

Sthira Dasa of Parasara An Independent Interpretation

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A word from the author: This is an independent interpretation of Parasara's teachings on Sthira dasa. 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 Sthira dasa 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.

Introduction

Concepts like arudha padas, chara karakas, chara dasa, sthira dasa etc are considered by several people to form "Jaimini system of astrology" and they believe it to be distinct from "Parasara system of astrology". Though the more correct viewpoint that there are no two systems and both rishis taught the same system gained popularity during the last decade, some scholars are trying to promote the old viewpoint on the internet again. This is unfortunate and a step backwards. Jaimini focused on some angles deeper, albeit cryptically. But both rishis taught the same system.

I always maintain that Parasara is the best source for understanding some of Jaimini sutras. Though Parasara is also sometimes tricky to understand, he is far more verbose and far clearer than Jaimini. With Jaimini's aphorisms being highly cryptic, it is nearly impossible to understand them just using one's own intellectual or intuitive abilities. Some *keys* coming from an *authentic rishi-like* source are needed to decode Jaimini's aphorisms accurately.

Though some people believe that the keys to Jaimini's cryptic teachings lie with some secret paramparas, it is a questionable belief. While some paramparas may indeed have a little bit of correct knowledge, it is possible that it is corrupted with wrong knowledge now.

Some more people believe that keys to Jaimini's cryptic teachings lie in some commentaries by scholars such as Neelakantha, Raghava Bhatta, Nrisimha Suri *etc.* That too is a questionable belief. The caliber and reliability of these not-so-ancient scholars, who came during an interesting period in Indian astrology and astronomy, is unclear.

In the midst of this confusion, I see a ray of hope in Parasara's magnum opus बृहत् पाराशर होरा शास्त्रम् (br̥hat pārāśara horā śāstram), which will be referred to as BPHS in this article. It is my firm belief that the text, despite a few corruptions here and there, holds the key to correct astrological knowledge – far more correct than what we know today anyway. His teachings are the best clue we have to decipher some of Jaimini's cryptic teachings.

Some people may argue that BPHS was not written by Maharshi Parasara, father of Maharshi Veda Vyasa, but written by some scholar as recently as 500-1000 AD. However, the grammar and metrical style used in BPHS suggest to me that it is ancient. While all authors of Kali yuga, such as Varahamihira, Kalidasa, Kalyana Verma and Mantreswara, used complex and flowery metrical styles, BPHS stuck to the simple old-fashioned *anushtup* metre, which was the staple metre found in the works by maharshis, like Valmiki's Ramayana and Vyasa's Mahabharata and various Puranas. From the metrical style as well the grammatical style, BPHS seems *to me* to belong to Vyasa's era (or before) rather than 500-1000 AD or even 500 BC for that matter, when anushtup metre was totally out of fashion and grammatical styles of expression were different.

There is one more factor here. A rishi is a being whose abilities cannot be fathomed by normal people. If a maharshi like Parasara authored a text **meant for astrologers of Kali yuga**, as he specifically mentioned, then he will also have the ability to make his text come back to prominence in the world at the right times within Kali yuga that are conducive to correct Vedic knowledge. Even if parts of the text remain scattered across India for thousands of years, it will have the ability to re-appear in a useful consolidated form when the right time comes. I believe in such a power of a maharshi. One may wonder how a rishi who lived thousands of years ago can make something happen today. But, one who has transcended the concept of Time and Space-Time continuum while in a body on earth can affect what may be perceived normally as "future" by others.

I am operating with a working hypothesis that a *relatively* golden phase is coming in the world regarding *Veda dharma* and Vedic knowledge and that the versions of BPHS that have sprung up in the last century are largely correct. In any case, I have not seen indications to the contrary! Whenever I interpreted parts of BPHS faithfully and logically, I found things that worked quite well, far more consistently than any other things I learnt. And let me state that I have read many old and modern books on astrology covering various approaches and have experimented with them. **I find tremendous value in BPHS**, despite a few corruptions here and there perhaps, and **find it far superior to any other Jyotish work I have ever seen**. There is so much in it that we still need to study carefully and understand! My firm belief, as stated before, is that BPHS is *the best* resource for understanding even some of Jaimini's sutras accurately!

We will take the calculation of Brahma planet and Sthira dasa in this article. The calculations are strictly based on Parasara's instructions, resorting to my judgment based on practical experimentation wherever the instructions have a scope for multiple interpretations. These are different from what was taught by Pt Sanjay Rath and other SJC gurus in the past. So please set all preconceived notions aside before reading this article.

Parasara on Sthira Dasa Calculation

Chapter 46 of BPHS defines various dasa systems. In that chapter, Parasara discusses Sthira dasa thus:

अथाऽऽहं संप्रवक्ष्यामि स्थिरसंज्ञां दशां द्विज । चरे सप्त स्थिरे चाऽऽष्टौ द्वन्द्वे नव समाः स्मृताः ॥ १६८ ॥

स्थिरत्वाच्च दशाब्दानां स्थिराख्येति निगद्यते । ब्रह्मखेटाश्रितक्षादिर्देशेयं परिवर्तते ॥ १६९ ॥

योऽसौ ब्रह्मग्रहः प्रोक्तः कथं स ज्ञायते मुने । इति स्पष्टतरं ब्रूहि कृपाऽऽस्ति यदि ते मयि ॥ १७० ॥

षष्ठाष्टव्ययनाथेषु यो बली विषमर्क्षगः । पृष्ठस्थितो भवेद् ब्रह्मा बलिनो लग्नजाययोः ॥ १७१ ॥

कारकादष्टमेशो वा ब्रह्माऽऽप्यष्टभावगः । शनौ पाते च ब्रह्मत्वे ब्रह्मा तत्षष्ठखेचरः ॥ १७२ ॥

बहवो लक्षणाक्रान्ता ज्ञेयस्तेष्वधिकंशकः । अंशसाम्ये बलाधिक्याद् विज्ञेयो ब्रह्मखेचरः ॥ १७३ ॥

athā"ham sampravakṣyāmi sthiraśaṅjñāṁ daśāṁ dvija |

care sapta sthire cā"ṣṭau dvandve nava samāḥ smṛtāḥ | | 168 | |

sthiratvācca daśābdānāṁ sthirākhyeti nigadyate | brahmakhetāśritarkṣādirdaśeyam parivartate | |

169 | |

yo'sau brahmagrahaḥ proktaḥ katham sa jñāyate mune | iti spaṣṭataram brūhi kṛpā"sti yadi te mayi | |

170 | |

ṣaṣṭhāṣṭavyayanātheṣu yo balī viṣamarkṣagaḥ | pṛṣṭhasthito bhaved brahmā balino लग्नजाययोḥ | |

171 | |

kāraḥkādaṣṭameśo vā brahmā"pyaṣṭabhāvagaḥ | śanau pāte ca brahmatve brahmā tatṣaṣṭhakhecaraḥ | |

172 | |

bahavo lakṣaṇākrāntā jñeyasteṣvadhikāṁśakaḥ | aṁśasāmye balādhikyād vijñeyo brahmakhecaraḥ | |

173 | |

Literal Translation

My *literal* translation of these verses, without any spin or interpretation, is as follows:

"Thus, O braahmana, I am expounding the dasa called sthira. Seven in movable, eight in fixed and nine in dual are remembered uniformly. It is declared as sthira due to the fixedness of dasa years. This dasa is established starting from the sign occupied by the Brahma (Creator) planet.

[Maitreya to Parasara:] This Brahma planet well-mentioned by you, O Sage, how is he known? If you have kindness towards me, please speak it clearer.

