

## Parasara's Teachings on Chara Karakas An Independent Interpretation

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*A word from the author:* This is an independent interpretation of Parasara's teachings on chara karakas. I have no pretensions that I got it correct. But this is based on an honest attempt to purge all preconceived notions from the mind and approach Parasara's verses with a fresh and unbiased mind.

I am trying to share whatever I was able to understand by reading Parasara's exposition on chara karakas with an open mind and then experimenting. If you think my interpretation has some worth in it, please use it, experiment, benefit and spread the knowledge. If not, just leave it.

The first two verses of the chapter on karakas in "Brihat Parasara Hora Shastram" go as:

अथाहं संप्रवक्ष्यामि ग्रहानात्मादिकारकान् । सप्तरव्यादिशन्यन्तान् राह्वन्तान् वाष्टसंख्यकान् ॥ १ ॥

अंशैः समौ ग्रहौ द्वौ चेत् राह्वन्तान् चिन्तयेत् तदा । सप्तैव कारकानेवं केचिदष्टौ प्रचक्षते ॥ २ ॥

athāham sampravakṣyāmi grahānātmādikārakān |  
saptaravyādiśanyantān rāhvantān vāṣṭasaṅkhyakān || 1 ||  
aṁśaiḥ samau grahau dvau cet rāhvantān cintayet tadā |  
saptaiva kārakānevam kecidaṣṭau pracakṣate || 2 ||

This can be translated literally as: "Now I am speaking about seven planets from Sun to Saturn or eight planets upto Rahu, acting as the signifiers of self etc. If two planets are equal by degrees, then planets upto Rahu should be thought of. Thus, only seven signifiers [in some] and eight in some are considered."

This is clearly saying that seven karakas are used in some charts and eight karakas in some charts. This is also giving the criterion to choose 7 vs 8. In charts containing two planets in the same degree, we include Rahu and consider 8 portfolios. Otherwise (i.e. if all planets are in different degrees), we exclude Rahu and consider 7 portfolios only. Jaimini also said "saptaanaam aShTaanaam vaa" and indicated using "seven or eight" signifiers.

According to one interpretation of these verses, Parasara acknowledged two different schools of thought, one of them suggesting 7 karakas and the other suggesting 8 karakas, and both are correct. Chara karakas should have a clear role in charts and to say that planet X acting as a specific karaka and planet Y also acting as the same karaka can be justified at the same time is illogical. It means we do not understand how karakas are to be used. If our understanding of how karakas should be used is incomplete, it is no wonder we can justify any planet as any karaka. There must be clear (even if complex) rules to decide which planet is the karaka for what. A maharshi like Parasara will not say "there are different views. Do as you please. You are on your own. Make an arbitrary choice". A maharshi like Parasara gets knowledge by direct experience and not limited by the confusions of others. The line of thought that Parasara merely mentioned two contradictory views can be palatable to those who imagine a rishi as merely a great intellectual. A rishi is much much more than that. To me, this line of thought is simply absurd.

Pt Sanjay Rath has a different take. According to him, 8 karakas are used in the charts of humans and other beings, while 7 karakas are used in mundane charts. There are two problems with this line of thinking: (1) Parasara never talked about mundane charts vs charts of beings. (2) Parasara was clear that Rahu is included only when two planets are in the same degree and 7 karakas are used otherwise. In the case of human beings, Pt Rath always uses 8 karakas, irrespective of whether two planets are in the same degree or not. This is inconsistent with Parasara's teaching.

Thus, I reject the line taken by Pt Sanjay Rath and I also reject the view that Parasara acknowledged two different schools and that both schools are correct. There is only one correct way to find karakas and Parasara taught it.

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The verses of Parasara on the calculation of chara karakas go as:

अथाहं संप्रवक्ष्यामि ग्रहानात्मादिकारकान् । सप्तारव्यादिशान्यन्तान् राहन्तान् वाष्टसंख्यकान् ॥ १ ॥  
 अंशैः समौ ग्रहौ द्वौ चेत् राहन्तान् चिन्तयेत् तदा । सप्तैव कारकानेवं केचिदष्टौ प्रचक्षते ॥ २ ॥  
 अत्मा सूर्यादिखेटानां मध्ये ह्यंशाधिको ग्रहः । अंशासाम्ये कलाधिक्यात् तत्साम्ये विकलाधिकः ॥ ३ ॥  
 बुधैः राशिकलाधिक्यात् ग्राह्यो नैवात्मकारकः । अंशाधिकः कारकः स्यादल्पभागोऽन्त्यकारकः ॥ ४ ॥  
 मध्यांशो मध्यखेटः स्यादुपखेटः स एव हि । विलोमगमनाद्राहोरंशाः शोध्यः खवह्नितः ॥ ५ ॥  
 अंशक्रमादधोऽधःस्थाः चराख्याः कारका इति । आत्माख्यकारकस्तेषु प्रधानं कथ्यते द्विज ॥ ६ ॥  
 स एव जातकाधीशो विज्ञेयो द्विजसत्तम । यथा भूमौ प्रसिद्धोऽस्ति नराणां क्षितिपालकः ॥ ७ ॥  
 सर्ववार्ताधिकारी च बन्धकृन्मोक्षकृत् तथा ॥ ८ ॥  
 यथा राजाज्ञया विप्रा पुत्रामात्यादयो जनाः । समर्था लोककार्येषु तथैवान्येऽपि कारकाः ॥ ९ ॥  
 आत्मानुकूलमेवात्र भवन्ति फलदायकाः । प्रतिकूले यथा भूपे सर्वेऽमात्यादयो द्विज ॥ १० ॥  
 कर्ष्यं कर्तुं मनुष्यानां न समर्था भवन्ति हि । तथात्मकारके क्रूरे नान्ये स्वशुभदायकाः ॥ ११ ॥  
 अनुकूले नृपे यद्वत् सर्वेऽमात्यादयो द्विज । नाशुभं कुर्वते तद्वनान्ये स्वाशुभदायकाः ॥ १२ ॥  
 आत्माकारकभागोभ्यो न्यूनंशोऽमात्यकारकः । तस्मान्न्यूनंशको भ्राता तन्न्यूनो मातृसंज्ञकः ॥ १३ ॥  
 तन्न्यूनंशः पिता तस्मादल्पांशः पुत्रकारकः । पुत्रान्न्यूनंशको ज्ञातिः ज्ञातेन्न्यूनंशको हि यः ॥ १४ ॥  
 स दारकारको ज्ञेयो निर्विशंके द्विजोत्तम । चराख्यकारका एते ब्राह्मणा कथिताः पुरा ॥ १५ ॥  
 मातृकारकमेवान्ये वदन्ति सुतकारकम् । द्वौ ग्रहौ भागतुल्यौ चेज्जायेतां यस्य जन्मनि ॥ १६ ॥  
 तदग्रकारकस्यैवं लोपो ज्ञेयो द्विजोत्तम । स्थिरकारकवशात्तस्य फलं ज्ञेयं शुभाऽशुभम् ॥ १७ ॥

