

The Eastern Window

by Penny Farrow



Editor's Note: Cross ventilation produces a breath of fresh air. It is desirable in a house and even in a magazine! In this spirit, we are featuring a series of short articles designed to make some of the basic building blocks and ideas of Vedic astrology more accessible to all. We anticipate that opening the Eastern Window can clarify the complementarity between great astrological traditions.

Adam Schiff's Peanut Butter Sandwich

The tenor of the times has prompted me to write another column on the power of confluence in predicting consequential time periods via the principles of Jyotisha. Although this was the topic of my most recent "Eastern Window" column,¹ I could not pass up the chance to look at a starkly contrasting native, Democratic Congressman Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Chairman Schiff has recently earned himself a place in history well beyond that of most other chairs of the Intelligence Committee and indeed most members of Congress, with the notable exception of some outstanding speakers of the House.

Why Adam Schiff? Why now? Let's take a look at his extraordinary chart. The first slice of bread in the peanut butter sandwich of his destiny is the static patterning in his natal chart. Chairman Schiff is a Gemini rising with Sun and Venus almost on the same degree in the Ascendant. (See **Chart**, at right.) That configuration is aspected by a powerful Jupiter from the 7th bhava (house). Jupiter is *swastha* (in its own sign) in Sagittarius and completely retrograde as it is opposite the Sun. Saturn is also in the 7th bhava — retrograde — with *dig bala* (directional strength). *Lagna* (Ascendant) lord Mer-

cury, is in the 2nd. Rahu and Ketu are in the 3rd and 9th, respectively, rounding out the chart.

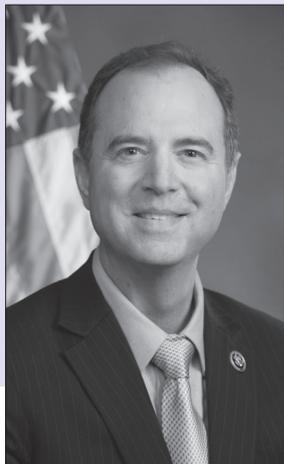
Embedded in this static combination is a dazzling array of auspicious yogas² — *raja yogas* (yogas for pre-eminence), *dhana yogas* (yogas for wealth), *Saraswati* and *Hamsa yogas* (yogas of intelligence, dignity, and wisdom) — and

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some other rare yogas that further elevate an already elevated static pattern.

Though Venus is completely combusted, it participates in many of the above yogas. Fortunately for Schiff, it partners in those combinations with the doubly strong Jupiter and Saturn, empowering those yogas to give their results.

However, all these promising considerations may not translate into someone with a central role at a pivotal moment in history. The *grahas* (planets) that are involved in these combinations must be activated at the right moment in time for that to happen. This is the peanut butter that makes an ordinary slice of bread into lunch. A mainstay of Jyotisha is the *dasha* system, an orderly progression in time detailing when *grahas* will actively take center stage and bring forth the role they take in the life of the native.³ Think of it as the acts (*dashas*) and scenes (*bhuktis* or sub-dashas) within a play unfolding twists and turns of the plot.



	Ma _{8°11'}		Ve _{7°35'} Su _{7°40'} As _{20°21'}
10 Pis	11 Ari	Mo _{18°53'}	1 Gem
mc _{28°27'} Ke _{26°14'}	Adam Schiff <i>South Indian chart, Lahiri ayanamsha, and the Mean Node</i>		Me _{2°20'}
9 Aqu			2 Can
			Ra _{26°14'}
8 Cap			3 Leo
Sa _{22°53'} Jp _{5°8'}			
7 Sag	6 Sco	5 Libr	4 Virg

Mr. Schiff had an enviable education, with degrees from Stanford University (Political Science) and Harvard Law School. But it wasn't until his Jupiter dasha-bhukti period in 1990 that he rose to prominence in a case that foreshadowed current events. (See **Table**, below.) Despite two other trials, United States FBI Agent (and Soviet spy!), Richard Miller, was not successfully convicted until prosecuted by Schiff. The conviction came on October 9, 1990, and he was sentenced February 4, 1991,⁴ during Schiff's Jupiter-Saturn (dasha-bhukti) period.

The experience garnered in that case gave Schiff deep insight into how the Russians operate and the kind of people they target. He also had to work with FBI agents investigating Miller and got a firsthand look at the Bureau's

counterintelligence mission, which was excellent preparation for his current chairmanship and management of the House Intelligence Committee's investigations.