[Parasara to Maitreya:] Out of the 6th, 8th and 12th lords, whoever is strong, occupying an odd sign and situated in the hindside, becomes Brahma, from the stronger of lagna and 7th. The 8th lord from [aatma] kaaraka, or if Brahma is also in 8th, or if Brahma-hood falls on Saturn, [in all these cases] the sixth planet from him [becomes] Brahma. If several have the qualifications, the one with more parts from them is known. In case of the equality of parts, Brahma planet is recognized by higher strength.”

Thoughts on Interpreting Parasara’s Verses

Interpretation of Parasara’s verses is quite straight-forward, though scholars may differ in a few places. Some points:

- (1) Santhanam’s translation says we go zodiacally or anti-zodiacally based on Brahma planet being in odd or even sign. However, Parasara did not mention any such thing. Parasara gave specific guidelines wherever required. In the absence of a specific guideline, we should go zodiacally always. That gives better results too.
- (2) “Situated in the hindside” obviously means in the invisible half of the zodiac. Do we see the invisible half from lagna always, or from the stronger of lagna and 7th house? Based on experimentation, I have concluded that it is from the reference point used in all calculations, *i.e.* the stronger of lagna and 7th house, that we see the invisible half.
- (3) It is explicitly mentioned that Saturn cannot be Brahma, but nodes are not mentioned. If Saturn cannot be Brahma, it does not make sense if Rahu or Ketu can. I concluded that Rahu and Ketu are not even in the reckoning.
- (4) Just like Saturn and the 8th lord from chara aatma karaka (AK), planets placed in the 8th house are also excluded. Though the reference for the latter is not specified, it must be AK too based on the context. Though this verse has been interpreted differently by Santhanam, I really see no ambiguity. The verse is crystal clear.
- (5) In case of one of those three becoming Brahma, Parasara advised taking “the 6th planet from him”. What it means needs to be deduced. Because he did not mention the 6th lord from him or a planet in the 6th house from him and merely said “sixth *planet* from him”, he is obviously referring to a *list* and we need to take the 6th in the list from the planet in question. The natural list is the list of weekday lords. Moreover, if we use that list, the **6th planet** from every planet happens to be the **next hora lord**, *i.e.* the next planet in the orbital order, and there is some logical sense in it. Above all, this approach worked nicely in many example charts.

Calculation Rules: Brahma Planet

Here are my clear instructions based on my independent interpretation of the above verses, using the thinking above:

- (1) Take the stronger of lagna and 7th house as the reference. [NOTE: You may use standard rules. A sign having more planets is stronger. A sign having aspects from Mercury, Jupiter and dispositor is stronger. A sign having an exalted planet is stronger. A sign with its lord in a sign of different oddity is stronger than a sign with its lord in a sign of the same oddity. A sign whose lord is more advanced in the sign occupied by him is stronger. Apply these rules in this order, until there is a winner. This approach may need further fine-tuning.]
- (2) From that reference, find the 6th, 8th and 12th lords. Exclude Rahu and Ketu and take only seven planets.
- (3) Give a score (1 or 0) to each candidate on the following three counts:
 - (a) Is the planet strong? [NOTE: Use standard guidelines given in BPHS in previous chapters. A planet in exaltation or moolatrikona or own sign or a friendly sign is strong. A planet in combustion or debilitation or in an inimical sign or losing in a planetary war is weak. Vimsopaka bala and shadbala may also be combined. I cannot give a formula in this article and will leave it as subjective, but illustrate it using several examples.]
 - (b) Does the planet occupy an odd sign? (Ar, Ge, Le, Li, Sg and Aq are odd signs)
 - (c) Is the planet in the *invisible* half of the zodiac from the reference, *i.e.* in the first six houses from the reference? [EXAMPLE: Suppose lagna is in Cn and lagna is stronger than 7th house. Then we should see if a candidate is in Cn, Le, Vi, Li, Sc or Sg. Suppose lagna is in Ta and 7th house is stronger than lagna. Then we should see if a candidate is in Sc, Sg, Cp, Aq, Pi or Ar.]
- (4) After scoring each candidate on the three points above, pick the planet that scores on *most* points.
- (5) If two or three planet tie for the top spot with the same score, pick the one that is the strongest.
- (6) If the Brahma planet thus found happens to be (a) the 8th lord from AK, (b) a planet occupying the 8th house from AK, or, (c) Saturn, then that planet cannot be Brahma. In all these three cases, take the 6th planet counted from the planet found, in the normal weekday list of 7 planets (Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn). The 6th planet from a planet is basically the planet whose hora will follow that of the current planet. In other words, it is the next planet in the orbital order (Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus, Mercury, Moon). The 6th planet from various planets can be found out from the list given below (we will refer back to it in several examples later):

Sun – Venus, Moon – Saturn, Mars – Sun, Mercury – Moon, Jupiter – Mars, Venus – Mercury, Saturn – Jupiter.

We apply the exception only once and accept the 6th planet. If the 6th planet is one of the three exception planets mentioned above, we do not take the 6th planet from him again recursively.

Calculation Rules: Sthira Dasa

Start from the sign occupied by the Brahma planet and go zodiacally to cover the twelve signs.

Dasas of movable signs (Ar, Cn, Li and Cp) are of 7 years. Dasas of fixed signs (Ta, Le, Sc and Aq) are of 8 years. Dasas of dual signs (Ge, Vi, Sg and Pi) are of 9 years.

Interpretation

In order to keep things simple, I will give just one rule that we will verify in several example charts. The lord of the 8th house from AK is known as Maheswara planet in tradition and is supposed to bring one's end. Even Parasara mentioned that planet as a forbidden planet for becoming Brahma. The rule I found is:

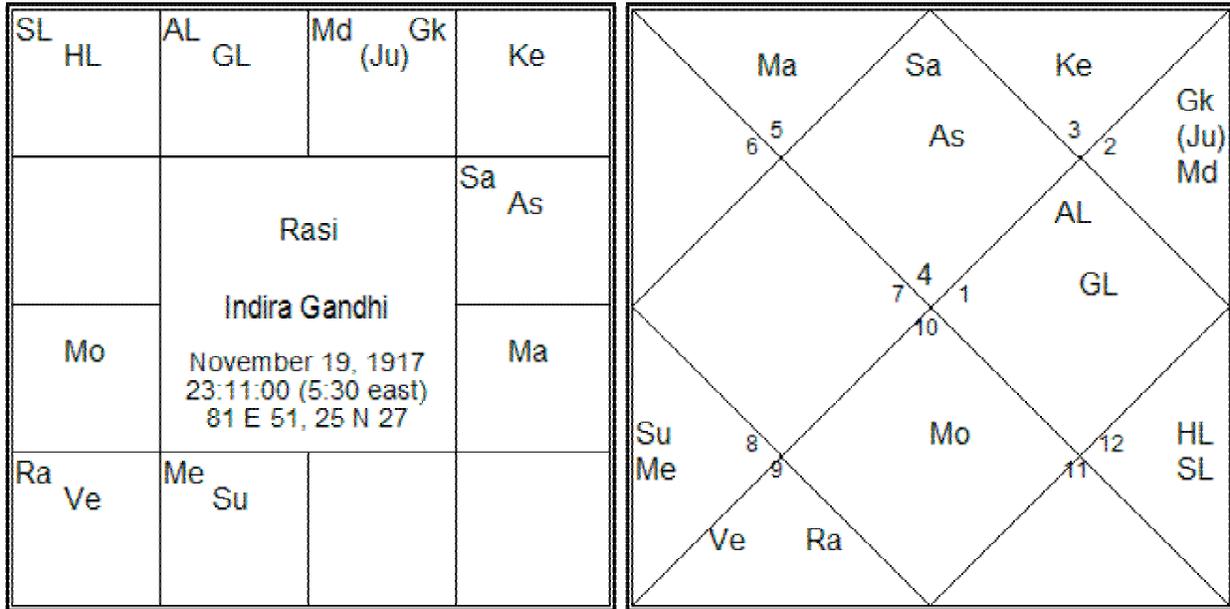
Sthira dasa sign running at the time of death is in the 7th house or a trine from the Maheswara planet.

