

Drigdasas of Parasara

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Introduction

In “Jaimini Sutram”, aphorism 2.4.21 cryptically taught drigdasas:

कुजादिः त्रिकूट पद क्रमेण द्वादशा । २-४-२१

This literally means “drigdasas go in the order of the pada from the 3 groups starting from the 9th”. Obviously, this is very ambiguous and can mean so many things.

Interestingly, Maharshi Parasara also taught drigdasas (see [4]). Though certain concepts like chara karakas, rasi drishti, argalas, bhava and graha arudha padas, chara dasa, sthira dasa and other rasi dasas are normally considered to be part of the so-called “Jaimini astrology”, as opposed to “Parasari astrology”, it is very interesting to note that Parasara too taught all those concepts! It is clear that both maharshis taught the same Jyotish and not two competing or complementary “systems”. Jaimini took a small subset of Jyotish and went deep in it albeit in a cryptic fashion. Parasara covered larger ground, was more elaborate and less ambiguous, but did not go as deep as Jaimini did in a few areas.

The interpretations given in [1], [2] and [3] of the above ambiguous aphorism of Jaimini are different from each other. That is not surprising given the cryptic nature of Jaimini. Interestingly, all of them are different from the teachings of Parasara on drigdasas, although [2] and [3] come close to it in some aspects. It is unlikely that Parasara and Jaimini taught two different drigdasas that both start from the 9th house. It is more likely that commentators did not fully succeed in interpreting Jaimini’s cryptic aphorisms accurately. This illustrates the value of paying attention to Parasara while trying to interpret Jaimini, at least when dealing with areas addressed by both the Maharshis.

In this article, we will go by Parasara’s teachings, understand the computation and use of drigdasas and see some examples.

Calculation of Mahadasas

Drigdasas are based on sign aspects. Movable signs aspect all fixed signs except the adjacent one. Fixed signs aspect all movable signs except the adjacent one. Dual signs aspect all other dual signs.

The following verses (see [4]) describe the calculation of mahadasas in drigdasas.

लग्नाद् धर्मस्य तदृष्टराशीनां च दशास्ततः ।
दशमस्य च तदृष्टराशीनां च नयेत् पुनः ॥ १८५ ॥
एकादशस्य तदृष्टराशीनां स्थिरवत् समाः ।
प्रवृत्ता दृग् वशाद्यस्माद् दृग्दशैर्यं ततः स्मृता ॥ १८६ ॥
चरे व्युत्क्रमतो ग्राह्या दृग्द्योग्याः स्थिरभे क्रमात् ।
विषमे क्रमतो द्वन्द्वे राशयो व्युत्क्रमात् समे ॥ १८७ ॥

The first dasa is of the 9th house from lagna. Next three dasas are of the signs aspected by the 9th house. The fifth dasa is of the 10th house from lagna. Next three dasas are of the signs aspected by the 10th house. The ninth dasa is of the 11th house from lagna. Next three dasas are of the signs aspected by the 11th house.

To determine the order of reckoning the aspected signs, the rule gives by Parasara is that we go zodiacally for fixed signs and odd dual signs and anti-zodiacally for movable signs and even dual signs. The thumb rule to remember this is that we go to the *nearest* aspected sign. If there are two aspected signs at the same distance (in the case of dual signs), we go to the other sign owned by the same planet.

Regarding dasa years, Parasara taught that dasa years are the uniform dasa years as in sthira dasa. Under the sthira dasa scheme, dasas of movable, fixed and dual signs are of 7, 8 and 9 years respectively.

Reconciling with Jaimini

When interpreting Jaimini's aphorism 2.4.21, we can remember that the word "pada" also means "ray of light". Especially when dealing with "drigdasa" (drik = vision), this meaning becomes relevant. Padakrama can mean the order of the passing of the ray of light, i.e. the order of vision/aspect. Going to the nearest aspected sign and covering the aspected signs is conveyed in an encoded form. Parasara elaborated the same in normal un-encoded language.

Calculation of Antardasas

Parasara did not give a specific method of finding antardasas for drigdasa. The following verses describe the generic method taught by him that is applicable to all rasi dasas (see [4]).

