

You have learned the Vimsottari dasha, the Narayana dasha and the fundamentals of transits, so now let's look at how an astrologer can put all of this information together and make an accurate prediction. First however, some words should be said about prediction itself and the philosophy and science involved therein.

Astrological Prediction

Prediction is a vast and complicated field of astrology both methodically and ethically. There is the Rasi to consider, the various sub-charts, nakshatras, houses, zodiacal dashas, nakshatra dashas, planetary dashas, and various special "chakras" such as Ashtakvarga chakra and Sudarshana chakra. Then there are transits, natal progressions and yearly charts to consider. For the beginning jyotishika there is simply no way to navigate the vast ocean of vedic astrology in any kind of accurate way. Instead, much like a new sailor, you should explore little by little, learning the various isles, inlets parts of the ocean in front of you. Gradually you will develop a command of each of these branches of astrology in an order that is comfortable to you, and this will give you a strong foundation and the experience necessary to venture forth with full confidence and gradually master the astrological science. Yet before worrying about creating a model for prediction I should say a few words about ethics.

Ethics in astrology is a tricky matter. You should be truthful and certainly shouldn't lie, yet at the same time there are simply things that most people shouldn't hear. Hitherto I have done hundreds of astrology and been told many times (usually by men) that they can handle whatever I can tell them and they want the truth no matter how much it hurts. I have never once found this to be true. In every case the client left the reading feeling upset, depressed, or even angry, and these feelings usually grew over time until I spoke with them and tried to help them look at all the positive parts of their chart. On this note I need you all to remember something very important: PEOPLE REMEMBER BAD NEWS WAY MORE THAN GOOD NEWS. If you tell someone a dozen great things about their chart and one bad thing, they are going to walk away from the reading remembering the one bad thing as being the essence of the reading. I have seen this to be the case time and time again, and it seems to be due to the person simply "shutting off" once they hear some bad news and then the rest of the reading is like background noise while they just focus on the bad news. This is when you need to remind them that ALL CHARTS HAVE BAD STUFF. Every single one. The greatest spiritual masters and the richest and most successful men in the world have plenty of bad stuff in their charts. It's just part of life. What separated them from others was their ability and drive to use the good things in their chart more than the bad.

Now suppose you have a client who is about to get married and you are doing a comparison chart. As you peruse the chart you see that these two charts are superficially compatible (they are physically attracted to one another) but the karmas are negative or even harmful to each other in the rest of the chart. Now what do you tell the happy and excited couple sitting across from you? If you tell them their marriage is doomed they will get angry or very sad and most likely just walk out on you and decide that you must not know what you're talking about. If you tell them everything looks good and then they get a divorce a year later they will

likewise tell people that you don't know what you're talking about. So what do you do? You have to find a middle road somewhere. Everyone has an inherent right to know about their life if they ask you, You can't look at their chart and decide that you have a right to knowledge about their life and future but that they don't. At the same time it is simply not ethical to say "the marriage doesn't have a chance", because this could actually interfere with their karma and the experiences they have to go through! So now what do you tell the seemingly happy couple?

In such a situation you have to help your clients understand what astrology is and how it works. They need to know that there are difficulties in the chart comparisons and that some obstacles could arise during the marriage. Depending how mature and trustful they are in you, you may even tell them that their marriage could one day be at risk due to such obstacles (this is too much for most people so act accordingly). But then you need to immediately proceed this by explaining the science of astrology and the natures of the planets. The planets could care less about who marries who. It is all just a matter of vibrations, and vibrations can be worked with. Negative aspects may be threatening the marriage, but there will ALWAYS be positive aspects, even if they are weak, that can help fortify the marriage. These positive aspects have to be explained to the couple, and the negative aspects need to be explained as obstacles that can be overcome by strengthening the positive aspects. Likewise if you are skilled with remedial astrology it will also be re-assuring if you can help them choose an auspicious date for the marriage and assign appropriate remedies to each person. I think this whole process can more or less be broken down into a few steps for approaching a difficult situation in a chart:

1. Identify the obstacle as a trial, not something unchangeable and doomed to happen.
2. Identify positive parts of the chart that can be used to overcome the obstacle.
3. Apply remedies accordingly

A relationship comparison is a common example of how the astrologer might come across such a predicament. Another common predicament is anything concerning death. My general advice on this is simple.....don't tell people about their death. Just have a "no-talk" policy about it and don't budge. The only exception I think permissible on this subject is when advising a client who is in the grips of a terminal illness and is specifically asking you for your insight into when he/she might pass so that they can prepare for it emotionally, psychologically and legally.

Establishing a Predictive Model

Any successful astrologer has set up a predictive model according to their knowledge, skill-set and inclinations. Astrologers give readings as different and varied as their personalities and experiences, and thus it is very rare for two astrologers to read a chart the same way, even if they give similar or even identical results. Likewise you should all begin to set up a definite method for navigating through predictive astrology, and we will call this a "predictive model". I will give my ideas and recommendations for establishing such a model, but I can't tell you what the "best" or "most accurate" model is because this will be different for each astrologer. Your predictive model should be your gameplan for a reading, and you should stick to it and not deviate until experience and more learning leads you to evolve it over time.

1. Examine the Rasi chart. This should generally be your foundation for making predictions since all predictive models will depend upon the person's natal chart for accurate assessment. For some astrologers, examining the natal chart means reading all of the houses and zodiac signs, writing down the strong planets and weak planets, noting house strengths and calculating planet strengths. Other astrologers will prefer to simply read the nakshatras and take a note of the houses. Others still may put preference towards temporal indicators like lunar days, moon phases, months, seasons, prasna, etc. Either way you have to somehow determine what the person's natal karma indicates.
2. Know the sub-charts. This is especially true of the navamsa, and in general when making predictions about a certain area of life such as career you should know which planets are playing the biggest roles in the sub-charts connected to those areas of life.
3. Dashas. There are many dasha systems and gradually you will come to favor some over others. The two most common are the Vimsottari and the Narayana dasha.
4. Transits. Keeping everything else in mind, you will need to analyse the transits and determine how they will be affected (or affect) the dashas.
5. Additional methods. You should eventually learn some very precise dasha and transit techniques to help you reduce your margin of error that are done at the end of your assessment to "fine tune" the information you have gathered. My preferred techniques for this are the Ashtakavarga and the Sudarshana chakra.