The random probability of Maheswara planet being in the 7th house or a trine from Sthira dasa sign at death is $4/12=1/3$ (i.e. 33%), but I saw this rule satisfied in a much bigger percentage of the example charts I considered. I will share some example charts now.

Example 1: Indira Gandhi

Birthdata is 1917 November 19, 23:11 (IST), 81e51, 25n27. She was assassinated in October 1984.

Example 1



As: 27 Cn 23 **Su:** 4 Sc 09- DK **Mo:** 5 Cp 32- GK **Ma:** 16 Le 24- MK
Me: 13 Sc 17- PK **Ju (R):** 14 Ta 60- PIK **Ve:** 21 Sg 06- AmK **Sa:** 21 Cn 48- AK
Ra: 9 Sg 13- BK **Ke:** 9 Ge 13 **HL:** 25 Pi 48 **GL:** 29 Ar 21

Lord of Capricorn is more advanced in his sign than the lord of Cancer and Capricorn is stronger. So 7th house Capricorn is the reference for finding Brahma.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Capricorn are Mercury, Sun and Jupiter. Jupiter is weak being alone in an adhisatru rasi with a low vimsopaka bala. Mercury and Sun are strong in mitra and adhimitra rasis (respectively) and they are

together and have a good vimsopaka bala. They get a score of 1 on (a). None of the three planets is in an odd sign and they all get a score of 0 on (b). In terms of being in the invisible half from the reference, Sun and Mercury get a score of 0, while Jupiter gets 1. Overall, all of them get 1 out of 3. Now go by strength. Sun in an adhimitra rasi is the strongest. So Brahma planet is Sun. Sthira dasa starts from Sc containing Sun and goes zodiacally as:

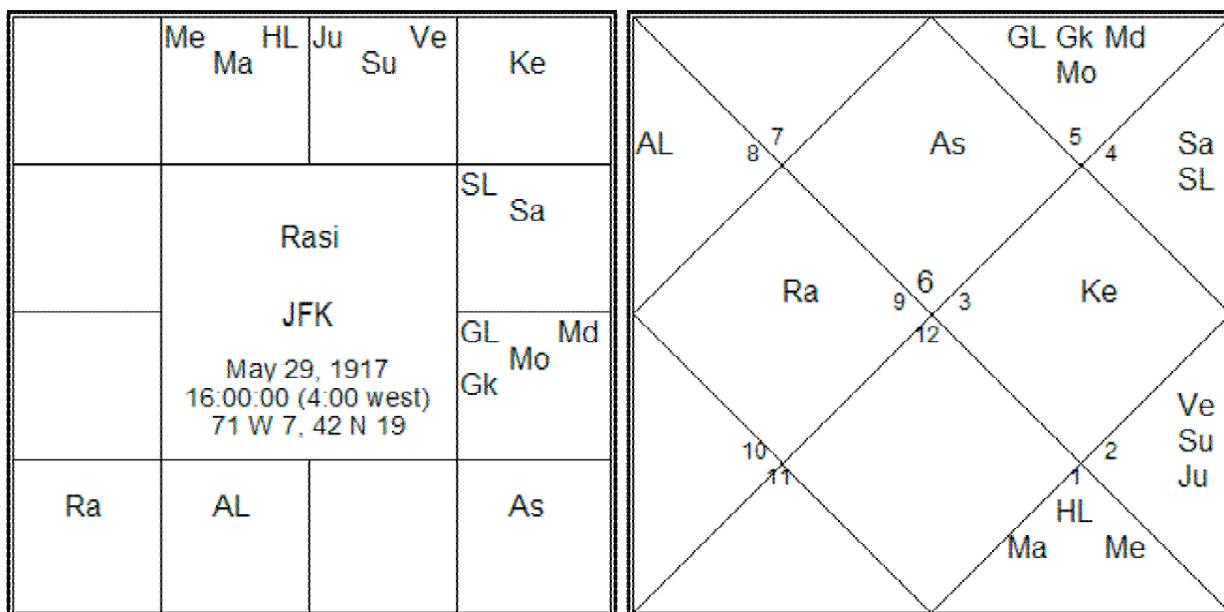
Sc: 1917-1925, Sg: 1925-1934, Cp: 1934-1941, Aq: 1941-1949, Pi: 1949-1958, Ar: 1958-1965, Ta: 1965-1973, Ge: 1973-1982, **Cn: 1982-1989**

She died in October 1984 in Cn dasa. AK is Saturn and he is in Cn. The 8th lord from Cn is Saturn himself. So Saturn is Maheswara planet. **Maheswara planet Saturn occupies the dasa sign Cn!**

Example 2: John F Kennedy (JFK)

Birthdata is 1917 May 29, 16:00 (4:00 west of GMT), 71w7'18", 42n19' 54". He was assassinated in November 1963.

Example 2



As: 27 Vi 18 **Su:** 15 Ta 10- PiK **Mo:** 24 Le 26- MK **Ma:** 25 Ar 45- AmK/Bf
Me: 27 Ar 51- AK **Ju:** 0 Ta 21- DK **Ve:** 24 Ta 04 **Sa:** 4 Cn 28- GK
Ra: 18 Sg 33- PK **Ke:** 18 Ge 33 **HL:** 6 Ar 06 **GL:** 8 Le 10

Lagna and 7th house are even signs. While 7th lord is also in an even sign, lagna lord is in an odd sign. Thus, lagna is stronger than 7th house. So Virgo is the reference for finding Brahma.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Virgo are Saturn, Mars and Sun. Saturn is in a neutral sign, but he is powerful in Cn. He has a good vimsopaka bala. He is strong. Mars is in moolatrikona with another planet and has a very high vimsopaka bala. Mars is very strong. Sun is in an adhisatru sthana, though he is with 2 other planets. He is not strong. The scores on (a) for Saturn, Mars and Sun are 1, 1 and 0. Only Mars is in an odd sign and gets 1 on (b), while others get 0. All planets are in the visible half and get 0 on (c). Overall, Mars gets 2 out of 3 and wins. He is the Brahma planet.

However, AK Mercury is in Ar and the 8th from him is Sc. Being its lord, Mars cannot be AK. Take the 6th planet from Mars from the list in (6). It is Sun. Sun becomes the Brahma planet. Sthira dasa starts from Ta with Sun and goes as:

Ta: 1917-1925, Ge: 1925-1934, Cn: 1934-1941, Le: 1941-1949, Vi: 1949-1958, **Li: 1958-1965**

He died in November 1963 in Li dasa. The 8th lord from AK Mercury is Mars and he is the Maheswara planet. **Maheswara planet Mars is in the 7th house from the dasa sign Li.**

Example 3: Swami Vivekananda

Birthdata is 1863 January 12, 6:33 am (LMT), 88e30, 22n40. He left his body in July 1902.