athāhaṁ sampravakṣyāmi grahānātmādikārahān |  
 saptaravyādīśanyantān rāhvantān vāṣṭasaṅkhyakān || 1 ||  
 aṁśaiḥ samau grahau dvau cet rāhvantān cintayet tadā |  
 saptaiva kārahānevaṁ kecidaṣṭau pracakṣate || 2 ||  
 atmā sūryādikhēṭānām madhye hyaṁśādhiko grahaḥ |  
 aṁśasāmye kalādhikyāt tatsāmye vikalādhikaḥ || 3 ||  
 budhaiḥ rāsikalādhikyāt grāhyo naivātmakārahān |  
 aṁśādhikaḥ kārahān syādalpabhāgo'ntyakārahān || 4 ||  
 madhyāṁśo madhyakheṭaḥ syādupakheṭaḥ sa eva hi |  
 vilomagamanādrāhorāṁśāḥ śodhyāḥ khavahniṭaḥ || 5 ||  
 aṁśakramādadho'dhaḥsthāḥ carākhyāḥ kārahā itī |  
 ātmākhyakārahāsteṣu pradhānaṁ kathyate dvija || 6 ||  
 sa eva jātakādhīśo vijñeyo dvijasattama |  
 yathā bhūmau prasiddho'sti narāṇām kṣitipālakaḥ || 7 ||  
 sarvavārtādhikāri ca bandhakṛṇmokṣakṛt tathā || 8 ||  
 yathā rājājñayā viprā putrāmātyādayo janāḥ |  
 samarthā lokakāryeṣu tathaiṅvānye'pi kārahān || 9 ||  
 ātmānukūlamevātra bhavanti phaladāyakaḥ |

pratikūle yathā bhūpe sarve'mātyādayo dvija | | 10 | |  
 karyam kartum manusyanam na samarthā bhavanti hi |  
 tathātmakārake krūre nānye svaśubhadāyakāḥ | | 11 | |  
 anukūle nṛpe yadvat sarve'mātyādayo dvija |  
 nāśubham kurvate tadvanānye svāśubhadāyakāḥ | | 12 | |  
 ātmākārahābhāgebhyo nyūnāmśo'mātyakārahā |  
 tasmānnyūnāmśako bhrātā tannyūno māṛṣaṅjñakāḥ | | 13 | |  
 tannyūnāmśaḥ pitā tasmādalpāmśaḥ putrakārahā |  
 putrānnyūnāmśako jñatiḥ jñāternnyūnāmśako hi yaḥ | | 14 | |  
 sa dārahakāro jñeyo nirviśaṅke dvijottama |  
 carākhyakārahā ete brāhmaṇā kathitāḥ purā | | 15 | |  
 māṛṣakārahamevānye vadanti sutakārahā |  
 dvau grahau bhāgatulyau cejjāyetām yasya janmani | | 16 | |  
 tadagrahākārahasyaivaṁ lopo jñeyo dvijottama |  
 sthirākārahavaśāttasya phalaṁ jñeyam śubhāśubham | | 17 | |

My literal translation of these verses of Parasara that define chara karakas is as follows:

"Now I am speaking about seven planets from Sun to Saturn or eight planets upto Rahu, acting as the significators of self etc. If two planets are equal by degrees, then upto Rahu should be thought of. Thus, only seven significators [in some] and eight in some are considered. Self is the planet among Sun and other planets with the highest degrees. If degrees are same, by minutes. If that too is the same, by seconds. Learned men should not take self from only degrees [and use upto seconds]. One with higher degrees becomes higher karaka, one with less degrees becomes lower karaka and one in the middle becomes middle karaka. By arranging in the decreasing and decreasing order of degrees, chara karakas are to be found. [Like that we distribute the seven/eight portfolios to seven/eight planets.] Due to reverse motion, degrees of Rahu are subtracted from 30.

