

EDWARD SNOWDEN

VEDIC STYLE

A Study in Paradox

by Penny Farrow

The Snowden Mural, by SLM Art in Manchester's Northern Quarter

Ralph Nader or Benedict Arnold? Sherlock Holmes or Moriarty? Who is Edward Snowden? Perhaps he is a fascinating combination of all of these contrasting characters. Certainly, his compelling astrological destiny pattern matches the intricate tapestry of his still young life.

Snowden has astounded the world with his bold and damaging revelations mined from burrowing deep into the heart of United States intelligence systems, creating tsunamis that are still pounding the shores of all the countries touched by his exposés. Who is he and what was his motivation for this unprec-

edented security breach? Is he a master strategist aiming to gain fame and fortune? An opportunist selling his secrets to the highest bidder? A transformative genius forcing a paradigm shift? Or a passionate, perhaps naïve adherent to a vision of truth and honor that must be upheld no matter the personal cost or collateral damage?

Let's pull apart Snowden's Vedic chart and see what perspective it brings regarding the motivations of this seemingly mild "boy next door" who has forced us to consider the delicate distinction between gathering targeted intelligence versus indiscriminate and pervasive spying.

Ascendant and Ascendant Lord: The Paradox Emerges

In the traditional Indian system, Snowden has a Taurus Ascendant with Mercury in the 1st house and Jupiter in the 7th. (See **Chart**, following page.) Both of these natural benefics are strong in his chart. Mercury has *dig bala* (directional strength) by being in the east — the 1st house. Jupiter's strength comes from its retrogression. Jupiter would have been bright and beautiful, hovering on the western horizon in the wee hours just before Snowden's birth.

This configuration of Mercury and Jupiter is the first clue to what makes Snowden tick. There is no affliction to

Snowden

the Ascendant from any natural malefics. Also, the two natural benefics that grace the 1st–7th axis are not under direct aspect of any natural malefics, either. This arrangement is not often seen and would indicate that the native is a fundamentally sound person possessed of good character.

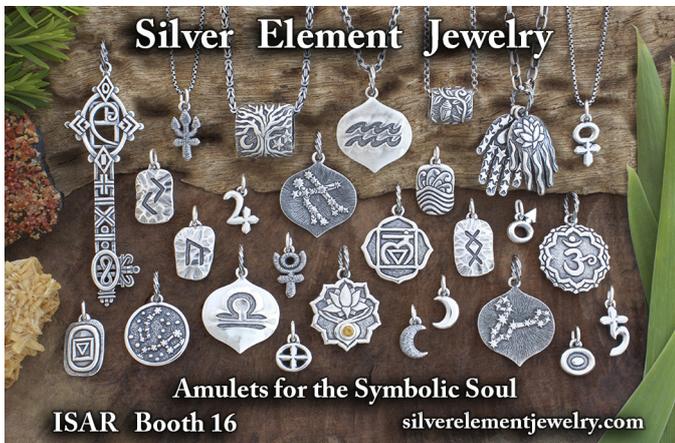
Both Jupiter and Mercury are signifiers for *viveka*, the higher functioning of the mind as expressed through discriminating intelligence and discernment. The 5th house carries this same theme and, with a Taurus Ascendant, is ruled by Mercury. The 5th-house lord, Mercury, sitting in the Ascendant brings this scintillating intellect right into the very essence of who Snowden is and how he moves through the world. Multiple independent variables pointing to the same outcome translate into a more entrenched karmic pattern that is very likely to manifest in the life. Further, the planet Mercury (the 5th-house lord) and the Ascendant — again, independent variables — are aspected by Jupiter! This is a convincing interwoven pattern for a brilliant, discerning mind.

And yet, that lovely 1st–7th axis has some marked vulnerability not so easily noticed at first glance. Some of that vulnerability comes from the influence of the 8th-house lord, Jupiter, aspecting the Ascendant. When the breezes of the 8th house start to blow and the Ascendant becomes their focal point, things like secrets, enemies, manipulation, betrayal, and a myriad of other unsavory 8th-house meanings can come forward.

While retrogression makes Jupiter very bright and therefore strong, its strength is a raw strength.