Example 3

	Ma	Ke			
	Rasi			SL	
Ve Me	Swami Vivekananda January 12, 1863 6:33:00 (5:54 east) 88 E 30, 22 N 40			Gk Md	AL
Su GL	As HL	Ra	Ju	Sa Mo	

Ve	Me	Su	Ra	Ju
11	10	HL GL	As	8 7
		12	9	6
		3	Sa	Mo
Ma	1	2	4	5
	Ke		SL	AL Md Gk

As: 25 Sg 59	Su: 29 Sg 26- AK	Mo: 17 Vi 26- AmK	Ma: 6 Ar 21- GK
Me: 11 Cp 50- MK/F	Ju: 4 Li 01- DK	Ve: 7 Cp 09- PIK	Sa: 13 Vi 35- BK
Ra: 23 Sc 31	Ke: 23 Ta 31	HL: 21 Sg 36	GL: 11 Sg 23

Lagna has Sun, while the 7th house is empty. Hence lagna is stronger than the 7th house. So Sagittarius is the reference for finding Brahma.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords are Venus, Moon and Mars. Mars in moolatrikona and Venus in a friendly sign with friend Mercury are strong, while Moon afflicted by Saturn in a neutral sign is not that strong. On strength (a), Venus and Mars get a score of 1. Only Mars is in an odd sign and gets 1 on (b), while others get 0. In terms of being in the invisible half, i.e. on (c), Venus and Mars get 1, while Moon gets 0. So the final scores of Venus, Moon and Mars are 2, 0 and 3 respectively. Mars becomes the Brahma planet. Sthira dasa starts from Ar containing Mars and goes as:

Ar: 1863-1870, Ta: 1870-1878, Ge: 1878-1887, Cn: 1887-1894, Le: 1894-1902, **Vi: 1902-1911**

He left body in July 1902 in Vi dasa. AK Sun is in Sagittarius and the 8th house from him is Cn. Its lord Moon is the Maheswara planet. **Maheswara planet Moon occupies the dasa sign Vi.**

Example 4: Ramakrishna Paramahansa

Birthdata is 1836 February 18, 6:44 am (LMT), 87e44, 22n53. He left his body in August 1886.

Lagna contains 3 planets, while the 7th house is empty. Lagna is stronger. So Aquarius is the reference for finding Brahma planet.

From Aquarius, 6th, 8th and 12th lords are Moon, Mercury and Saturn. Moon of Sukla Dwitiya is weak in an inimical sign. Retrograde Mercury is in an inimical sign (*permanent* neutral + *temporary* enemy = *compound* enemy) with a weak vimsopaka bala and occupying the 6th from his moolatrikona is also not strong. But exalted Saturn with a very high vimsopaka bala and shadbala and also in Devalokamsa is exceedingly strong. Saturn gets 1 on (a). On (b), all planets get 1 as they are all in odd signs. On (c), Moon and Mercury get 1, as they are in lagna. So all planets have a

score of 1 out of 3. Strength is the tie breaker and exalted Saturn in devalokamsa with 76% vimsopaka bala wins hands down.

Example 4

Ve	Md SL	Gk	Ra	AL (Ju)	
Su HL Mo GL As (Me)	Rasi				
Ma	Sri Ramakrishna February 18, 1836 6:44:00 (5:51 east) 87 E 44, 22 N 53				
	Ke	(Sa)			

As: 9 Aq 42 **Su:** 6 Aq 54- DK **Mo:** 22 Aq 19- BK **Ma:** 22 Cp 18
Me (R): 15 Aq 03- AmK/ **Ju (R):** 14 Ge 34- PiK **Ve:** 9 Pi 06- GK **Sa (R):** 13 Li 41- PK
Ra: 2 Ta 32- AK **Ke:** 2 Sc 32 **HL:** 11 Aq 22 **GL:** 18 Aq 06

Example 5

Ke	AL	(Sa) GL Mo			
HL	Rasi				
Md SL Gk	Babu Rajendra Prasad December 3, 1884 8:49:00 (5:30 east) 81 E 12, 16 N 15				Ju
Ma As Me	Su	Ve	Ra		

As: 22 Sg 48 **Su:** 19 Sc 12- BK **Mo:** 24 Ta 03- AmK **Ma:** 5 Sg 60- GK
Me: 4 Sg 33- DK **Ju:** 13 Le 05- MK/P **Ve:** 12 Li 58- PiK **Sa (R):** 29 Ta 13- AK
Ra: 20 Vi 02 **Ke:** 20 Pi 02 **HL:** 2 Aq 20 **GL:** 22 Ta 12

However, Saturn cannot be Brahma. So we take the 6th planet from him from the list given in (6) and end up with Jupiter. Jupiter becomes the Brahma planet. Though Jupiter is the 8th lord from AK, we do not apply the exception recursively and accept Jupiter. Sthira dasa starts from Ge containing Jupiter and goes as:

Ge: 1836-1845, Cn: 1845-1852, Le: 1852-1860, Vi: 1860-1869, Li: 1869-1876, Sc: 1876-1884, **Sg: 1884-1893**

He left body in August 1886 in Sg dasa. The 8th house from AK Rahu is Sg. Its lord Jupiter is the Maheswara planet. He is in Ge. **Maheswara planet Jupiter is in the 7th house from the dasa sign Sg** and Sg is also the 8th house from AK.

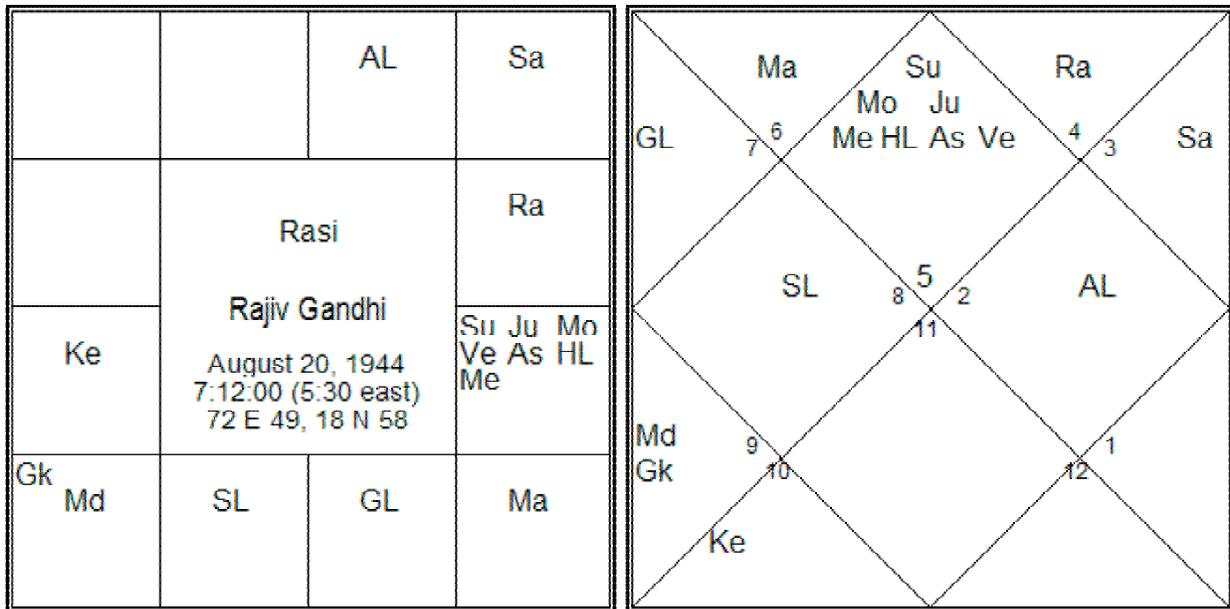
Example 5: Babu Rajendra Prasad (India's first President)

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

Lagna has two planets while the 7th house is empty. So lagna is stronger. Sagittarius becomes the reference for finding Brahma planet.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Sagittarius are Venus, Moon and Mars. On (a), exalted Moon, Venus in moolatrikona and Mars in a friendly fiery sign with another planet all get 1. On (b), Venus and Mars in odd signs get 1, while Moon in an even sign gets 0. On (c), Mars and Moon in the invisible half from Sg get 1, while Venus in the visible half gets 0. Overall scores are: Venus – 2, Moon – 2, Mars – 3. Mars is the Brahma planet.