O brahmin, signifier of self is to be said to be important among them. O great brahmin, he should be understood to be the supreme one of the horoscope, just as king is the famous of all people on earth and controls all matters and causes bondage and liberation. Just as princes, ministers etc take care of worldly matters of the country under the king's command, like that also all other significators become givers of results due to the favorability of the signifier of self. O brahmin, just as all ministers etc become incapable of doing the jobs of people of the country if king is not conducive, other significators cannot do good when the signifier of self is cruel. Just as ministers etc cannot do harm under a favorable king, other unfavorable significators cannot do harm if the signifier of self is favorable.

One with lower degrees than the signifier of self (AK) signifies counsel (AmK). One with lower degrees than him signifies brother (BK). One with lower degrees than him signifies mother (MK). One with lower degrees than him signifies father (PiK). One with lower degrees than him signifies children (PK). One with lower degrees than him signifies rivals (GK). O excellent brahmin, one with lower degrees than him should definitely be known as the signifier or spouse (DK). These are the chara karakas mentioned by the Creator before. In the other case [i.e. charts where only seven portfolios are to be considered instead of eight], the signifier of mother is said to be the signifier of child also. If two planets are equal in degrees in one's birth chart, O excellent brahmin, the absence of higher signifier only is to be learnt. The auspicious and inauspicious results of that [portfolio] should be learnt from the fixed signifier."

\* \* \*

The above is a literal translation. Parsing it and understanding it will require purging of some preconceived notions.

First, this has nothing to do with mundane charts vs charts of humans/other beings. Let us stick to the charts of human beings. Both 7 and 8 portfolio schemes are applicable in human being charts.

Second, Parasara did not talk of two schools supporting 7 and 8 karakas. We use 7 portfolios in some charts and 8 portfolios in some charts and the choice is based on clear and tangible rules. There is nothing left to arbitrary choice by the astrologers and "schools".

Third, whether the same planet represents two portfolios or there are separate planets for portfolios has no implications that the portfolio is less important. The same minister may be in charge of multiple portfolios in the cabinet of a modern

government. If the prime minister also keeps the the portfolio of external affairs, it does not mean external affairs is more or less important than others. It does not also mean that country has no external affairs to handle. There is no relationship between whether there is a separate planet for specific portfolio or not and whether that portfolio is valid/invalid, applicable/inapplicable and important/unimportant.

Fourth, when Rahu enters the picture, it is not to resolve the tie between quarreling planets. When two planets have a clash over some portfolios, Rahu uses that clash as an opportunity to get into the cabinet himself. But he does not necessarily vie for the cabinets under dispute. When he comes in, there is an additional portfolio in the picture. In terms of current Indian politics, this is kind of like a fringe party candidate vying for an additional cabinet post for himself when the main party candidates are fighting over who gets which portfolio.

Fifth, when planets are in the same degree, one planet may win the tie and one planet may be removed from a portfolio. However, this does not mean a change happens later in life. Chara karakas are fixed in each chart. They do not change from time to time. There is nothing called chara karaka parivartana.

Sixth, if a planet gets a portfolio in a tie through a complicated logic, it does not make the planet any less of a significator. A person may become president of a country after supreme court judgment following a tie, but he is nevertheless the president at the end of it and exercises all the rights of a president freely. Thus, we apply all the complex rules and evaluate karakas, but once we are done, we use the planets we arrived at as full-fledged significators. This also applies to a fixed karaka getting a portfolio because of a tie.

\* \* \*

The following procedure can be used for finding chara karakas.

(1) Take seven planets – Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn. Write down their degrees in the respective sign. If a planet is at 23 deg 1 min or 23 deg 59 min, its degrees are still 23.

(2) If any two (or more) planets have the same degrees, then include Rahu and use eight chara karakas. Otherwise (i.e. all planets having different degrees), exclude Rahu and use seven chara karakas.

(3a) If we choose to use seven karakas, the portfolios are: AK (self), AmK (counsel), BK (brother), MK (mother), PiK (father), GK (rival) and DK (spouse). There is no separate planet for the portfolio of child (PK) and that portfolio is merged with that of mother (MK). In other words, the same planet signifies both mother and child. We consider the seven planets (Sun-to-Saturn) for these seven portfolios.

(3b) If we choose to use eight karakas, the portfolios are: AK (self), AmK (counsel), BK (brother), MK (mother), PiK (father), PK (child), GK (rival) and DK (spouse). We consider the eight planets (Sun-to-Rahu) for these eight portfolios. Rahu's longitude is subtracted from 30 deg, because he is always retrograde and enters signs from the end always.

(4) For AK (and only for AK), we do not make a decision just by the degrees. If two (or more) planets are in the same degree, we check the minutes. If the minutes are also the same, we check seconds also. If Saturn is at 28 deg 35 min 24 sec in a rasi and Jupiter is at 28 deg 35 min 45 sec in another rasi, then Jupiter becomes AK.

(5) For other significators, only degrees are used. After finding AK, we arrange all other planets in the decreasing order of degrees (only) and distribute the portfolios in the order described above.

(6) If two planets are in the same degree, they compete for the same portfolios. The higher portfolio out of the ones carved out for them becomes absent and gets judged from corresponding sthira karaka. The lower portfolio goes to one of the competing planets that is at highest minutes/seconds within the same degree. The planet with lower advancement within the degree loses out. Suppose Saturn is at 21 deg 24 min and Mercury is at 21 deg 11 min and they compete for BK and MK. Mercury is at lower minutes and is removed from the list and Saturn wins the tie. Saturn wins the tie with Mercury, but the top portfolio is out of bounds even after winning and he has to settle for MK. The higher BK portfolio goes to sthira karaka, i.e. Mars. When you need to look for BK in the chart for any purpose, such as judgment of houses and evaluation of karaka dasa etc, use Mars as BK. He is the full-fledged BK.

