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Large crowd of planets in Capricorn



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—Ssu Ma Chien (the first Historian of China, 2nd Century B.C)

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A Vedic Jyotish Monthly

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Neechabhanga Raja Yoga

Debilitated Planet: Boon or Bane

By Dr E S Neelakantan

A debilitated planet is considered as the bane of every horoscope. The ancient textbooks on Astrology say that a debilitated planet is devoid of merit, is powerless, is the cause of every misery, is inauspicious and seldom finds favour with doyens of Astrology. There is an English phrase, which most of you would be familiar with. *When Wealth is lost, nothing is lost ;when Health is lost , something is lost and when Character is lost, everything is lost.* Keeping this adage in mind,I would like to frame a question and put it before the scholars of Astrology: **“When a planet is debilitated, what do you lose?”** You can pick any one out of the three answers which are as follows: **Everything, Something or Nothing.** Now let me take you through this dissertation and I will give my reply to the above question in the concluding part of this thesis.

Neechabhanga Raja Yoga is loosely defined as a Yoga, where the debilitation of a planet is revoked, and the said planet becomes an originator of Raja Yoga, subject to the occurrence of a few planetary positions, which are explained in the text books on Astrology.

The following proverb comes to my mind. Though the term “Silver lining” is attributed to John Milton, the phrase we are going to discuss is found in a book by P.T. Darnum (1869) where he wrote: ‘*Every cloud*’ says the proverb, ‘*has a Silver lining*’ and so I did not despair (vide *Struggles and Triumphs*, 1869).

In the religious travelogue, *A Pisgah-Sight of Palestine and the confines thereof; with the history of the Old and New Testaments acted thereon*, 1650, Thomas Fuller wrote: - “*It is always darkest, just before the day dawneth.*”

Difference between Neechabhanga and Neechabhanga Raja yoga

Neechabhanga Raja yoga arises on account of Neechabhanga (or cancellation of debilitation). While Neechabhanga Raja yoga arises out of Neechabhanga, the converse is not true in every case. In other words, the mere presence of Neechabhanga is not enough to infer the presence of a Neechabhanga Raja Yoga. In the book “*Light on Life- An introduction to the Astrology of India*”, Hart De Fouw and Robert Svabodha have explained the distinction between Neechabhanga and Neechabhanga Raja Yoga in the following words:

“Certain planetary combinations can modify the detrimental effects of a graha’s debilitation. Cancelled debilitation does not become equal to an exaltation or some other desirable placement, however .Debility is debility and neechabhanga is no more perfect than a prosthesis applied to a limbless body. Giving a debilitated graha, a cane with which to walk will enable the graha to exert

some beneficial effects but, even if it excels at its duties, it will still never be normal. Moreover, neechabhanga creates a raja yoga only when a debilitated planet occupies a Kendra or a Kona, otherwise the planet’s debility will merely be removed” (Ibid, page 295).

I will explain the concept through an example. Consider Saturn is in Aries. Three planets can help overcome this debilitation:

- 1) Mars – As the lord of Aries,
- 2) Sun – As the planet, which gets exalted in Aries.
- 3) Venus - As the Lord of Libra, the sign where the debilitated planet under discussion viz Saturn gets exalted.

The required Planetary position would be:

- 1) Mars in a ----quadrant from Lagna or Moon.
- 2) Sun in a quadrant from Lagna or Moon.
- 3) Venus in a quadrant from Lagna or Moon.
- 4) Mars aspects Saturn.

Mantreswara, in his learned exposition on Raja

In many cases, a debilitated planet is a blessing; not a curse, as we all understand it to be. In many charts, Astrologers commit the cardinal mistake of over-rating an Exalted planet and under-rating a debilitated planet. More often than not, the planets behave contrary to expectations. When debilitation gets cancelled, you have the miracle of a debilitated planet functioning as a boon-giver.

Yoga, has given five important principles, which lead to the formation of Neechbhanga Raja Yoga in Chapter 7 of *Phala Deepika*.

