my primary teacher of *Jyotish*.

If you observe your breath, you'll find that, every 90 minutes or so, the dominant nostril changes, by which I mean, the nostril that is drawing in more air than the other nostril. Taking note of this flow at the time of a question is vital, although it should be noted that this method is only good for "yes" and "no" questions.

Here are the rules for this procedure:

1. If the day of the week is ruled by a malefic, ie, Tuesday, Saturday or Sunday, then we get a "yes" to the question asked if the right nostril dominates. This is because the solar *nadi* controls the right (male) side of the body. But if the left nostril dominates during a question on such a day, the answer to the query is "no".
2. If the day of the week is ruled by a benefic, ie, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, then we get a "yes" if the left nostril dominates. This is because the lunar *nadi* controls the left (female) side of the body. But if the right nostril dominates on such a day, the answer is "no".

Here's another system, this one taught to me by Narendra Desai, the greatest *jyotishi* I've ever known. This method combines *prashna* with *nimitta* in a simple way.

1. You (and/or the querent) must desperately want to know the answer to his/her question.
2. At the moment of the question, the astrologer should observe his/her environment. And whatever the eye or ear is drawn to, there is a clue (*nimitta*) for your answer.

For example, if the querent asks if he should invest \$100,000 in a certain stock just when you, the astrologer, sees a new gold-colored Lexus driving by, the answer is not only yes, but with an expectation the querent should make a very good return on his investment. On the other hand, if you see a very old beat-up car driving by, spewing black smoke from its exhaust, the answer is "no," with the expectation the client would lose most of his investment if he invests in that stock despite the astrologer's advice.

In a real-life example, a fellow called me up several years ago, very concerned for the safety and health of a beautiful 5-year-old girl who was not his daughter. Almost immediately after he'd voiced his concern to me, a handsome full-grown buck deer with a full set of antlers appeared in my backyard.

Now, I live in a forest, so in my environs, I'll often see adult female deer with their fawns, but I very seldom see any adult male deer, especially not one as grand and noble as this buck who'd appeared at the very moment of my client's query.

He was only about 25 feet away from me and looking me straight in the eyes. To me, it seemed like he must be the king and protector of all the local deer. Immediately, I thought of Lord Rama, and I just knew, to the depths of my being, that everything would be all right for the young lady my client was concerned about.

Again, bear in mind that the answer to a serious question can arise via associations that you draw from your immediate environment at the time of the query, whether in the form of any sense, especially sight, hearing or smell.

This latter method is my favorite method of *prashna*, although I often use the *Tajika* method as well. Either is a good option for those occasions when you're unable to calculate a horoscope for the moment of the question.

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Michael Laughrin is a jyotishi based in Cincinnati. He is a long-time practitioner and teacher of Transcendental Meditation, and has studied with Hart de Fouw and Narendra Desai.