Example 6



As: 14 Le 49 **Su:** 3 Le 50- GK **Mo:** 17 Le 13- BK **Ma:** 1 Vi 13- DK
Me: 28 Le 32- AK **Ju:** 12 Le 13- PiK **Ve:** 18 Le 41- AmK **Sa:** 14 Ge 13- MK/PK
Ra: 4 Cn 24 **Ke:** 4 Cp 24 **HL:** 27 Le 30 **GL:** 3 Li 04

Now, comes the tricky part! Though Mars is not the 8th lord from AK, he occupies the 8th house from AK Saturn! So he is not allowed to become Brahma. Exception as per (6) is applied if Saturn, 8th lord from AK or a planet occupying the 8th house from AK becomes Brahma. So we take the 6th planet from Mars using the list in (6) and get Sun. Sun becomes the Brahma planet. Sthira dasa starts from Sc containing Sun and goes as:

Sc: 1884-1892, Sg: 1892-1901, Cp: 1901-1908, Aq: 1908-1916, Pi: 1916-1925, Ar: 1925-1932, Ta: 1932-1940, Ge: 1940-1949, Cn: 1949-1956, **Le: 1956-1964**

He died in February 1963 in Le dasa. The 8th lord from AK Saturn is Jupiter and he is the Maheswara planet. He occupies Leo. **Maheswara planet Jupiter occupies the the dasa sign Le.**

Example 6: Rajiv Gandhi

Birthdata is 1944 August 20, 7:12 am (IST), 72e49, 18n58. He was assassinated in May 1991.

With so many planets, lagna is stronger than the 7th house. So Leo is used as the reference in finding Brahma planet.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Leo are Saturn, Jupiter and Moon. On (a), all planets get 1 as they are strong in friendly signs. On (b) also, all planets get 1 as they are all in odd signs. On (c), Moon and Jupiter get 1 being in lagna and Saturn gets 0 being in the 11th house (visible). Moon and Jupiter have a tie with a score of 3 out of 3. We use strength to resolve the tie. Moon of Sukla Dwitiya is weak. Jupiter gives a raja yoga with dispositor Sun and is stronger. So Jupiter wins.

However, AK is Mercury and the 8th house from him is Pi. Being its owner, Jupiter is the Maheswara planet and he cannot become Brahma. Take the 6th planet from him using the list in (6) to get Mars. Mars becomes the Brahma planet. Sthira dasa starts with Virgo containing Mars and goes as:

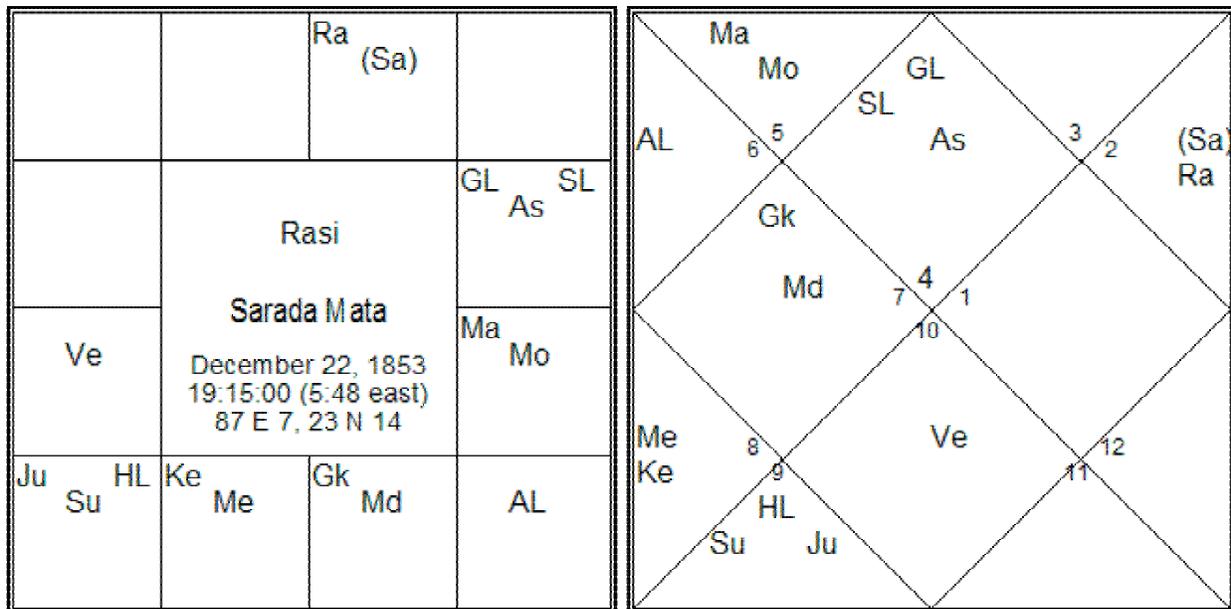
Vi: 1944-1953, Li: 1953-1960, Sc: 1960-1968, Sg: 1968-1977, Cp: 1977-1984, **Aq: 1984-1992**

He died in May 1991 in Aq dasa. Jupiter is the 8th lord from AK Mercury and becomes the Maheswara planet. He is in Le and aspects Aq. **Maheswara planet Jupiter is in the 7th house from the dasa sign Aq.**

Example 7: Sarada Mata

Birthdata is 1853 December 22, 19:15 (LMT), 87e07, 23n14. She left body in July 1920.

Example 7



As: 5 Cn 22 **Su:** 8 Sg 54- GK **Mo:** 26 Le 56- AK **Ma:** 21 Le 50- BK
Me: 16 Sc 54- MK **Ju:** 12 Sg 54- PiK **Ve:** 26 Cp 09- AmK **Sa (R):** 4 Ta 07- DK
Ra: 18 Ta 31- PK **Ke:** 18 Sc 31 **HL:** 25 Sg 16 **GL:** 20 Cn 38

Lagna is empty, while the 7th house contains Venus. So the 7th house Capricorn is stronger and it becomes the reference for finding Brahma.

He died in July 1999 in Ge dasa. From AK Mars in Ge, Cp is the 8th house and Saturn owns it. So Saturn is the Maheswara planet. He is in Sg. **Maheswara planet Saturn in Sg is in the 7th house from the dasa sign Ge.**

Example 9: A lady

Birthdata is 1943 December 31, 2:55 pm (7:00 west of GMT), Roswell, New Mexico, USA (105w0, 33n20). She died in January 2001.

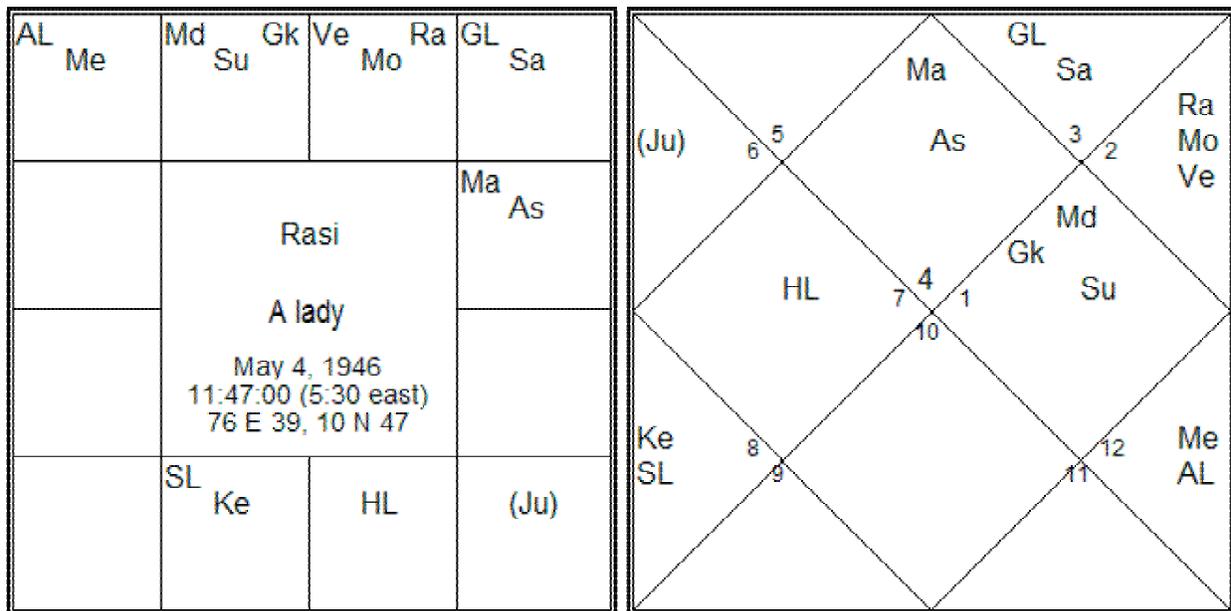
Lagna has a planet, while the 7th house is empty. So lagna Cancer is stronger and becomes the reference for finding Brahma.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Cancer are Jupiter, Saturn and Mercury. Debilitated Mercury and retrograde Jupiter in an adhisatru rasi are weak, while Saturn in an adhimitra rasi is strong. So only Saturn gets 1 on (a). Being in an odd sign, Saturn gets 1 on (b) too, while others get 0 being in even signs. As far as being in the invisible half is concerned, only Jupiter gets 1. So the final scores of Jupiter, Saturn and Mercury are 1, 3 and 0. Saturn becomes Brahma.