Because the 8th-house ruler, Jupiter, is retrograde, its influence on the Ascendant is more impactful. While retrogression makes Jupiter very bright and therefore strong, its strength is a raw strength, not differentiated as either helpful or obstructive until there is a context. As a natural benefic, it is good to have Jupiter strong, but as the lord of the 8th house, it can bring this house's matters powerfully to the Ascendant and other areas the 8th-house lord may influence. These two factors — Jupiter as

11	12	1 ♃ 16° 08' 41" Asc 18° 08' 37"	2 ♂ 01° 02' 00" ♄ 01° 02' 09" R ♁ 05° 02' 47"
10	Edward Snowden Natal Chart Jun 21 1983, Tue 4:42 am EDT +4:00 Elizabeth City 36°N18'07" 076°W13'25" <i>Geocentric Lahiri Whole Signs Mean Node</i>		3 ♃ ♀ 21° 03' 04"
9			4 ♁
8 ♃ 01° 02' 09" R	7 ♄ 09° 02' 31" R	6 ♁ 04° 02' 10" R ♂ 19° 02' 47"	5 ♄



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a natural benefic and Jupiter as a strong 8th-house lord — do not cancel each other out. Each will color the life and give results according to the flow of the prevailing karmic pattern at a given time.

The degrees of both the Ascendant and Mercury fall into the nakshatra (lunar constellation) of Rohini. This can be another red flag. The beautiful bright star Rohini has many good attributes, but it can also indicate involvement with forgery, counterfeiting, stealing, and falsification of documents — all actions that swirl around Snowden.

Further, the ruler of the Ascendant must also be carefully analyzed for a complete picture of the chart's owner. The nature of the 1st house gives insight into the inner reality of the person, whereas its ruler usually gives us a sense of how external, material events unfold. Snowden's Ascendant shows both auspicious and problematic indications. Will we find some contradictions for the ruler, Venus, or will it be more definitive?

With a Taurus Ascendant, the 1st house is ruled by Venus. Venus is located in the 3rd house where it is also influenced by an aspect from Jupiter. In addition, Venus is aspected by Saturn — the strongest planet in the horoscope, because Saturn, like Jupiter, is retrograde and acquires additional strength by being in its sign of exaltation.

Looking first to the positive side, a strong Jupiter supporting the 1st house is also supporting the 1st lord. This double influence strengthens the resolve to uphold what is just and right. Saturn does not influence the 1st house, but as the ruler of the 9th and 10th houses, it will partner with the 1st-house lord, Venus, in manifesting the themes of those houses. As the ruler of the 9th, Saturn will also bring the need for action that upholds *dharma* (deeds that support natural law and universal values), a core meaning of the 9th house that is in accord with Jupiter's influence. As ruler of the 10th house, Saturn will bring forward patterns of interaction with authority figures and government, as well as making the actions performed by the native very visible. Saturn and Venus also form some powerful yogas (planetary combinations) for name and fame.

However, Venus does have its shadow side. It occupies the nakshatra of Ashlesha, which is symbolized by a

snake. Since Venus is the 1st lord, this nakshatra can impart to the native a tendency to move in secrecy, even committing sedition, undermining authority, and questioning everything. That the snake sheds its skin is a metaphor for such a native being an agent of change.

Also on the shadow side, the strength of Jupiter and Saturn that comes from their retrograde status gives them a tendency to refashion, mold, and even twist or misrepresent matters. Retrograde 8th-house lord Jupiter is doubling its influence on the all-important

The 8th-house significations of manipulation, secrets, plots, mystery, and scandal blend readily with the less savory meanings attributed to retrograde planets.

1st house by aspecting both the house and its lord, Venus, with the result that 8th-house themes may influence the native even more powerfully. The 8th-house significations of manipulation, secrets, plots, mystery, and scandal blend readily with the less savory meanings attributed to retrograde planets.

Saturn in anyone's chart must always be carefully scrutinized to understand its impact, especially on as important a planet as the ruler of the Ascendant. We can always count on Saturn, as a natural malefic, to present challenges. Here, it is doubly powerful because it influences not only the 1st lord, Venus, but also the Moon. The Moon is considered to be one of the most important factors in a Vedic chart since it represents the primal mind, with its basic likes and dislikes, as well as emotional stability or instability. If the Moon is seriously misaligned with the external reality of a person's life, the person can be anxious, fearful, phobic, and irrational. Such a powerful Saturn

influencing the Moon, especially in the 6th house, can create this kind of result.

Another very interesting syndrome can manifest when Saturn influences Venus by a one-way aspect, as it does in this chart by Saturn's tenth aspect.¹ Among other things, this aspect can propel an individual toward curiosity, intrigue, and meddling. Often the result is upheaval. Saturn is positioned in the 6th house of enemies and confrontations, adding that distinct flavor to this dynamic. Saturn is all about control and tactics because its core instinct is security. Couple all this with its rulership of the 9th house — a place of strategy and planning — and you have a recipe for a complex stew of entanglements.

