# 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.

## Divisional Charts: Fine-Tuning Timing

Being an astrologer is a formidable task. Somehow you must navigate through a dizzying array of themes about our human life and recognize patterns that address the concerns of the individual who has come for advice. Given all the variables that must be juggled, it can seem miraculous to pick up something meaningful from the overload of information. Yet there are ways to approach questions around the success or failure of a particular desire in life, such as having a child, getting married, etc. Such methods usually attempt to confirm attainment or non-attainment by using the rule of three — three independent variables pointing to the same outcome.

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How might that work in the context of chart analysis? For instance, what does one do to assess whether someone will have a child? A time-honored method is to look at the *bhava* (house) that indicates children (the 5th house), the ruler of the house (varies depending on the Ascendant), and the *karaka* (the overall significator of the house) which, in the case of children, would be Jupiter. Bingo! If these all point in the same direction, this would provide the basis for a confident prediction based on three-way confluence.

Sounds simple, right? But then there is the question of *when*. Maybe the static "permission" is given, but does this imply that you can have a child anytime in your childbearing years?

Enter the technique of divisional chart analysis. Divisional charts are calculated from the degrees of each of the *grahas* (planets) and the degree of the rising sign in the birth chart. In the previous column, I likened this process to a parent giving birth to many children.[1] There are 16 such charts in classical Jyotisha texts. That number increases when Jyotishis add divisional charts from other traditions.

Though not in exact agreement, the texts detail how each divisional chart is created through application of specific formulas. The resultant charts yield a variety of interesting possibilities for analysis. Surprisingly, the texts give no real interpretive guidance other than a one-word descriptor for each chart (e.g., "progeny" for the seventh divisional chart or D-7). It seems that the sages were more focused on using the divisional charts as indicators of underlying strength for the main chart and also other specialized applications, such as the presence of certain yogas[2] that are formed due to some particular arrangement in one or more of the divisional charts.

It may have been only in the last century that Jyotishis started to examine divisional charts as a powerful interpretive tool. Many explored applying all the same techniques they would apply toward unpacking a birth chart to divisional charts. Others saw them as another confirmation tool to differentiate which of the diverse themes indicated by a certain house produced notable results when they saw promising patterns in the D-1 or natal chart.

The most groundbreaking work in the study of divisional charts was done by a brilliant mathematician/Jyotishi, Seshadri Iyer from Bangalore, who published his findings on the subject in 1963. Given access to the private libraries of the Maharajas (great kings) of south India, he perused rare volumes containing diverse revelations that he evolved into an integrated approach to, among other things, divisional chart methodology.

Admittedly an elaborate method, we can nevertheless get a flavor for the central tenet. For example, if the *Mahadasha*[3] of a graha is running and that graha is well placed in the divisional chart for education, then that particular time period might be fruitful for getting a degree, even if the natal chart is not showing good prospects for that outcome.

Let's examine the possibility and timing of having children in the chart of Barack Obama. (See **Chart 1,** following page.) The usual approach is to check the bhava (house), the lord of the bhava, and the karaka. Looking at the 5th bhava, we see an exalted Moon, which is unafflicted and beneficially aspected by Jupiter — a good start.

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The lord of the house, Venus, is in the 6th bhava. This is not where we want to see the ruler of a bhava, as the 6th is one of the negative houses. The karaka of the 5th is Jupiter, and it is in a positive bhava (the 1st) but debilitated and afflicted by a powerful Saturn, an unfavorable graha for children since it is classified, along with Mercury, as a eunuch and therefore infertile. Welcome to the world of interpretation. It's not always so easy to get a clear pattern.

Let's turn to the divisional charts. The *shastra* (texts) tell us that the Saptamsha chart is the one for considering progeny. *Sapta* is the Sanskrit word for "seven," and *amsha* means "parts." Iyer refers to it as the D-7, where D stands for Divisional and 7 is the number by which the 30° *rashi* (sign) of the natal chart is divided.

In analyzing a D-7, Iyer would emphasize the importance of the Mahadasha(s) that would be running during the typical childbearing years. For Obama, the most likely candidate would be the Jupiter *dasha* (see Note 4, below) that was in effect as he went to law school, married, and then started to establish his career. The Jupiter dasha began at age 35, just as he was elected to the Illinois Senate.

It is Jupiter in the natal chart that stabilizes the 5th bhava, but as mentioned above, it is a bit of a mixed bag.

However, when we look at Jupiter in the D-7 (**Chart 2,** below left), we see that it is very well placed in the 9th bhava where it aspects back to the D-7 Sagittarius *lagna* (1st house) — in its own sign. This helps to clarify the contradictions in the main chart and raise the odds that Obama's Jupiter dasha will be fruitful for children.

Indeed, Malia Obama was born July 4, 1998, around two years after the Jupiter dasha started, and Sasha Obama was born June 10, 2001 during the Jupiter dasha and sub-period *(bhukti)*[4] of Mercury.
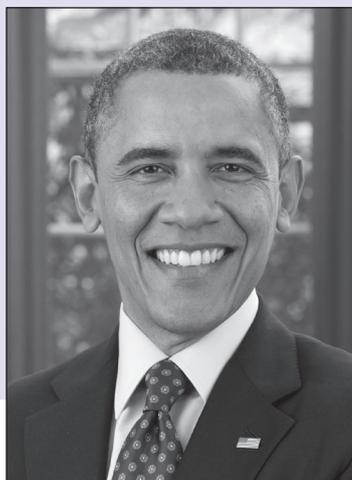
## Chart Data and Source

## References and Notes

1. Penny Farrow, "The Eastern Window: A Fine Family or a Rowdy Brood," in *The Mountain Astrologer,* Oct./Nov. 2019, p. 16.

2. Yogas are combinations of astrological factors whose outcome may be more potent than the individual components.

3. In Jyotisha, each graha rules a span of time in which whatever it is enabling in the chart becomes more emphasized. This period is called a Mahadasha. *Note:* "Mahadasha" is often used interchangeably with "dasha."

4. Farrow, "The Eastern Window: Cosmic Duets: Enthralling Harmonies or Yowling Cats," in *TMA,* June/July 2018, pp. 18–19.

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| | | Mo 10°1' | Ve 8°28' |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 Pis | 4 Ari | 5 Tau | 6 Gem |
| Ke 4°34'<br>2 Aqu | **Chart 1:**<br>Barack Obama<br>Rashi Chart | | Me 9°0'<br>Su 19°13'<br>7 Can |
| As 24°30'<br>Jp 7°32'<br>Sa 2°0'<br>1 Cap | | | Ra 4°34'<br>Ma 29°15'<br>8 Leo |
| 12 Sag | 11 Sco | 10 Libr | 9 Virg |

*South Indian charts, Lahiri ayanamsha, and the Mean Node*

| Ke Me<br>4 | 5 | Su<br>6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ma<br>3 | **Chart 2:**<br>Barack Obama<br>D-7 (Progeny)<br>Chart | | Sa Ve<br>8 |
| Mo<br>2 | | | Jp<br>9 |
| As<br>1 | 12 | 11 | Ra<br>10 |