

Transits

Transits are the heart of prediction, and prediction is the heart of astrology. If the astrologer cannot predict then they are not a true astrologer. There are many different levels in which the chart can be analyzed, and a great deal of information can be gained about the future just by a deep look into the natal chart and the dashas. Yet the chart and the dashas can only reveal the foreshadowed events, they can anticipate the events, but they don't clearly show the event itself. Like a friend helping you prepare for an important moment, they can offer guidance but can't describe exactly what to expect. Hence the chart and its dashas are like a friend giving advice. but the transits are the actual events that were foreshadowed.

How then is the transit cast and read? The basic technique is to cast a chart for the moment in question and compare it to the natal chart of the native. Forget the ascendant (for basic transit studies) of the transit and read the transit chart as though it has the ascendant of the native. Take note of any combinations that may form between a transiting planet and natal planets. For example, if a Cancer ascendant has Jupiter strong in the 9th house in the natal chart and Moon in 10th, then if Jupiter is transiting the 10th house of aries in the transit chart you should read it like the lord of the 9th in the 10th placed in a friendly sign with a benefic planet. Hence good results are expected, especially along career lines, so long as no negative planets are afflicting the combination.

Timing Major Events

There are three planets that take priority in transits when determining major events in the person's life. These are Rahu, Ketu and Saturn. The slower the motion of the planet the more energy it generates in its course and the more power it releases in the chart. These three planets are all deeply karmic and have the function of activating different stages of a person's life. Without even the slightest knowledge of dashas the astrologer can quite accurately predict important times in the native's life based on the transits of Saturn and the nodes. Since all of these planets are malefic in nature, when they are in strong places (especially the kendras) they tend to release hardships and past life karmas that have to be dealt with for the sake of evolution. Look for times when Saturn will be aspecting many planets since these will be karmically charged times in the native's life and the planets afflicted will spoil the indications of the houses they rule. Thus if transit Saturn casts a strong aspect on the natal lord of the 10th and natal lord of 11th, then you can predict with some certainty that financial hardships will arise or in the least become very stagnant due to problems at work.

Major Saturn Transits

Saturn will naturally be more powerful in certain distinct situations which are quite well known and warned about in vedic astrology. We will look at the two most important situations.

- 1) **Sade-Sati.** This is when Saturn transits the house before, house of and house after the natal moon. So if the Moon is in the 5th house in the natal chart then Saturn's transit into the 4th, 5th and 6th houses all go towards the 7 ½ year period called Sade-Sati. The

whole period tends to be quite hard on people for whom Saturn is malefic or the Moon is afflicted. It stands to reason that this period will be harsher if Saturn is worse or if the Moon is badly placed in the natal chart. For example Sade-Sati in a sign that is unfriendly to Saturn will be harsher than in a sign that is friendly. Since three signs are involved there will be three distinct phases of the sade-sati that should be understood by applying astrological principles and examination to the transit of Saturn in each house, as well as the nature of the houses in the natal chart. Generally, the first 2 ½ years are more psychological, the next 2 ½ years are more physical (health) and the final 2 ½ years are more material.

- 2) **Saturn Return.** This is the famously nasty astrological event where Saturn transits over your natal Saturn. In other words, Saturn “returns” to where it was when you were born. In my own humble opinion I consider this period to actually be more benefic than the Sade-Sati. Sade-Sati causes a lot of emotional and psychological hardship and transformation, but Saturn Return tends to be more physical and situational. A person’s situation in life will tend to change quite a bit during a Saturn return and they often find themselves in a different place, different house, different job, different financial situation, different relationship situation, etc. The area of life affected the most will be whichever house the Saturn return takes place in. I have also found from empirical experience that Saturn Return tends to be a kind of “karmic checkpoint” for people where natives who have held themselves back in life will tend to go through the most hardship and change while those people who were always trying to move forward will tend to fare better. The astrologer should of course predict the nature of the Return by applying astrological principles to the house the Return occurs in. A Saturn Return in a malefic house will usually be more severe than one in a strong and auspicious house. Likewise take note of the relationship of Saturn to the ascendant. Saturn Return can be quite good for Libra and Taurus ascendants because it is yogakaraka for them.

Rahu-Ketu Transits

- 1) **Kendras.** Rahu and Ketu will give the most potent effects when they transit the kendras of the native’s natal chart, afflicting the pillars of the natal chart in the process. If other malefic planets aspect then it could very well lead to a sarpa yoga. When the transit the 1st/7th houses the results will tend to be more on a personal and emotional level, while their transits in the 4th/10th houses tend to cripple the material side of the chart and cause difficulties in profession and home. Such periods are important times for growth and karmic release, so the astrologer should make a careful study of the natal chart and the nature of its kendras, noting any relevant aspects that help or harm the houses involved. Then the astrologer should note the placement of Saturn in its transit over the natal chart and make a judgement as to the overall nature of the transiting period of Rahu and Ketu. Rahu will be the material affliction, Ketu the personal/psychological affliction, and Saturn will give the main theme of the entire period.
- 2) **Each House.** While they can be quite negative in the kendras, in the other houses Rahu and Ketu will tend to give mixed results depending on the nature of the house. I have found over these last few years of study that the transits of Rahu and Ketu through each

house are perhaps the *most* important factor in determining which area of life will be the most important/active. Rahu and Ketu are the karmic axis of the chart, moving like clockwork through the chart and activating it house by house. I personally have never seen any real impact as to which houses they occupy in the natal chart, but instead treat them as stand-alone transits activating each house of the chart as they pass through. Ketu will tend to be the area of life where there is a lot of psychological and emotional focus and Rahu will be the area where they are working the hardest or that they are struggling with. Ketu can also be seen as “forces beyond control” while Rahu depicts forces within our control. Hence Ketu will depict events that happen to us, while Rahu depicts events we make happen.