However, Saturn cannot become Brahma. Using the list in (6), we take the 6th planet from him, i.e. Jupiter. Though Jupiter is the 8th lord from AK Moon in Ta, we do *not* apply the exceptions recursively and just accept Jupiter. So Jupiter becomes the Brahma planet. Sthira dasa starts from Vi containing Jupiter and goes as:

Vi: 1946-1955, Li: 1955-1962, Sc: 1962-1970, Sg: 1970-1979, Cp: 1979-1986, Aq: 1986-1994, **Pi: 1994-2003**

Example 9



As: 10 Cn 49 **Su:** 20 Ar 06- PiK **Mo:** 28 Ta 17- AK **Ma:** 12 Cn 11
Me: 25 Pi 33- AmK/I **Ju (R):** 26 Vi 48- BK **Ve:** 12 Ta 48- GK **Sa:** 26 Ge 38- PK
Ra: 28 Ta 11- DK **Ke:** 28 Sc 11 **HL:** 9 Li 25 **GL:** 23 Ge 44

She died in January 2001 in Pi dasa. The 8th lord from AK Moon in Ta is Jupiter. He is the Maheswara planet. **Maheswara planet Jupiter in Vi is in the 7th house from the dasa sign Pi.**

Example 10: NT Rama Rao (film star and former Chief Minister of AP state, India)

Birthdata is 1923 May 28, 4:43 pm (IST), Nimmakuru, India (88e22, 22n32). He died in January 1996.

Lagna with 2 planets is stronger than the 7th house with 1 planet. So lagna Libra becomes the reference for finding Brahma.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Libra are Jupiter, Venus and Mercury. Jupiter in adhisatru rasi with an average vimsopaka bala is weak. Venus in an overall mitra rasi with a high vimsopaka bala is strong. Mercury in an adhimitra rasi with a very high vimsopaka bala is very strong. So Jupiter, Venus and Mercury get 0, 1 and 1 on (a). On (b), Venus and Jupiter get 1 being in odd signs. On (c), only Jupiter in invisible half gets 1. Overall scores of Jupiter, Venus and Mercury are 1, 2 and 1. Venus becomes Brahma.

But, it is not over yet. Though Venus is not the 8th lord from AK Saturn, he occupies the 8th house from AK Saturn and that disqualifies him from becoming Brahma!

Example 10

	HL Ve	(Me) Su	Ma	
Ke	Rasi		AL	
	N.T. Rama Rao		Ra	
	May 28, 1923 16:43:00 (5:30 east) 80 E 59, 16 N 27			
		Mo As	(Ju) GL Gk SL (Sa) Md	

As: 19 Li 11 **Su:** 13 Ta 20- PK **Mo:** 18 Li 48- BK **Ma:** 5 Ge 40- DK
Me (R): 14 Ta 17- AmK/ **Ju (R):** 18 Li 32 **Ve:** 15 Ar 28- MK **Sa (R):** 20 Vi 53- AK
Ra: 24 Le 24 **Ke:** 24 Aq 24 **HL:** 16 Ar 05 **GL:** 5 Vi 51

Taking the 6th planet from Venus in the list in (6), we get Mercury. So Mercury is the Brahma planet. Sthira dasa starts from Ta containing Mercury and goes as:

Ta: 1923-1931, Ge: 1931-1940, Cn: 1940-1947, Le: 1947-1955, Vi: 1955-1964, Li: 1964-1971, Sc: 1971-1979, Sg: 1979-1988, Cp: 1988-1995, **Aq: 1995-2003**

He died in January 1996 in Aq dasa. The 8th lord from AK Saturn in Vi is Mars and he becomes the Maheswara planet. **Maheswara planet Mars in Ge is in a trine from the dasa sign Aq.**

Example 11: Swami Muktananda (siddha yoga – sishya of Bhagavan Nityananda)

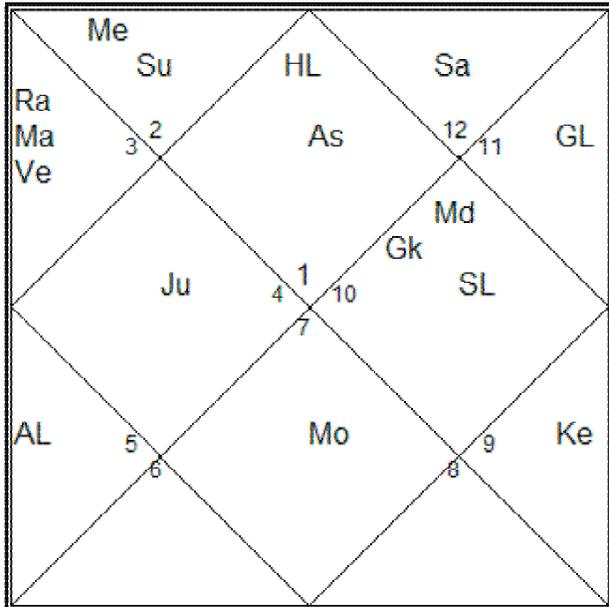
Birthdata is 1908 May 16, 5:11 am (IST), Dharmastala, India (75e23, 12n57). He left body in October 1982.

Lagna is empty and the 7th house has a planet. So the 7th house Libra is stronger and becomes the reference for finding Brahma.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Libra are Jupiter, Venus and Mercury. Mercury, Venus and exalted Jupiter are all in adhimitra rasis and with good vimsopaka bala. All of them get 1 on (a). Only Venus is in an odd sign and only he gets 1 on (b). Being in the visible half from Libra, all of them get 0 on (c). Overall scores of Jupiter, Venus and Mercury are 1, 2 and 1. Venus becomes the Brahma planet.