कृत्वाऽर्कधा राशिदशां राशेर्भुक्तिं क्रमाद् वदेत् ।
 प्रत्यन्तर्दशाद्येवं कृत्वा तत्तत्फलं वदेत् ॥ ५ ॥
 आद्यसप्तमयोर्मध्ये यो राशिर्बलवांस्ततः ।
 ओजे दशाश्रये गण्याः क्रमादुत्क्रमतः समे ॥ ६ ॥
 अत्राऽपरो विशेषोऽस्ति ब्रवीमि तमहं द्विज ।
 चरेऽनुज्झितमार्गः स्यात् षष्ठषष्ठादिकाः स्थिरे ॥ ७ ॥
 उभये कण्टकाज्ज्ञेया लग्नपञ्चमभाग्यतः ।
 चरस्थिरद्विस्वभावेष्चोजेषुः प्राक् क्रमो मतः ॥ ८ ॥
 तेष्वेव त्रिषु युग्मेषु ग्राह्यं व्युत्क्रमतोऽखिलम् ।

When finding the antardasas, there are three aspects – (1) the starting sign, (2) the direction and (3) the progression. The starting sign is the stronger of dasa sign and 7th from it. The direction of counting is zodiacal for odd dasa signs and anti-zodiacal for even dasa signs. The progression is based on whether the dasa sign is movable or fixed or dual. For movable signs, we go regularly – from one sign to the next sign. For fixed signs, we take the starting sign, 6th from it, 6th therefrom and so on. For dual signs, we take the kankas (1st, 4th, 7th and 10th) reckoned from the 1st, 5th and 9th houses. First four antardasas belong to kendras, starting from lagna. Next four antardasas belong to panapharas, starting from the 5th house instead of 2nd. The last four antardasas belong to apoklimas, starting from the 9th house instead of 3rd.

Judgment of Results

The 9th house shows God's light falling on one. It shows guru and religious activities. When the light of God shines brightly on one in the form of guidance from a guru and dharma, it leads to spiritual progress.

Drigdasas track the progression of the 9th house in life. It shows the changes in how God's light falls on one with changing time. Drigdasas throw light on one's religious and spiritual activities and spiritual progress.

Look at the dasa rasi or antardasa rasi and influences on it in the natal chart, such as aspects and argalas on that sign. If the dasa sign contains unobstructed argalas from three or more planets, that dasa will result in important developments in one's spiritual life. If the dasa sign contains sign aspect from chara bhratri karaka or the 9th lord from lagna or Jupiter, then the dasa can bring guidance from a guru. If the dasa sign contains sign

aspect from chara putra karaka or the 5th lord from lagna or Mercury, then the dasa can bring an important sishya.