\* \* \*

To time events using karakas, one important dasa system described by Parasara is "Karaka dasa". Chara karakas get dasas in the order described above (AK-to-DK). The length of each dasa is the number of signs from lagna to the karaka. The counting is always zodiacal. As an example, if karaka is in 9th house, his dasa is for 8 years. If karaka is in 5<sup>th</sup> house, his dasa is for 4 years. If karaka is in lagna itself, his dasa is for 12 years and not zero. After we finish all the seven or eight karakas, we go back to AK and start the second cycle. In the second cycle, planets give the remaining years (out of full twelve years). If there is a third cycle, it will match the first cycle. If there is a fourth cycle, it will match the second cycle.

This is called Karaka dasa. It is one of the dasas described quite clearly and unambiguously by Parasara. It depends on exactly which planet is karaka for which portfolio. If karaka calculation changes, dasas also change accordingly.

Results of a karaka and his relationships/interactions with other karakas are given in each dasa. Usually dasas of AK and PK results in success and fame. Dasas of planet associated with trines in navamsa or important combinations in dasamsa also can give success.

Dasa of planets associated with 12th from AK in navamsa can bring death. The 3rd and 8th from AK can also be considered.

\* \* \*

### **Example 1: Sarada Mata**

Birthdata is 1853 December 22, 19:15 (LMT), 87e07, 23n14.

Moon and Venus are in the 27th degree. So Rahu is included and we use 8 portfolios. Arranging in the decreasing order of degrees, we get:

Moon – 26 deg 56 min – AK  
Venus – 26 deg 9 min – AmK  
Mars – 21 deg – BK  
Mercury – 16 deg – MK  
Sun – fixed karaka – PiK  
Jupiter – 12 deg 54 min – Competes for PiK/PK and gets PK  
Rahu – 12 deg 28 min – Competes for PiK/PK and loses  
Sun – 8 deg – GK  
Saturn – 4 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1853-1854, AmK: 1854-1860, BK: 1860-1861, MK: 1861-1865,  
PiK: 1865-1870, PK: 1870-1875, GK: 1875-1880, DK: 1880-1890,  
AK: 1890-1901, AmK: 1901-1907, BK: 1907-1918, MK: 1918-1926

During the dasa of PK, she moved to Dakshineswar and experienced some of the following Ramakrishna Paramahansa had. As Jupiter is in a quadrant from BK, she can spend time with her guru. As Jupiter is in 6th from DK, normal marital relationship is difficult. In D-7, PK Jupiter is in 2nd house with Rahu and not conducive to children.

During the dasa of 12th lord from DK in navamsa, her husband left her. During the dasa of AK, Belur math came up and Ramakrishna mission was started. AK dasa usually makes one successful and brings a lot of activities. Dasa of BK Mars saw her initiate a lot of people and oversee their spiritual progress. Dasa of MK Mercury, who is with the 12th lord from AK in navamsa (Ketu), saw her leave body!

\* \* \*

### **Example 2: Ramakrishna Paramahansa**

Birthdata is 1836 February 18, 6:44 am (LMT), 87e44, 22n53.

Moon and Mars are in the 23rd degree. So Rahu is included and we consider 8 portfolios.

Rahu – 27 deg – AK  
Mercury – fixed karaka – AmK  
Moon – 22 deg 19 min – Competes for AmK/BK and wins BK  
Mars – 22 deg 18 min – Competes for AmK/BK and loses  
Mercury – 15 deg – MK  
Jupiter – 14 deg – PiK  
Saturn – 13 deg – PK  
Venus – 9 deg – GK  
Sun – 6 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1836-1839, AmK: 1839-1851, BK: 1851-1863, MK: 1863-1875,  
PiK: 1875-1879, PK: 1879-1887

In the dasa of BK, he learnt Kaali worship from his brother and became a priest. Bhairavi, his teacher, also came in that dasa. In the dasa of MK Mercury, who is with the 12th lord from AK in navamsa, he attained nirvikalpa samadhi. In the dasa of PK, all of his disciples came to him one after the other and were trained by him. PK is in a quadrant from AK in navamsa and in a trine in D-20. This is a very favorable dasa. He trained his sishyas and also had a lot of following in general.

The 12th lord from AK in navamsa is Jupiter and he is in Aquarius navamsa with Saturn. Saturn's PK dasa saw him leave his body.

\* \* \*

### **Example 3: Swami Vivekananda**

Birthdata is 1863 January 12, 6:33 am (LMT), 88e30, 22n40.

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Sun – 29 deg – AK  
Moon – 17 deg – AmK  
Saturn – 13 deg – BK  
Mercury – 11 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Venus – 7 deg – PiK  
Mars – 6 deg – GK  
Jupiter – 4 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1863-1875, AmK: 1875-1884, BK: 1884-1893, MK/PK: 1893-1894,  
PiK: 1894-1895, GK: 1895-1899, DK: 1899-1909

During the dasa of AmK, who is with BK, he met his guru. As AmK Moon is in a quadrant from AK in navamsa and trine in D-20, this is an important dasa for spiritual progress.

During the dasa of BK, he learnt so much from his guru and even received a transfer of accumulated energy from his guru. The 12th lord from BK is Mars and he is with BK Saturn. So BK dasa can bring the end of guru.