Obviously there are aspects in the above list of suggestions that you have not learned yet. The scope of astrology is so vast that it is simply impossible to teach even 25% in a series of courses like what I have presented to you all over this last year. When this course is over I will do my best to help steer you all towards higher education in the field of astrology and will also open up an alumni group for us all to keep in touch and practice with each other to encourage continued growth and development in your jyotish skills. I have just written down a very general predictive model for your own reference, and as you develop as astrologers you should also develop and expand upon your own predictive model.

Dashas and Transits

Before you can really get into the field of predictive astrology you need to have a grasp (even if weak and wobbly) on how dashas, transits and the rasi chart all affect each other. Here are some key reference points for researching the chart and understanding the dashas and transits.

1. Vimsottari Mahadasha Lord. The first thing you want to do with your current knowledge is to look at the vimsottari dasha and find the mahadasha lord in the rasi chart and analyze it. Especially, you want to take note of the nakshatra lord of the dasha lord. For example, note if the mahadasha lord is the Sun and it is placed in the 5th house in a nakshatra ruled by Jupiter that is placed in the 12th. Though the Sun in the 5th is plenty good, and jupiter nakshatras are positive, Jupiter's placement in the 12th house will play

a large role in how the Sun dasha manifests. If positive aspects play a role then the Sun (government/status/success) in the 5th house (education) influenced by the 12th house could indicate the native receives a foreign education. It could also indicate a child who will do well in foreign countries. If the aspects are very negative then maybe the child is taken away by the government in the Sun mahadasha. For another example, let's say a person approaches you to ask about when their job situation might improve. You of course will look to the 10th house and note the sign and the lord, as well as any planets therein. If there are no planets in the sign then the vimsottari dasha of the lord of the 10th will be the most prominent dasha for career. If other planets occupy it then those planets may give even stronger results in their dashas than that of the lord. Let's say in this case the 10th house is Leo with the Sun in the 3rd house. Not a particularly strong placement for the Sun, but let's assume that Jupiter is in the 10th house itself and is raja yoga as the lord of the 5th (this is obviously a Scorpio Ascendant). So then which Vimsottari mahadasha will be the most important for career? It will be Jupiter instead of the lord of the 10th, because Jupiter is much stronger in the 10th in Leo than Saturn is in the 3rd in Capricorn.

2. Vimsottari Antar-Dasha. The maha-dasha is ideal for giving you a broad idea of what to expect in certain spans of years in the native's life. The antar-dasha allows you to time the events more particularly. For example, if the native had a kemadruma yoga with the Moon being alone by itself, and it was aspected by Ketu and/or Saturn and/or in a bad house then we could assume poverty will strike at some time. Yet if the ascendant is strong and the 2nd house is well the native could have been born and spent the early part of life quite well off financially. Thus in order to time when the kemadruma yoga will activate we should look to the vimsottari mahadasha of the Moon. Let's say it begins when the native is 38 years old, we could thus expect that from the age of 38 to the age of 48 the native will likely be afflicted by poverty. To time it closer we would look for an antar-dasha of a planet that afflicts the moon, such as Saturn or Ketu in this example, and this would allow us to predict within a year or two accuracy as to when such poverty is likely to occur.
3. Narayana Mahadasha. Generally I find a major time period with the vimsottari mahadasha, and then instead of using its antardashas I switch to the Narayana dasha and use it to investigate the smaller areas of time within the vimsottari mahadasha, and for even smaller segments of time I would use the antar dashas of the narayana, I have found in my own experience that the Narayana dasha is more accurate in the sub-dashas than the vimsottari and thus better for examining smaller areas of time within the larger vimsottari mahadasha. For example, let's assume that a person has asked you what the next few years have in store for them. You look at the vimsottari dasha and see that the current dasha is a Saturn Dasha with 12 years left in it. You note that Saturn is a malefic in the chart of the native and negatively aspects the ascendant lord, causing health issues and/or problems in life in general and the native affirms that the last few years have been such. Then you look at the Narayana dasha and see that two Narayana mahadashas will take place during the remainder of the Saturn dasha. The first narayana dasha is that of the ascendant. Since the ascendant is being afflicted by

Saturn in the chart and Saturn is active in the vimsottari dasha, the native's life is being obstructed by Saturn's influence and the physical body is probably also suffering. Then let's assume that the second narayana dasha is a well aspected 9th house. This will bring considerable improvement to an otherwise difficult Saturn mahadasha as the beneficial 9th house influence will mitigate at least the psychological and emotional suffering and lead to positive personal change and transformation.

4. Transit of Vimsottari Mahadasha Lord. The transits of a planet are particularly important during their mahadasha, since the native is more sensitive to the energy of the planet during that dasha. For example, Rahu dashas are hard for just about everyone regardless of what house they are in for the natal chart. But should Rahu transit into its own sign of Aquarius during its dasha, or transit over a strong natal Jupiter, then the native will experience some temporary relief from the Rahu period during such a transit.
5. Transits of planets over natal mahadasha lord. Benefic planets transiting the natal dasha lord will give good results during their transits for that dasha, Malefic planets will likewise cause problems. In my own experience the transits tend to affect the vimsottari dasha more than the narayana dasha,