Example 11

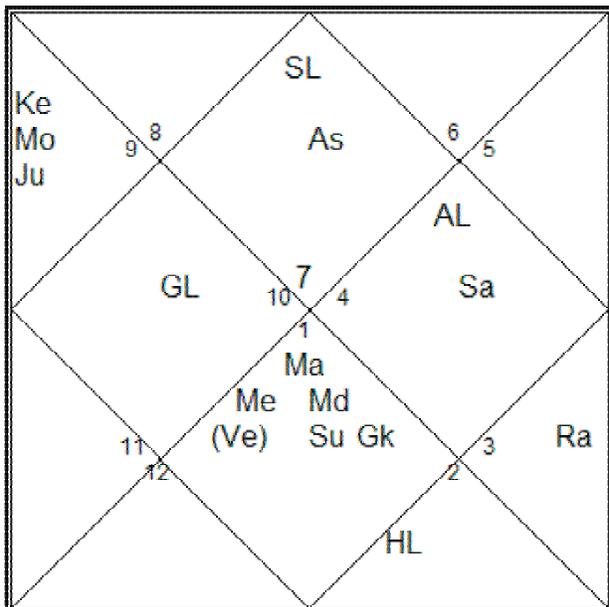
Sa	HL As	Me Su	Ve Ma Ra
GL	Rasi		Ju
Md SL Gk	Swami Muktananda May 16, 1908 5:11:00 (5:30 east) 75 E 23, 12 N 57		AL
Ke		Mo	



As: 17 Ar 14 **Su:** 2 Ta 09- DK **Mo:** 29 Li 30- AK **Ma:** 3 Ge 10- MK/GK
Me: 11 Ta 58- AmK/ **Ju:** 14 Cn 10- PiK **Ve:** 16 Ge 06 **Sa:** 14 Pi 04
Ra: 13 Ge 09- BK **Ke:** 13 Sg 09 **HL:** 3 Ar 20 **GL:** 21 Aq 30

Example 12

	Ma Md Me Gk Su (Ve)	HL	Ra
	Rasi		AL Sa
GL	Adolf Hitler April 20, 1889 18:30:00 (1:00 east) 13 E 2, 48 N 15		
Ju Mo	Ke	SL As	



As: 2 Li 56 **Su:** 8 Ar 31- PK **Mo:** 14 Sg 14- PiK **Ma:** 24 Ar 06- AmK
Me: 3 Ar 22- DK **Ju:** 15 Sg 56- MK **Ve (R):** 24 Ar 30- AK **Sa:** 21 Cn 11- BK
Ra: 22 Ge 48- GK **Ke:** 22 Sg 48 **HL:** 16 Ta 07 **GL:** 13 Cp 21

However, Venus is the 8th lord from AK Moon in Li and cannot become Brahma. We take the 6th planet from him in the list in (6) and get Mercury. Though Mercury is also in the 8th house from AK, we do not apply the exceptions recursively and accept him. So Mercury becomes the Brahma planet. Sthira dasa starts from Ta containing Mercury and goes as:

Ta: 1908-1916, Ge: 1916-1925, Cn: 1925-1932, Le: 1932-1940, Vi: 1940-1949, Li: 1949-1956, Sc: 1957-1965, Sg: 1965-1974, Cp: 1974-1981, **Aq: 1981-1989**

He left body in October 1982 in Aq dasa. The 8th lord from AK Moon in Li is Venus and he becomes the Maheswara planet. **Maheswara planet Venus in Ge is in a trine from the dasa sign Aq.**

Example 12: Adolf Hitler

Birthdata is 1889 April 20, 6:30 pm (1:00 east of GMT), 13e02, 48n15. He died in April 1945.

The 7th house has many planets while lagna is empty and the 7th house is stronger. Aries becomes the reference for finding Brahma.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Aries are Mercury, Mars and Jupiter. Mercury is in an inimical sign overall with a weak vimsopaka bala. He is weak. Mars and Jupiter are in moolatrikonas in own signs and have high vimsopaka bala. Mars and Jupiter get 1 on (a). All of the three are in odd signs and get 1 on (b). Being in the invisible half, only Mars and Mercury get 1 on (c). Overall, Mars wins with a score of 3 out of 3 and becomes the Brahma planet. But he owns the 8th from AK Venus. Using the exception, we take the 6th planet from Mars in (6) and get Sun. Sthira dasa starts from Ar containing Sun and goes as:

Ar: 1889-1896, Ta: 1896-1904, Ge: 1904-1913, Cn: 1913-1920, Le: 1920-1928, Vi: 1928-1937, Li: 1937-1944, **Sc: 1944-1952**

He died in April 1945 in Sc dasa. In this example, Maheswara planet is not in a trine or 7th from dasa sign. However, please note that the dasa sign is the 8th house from AK. As planets owning or occupying the 8th house from AK cannot become Brahma, that house is malefic for longevity.

This example does not satisfy our rule, but makes some sense nevertheless.

Example 13: Christopher Reeve (actor)

Birthdata is 1952 September 25, 3:12 am (EDT – 4:00 west of GMT), Manhattan, NY, USA (73w58, 40n47). He died in October 2004.

Lagna and 7th house have one planet each. Lagna lord has sign aspect on lagna, while the 7th lord does not aspect the 7th house. So lagna Cancer is stronger and becomes the reference for finding Brahma.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Cancer are Jupiter, Saturn and Mercury. Jupiter in a friendly sign is strong despite retrogression and low vimsopaka bala. Saturn in a friendly sign is strong too. Despite combustion, exalted mercury with a very high vimsopaka bala, is also very strong. On (a), all planets get 1. Only Jupiter gets 1 on (b), as he is the only one in an odd sign. Mercury and Saturn get 1 on (c), being in the invisible half. So all the three candidates get 2 out of 3. Going by the strength, exalted Mercury wins. He becomes Brahma. Sthira dasa starts from Virgo containing Mercury and goes as:

Vi: 1952-1961, Li: 1961-1968, Sc: 1968-1976, Sg: 1976-1985, Cp: 1985-1992, Aq: 1992-2000, **Pi: 2000-2009**

He died in October 2004 in Pi dasa. Mars is the 8th lord from AK Jupiter in Ar and he becomes Maheswara. **Maheswara planet Mars in Sc is in a trine from the dasa sign Pi.** Even if we take the other lord of Sc, Ketu, as the Maheswara planet, he too is in a trine from the dasa sign Pi. As a matter of fact, nodes seem to be qualified to become Maheswara and weaker lords of Aq and Sc seem to work better as Maheswara planet.

Example 13

AL	(Ju)	HL		
	Rasi		Ke As	
Ra	Christopher Reeve September 25, 1952 3:12:00 (4:00 west) 73 W 58, 40 N 47		Gk Md	
GL	Ma Mo	SL Ve	Me Su Sa	

As: 25 Cn 55 **Su:** 8 Vi 58- GK **Mo:** 19 Sc 28- MK/P **Ma:** 25 Sc 08- AmK
Me: 9 Vi 34- PIK **Ju (R):** 27 Ar 23- AK **Ve:** 3 Li 50- DK **Sa:** 22 Vi 49- BK
Ra: 27 Cp 28 **Ke:** 27 Cn 28 **HL:** 19 Ta 17 **GL:** 6 Sg 00

Example 14: Mahatma Gandhi

Birthdata is 1869 October 2, 7:21 am (LMT), Porbandar, India (69e49, 21n37). He was assassinated in January 1948.

Example 14

	(Ju)			
	Rasi		Ra Mo AL	
GL Ke	Mahatma Gandhi October 2, 1869 7:21:00 (4:39 east) 69 E 49, 21 N 37		SL	
	Sa	Ma HL Me Ve As	Md Su Gk	

As: 6 Li 44 **Su:** 16 Vi 55- GK **Mo:** 28 Cn 03- AmK **Ma:** 26 Li 24- BK
Me: 11 Li 47- DK **Ju (R):** 28 Ar 08- AK **Ve:** 24 Li 27- MK **Sa:** 20 Sc 19- PIK/PK
Ra: 13 Cn 40 **Ke:** 13 Cp 40 **HL:** 29 Li 59 **GL:** 4 Cp 41

Lagna with 3 planets is stronger than the 7th house with 1 planet. Libra is used as the reference for finding Brahma.