During the same BK dasa, he looked after his godbrothers and moulded them. In the dasa of MK, who also acts as PK, he came to US and gave the celebrated speech at the Parliament of Religions, in late 1893. This one year dasa of PK was the most pivotal of his life. It made him famous and created many followers. This one year dasa laid the foundation for his entire mission. PK can do that.

In the dasa of GK Mars, who is in the 5th house from AK and a friend of AK, he overcame various obstacles and started Ramakrishna mission and started the work on Belur math.

He left body in DK dasa. Interestingly, DK Jupiter is in the 12th from AK!

\* \* \*

### **Example 4: Ramana Maharshi**

Birthdata is 1879 December 30, 1 am (IST), Pondicherry, India (78e15, 9n50).

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Moon – 28 deg – AK  
Mercury – 23 deg – AmK  
Mars – 22 deg – BK  
Saturn – 17 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Jupiter – 16 deg – PiK  
Sun – 15 deg – GK  
Venus – 0 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1879-1888, AmK: 1888-1890, BK: 1890-1897, MK: 1897-1903,  
PiK: 1903-1908, GK: 1908-1911, DK: 1911-1913  
AK: 1913-1916, AmK: 1916-1926, BK: 1926-1931, MK: 1931-1937,  
PiK: 1937-1944, GK: 1944-1953

BK Mars is in a trine from AK in navamsa and D-20. This dasa is an important dasa. Mars is in the 8th house in rasi. His dasa gave the highest spiritual experience, he left home and went to Lord Arunachaleshwara.

In MK/PK dasa, several visitors started to come to him and many became his disciples. His first teachings, published as the book "Who am I" came then.

DK Venus is the 12th lord from AK in navamsa. He experienced a sahaja nirvikalpa samadhi in his dasa.

AmK Mercury aspects 12th from MK in navamsa and occupies 12th from MK in D-12. His dasa brought the end of his mother.

In GK dasa, he developed a cancer. It was operated a few times, but came back. He finally succumbed to the cancer. In navamsa, GK Sun is in the 3rd house from AK. He left body in this dasa.

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#### **Example 5: Rajiv Gandhi (former PM of India)**

Birthdata is 1944 August 20, 7:12 am (IST), 72e49, 18n58.

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Mercury – 28 deg – AK  
Venus – 18 deg – AmK  
Moon – 17 deg – BK  
Saturn – 14 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Jupiter – 12 deg – PiK  
Sun – 3 deg – GK  
Mars – 1 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1944-1956, AmK: 1956-1968, BK: 1968-1980, MK: 1980-1990,  
PiK: 1990-2002, GK: 2002-2014, DK: 2014-2015

If we include Rahu also, Rahu would be AmK. From AK, he is in 12th in rasi and 8th in navamsa. It does not suggest good career.

But if we take only 7 karakas as recommended by Parasara in this case, as no two planets are in the same degree, then Venus is AmK. He is with AK in rasi and in a quadrant from AK in D-9 and D-10. This suggests good career.

In the karaka dasa of AmK, he started his career. AmK Venus is in a trine from DK in navamsa. He found his soul mate. In D-3, BK is in lagna and in a trine from AK with Gaja-Kesari yoha. His younger brother became a powerful person in BK dasa.

In MK/PK dasa, he unexpectedly became the prime minister of India. Dasas of AK and PK and planets associated with good yogas can give power.

AmK Venus aspects the 12<sup>th</sup> from PiK Jupiter in navamsa. Father passed away in AmK dasa. Saturn is the 12<sup>th</sup> lord from MK and MK dasa killed his mother.

PiK Jupiter is in 8th from AK in navamsa and aspects the 12th from AK. His dasa can bring the end. By the way, this Jupiter is associated with a Guru-Chandala yoga in navamsa.

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#### **Example 6: Babu Rajendra Prasad (India's first President)**

Birthdata is 1884 December 3, 8:49 am (LMT), Patna, India (81e46, 27n50).

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Saturn – 29 deg – AK  
Moon – 24 deg – AmK  
Sun – 19 deg – BK  
Jupiter – 13 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Venus – 12 deg – PiK  
Mars – 5 deg – GK

Mercury – 4 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1884-1889, AmK: 1889-1894, BK: 1894-1905, MK: 1905-1913,  
PiK: 1913-1923, GK: 1923-1935, DK: 1935-1947,  
AK: 1947-1952, AmK: 1952-1959, BK: 1959-1960, MK: 1960-1964

During the GK dasa, he was at the front of the internal struggle within India's Congress party between the Gandhian old guard and socialists.

The most important events of his life were in AK dasa. AK Saturn is exalted in the 5th house in D-10. He became a minister after independence, became the president of constituent assembly and was elected the first President of the Republic of India. All this happened in AK dasa.

MK Jupiter is in 3rd from AK in navamsa and aspects the 12th. MK dasa brought his end.

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### **Example 7: Swami Muktananda (siddha yoga)**

Birthdata is 1908 May 16, 5:11 am (IST), Dharmastala, India (75e23, 12n57).

Jupiter and Saturn are both in the 15th degree. So Rahu is included and we use 8 portfolios.