Timing Minor Events

“Major Events” are major because they deal with larger periods of time and tend to influence all activities and transits during that period. “Minor events” are minor because they tend to be specific events happening in a small window of time. For example, telling someone that “next year should be a good year for career” is a major event prediction, while saying “next week you will get a promotion” is a minor event. Major and minor refers to time, not the emotional importance of the event.

Minor events are those triggered by the faster transits of all of the other planets other than Jupiter. Jupiter gets a special status in transit and will be treated separately. Hence Mars, Sun, Venus, Mercury and the Moon are all seen as being important transiting planets for timing minor events.

Mars: Injuries, new undertakings, fights, obstructions from others, blood, sharp objects, surgery and all kinds of conflicts are indicated and timed by the transit of Mars. The faster planets tend to have less of an impact because they make the same aspects on the natal chart many times throughout the native’s life. Hence the nature of each repeated transit will be slightly different based on the location of Rahu and Ketu, and the dashas involved at that time.

Sun: Status, renown, elevation in society, government, elections, and health are all indications of the Sun and are timed according to the Sun’s transits. In my own experience the transit of the Sun and indeed all of the Minor Event planets should only be paid particular attention to if they form many yogas either in the transit chart or when compared to the natal chart. The transit of both the Sun and the Moon are quite important when timing special occasions.

Venus: Important for timing relationship events, marriage, things pertaining to art of any kind, as well as governmental/legal situations.

Mercury: Important for timing litigations, communications, travels and education.

The Moon

In timing daily matters and exact events no other planet is more important than the Moon. The astrologer needs to take into account the house the moon is transiting, the nakshatra, the lunar day (tithi) and the Moon's aspect on the Sun. If the nakshatra is ruled by a malefic planet then it is obviously not an ideal day for planning important events. If the Moon is devoid of aspect from the Sun then disharmony will result from actions undertaken at that time. If it transits a bad house then likewise the astrologer should plan accordingly. Aside from this, the Moon's conjunction tends to activate any other planet in the sky. For example, if there is a malefic yoga occurring between the Sun and Mars yet nothing has happened yet, then the astrologer should predict that the malefic effects will manifest when the Moon conjuncts the combination. The Moon acts like a trigger for events being heralded in the sky. There is so much that could be written about the Moon's effect in transits that I must actually either be very brief or very long-winded. For the sake of time and brevity I have been brief on this matter, though may write more on it later for all of you. Suffice it to say that the more you learn about the Moon in your astrological studies the more accurate you will be in predicting events.

Jupiter

In some systems of astrology the transits of Jupiter are almost exclusively used for predicting the future of the native, without even the slightest consideration of dashas or even houses! Such knowledge of Jupiter and its transits is far beyond my skill or yours at the moment (mostly due to lack of English material) but is said to be possible all the same. Jupiter is a beacon of auspiciousness to counteract the negative aspects of Rahu, Ketu and Saturn. It should be remembered that it casts a full 100% aspect into its trines and this needs to be taken into account when reading its transits. Much like Rahu and Ketu in its ability to activate the house it transits, the astrologer should always especially consider in the case of Jupiter which natal planet it conjuncts. Due to the year-long length of Jupiter's transits through a sign and its 12 year orbital period Jupiter a relatively easy and quite fun predictive tool becomes available. Counting the houses from Jupiter will reveal how old the native will be when Jupiter is in that house (approximately). As such the astrologer can quite quickly make relatively accurate predictions about the native's future for specific ages. For example if Jupiter is in Aries and Ketu is in the second house in Pisces, then Jupiter's transit over Ketu in the second (family issues) will occur either in the native's 4th year (3 yrs old) , 16th year (15 yrs old) or 28th year (27 years old), and so on. Having narrowed it down to a few different choices the age wherein Jupiter is afflicted will likely give the said result. Specific timing within that year will be determined by the Sun, Moon and Dashas.

Basic Guideline for Transits

- 1) Note Rahu and Ketu's transit
- 2) Note which house Saturn occupies
- 3) Note Jupiter's placement and especially its conjunction over any natal planets.
- 4) Look at Vimsottari dasha and Narayana dasha to determine with planet and house have the strongest temporal influence during the transit period. For example, a bad Saturn transit over the Sun will obviously be worse in a dasha of the sign the transit occurs in or of one of the planets involved.

- 5) Always make note of any house which appears to have a lot of planets transiting it all at once.
- 6) Time more specific events using the Moon.