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Libra are Jupiter, Venus and Mercury. Jupiter in a friendly sign is retrograde, but occupies moolatrikona in navamsa and has high vimsopaka bala and shadbala and occupies Simhasanamsa. So he is strong. Venus in moolatrikona and Mercury in a friendly sign are strong too. So all planets get 1 on (a). On (b) also, all planet get 1 being in odd signs. Being in the visible half, Venus and Mercury get 1 on (c). So Venus and Mercury tie for the top spot with a score of 3 out of 3. Venus in moolatrikona and own sign in navamsa is stronger and becomes the Brahma planet. Sthira dasa starts from Libra containing Venus and goes as:

Li: 1869-1876, Sc: 1876-1884, Sg: 1884-1893, Cp: 1893-1900, Aq: 1900-1908, Pi: 1908-1917, Ar: 1917-1924, Ta: 1924-1932, Ge: 1932-1941, **Cn: 1941-1948**

He died in January 1948 in Cn dasa. AK Jupiter is in Aries. The 8th house from him is Scorpio. It is owned by Mars and Ketu. Compared to Mars in an inimical sign with its dispositor in rasi and navamsa, Ketu in an adhimitra rasi is stronger. Ketu becomes the Maheswara planet. **Maheswara planet Ketu is in 7th from dasa sign Cn.**

Example 15: Abraham Lincoln

Birthdata is 1809 February 12, 6:54 am (LMT), 85w44, 37n34. He died in April 1865.

The 7th house is empty while lagna has two planets and is stronger. Aquarius becomes the reference for finding the Brahma planet.

Example 15

Ve Ju	Ke		AL	
Su As Me	Rasi			
HL Mo GL	Abraham Lincoln			
	Sa	Ra Gk SL Ma Md		

As: 0 Aq 53	Su: 2 Aq 16- GK	Mo: 5 Cp 40- MK/PI	Ma: 4 Li 18- PiK
Me: 19 Aq 07- AK	Ju: 0 Pi 54- DK	Ve: 16 Pi 16- AmK	Sa: 11 Sc 56- BK
Ra: 14 Li 59	Ke: 14 Ar 59	HL: 28 Cp 46	GL: 25 Cp 02

The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Aquarius are Moon, Mercury and Saturn. Krishna Trayodasi Moon is an unfriendly sign with an average vimsopaka bala is weak. Saturn in an overall neutral sign is weak too, despite good vimsopaka bala and shadbala. Mercury in an overall friendly sign has a very high vimsopaka bala and has distance from Sun. Only Mercury gets 1 on (a). Only Mercury gets 1 on (b) being in an odd sign. Being in the invisible half, only Mercury gets 1 on (c). Overall, Mercury wins with a score of 3 out of 3 and becomes the Brahma planet. But he owns the 8th from AK Mercury (himself). Using the exception, we take the 6th planet from Mercury in (6) and get Moon. Sthira dasa starts from Capricorn containing Moon and goes as:

Cp: 1809-1816, Aq: 1816-1824, Pi: 1824-1833, Ar: 1833-1840, Ta: 1840-1848, Ge: 1848-1857, Cn: 1857-1864, **Le: 1864-1872**

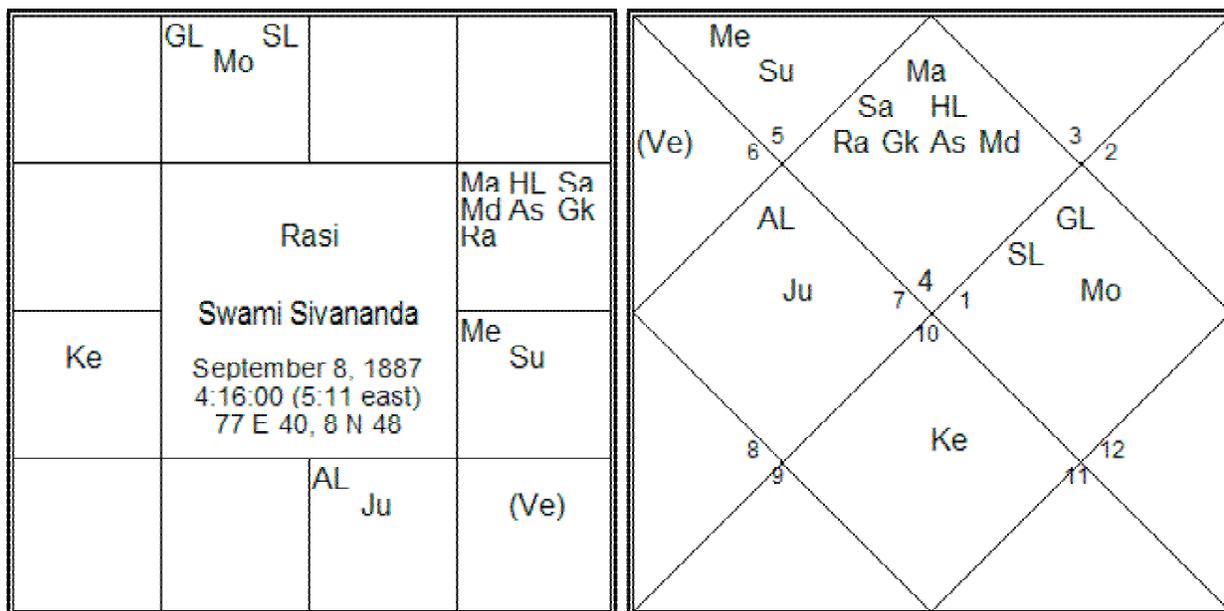
He died in April 1865 in Le dasa. Mercury is the 8th lord from AK Mercury and becomes the Maheswara planet. **Maheswara planet Mercury is in the 7th house from the dasa sign Le.**

Example 16: Swami Sivananda (of Hrishekesh, founder of Divine Life Society)

Birthdata is 1887 September 8, 4:16 am (LMT), 77e40, 8n48). He left body in July 1963.

The 7th house has only one planet and lagna has 3 planets and is stronger. So Cancer becomes the reference for finding the Brahma planet.

Example 16



The 6th, 8th and 12th lords from Cancer are Jupiter, Saturn and Mercury. All of them are in neutral signs overall. Saturn afflicted by debilitated Mars and combust Mercury have a low vimsopaka bala and are weak. Jupiter has a high vimsopaka bala and he is on the border. We will give 0 to all of them on (a). Mercury and Jupiter in odd signs get 1 on (b). All of them are in the invisible half from Cancer and get 1 on (c). Mercury and Jupiter tie for the top spot with 2 out of 3. If we compare the strengths, Jupiter with a higher vimsopaka bala and aspects from friends Moon and Mars wins over combust Mercury. So Jupiter is the winner. However, Jupiter is the 8th lord from AK Sun. So we take the 6th planet from Jupiter in (6) and arrive at Mars. Mars becomes the Brahma planet. Sthira dasa starts from Cancer containing Mars and goes as:

Cn: 1887-1894, Le: 1894-1902, Vi: 1902-1911, Li: 1911-1918, Sc: 1918-1926, Sg: 1926-1935, Cp: 1935-1942, Aq: 1942-1950, Pi: 1950-1959, **Ar: 1959-1966**

He left body in July 1963 in Ar dasa. Jupiter is the 8th lord from AK Sun in Le and becomes the Maheswara planet. **Maheswara planet Jupiter is in the 7th house from dasa sign Ar.**

Summing Up

This article is based on an independent interpretation of Parasara's teachings on Sthira dasa. Calculation of the Brahma planet and Sthira dasa were explained with many examples, based strictly on a faithful, simple and logical

interpretation of Parasara's verses. A simple interpretation rule for timing death was given. Though the random probability of this rule is 1/3, it seems to hold true in a far higher portion of the examples I studied.

Brahma is the Creator. When the progressed Creator comes in contact with Maheswara, the Destroyer, then death occurs. But, obviously, there must be many other purposes for Brahma. I wanted to take a simple rule and demonstrate that consistent results can be obtained if we stick to Parasara's instructions. What I demonstrated in this article may be the tip of the iceberg and there may be more to Sthira dasa. Interested astrologers can experiment.

Knowledge coming from rishis is far superior to knowledge coming from other sources. Scholars interested in the cryptic teachings of Jaimini will do well to realize that Parasara, who is far more verbose and far less cryptic, is the most reliable source for understanding some of Jaimini's teachings!