- 1) When a planet is debilitated, and either the sign lord or the sign's exaltation lord is in a Kendra from Moon or lagna, the person would become a just emperor (Ibid, verse 26).
- 2) When the sign dispositor and the exaltation sign – lord are in kendras from each other, the yoga will usher in a king, who would be respected by other kings (Ibid, verse 27)
- 3) When the debilitated planet is aspected by the lord of the sign, the native would become a ruler of the world and also becomes famous. Under the above mentioned combination, the native would become the foremost among the kings of the day, provided the debilitated planet does not occupy houses, 6, 8 or 12 (verse 28).
- 4) If either the sign – dispositor or the sign – dispositor of the planet's exaltation house is in a quadrant, from either the Ascendant or Moon, the native would become an emperor endowed with vast riches, Virtue, Might, Fame and would also be respected by other kings (verse 29)
- 5) (a) When both the sign-dispositor and the sign – dispositor of the exaltation sign of the debilitated planet are in a Kendra from Lagna, the native becomes an Emperor, who is saluted by other kings.
(b) The same rule holds good, even if either of the two planets mentioned above are so placed (Verse 30)

Example :

1. Sun is in Libra; either Venus or Saturn occupies a Kendra from Moon or lagna. (*Venus owns Libra, while Saturn is exalted in Libra*)
2. Sun is in Libra; Venus and Mars are in mutual kendras.
3. Mars is in Cancer; Moon is in Capricorn aspecting Mars. Mars should not occupy 6 or 8 or 12.

4. Sun is in Libra; either Venus or Mars occupies a Kendra from Moon or Lagna.
5. Sun is in Libra; both Mars and Venus occupy a quadrant from the Ascendant (*Note: This yoga, as additionally stated by Mantreswara, would also be given rise to, if either Mars or Venus occupies a quadrant from the Ascendant*).

If we analyse the rules carefully and apply it in the above illustration, where Sun is in Libra, then there are three likely planets, which can, by their placement in a quadrant from Ascendant or Moon, cancel the effects of the Sun's debilitation. These three planets are:

1. Venus - Owner of Libra (*Sign depositor*)
2. Saturn - the planet which gets exalted in Libra.
3. Mars – Owner of Aries; the Sign Aries is where Sun is exalted, hence Mars is the exaltation – sign lord of the Sun.

To understand these verses clearly, let me explain the text, with the above example:

A single planet in a Kendra from Moon or lagna, can overcome the effect of debilitated planet. Which is that planet? **Verse 26** says it is either Venus or Saturn.

Verse 29 says it is either Venus or Mars. **Verse 30** is more or less a repetition of Verse 29 but it speaks only of the Ascendant and not the Moon and it enlarges the scope of the yoga by envisaging a scenario when both the planets Mars and Venus occupy a Kendra from Ascendant.

Verse 27 does not make reference to the Moon or Ascendant, but defines a rule where neechabhanga occurs because Mars and Venus aspect each other. This is a case, where the two key planets have a mutual relationship between themselves, without reference to the Moon or the Ascendant.

Verse 28 is a very significant one where the aspect of the Sign – dispositor on the debilitated planet

astrological perspective

eradicates the ill – effects of debilitation provided the debilitated planet does not occupy 6, 8 or 12. This verse clearly shows the line of demarcation between “Neecha Bhanga” and Neecha Bhanga Raja Yoga”. A planet in 6, 8, or 12 is incapable of promoting a Raja Yoga, due to its occupying an inauspicious house. By receiving the aspect of the sign – dispositor, no doubt there is Neechabhanga; but there is no formation of a Raja Yoga. It is just that a Minus gets converted to zero, but there is no positive impact.

The concept of Neechabhanga Raja Yoga has been given an **extended meaning** by some scholars of Astrology, with the formation of a few more rules, which are more or less based on the same arguments or principles as can be seen in standard textbooks. This is listed as follows:

1. An exalted planet joins the debilitated planet.
2. A planet debilitated in the Rasi chart is exalted in navamsa. (*vide Sarwartha Chintamani Translated by B.S.Rao, Page 693, stanza, 1013*).
3. A debilitated planet is aspected by another debilitated planet.
4. Debilitated planet is conjunct its exaltation lord.

According to **Vaidyanatha**,

I. If Jupiter is debilitated in Lagna, the 8th house is occupied by a malefic planet and if the navamsa of the 8th bhava is owned by that planet then the person born under this Yoga will be a king amongst Kings. (*Jataka Parijata, VII/15*). I wish to clarify one point here with reference to this verse.

Jup Asc			Mars

In the Example chart, we see Capricorn rises as the Ascendant, with Jupiter in the Ascendant itself. For

Capricorn Ascendant, the counting starts with Capricorn itself, so that 60th navamsa will fall in Sagittarius. 64th navamsa will fall in Aries and the owner of Aries, viz., Mars is in the 8th house. This is the Yoga cited by Vaidyantha in Jataka Parijata.