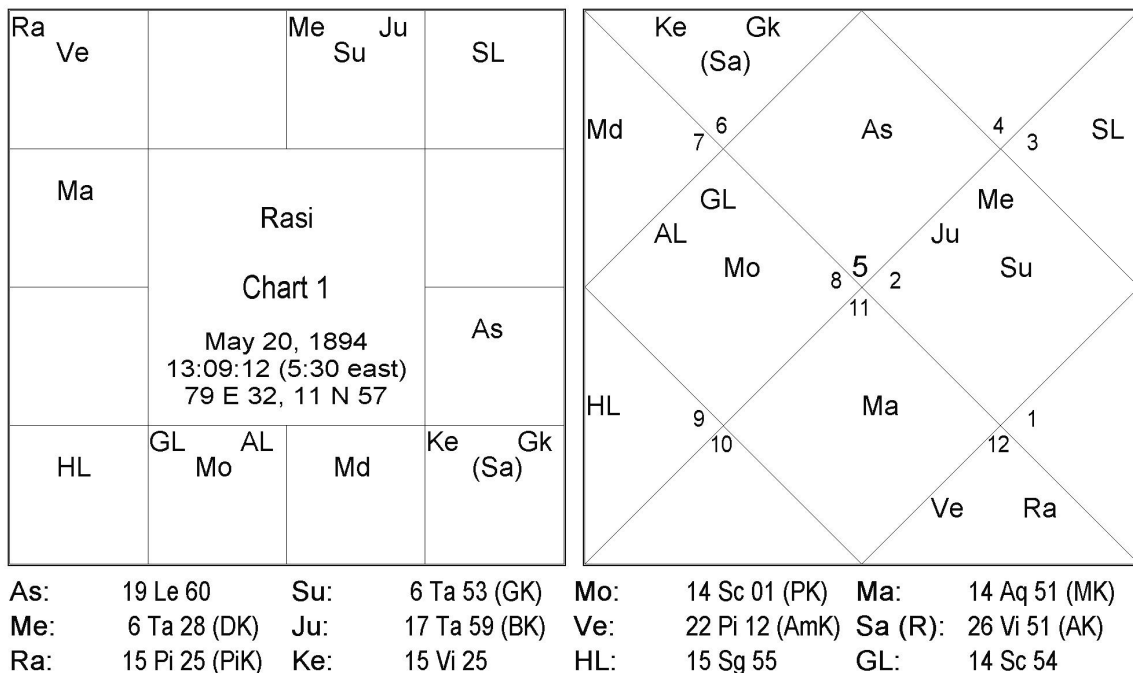
Because dasa sign is the progression of the 9th house, the 5th house from dasa sign is the progression of lagna! It can be taken as reference in judging various influences on one's religious activities and spiritual progress. This can be done in the natal chart as well the dasa pravesha chakra. The latter is the chart cast at the time the dasa starts. It is as important as the natal chart. While dasa pravesha chakra cannot be accurately determined in nakshatra dasas such as Vimsottari dasa, it can be accurately cast for rasi dasas such as drigdasa. For the purpose of casting dasa pravesha chakra in rasi dasas, one year should be taken as the time in which Sun traverses exactly 360 degrees. Solar motion is the measure of time.

When judging an antardasa or a pratyantardasa also, the same approach can be used. If the antardasas start from dasa sign itself, then antardasa sign is also a progression of the 9th house and the 5th house from it shows the progressed lagna. However, if antardasas start from the 7th from dasa sign, then antardasa sign is a progression of the 3rd house and the 11th house from it shows the progressed lagna.

All other standard principles taught by Parasara for judging rasi dasas are applicable, but it must be remembered that the focus in this dasa system is on religious and spiritual life.

Examples

Example 1: Swami Chandrasekhara Saraswati, former chief pontiff of Kanchi mutt, was born on 20th May 1894 at 1:09:12 pm (IST). His rasi chart is shown in Chart 1.

