

The Mathematics of Yogas: *Kesari and Gaja-Kesari*



**By Alan Annand,
Editor-in-Chief of Publications**

Phaladeepika defines *Kesari* yoga quite simply as a pattern wherein the Moon and Jupiter are in *kendra* to each other. This is relatively common. Imagine Jupiter occupies a movable sign. As the Moon circles the zodiac, it will become angular to Jupiter four times – in each of the movable signs. Similarly, if Jupiter is in a fixed sign, the Moon will form *Kesari* yoga when in fixed signs. And so on for dual signs. Thus, the Moon has four opportunities in 12, or a 33% chance, to be *kendra* to Jupiter and thereby form *Kesari* yoga.

Meanwhile, *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra* defines a much more rigorous version of the Moon/Jupiter pattern – calling it *Gaja-Kesari Yoga* – and stipulates that Jupiter should be in an angle from the *lagna* or the Moon, but at the same time be conjoined with or aspected by benefics without being debilitated, combust, or in an enemy's sign.

As Hart de Fouw says in *Light on Life*, it's nevertheless important for Jupiter and the Moon to be in good houses from the *lagna*, ie, not in *dusthanas*. How often does a planet occupy a bad house? Since there are, broadly defined, four *dusthanas* (3rd, 6th, 8th, 12th) then a *graha* is poorly placed one-third of the time, therefore in a positive house two-thirds of the time.

So, for the Jupiter to be *kendra* to the Moon and simultaneously in a positive house (or vice versa), we can calculate the odds: $1/3 \times 2/3 = 2/9$, or 22.2%.

As for determining the odds of Jupiter being supported by a benefic, that's a task for statistical observation, and beyond the scope of numerical conjecture. Therefore, in lieu of benefic support, let's assume a robust *Gaja-Kesari* depends upon the participating *grahas'* strength by sign, the chances for which are calculable, as outlined below.

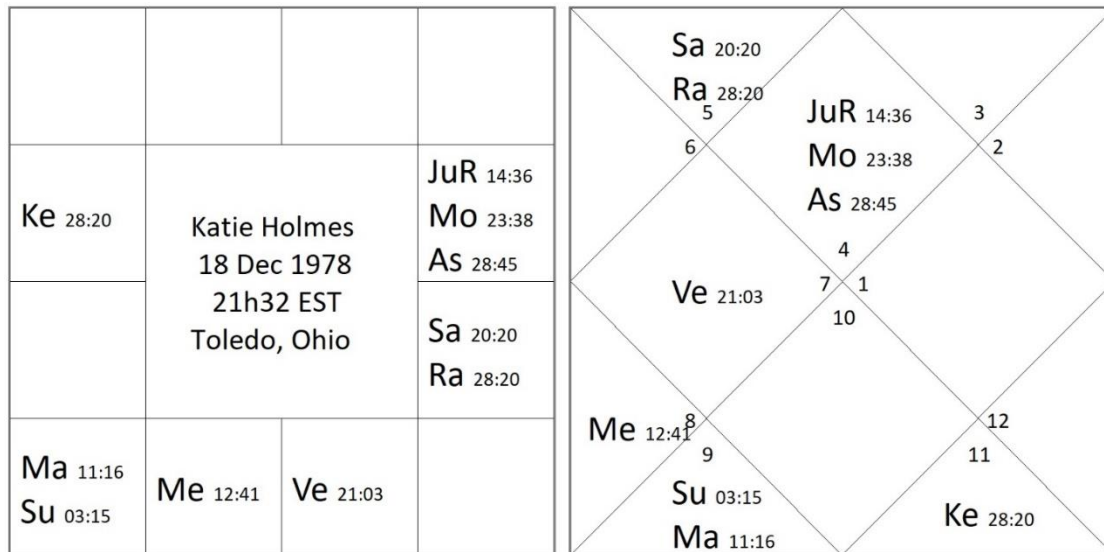
The Moon occupies Cancer or Taurus two times out of 12. So, for the Moon to be *kendra* to Jupiter, in a positive house and in a good sign, the odds are: $1/3 \times 2/3 \times 1/6 = 2/54$, or 3.7%.

Jupiter occupies its signs of dignity – Cancer, Sagittarius and Pisces – three times out of 12. So, for Jupiter to be *kendra* to the Moon, in a positive house and in a good sign, the odds are: $1/3 \times 2/3 \times 1/4 = 2/36$, or 5.5%.