II. If two, three or four planets occupy their houses of debilitation, and at the same time either in Navamsa or in Shastyamsa, they are exalted, then the native of the chart will be just, virtuous and lord of the Earth (Ibid, VII/20).

There is an age-old English adage, “*One swallow does not make a summer*”, which makes sense in the context of Neechabhanga Raja Yoga. How do we conclude that the debilitation factor is entirely overcome, and even if it is so, how do we convince ourselves that an operative Raja Yoga is present?

To answer this question, we need to look at both the positive as well as the negative aspects of the horoscope.

When we examine **the positive features of the horoscope**, first and foremost, we need to check if Gajakesari Yoga (or the presence of Jupiter in a quadrant from Moon) is present or absent. Yogas such as the Pancha Maha Purusha Yoga, Vasumathi Yoga, Mahabhagya Yoga and Amala Yoga are all highly beneficial positive Yogas. The list is merely illustrative and not exhaustive.

On the **negative side**, the two Yogas which have an adverse impact on the horoscope are Kemadruma Yoga and Sakata Yoga. (*For more details about the Yoga, one can read the book, “300 important combinations” by Dr. B.V. Raman*).

The following two Yogas lead to Cancellation of Raja Yoga

- i. Ascendant being Leo, Saturn occupies the 3rd in Libra and at the same time it should occupy Aries Navamsa and Saturn should be aspected by malefics.
- ii. Sun occupies the 10th degree of Libra (Ibid, Page 302).

The prospects of a horoscope get marred by the presence of adverse Yogas. **Chapter VI of Jataka Parijata** is exclusively devoted to a discussion about such yogas. For the effects of Neechabhanga Raja

Yoga to fructify, such adverse Yogas should not be present. In our discussion on the negative features of horoscopes, we did mention a few adverse Yogas, besides the rules for Raja Yoga Bhanga or Cancellation of Raja Yoga. Any negative or adverse Yoga has the potential to dilute or nullify the beneficial effect of Neechabhanga Raja Yoga.

On the other hand, the positive or beneficial Yogas tend to reinforce or augment the effects of Neechabhanga Raja Yoga.

My plea, therefore, to all learned scholars on Astrology and to budding astrologers, would be to study the chart in its entirety, examine it closely, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of a chart, before pronouncing a verdict on the existence or non – existence of a Neechabhanga Raja Yoga in the horoscope.

Sarwartha Chintamani

i. If the lord of the Navamsa occupied by a debilitated planet occupies a Movable sign in a Kendra or a Trikona from the Ascendant and at the same time, the Lagna Lord also occupies a Movable sign, then a Raja Yoga is formed. (*Sarwartha Chintamani 9/36*), (*Tr B.S. Rao, Page 698, Stanza 1032*).

ii. If the Sign – dispositor or the planet that gets exalted in the sign holding a debilitated planet is in a kendra from lagna or Moon, a person becomes a ruler or a equal to ruler of high rank (*Ibid 9/13*) (*Tr by B.S. Rao, Page 692, stanza 1011*).

iii. If 2, 3 or 4 planets are in debilitation, while joining *shuba shastiamsas* and if Sun occupies Aries in Navamsa, the person will be equal to a King (*Ibid, Page 698, stanza 1031*).

iv. If Rahu and Saturn occupy the 10th and are aspected by the lord of 9 and the Lagna lord is in conjunction with a debilitated planet, the person will be equal to a king.

Explaining in an eloquent way, the rationale behind the occurrence and effects of Neechabhanga Raja Yoga, Prof. B.S. Rao, writes ,

“There are Rajabhanga neecha Yogas. These Yogas must be clearly understood. Some people who are born on the lap of misery and wretchedness, will merge into prosperity and

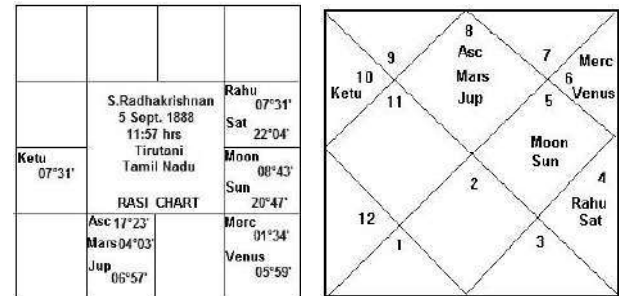
greatness and attain to eminent distinction. Napoleon, a poor soldier’s son became an Emperor; Hyder, a poor Naick’s son, a cattle grazer and a gardener, became a great sovereign. Sivaji, born of a commander of 5000 horses, became a great monarch. The combination in their horoscopes indicated poverty and low position at birth and greatness and prosperity later on in life. Say there is a debilitated planet at the time of birth. Then his tendency will be to send the men to a low level or low position, in society. But if he, or the lord of that debilitated house or the planet who would be in exaltation there, occupy a Kendra from lagna or from the position of the Moon, the misery will disappear and prosperity will dawn”. (*vide, commentary on Sarwartha Chintamani, Page 692*).