Moon – 29 deg – AK  
Venus- 16 deg – AmK  
Rahu – 15 deg – BK  
Mars – fixed karaka – MK (stronger than Moon)  
Jupiter – 14 deg 10 min – Competes for MK/PiK and wins PiK  
Saturn – 14 deg 4 min – Competes for MK/PiK and loses  
Mercury – 11 deg – PK  
Mars – 3 deg – GK  
Sun – 2 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1908-1914, AmK: 1914-1916, BK: 1916-1918, MK: 1918-1920,  
PiK: 1920-1923, PK: 1923-1924, GK: 1924-1926, DK: 1926-1927,  
AK: 1927-1933, AmK: 1933-1943, BK: 1943-1953, MK: 1953-1963,  
PiK: 1963-1964, PK: 1964-1975, GK: 1975-1985

In 1947, he met his guru Bhagavan Niryananda, who gave him a shaktipat initiation. His guru's touch made his Kundalini shakti rise and he had a sublime experience. He spent the next eight years living and meditating in a small hut. This meeting of guru, initiation and sadhana that followed came in BK dasa.

In 1970, he came to US on behalf of his guru and spread siddha yoga in US. He gave a shaktipat initiation to several people. He got some fame and following in the early 1970s. This was during PK dasa. Dasas of AK and PK can bring fame and success.

In GK dasa, some public accusations were made giving accounts by some anonymous young women of sexual encounters with Muktananda under the pretext of initiation into tantric yoga. GK dasa can give such controversies and accusations.

GK Mars aspects the 12th from AK, which is empty. This dasa also brought his end. He appointed successors in May 1982 and left body in October 1982.

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### **Example 8: Aurobindo Ghose**

Birthdata is 1872 August 15, 5:08 am (LMT), 88e22, 22n32.

Mercury and Saturn are in both the 24th degree. So Rahu is included and we use 8 portfolios.

Saturn – 23 deg 30 min – AK



Mercury – 23 deg 27 min – AmK  
Jupiter – 21 deg – BK  
Rahu – 13 deg – MK  
Venus – 8 deg – PiK  
Saturn – fixed karaka – PK  
Moon – 5 deg 39 min – Competes for PK/GK and wins GK  
Mars – 5 deg 25 min – Competes for PK/GK and loses  
Sun – 0 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1872-1877, AmK: 1877-1878, BK: 1878-1890, MK: 1890-1900,  
PiK: 1900-1901, PK: 1901-1906, GK: 1906-1911, DK: 1911-1912,  
AK: 1912-1919, AmK: 1919-1930, BK: None, MK: 1930-1932,  
PiK: 1932-1943, PK: 1943-1950, GK: 1950-1957

He was involved in India's nationalist freedom struggle and went to jail in GK dasa. GK can give that. Exalted Moon is in 7th from AK and he was visited by Lord Krishna in jail! In D-20, Moon is the lagna lord in 5th house of devotion with AK. Moon dasa gave an encounter with Krishna and increase of devotion and knowledge through direct experience.

In AK dasa during 1912-1919, he was very active. He started a magazine called Arya and wrote several articles and books. A lot of followers came to him.

He left body in the dasa of GK Moon, who aspects the 12th house from AK in navamsa.

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#### **Example 9: Aishwarya Rai (famous Indian actress)**

Birthdata is 1973 November 1, 4:05 am (IST), 74e51, 12n54.

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Moon – 19 deg – AK  
Sun – 14 deg – AmK  
Saturn – 11 deg – BK  
Jupiter – 10 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Mars – 5 deg – PiK  
Mercury – 3 deg – GK  
Venus – 1 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1973-1976, AmK: 1976-1977, BK: 1977-1986, MK: 1986-1990,  
PiK: 1990-1997, GK: 1997-1999, DK: 1999-2002,  
AK: 2002-2011

In the dasa of PiK Mars, she became Miss World. Mars is in a trine from AK in rasi and navamsa. He is in GL in rasi chart. PiK brings success through authorities or institutions while PK brings success through following.

Though she was acting in movies since 1997, big success started in 2002. Her movie Devdas came in 2002 and put her on the top. She visited Cannes Film Festival in 2002 and has been a regular since then. Time magazine named in her 100 most influential people in 2004. The dasa of AK Moon since 2002 has given her great success.

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#### **Example 10: John Denver (folk singer)**

Birthdata is 1943 December 31, 2:55 pm (7:00 west of GMT), Roswell, New Mexico, USA (105w0, 33n20).

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Saturn – 24 deg – AK  
Moon – 23 deg – AmK  
Sun – 22 deg – BK

Mars – 19 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Venus – 15 deg – PiK  
Jupiter – 10 deg – GK  
Mercury – 0 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1943-1955, AmK: 1955-1964, BK: 1964-1971, MK: 1971-1983,  
PiK: 1983-1989, GK: 1989-1992, DK: 1992-2000

Dasa of PK Mars was the peak of his musical career. PK Mars is with AK in lagna and that is a raja yoga. He had his first top ten album in 1972 and had great success and popularity in country music and folk music during 1972-1982.

He died in a flight crash in 1997 in the dasa of DK Mercury. In navamsa, 12th from AK is aspected by Mercury.

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### **Example 11: Madonna (singer and entertainer)**

Birthdata is 1958 August 16, 7:05 am (EST, 5:00 west of GMT), Bay City, Michigan, USA (83w53, 43n36).

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Sun – 29 deg – AK  
Saturn – 25 deg – AmK  
Mars – 22 deg – BK  
Moon – 18 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Mercury – 12 deg – PiK  
Venus – 7 deg – GK  
Jupiter – 3 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1958-1969, AmK: 1969-1972, BK: 1972-1980, MK: 1980-1992,  
PiK: 1992-2004, GK: 2004-2015

From MK Moon, 12<sup>th</sup> lord in navamsa is Sun. Her mother died in AK Sun's dasa.