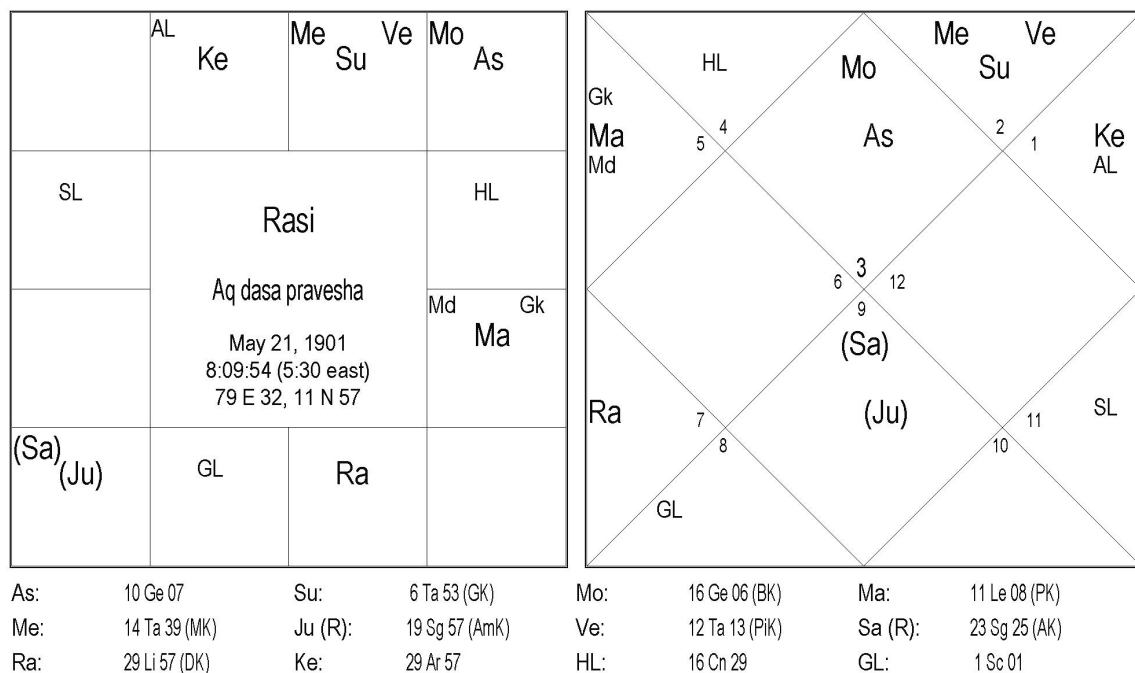


The following is the mahadasa calculation in drigdasas:

Ar: 1894 – 1901, Aq: 1901 – 1909, Sc: 1909 – 1917, Le: 1917 – 1925
Ta: 1925 – 1933, Cn: 1933 – 1940, Li: 1940 – 1947, Cp: 1947 – 1954,
Ge: 1954 – 1963, Vi: 1963 – 1972, Sg: 1972 – 1981, Pi: 1981 – 1990

He renounced and also became the chief pontiff of Kanchi mutt in February 1907 in Aquarius dasa. In Aquarius dasa, progressed lagna is in Gemini (5th from Aquarius). Judging the natal rasi chart from Gemini, we see that the 12th house contains 3 planets – Sun, Jupiter and lagna lord Mercury. The prominence of the 12th house can show renunciation during the dasa. Also, the 5th lord Venus is exalted in the 10th house along with 9th lord Rahu and it can show a position of influence in his religious activities.

We can also look at the dasa pravesha chakra. His Aquarius dasa started on 1901 May 21 at 8:09:54 am (IST). It is shown below:



Taking Gemini as lagna in the dasa pravesha chakra, we see that the 12th house is prominent again. The lagna lord Mercury and the 12th lord Venus are together in the 12th house. Thus, renunciation is a strong possibility. The conjunction of lagna lord and the 5th lord, albeit in the 12th house, can show raja yoga albeit in renunciation.

The antardasas in Aquarius dasa go as Aquarius, Cancer, Sagittarius, Taurus, Libra, Pisces, Leo, Capricorn, Gemini, Scorpio, Aries and Virgo. Each antardasa is of 8 months. At the time of renunciation, the 9th antardasa (Gemini) was running. This antardasa started on 1906 September 23 at 2:41:56 pm (IST). The antardasa pravesha chakra is shown below:

AL		HL	GL Ju
(Sa)	Rasi		Ra
Ke Md Gk As	Ge antardasa September 23, 1906 14:41:56 (5:30 east) 79 E 32, 11 N 57		Ma
	Mo	Ve	Me Su SL

As:	9 Cp 40	Su:	6 Vi 53 (GK)	Mo:	11 Sc 57 (PK)	Ma:	14 Le 20 (MK)
Me:	6 Vi 06 (DK)	Ju:	16 Ge 25 (BK)	Ve:	23 Li 19 (AK)	Sa (R):	17 Aq 45 (AmK)
Ra:	16 Cn 32 (PIK)	Ke:	16 Cp 32	HL:	25 Ta 19	GL:	23 Ge 31

In the Gemini antardasa, the progressed lagna for the antardasa is Libra. Judging the antardasa pravesha chakra from Libra, we see that the 12th house contains 12th lord Mercury in exaltation with Sun. It also supports renunciation. Moreover, lagna lord Venus is in lagna, while the 5th lord Saturn is in 5th. If the lagna lord and the 5th lord are in lagna and/or 5th either together or separately, it is maharaja yoga according to Parasara. The other 5th lord Rahu is in the 10th house. These factors support ascension to a position of influence in one's religious activities.