While two debilitated planets, while aspecting each other give rise to a favorable Yoga, the converse holds good in the case of two exalted planets. When two exalted planets aspect each other, the result would be the formation of a Yoga for giving rise to poverty.

With these observations, we will now turn our focus on a few charts, which are illustrative of the principles discussed so far in this write-up.

Case-study 1

Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan is an Indian



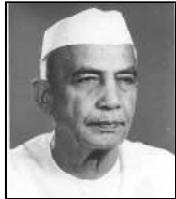
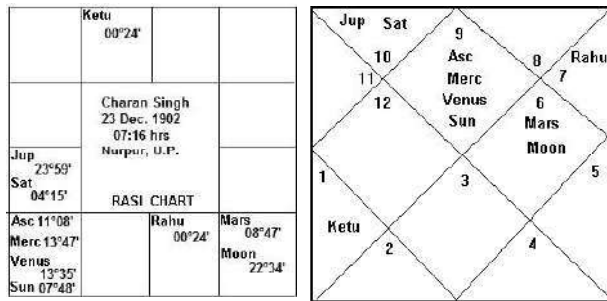
Philosopher, academic and statesman who served as Vice President of India (1952 – 1962) and also later on, became the President of India (1962 – 1967).

In his horoscope, there are two ways in which Neechabhanga Raja Yoga could be said to exist. Jupiter as exaltation Lord of debilitated Venus is in a quadrant from the lagna (P.D. VII/30).

astrological perspective

As discussed, a debilitated planet is also a potential Raja–Yoga giver. Further strong points of the chart are formation of a Gaja kesari Yoga, lagna lord and tenth occupying own signs, while a powerful Parasari Raja Yoga is formed by the 5th Lord getting associated with the lagna Lord in lagna. (Brihat Prasara Hora Sastra 41/38). The Chart's benefic potential is further augmented by the presence of Ruchaka Yoga, due to Mars as Lagna lord occupying the lagna.

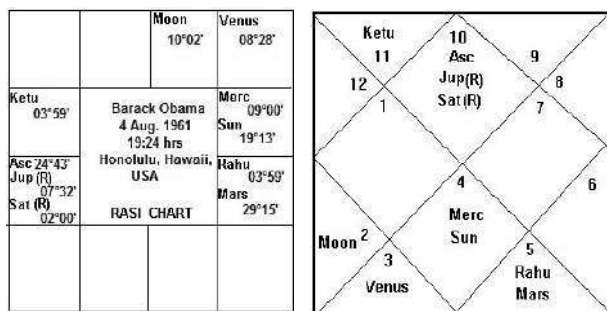
Case-study 2



In the horoscope of **Shri Charan Singh (1902- 1987)**, who served as Prime minister of India for a brief period from July 1979 to January 1980, Jupiter is debilitated, but the sign-depositor of its exaltation lord,

Moon, occupies a Kendra from lagna, resulting in the formation of Neechabhanga Raja Yoga (PD, VII/30). Another rule which evidences the formation of this Yoga is that the planet which gets exalted in the sign, holding the debilitated planet viz., Mars occupies a Kendra from both Lagna as well as Moon (*Sarwartha Chintamani, 9/13*).

Case-study 3



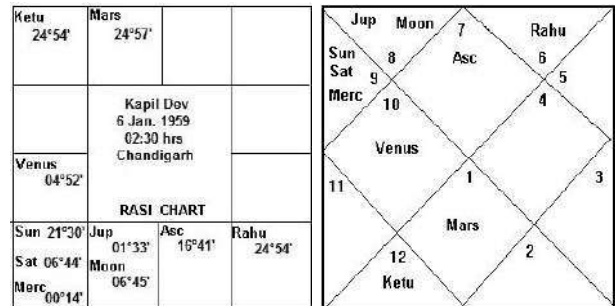
When a planet is debilitated and the sign lord is in a kendra from Lagna, Neechabhanga Raja Yoga is formed. An excellent illustration of this example is



the chart of **Barack Obama**.