Jupiter is the kingpin in most of the yogas in Schiff's chart. During his Jupiter dasha he rose from Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California to a seat in the California State Senate in 1996. And then in 2000, on his third attempt, he defeated the Republican incumbent for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Schiff was running a Jupiter-Moon (dasha-bhukti) period. Besides the yogas Jupiter forms with Saturn and Venus, the position and strength of his Jupiter and Moon also form a very powerful yoga, *Mukuta Yoga*. (This yoga is similar to raja yoga, a combination that gives great rise and preeminence.) He has maintained his seat in the House of Representatives from 2000 to present time.

Schiff's Jupiter dasha gave way to his Saturn dasha in late 2004. Aside from also being involved in major yogas, Saturn enjoys the favorable situation of being stabilized by natural benefics without the disruption of affliction. Saturn's aspect by the Sun could be viewed as an affliction, but actually, it is that very placement that accounts for the strength of retrogression, and it is therefore not viewed as a liability. Saturn is exalted in Schiff's D-9 chart — the important ninth divisional chart, known as the *navamsha* chart, giving Saturn a powerful hidden strength.⁵ (Saturn is often regarded as fearful and harsh in various astrological systems, but a strong and stabilized Saturn can bring positive qualities of depth, authority, patience, follow-through, deep focus, and excellent planning and strategizing.)

Schiff continued to rise through the House hierarchy for the duration of his Saturn-dasha period, serving on numerous key House Committees such as the International Relations Committee (2001–2006) and the House Judiciary Committee (2001–2011). He was appointed to serve on the Intelligence Committee in 2008 and was reappointed as a permanent member in January 2009. He assumed the role of chairman in January 2019 following the 2018 midterm elections that

returned the House to Democratic control. He was then, and still is, in the key Saturn-Rahu dasha-bhukti.

To really understand the magnitude of Schiff's position at this point in time, one must understand a unique

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characteristic of Rahu. Rahu and Ketu are the North and South Nodes of the Moon and are included in the *navagrahas* (nine grahas) of the Vedic astrology system even though they are not planets in the traditional sense. (In a future column I will go into the fascinating teaching tale of Rahu/Ketu). Having no mass or light, one way they exert power is through their capacity to give results by masquerading as other grahas. They will imitate the dispositor of the *rashi* (sign) they are in (in this case, Rahu in Leo will act like the Sun), whatever graha is with them in a bhava (not relevant here), whatever graha aspects them (in this case, that very powerful Jupiter), and whatever graha owns the nakshatra which they are transiting at the time of birth; Schiff's Rahu is in a Venus nakshatra — Purva Phalguni.⁶

Let's recall that permutations of Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn make a huge array of powerful yogas. During Schiff's Saturn-Rahu dasha-bhukti — *all* of those yogas are activated, making it one of the most stunning periods in his dasha sequence.

But wait, there's more. An open-faced peanut butter sandwich makes for a messy lunch. We need one more slice of bread: transits. There are various ways of thinking about transits but one

Start Date	Age	Dashas
8/ 23/ 1959	-0.8	Mo Me Me
1/ 22/ 1961	0.6	Mo Ke Ke
8/ 23/ 1961	1.2	Mo Ve Ve
4/ 24/ 1963	2.8	Mo Su Su
10/ 23/ 1963	3.3	Ma Ma Ma
3/ 20/ 1964	3.7	Ma Ra Ra
4/ 8/ 1965	4.8	Ma Jp Jp
3/ 15/ 1966	5.7	Ma Sa Sa
4/ 24/ 1967	6.8	Ma Me Me
4/ 20/ 1968	7.8	Ma Ke Ke
9/ 16/ 1968	8.2	Ma Ve Ve
11/ 16/ 1969	9.4	Ma Su Su
3/ 24/ 1970	9.8	Ma Mo Mo
10/ 23/ 1970	10.3	Ra Ra Ra
7/ 5/ 1973	13.0	Ra Jp Jp
11/ 29/ 1975	15.4	Ra Sa Sa
10/ 5/ 1978	18.3	Ra Me Me
4/ 23/ 1981	20.8	Ra Ke Ke
5/ 12/ 1982	21.9	Ra Ve Ve
5/ 12/ 1985	24.9	Ra Su Su
4/ 5/ 1986	25.8	Ra Mo Mo
10/ 5/ 1987	27.3	Ra Ma Ma
10/ 23/ 1988	28.3	Jp Jp Jp
12/ 11/ 1990	30.5	Jp Sa Sa
6/ 23/ 1993	33.0	Jp Me Me
9/ 29/ 1995	35.3	Jp Ke Ke
9/ 4/ 1996	36.2	Jp Ve Ve
5/ 6/ 1999	38.9	Jp Su Su
2/ 22/ 2000	39.7	Jp Mo Mo
6/ 23/ 2001	41.0	Jp Ma Ma
5/ 30/ 2002	41.9	Jp Ra Ra
10/ 23/ 2004	44.3	Sa Sa Sa
10/ 27/ 2007	47.3	Sa Me Me
7/ 6/ 2010	50.0	Sa Ke Ke
8/ 15/ 2011	51.1	Sa Ve Ve
10/ 14/ 2014	54.3	Sa Su Su
9/ 26/ 2015	55.3	Sa Mo Mo
4/ 27/ 2017	56.8	Sa Ma Ma
6/ 5/ 2018 now	58.0	Sa Ra Ra
4/ 11/ 2021	60.8	Sa Jp Jp
10/ 24/ 2023	63.3	Me Me Me