AL GL		Gk Md	Ke Me
(Sa) Mo	Rasi		HL Su
As	Chart 2 July 18, 1935 18:56:44 (5:30 east) 79 E 26, 10 N 42		Ve
Ra	SL	Ju Ma	

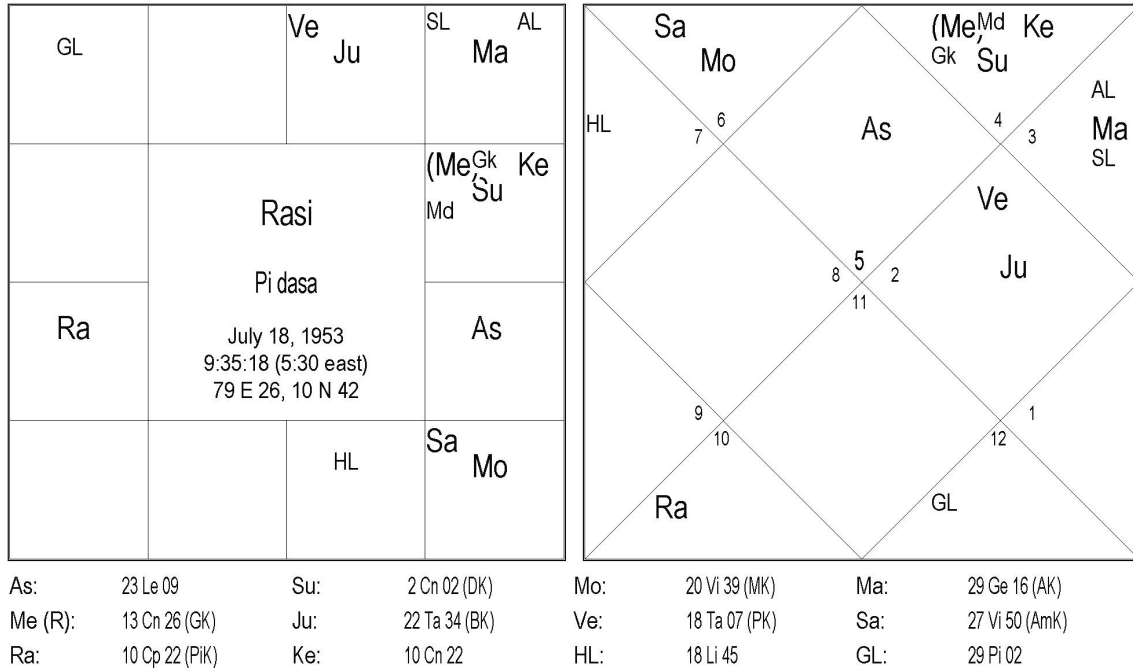
(Sa) Mo	Rasi		Ra
GL AL	Chart 2 July 18, 1935 18:56:44 (5:30 east) 79 E 26, 10 N 42		SL
As	Chart 2 July 18, 1935 18:56:44 (5:30 east) 79 E 26, 10 N 42		Ju Ma
Md Gk	Chart 2 July 18, 1935 18:56:44 (5:30 east) 79 E 26, 10 N 42		Ve

As:	7 Cp 26	Su:	2 Cn 02 (PK)	Mo:	4 Aq 28 (PiK)	Ma:	1 Li 15 (GK)
Me:	12 Ge 00 (MK)	Ju:	20 Li 32 (AK)	Ve:	15 Le 59 (BK)	Sa (R):	16 Aq 42 (AmK)
Ra:	28 Sg 47 (DK)	Ke:	28 Ge 47	HL:	29 Cn 12	GL:	10 Pi 43