She formed a band in 1980 and her first album was released in 1982. The period 1982-1992 was very successful for her and made her famous. This was the dasa of PK Moon. In navamsa, Moon is in a quadrant from AK. PiK Mercury is in a trine from AK in navamsa and joins AK in lagna in D-10, giving a raja yoga (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> lords). Thus, her success continued in Mercury dasa. But it was the dasa of PK Moon in lagna that kick started her famous music career. In 2004, she sued Time Warner and was countersued, for mismanagement of her money and bad book keeping. This was at the onset of GK dasa. However, GK Venus is with AK in rasi, with PK in navamsa and well-placed in own sign in D-10 in a quadrant from PK. His dasa can give a lot of hard work and some obstacles, but it will continue to be good. But it can bring controversies, obstacles and even litigation.

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### **Example 12: George Walker Bush (43<sup>rd</sup> president of USA)**

Birthdata is 1946 July 6, 7:30 am (EDT, 4:00 west of GMT), New Haven, Connecticut, USA (72w56, 41n18).

Mars and Mercury are in the 17<sup>th</sup> degree. So Rahu is included and 8 portfolios are used.

Venus – 28 deg – AK  
Jupiter – 25 deg – AmK  
Moon – 23 deg – BK  
Sun – 20 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Venus – fixed karaka – PiK  
Mercury – 16 deg 43 min – Competes for PiK/PK and wins PK  
Mars – 16 deg 13 min – Competes for PiK/PK and loses  
Mercury – fixed karaka – GK  
Rahu – 3 deg 29 min – Competes for GK/DK and wins DK  
Saturn – 3 deg 25 min – Competes for GK/DK and loses

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1946-1958, AmK: 1958-1960, BK: 1960-1962, MK: 1962-1973,  
PiK: 1973-1985, PK: 1985-1997, GK: 1997-2009, DK: 2009-2019

AK Venus and PK Mercury are together in lagna. This is an excellent raja yoga. Even in navamsa, PK Mercury is in a quadrant from AK. In D-10, he is in a trine. In PK dasa, his success and fame started. He became Texas governor in PK dasa. Mercury happens to be PK as well as GK and his dasa effectively runs from 1985 till 2009. His work as a campaign advisor and media liaison during his father's successful presidential campaign, his purchase of shares in Texas Rangers team, his election as Texas governor, his re-election as Texas governor with 69% votes, his controversial election as US president and his re-election as US president with an increased margin of 3%, all these events came in this 24-year period ruled by PK and GK Mercury. However, in the second half, Mercury had to give the results of being GK also. He got into unpopular wars, was troubled by controversies and his popularity rating plummeted during GK dasa.

Venus is PiK. He is in Pisces in navamsa. The 12<sup>th</sup> from PiK is owned by Rahu. DK Rahu's dasa will run from 2009-2019.

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### **Example 13: Yasser Arafat (Palestinian leader)**

Birthdata is 1929 August 29, 2:05 am (time zone: 2:00 east of GMT), 31e15, 30n03.

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Moon – 27 deg – AK  
Jupiter – 21 deg – AmK  
Sun – 12 deg – BK  
Mars – 11 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Mercury – 5 deg – PiK  
Venus – 1 deg – GK  
Saturn – 1 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1929-1940, AmK: 1940-1951, BK: 1951-1953, MK: 1953-1956,  
PiK: 1956-1960, GK: 1960-1961, DK: 1961-1967,  
AK: 1967-1978, AmK: 1968-1969, BK: 1969-1979, MK: 1979-1988,  
PiK: 1988-1996, GK: 1996-2007

PK Mars joins exalted dispositor Mercury in a quadrant from lagna and in a trine from AK. He gives fame and following. Though occupies moolatrikona in navamsa, he is in 8<sup>th</sup> from AK. He is with two natural malefics in navamsa. He shows fame and following as a militant leader.

AK Moon is exalted in rasi chart and takes part in Gaja-Kesari yoga. He is in a quadrant in navamsa. His dasa during 1967-1968 was a very important dasa. Following the six-day war in the middle of 1967, Nasser of Egypt declared Arafat to be the "leader of the Palestinians". In December 1967, Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman resigned and the new chairman invited Arafat to join PLO and offered a large representation in the executive committee to Arafat's Fatah group. Thus, the one-year AK dasa saw his stars rise.

PK Mars and PiK Mercury are together in a quadrant from lagna and trine from AK in rasi and they have a kartari on 10<sup>th</sup> house in navamsa. The PK and PiK dasas during 1979-1996 made him famous on the world stage. He was involved in many peace negotiations (especially in Mercury dasa) and received a Nobel peace prize.

GK Venus is in 12<sup>th</sup> from AK in navamsa and 3<sup>rd</sup> from AK in rasi. Despite best efforts for peace, this dasa led to a breakdown in peace talks and violence again. This dasa also saw his position within PLO and Palestine being marginalized. There were also allegations in 2002-2003 related to his financial dealings.

He passed away in 2004 in the same GK dasa. GK Venus occupies the 12<sup>th</sup> house from AK Moon in navamsa.

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### **Example 14: Bill Gates (founder of Microsoft)**

Birthdata is 1955 October 28, 9:21 pm (PST, 8:00 west of GMT), 122w20, 47n36.