Table: Adam Schiff's Vimshottari Dasha-Bhuktis

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that delivers the goods is when a significant transit activates a significant natal pattern. Schiff's Saturn began transiting the rashi of Sagittarius (a Saturn return) on October 26, 2017. His Rahu bhukti started in June of 2018, and by November, it was clear that Schiff would become the chair of the Intelligence Committee and have the power to investigate the president.

The launch of the impeachment inquiry following the famous call between Trump and Ukraine President Zelensky was on September 24, 2019. Saturn was just shy of 20° Sagittarius, very close to its natal degree in Schiff's birth chart. The Intelligence Committee was tasked by Nancy Pelosi to conduct hearings to gather evidence that would be used in the final decision as to whether to impeach. This formidable task was given to Schiff with the world's glaring spotlight focused on his every move and decision.

Throughout the November hearings, and continuing until the end of January, Saturn was transiting its natal position for the second time in Schiff's life, (and still is at the time of this writing in early January). This time, however, Saturn's return transit is more consequential than before because the Saturn dasha is operating. Also, the timing was such that transiting Saturn reached Schiff's exact natal degree (22°53') on November 20, at the height of the proceedings.

The peanut butter sandwich is served with a flourish of trumpets — the dazzling natal pattern for fame involving Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus. The Saturn dasha and Rahu bhukti pull all of those grahas onto center stage, fructifying their promise in Schiff's *prarabdha karma*⁷ pattern. And finally, the Saturn transit over natal Saturn doubles the effect of Saturn on the lagna and all the fellow actors it affects natively to create this unique moment in history.

And what happened during Schiff's first Saturn transit over its natal position? He was prosecuting Richard Miller — FBI agent and Russian spy. This occurred during his Jupiter dasha – Jupiter bhukti period. The conviction came when Saturn was transiting its exaltation rashi (Capricorn) right over the lagna lord (Mercury).

Both of Schiff's Saturn returns came in dashas of the two most powerful yoga-producing grahas in the chart, and both happened when the key grahas were activating the lagna. You can't make these things up!

Chart Data and Source

Adam Schiff, June 22, 1960; 6:13 a.m. EDT; Framingham, MA, USA (42°N16', 71°W25'); AA: birth certificate.

References and Notes

1. Penny Farrow, "Magical Voice and a Peanut Butter Sandwich," in *The Mountain Astrologer*, Feb./March 2020, p. 14.
2. Farrow, "The Eastern Window," in *TMA*, Feb./March 2018, p. 20.
3. Farrow, "The Eastern Window," in *TMA*, April/May 2018, p. 14.
4. See: <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1990-10-10-mn-1957-story.html>

5. Farrow, "The Eastern Window," in *TMA*, Oct./Nov. 2019, p.16.

6. Farrow, "The Eastern Window," in *TMA*, Dec./Jan. 2018–2019, p.18.

7. Natal patterns represent the karma of the native that will fructify sometime during their present lifetime. This is called *prarabdha karma*.

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activities are concerned — a crucial endeavor these days when everyone is an expert but nobody seems to know anything. You have experience, and most significantly, you have experience with people. You have made many discoveries about who your friends are (and who they are not). Saturn in Aquarius will help you navigate the fraught kinds of social situations that our current lives so often get us into.

Your foundation here is your ability to see the common ground that nearly all people share. There is such a thing as the human condition, and this has nothing to do with special interests or political viewpoints. You of all people have the gift for understanding what everyone, as in every person in the world, has in common, regardless of their seeming status. Peer through the static and the illusions, and use your gift for noticing the distinct beauty in everyone you meet.

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