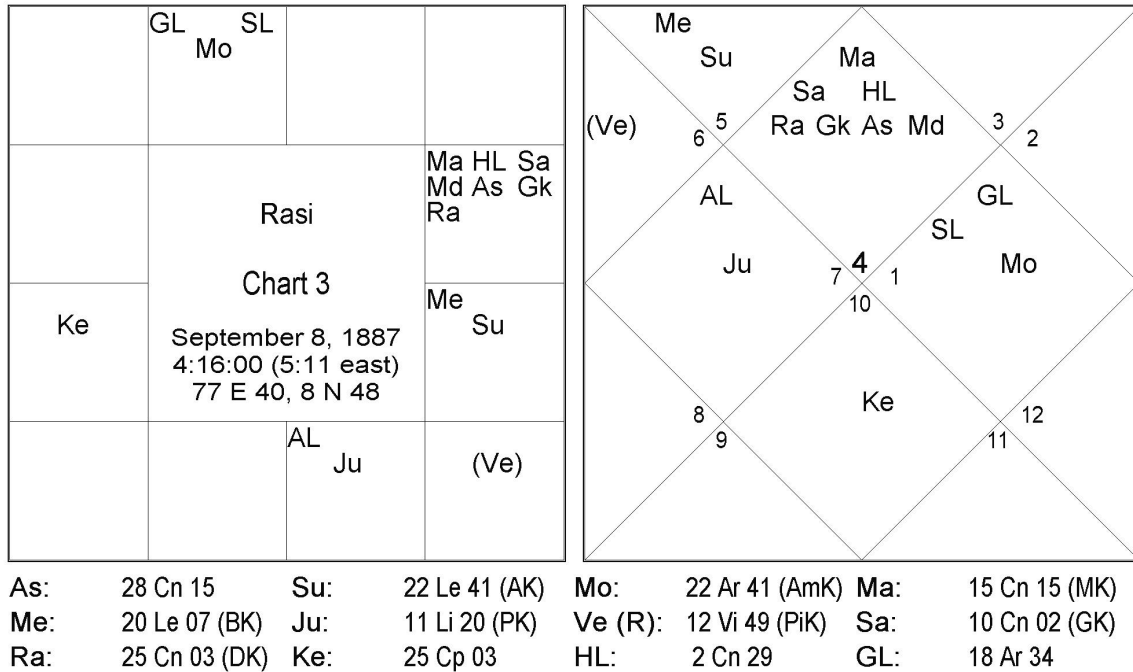
Example 2: Swami Jayendra Saraswati, current chief pontiff of Kanchi mutt, was born on 1935 July 18 at 6:57 pm (IST). His rasi chart is shown in Chart 2 above.

He renounced in March 1954 and was selected as the successor of Swami Chandrasekhara Saraswati. He ran Virgo dasa from 1935 to 1944 and Gemini dasa from 1944 to 1953. Pisces dasa of nine years was running at the time of his renunciation and initiation. In the natal rasi chart, Pisces has rasi drishti from Mercury, who is the lord of the 9th house from Jupiter as well as lagna. This can show the coming of a guru.

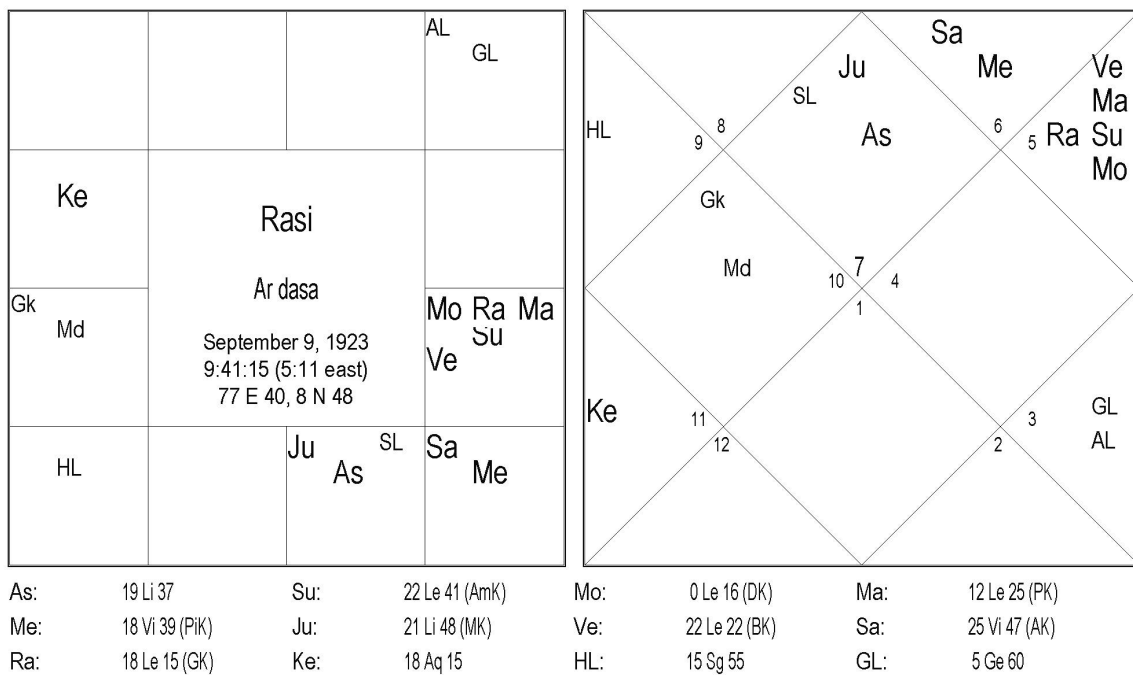
During Pisces dasa, Cancer becomes the progressed lagna. Taking Cancer as lagna, we see that the 12th house contains the 12th lord Mercury with mokshakaraka Ketu. The lagna lord Moon is in the 8th house with 8th lord Saturn and aspects lagna. These factors can suggest renunciation. In the dasa pravesha chakra shown below, 12th lord Mercury occupies lagna along with Ketu and lagna lord Moon joins the 8th lord Saturn again. These factors support the indications in the natal chart.