Jupiter is debilitated, while its Sign–lord Saturn is the lagna, lord in lagna resulting in the formation of Neechabhanga Raja Yoga (vide P.D.VII/26). This chart is also an illustration of the dictum laid down in Sarwartha Chintamani, wherein it states that if the lord of the Navamsa occupied by a debilitated planet is in a kendra from lagna in a Movable sign, and at the same time, lagna lord also is in a Movable sign (Ibid, 9/36). Here Jupiter is in its own Navamsa and both Jupiter and Lagna lord Saturn, occupy the lagna in Capricorn, which is a Movable sign. It is also said that the above-mentioned Yoga is given rise to, when the debilitated planet is associated with or aspected by its debilitation lord. So the Saturn – Jupiter conjunction by itself is an originator of Neechabhanga Raja Yoga.

Case-study 4



In the chart of **Kapil Dev**, several rules which constitute Neechabhanga Raja Yoga find application, so much so that this horoscope is a classic example of this Yoga. Here the Lagna falls in Libra and Moon is debilitated in Scorpio. The Yoga gets formed in three different ways. Sign–dispositor of Moon viz Mars,

is in 7 in a Kendra from Lagna (PD VII/26). The sign-dispositor, Mars aspects the debilitated planet (PD, VII/28). The sign-dispositor, Mars and Venus occupy mutual kendras (PD, VII/27). So, here is a case where all the key rules, stated by Mantreswara in Phala Deepika, find application. Kapil Dev led the Indian cricket team to its maiden World cup victory in 1983, and was named by Wisden as the Indian Cricketer of the Century in 2002.

(Continued on page 80)

Psychology and Divination

By Dr. Na. Maghudeeswaran

Psychology & Divination

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior. People are individually different, due to psychological forces. Divination depends upon human reactions, and thus covers a wide range.

Read the following Anecdote! Your Character-delineation can be done, as per your likes and dislikes about the proceedings in the anecdote.

In a traditional conservative family, the parents started arranging marriage for their beautiful, educated daughter. A well-educated groom from a rich, established family liked the girl, and the elders in both the families agreed to solemnize their marriage in a few weeks. During that interim period, the groom happened to get a good promotion in his job. He was very happy, and he wanted to share that good news with the girl. He told her that he was elevated to a top position in the office because of her luck. Her good fortune had brought auspiciousness to his life. His words and attitude, if seen superficially, seem that he had been praising her. But the girl studied deeply his character, through his speech and attitude. She got alarmed, to her

parent's surprise. She refused to marry this groom, saying that if something were to go wrong in his life, then he would blame her bad luck. That is not right. Each one is responsible for his own success or failure, not the luck-factor of spouse.

Now, **if you happen to agree with the girl's decision**, then you are not the type to utilize the good opportunities (such as marriage with a rich, well-employed groom) coming in your way of life. You are over-cautious, doubtful of others, not having enough confidence to fight, if the outcome demands. Instead you will not venture at all, thinking rather negatively. Pray Goddess Durga, and use a lot of Red colour around you, to enhance fighting spirit.

If you happen to disagree with her decision of not marrying, you will grab the opportunities first, and then act as per the situation demands in due course. Your attitude is practical, and will make you rich. You will get a lot of friends, because of your un-doubtful nature. Pray Lord Vishnu, and use a lot of Green colour around you to enhance your positive thinking.

Mobile:9345556661

Neechabhanga Raja Yoga

(Continued from page 47)

In conclusion, I would now like to repeat the query, which I raised at the beginning of the write-up: **When a planet is debilitated, what do you lose?** My answer would be, **nothing substantial is lost by the presence of a debilitated planet.** In fact, in many cases, a debilitated planet is a blessing; not a curse, as we all understand it to be. In many charts, Astrologers commit the cardinal mistake of over-rating an Exalted planet and under-rating a debilitated planet. More often than not, the planets behave contrary to expectations. When debilitation gets

cancelled, you have the miracle of a debilitated planet functioning as a boon-giver. On the other hand, an exalted planet is taken for granted, and when the expected results don't materialize, people hunt for an Astrologer with the query, What went wrong?. So Prudence is required on part of an Astrologer, and it would be wise to look at a planet from all angles before attempting an Astrological Prognostication on the results it is expected to deliver.