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Saturn – 28 deg – AK  
Venus – 26 deg – AmK  
Mercury – 23 deg – BK  
Mars – 16 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Moon – 14 deg – PiK  
Sun – 11 deg – GK  
Jupiter – 4 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1955-1959, AmK: 1959-1963, BK: 1963-1966, MK: 1966-1969,  
PiK: 1969-1978, GK: 1978-1982, DK: 1982-1984,  
AK: 1984-1992, AmK: 1992-2000, BK: 2000-2009

The first retail version of Microsoft Windows operating system was launched in 1985, soon after AK dasa started. AK Saturn is exalted in a trine with AmK Venus in his moolatrikona. They are also 9<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> lords and form a very powerful raja yoga. In navamsa also, AK and AmK are together and PK also joins them. Thus, AK and AmK dasas were brilliant for him. The period 1984-2000 gave the results of AK and AmK raja yoga.

In 2000, he started BK Mercury dasa. Mercury is lagna lord, he is exalted and he is with PK Mars is in a quadrant. His fame continued in the dasa. Mercury also gave fame for philanthropic work. As Mercury is in 12<sup>th</sup> from AK and AmK in rasi chart, there is a chance of slowing down of work or full/partial retirement in his dasa.

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### **Example 15: John McEnroe (tennis player)**

Birthdata is 1959 February 16, 10:30 pm (time zone: 1:00 east of GMT), Wiesbaden, West Germany (8e14, 50n05).

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Venus – 27deg – AK  
Moon – 16 deg – AmK  
Saturn – 11 deg – BK  
Mars – 9 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Jupiter – 7 deg – PiK  
Mercury – 6 deg – GK  
Sun – 4 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1959-1964, AmK: 1964-1972, BK: 1972-1975, MK: 1975-1983,  
PiK: 1983-1985, GK: 1985-1990, DK: 1990-1995,  
AK: 1995-2002, AmK: 2002-2006, BK: 2006-2015

As an 18 year old, he took the tennis world by storm in 1977. He made it to the semifinals of Wimbledon and lost to Jimmy Connors in four sets. He signed big promotional deals in 1978 and won his first grand slam in 1979. He became the first male player since 1920s to win US Open for 3 years in a row, by winning it in 1979, 1980 and 1981. His celebrated battles with Bjorn Borg came in 1980 and 1981.

All this happened in the dasa of MK/PK. PK Mars is with exalted AmK. He is in a quadrant from AK. In navamsa also, he is in a quadrant from AK. Dasa of PK made him very famous and successful.

PiK Jupiter is also in a quadrant from AK in rasi and navamsa. His dasa also was good.

GK Mercury is in 6<sup>th</sup> house from AK in navamsa. He was burnt out from constant tennis and took a six month break from the game in 1986. He struggled to regain form after this sabbatical. Though there were some successes, GK dasa was overall bad. There were also more controversies. For example, he was disqualified at 1990 Australian Open for swearing at the umpire.

AK dasa brought some more fame and success. He was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1999. He also became US Davis cup team captain in the same year. He wrote an autobiographical book towards the end of AK dasa.

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### **Example 16: Elvis Presley (“The King” of rock-n-roll)**

Birthdata is 1935 January 8, 4:35 am (CST, 6:00 west of GMT), Tupelo, Mississippi, USA (88w43, 34n16).

All the seven planets are in different degrees. So Rahu is excluded and we use 7 portfolios only.

Mercury – 29 deg – AK  
Jupiter – 25 deg – AmK  
Sun – 24 deg – BK  
Mars – 19 deg – MK (also acts as PK)  
Moon – 9 deg – PiK  
Venus – 6 deg – GK  
Saturn – 2 deg – DK

*Karaka dasa:*

AK: 1935-1936, AmK: 1936-1947, BK: 1947-1948, MK: 1948-1958,  
PiK: 1958-1961, GK: 1961-1963, DK: 1963-1966,  
AK: 1966-1976, AmK: 1976-1977, BK: 1977-1988, MK: 1988-1990,  
PiK: 1990-1999, GK: 1999-2009

Dasa of PK Mars gave him fame and following. He made his first recording in 1953-54 and got a big breakthrough in 1956. This was during PK dasa. His acting career was also launched in the same dasa. PK Mars is in a quadrant from AK Mercury in rasi and navamsa.

PiK Moon is 8<sup>th</sup> lord from AK and joins AK in navamsa. In rasi also, he is the 8<sup>th</sup> lord from AK and occupies 3<sup>rd</sup> from him. This dasa resulted in some trouble from authorities – he was drafted to the military and served in Germany during 1958-1960.

During the dasa of GK, there were some obstacles and his music stopped making it to the top of charts. During the DK dasa, he courted Priscilla.

Once AK dasa came, he made a successful comeback to the top of charts. A special TV program made by him in 1968 became a huge hit. During 1968-1976, Elvis was again at his peak giving live performances, acting and making albums.

AmK Jupiter is in 6<sup>th</sup> from AK in navamsa. During his dasa, he became fatter and less agile and his career slowed down.

BK Sun is in 12<sup>th</sup> from AK Mercury in navamsa. He died at the onset of BK dasa.

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This article is based on an independent interpretation of Parasara’s teachings on chara karakas. This article rejects the view that Parasara mentioned two schools of thought using 7 chara karakas and 8 chara karakas. It also rejects Pt Sanjay Rath’s theory that 7 chara karakas apply only in mundane charts where there is no separate father. This article is based on a fresh interpretation of Parasara after purging all preconceived notions. It suggests that 7 portfolios apply in some charts and 8 portfolios apply in some charts and describes when to use which scheme. The method to find chara karakas is explained using several examples.

A dasa called Karaka dasa was taught by Parasara and it is based on chara karakas. Karaka dasa is used in this article to illustrate how some major events or phases in life can be timed using chara karakas, their relationships and placements.