Example 3: Swami Sivananda of Hrishikesh was born on 1887 September 8 at 4:16 am. His rasi chart is shown in Chart 3 below. He ran Pisces dasa from 1887 to 1896, Sagittarius dasa from 1896 to 1905, Virgo dasa from 1905 to 1914 and Gemini dasa from 1914 to 1923. Aries dasa started in September 1923 and it brought renunciation and ascetic life to this doctor in mid-1924. Chara bhratri karaka Mercury aspects Aries and it can bring a guru. Taking Leo as the progressed lagna in Aries dasa, we see that yoga karaka Mars is in the 12th house with Saturn and Ketu. Such a strong 12th house containing moksha karaka Ketu and vairagya karaka Saturn can bring ascetic life and renunciation.



The dasa pravesha chakra of Aries dasa is shown below. In this chart, Leo contains Sun, Moon, Mars, Venus and Rahu. If the 10th lord is in a quadrant with 4 other planets, it is a parivraja yoga and makes one an ascetic. Thus, becoming an ascetic in this dasa is a strong possibility.



Example 4: Aurobindo Ghose of Pondicherry ashram was born on 1872 August 15 at 5:08 am. His rasi chart is given in Chart 4 shown below.

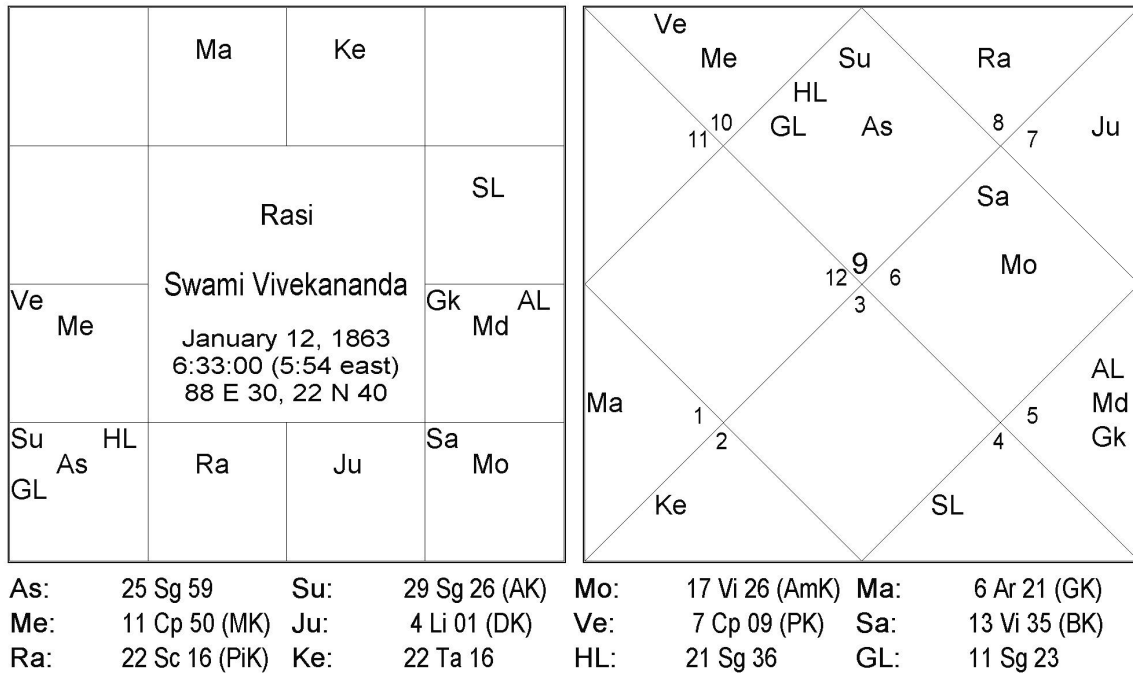
		AL Ra	GL
Md	Rasi Chart 4 August 15, 1872 5:08:00 (5:53 east) 88 E 22, 22 N 32		Ma As HL Ju
Gk			Me Su Ve
(Sa) Mo SL			Ke