Although there are other sources of strength to consider, eg, full Moon, retrograde Jupiter, and *dig bala* for either planet, this brief analysis is simply intended to give you an idea of relative frequency. Whereas the entry level *Kesari* yoga occurs in a third (33%) of all charts, the demands of a *Gaja-Kesari* yoga (Moon/Jupiter in mutual *kendras*, some strength by sign, and in positive houses) will be met by roughly only one chart out of 20, or 5% of the time.

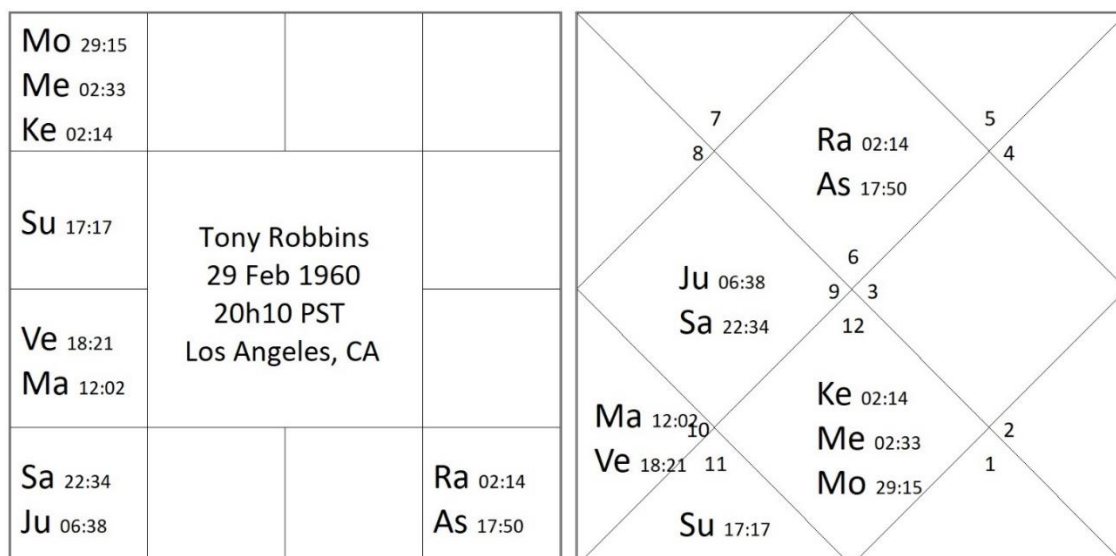
If you find a *Gaja-Kesari Yoga* in a horoscope, chances are the individual will manifest some guru-like qualities, similar to what we'd find in any good teacher or advisor. These are optimism, self-knowledge, comfort in social situations, the ability to gain rapport with others, and a capacity to educate or counsel people. At a less elevated level, others might simply manifest a talent for public relations, something that plays well in the fields of entertainment, marketing and politics.

Following are two examples of Gaja-Kesari yoga in contemporary public figures:



American actress Katie Holmes, whose talent was recognized in her very first audition, went on to star in the hit TV series Dawson's Creek, and later in a string of successful movies. Married for six years to Tom Cruise, she divorced for fear of losing her identity to the Scientology group of which he was a principal member.

Her horoscope provides a stellar example of *Gaja-Kesari* yoga, wherein Jupiter is exalted in the *lagna*, and associated with the Moon. The yoga is especially potent thanks to the strength of both planets. Jupiter has triple strength – exalted, retrograde and with *digbala* in the *lagna*. The Moon is in its own sign and full-ish.



American author and public speaker Tony Robbins is a life coach and philanthropist best known for his infomercials, seminars, and self-help books including *Unlimited Power* and *Awaken the Giant Within*. Thanks to the popularity of his seminars, he is one of the wealthiest self-improvement gurus in the world.

His horoscope provides a good example of a *Gaja-Kesari* yoga, wherein Jupiter occupies its own sign in a *kendra*, and the Moon occupies another *kendra*. Both planets participate in other supportive yogas – 4th lord Jupiter in *Raja* yoga with 5th lord Saturn, and 11th lord Moon in *Dhana* yoga with 1st lord Mercury.

~ ~ ~