As:	23 Cn 06	Su:	0 Le 19 (DK)	Mo:	5 Sg 39 (PK)	Ma:	5 Cn 25 (GK)
Me:	23 Le 27 (AmK)	Ju:	21 Cn 36 (BK)	Ve:	8 Le 33 (PiK)	Sa (R):	23 Sg 30 (AK)
Ra:	16 Ta 38 (MK)	Ke:	16 Sc 38	HL:	13 Cn 20	GL:	19 Ge 16

He ran Aries dasa from 1908 to 1915. This dasa transformed him spiritually. He left his political activities and sailed to Pondicherry. He started intense spiritual sadhana and an ashram developed around him. Leo is the progressed lagna in Aries dasa. Leo contains an exceedingly strong Sun in Golokamsa (occupying own or exaltation sign in 15 out of 16 divisional charts). The 12th house contains 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th lords. Thus, sadhana in seclusion and great spiritual evolution make sense. In the dasa pravesha chakra shown

above, Saturn and Moon occupy the 8th house from Leo showing ascetism and sadhana in seclusion. The lords of all the trines – Sun, Mars and Jupiter – occupy Leo and it confers great raja yogas. This is the drigdasa in which his spiritual activities took off in a big way.

Example 5: Swami Vivekananda was born on 1863 January 12 at 6:33 am. His chart is shown below.



He ran Capricorn drigdasa during 1878-1885. He met his guru Ramakrishna Paramahansa in 1881 and spent a lot of time in spiritual sadhana under his guidance in this dasa. Taking Taurus as lagna, we see Ketu in lagna and lagna lord Venus is in the 9th house. A nice raja yoga between lagna lord and 5th lord in 9th can give a good guru.

In Virgo dasa that ran from 1892 to 1901, he became a spiritual teacher of renown and stature. He also established Ramakrishna Mission then. Taking Capricorn as lagna, we can see that 5th, 9th and 10th lords are together in lagna. This excellent raja yoga gives fame and results in great deeds. The placement of 8th lord in 12th shows some tremendous spiritual experiences too. Jupiter in the 10th house is conducive to being a spiritual teacher.

Conclusion

Drigdasa shows events in the religious life and tracks spiritual progress. Though Jaimini's teachings are ambiguous and different commentators interpreted differently, Parasara's teachings on drigdasa are unambiguous. Techniques for judging drigdasa based on the natal chart and dasa pravesha chakra were explained with illustrations in this article.

References

- [1] “Jaimini Sutramritam”, by Iranganti Rangacharya
- [2] “Jaimini Sutram”, by Prof. P.S. Sastri
- [3] “Jaimini Maharishi’s Upadesa Sutras” by Sanjay Rath
- [4] “Brihat Parasara Hora Sastram” by Maharshi Parasara and translated by R. Santhanam