The 8th House: A Vulnerable Point

We have the ingredients for the stew, but where is the fire to cook it? The fuel for the fire comes from Snowden's very unstable 8th house — the very house that needs to be working well if someone is to escape the collateral damage of being a whistleblower. The 8th house is, as we have seen, the poster child for the kinds of themes implicit in whistleblowing: intrigue, secrets, plots, scandals, manipulation, etc. And simultaneously, this house is a vulnerable place for the native with themes like suffering, poisoning, dangerous journeys, assassination, and threats to longevity. Many whistleblowers have suffered such fates.

In sharp contrast to the 1st–7th axis, the 2nd–8th axis in Snowden's chart is something of a train wreck. Every malefic in the chart batters the 8th house. Though Saturn is not directly in the 2nd–8th axis, it aspects the 8th house by its third aspect, unleashing its full power on that vulnerable point. The rest of the malefics are tightly woven together like a compact stick of dynamite. The Sun is combusting Mars, making it rash and rogue, and both are caught up in the Rahu–Ketu axis (the North and South Nodes of the Moon, which are considered malefic in Jyotisha).

A basic tenet of Vedic astrology is that Rahu and Ketu will disguise themselves in a number of ways, one of which is mimicking planets that are their “roommates” (in the same house) or that aspect them. Look how close together

Snowden

by degree the Sun, Rahu, and Mars are in the 2nd house. Therefore, Rahu will act like a second Mars and Sun, as well as producing its own results.

To add even more spice to the stew, these planets all sit together in the nakshatra of Mrigashirsha, which is known for relentlessly pursuing, questioning, tracking, hunting, stalking, and unearthing a line of inquiry until the goal is reached.

And, to ignite the fire? The wheel of time ...

The Actors Deliver Their Lines

Looking at a Vedic chart can be like going to a play about someone's life. The story line of the play unfolds dynamically through time as the actors speak their lines. Though the set, music, and backdrop are important, the actors themselves capture our attention.

So, who are the stars of Edward Snowden's play from this dynamic point of view? Which ones are front and center on the stage of his life when he takes the remarkable and irrevocable decision to rock the world with his massive leak?

There are two main ways that a Vedic chart indicates dynamic events as opposed to static potential. The first is called the *dasha* system — an exquisite timing mechanism whereby each of the planets gets a turn to shine at the center of the stage. The second is that a natal potential can be triggered by transits of the planets. When the transits and the dashas line up together and point to the same theme, the probabilities go way up for something very noticeable to occur.

Let's correlate a timetable of events with the transits and dasha periods of key planets over that crucial period of time leading up to the leak, and see what might have been at play in Snowden's mind and emotions.

Our early life will condition who we are as adults. During Snowden's childhood, Jupiter was on center stage — that is, the Jupiter dasha was effective from shortly after his birth until he was 16. (See **Table**, right.) Jupiter and Mercury are the kingpins for the intelligence combinations described earlier. His father said that "we always considered

Ed the smartest one in the family," and that was confirmed when he scored over 145 on two separate IQ tests.²

At 16 years old, Snowden moved into his Saturn dasha (September 30, 1999), and predictably, life became more unpredictable. Missing months of high school due to an illness, he opted for a GED rather than returning to school. Then he never completed college.³ Saturn afflicts the 1st lord, Venus, from the 6th house of illness and also creates a tendency to "go it alone." However, that did not stop his avid acquisition of various skills, including language and technology.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army reserve in 2004 to fight in the Iraq war. He said, revealingly, that "he felt like [he] had an obligation as a human being to help free people from oppression."⁴ Already the powerful influence of the Saturn dasha was manifesting in its role as a champion of the oppressed and as the lord of the 9th house of dharma. Snowden found

himself acting to help humanity through means that he considered to be honorable. However, after breaking both legs in a training accident, he was discharged from the military without having seen action. The dasha of a planet in the 6th, especially a strong malefic, can produce accidents. Saturn is the ruler of the 9th and 10th houses — both of which can indicate legs — and is placed in the 6th house of accidents.

Snowden joined the CIA in 2006 and trained in a secret school for technology specialists. He was posted to Geneva in 2007 and assigned to maintaining computer network security. There, a seminal incident occurred that may have initiated the disillusionment leading to his eventual whistleblowing. He observed the CIA framing a banker they later bailed out (by bribing the Swiss police) on the condition that the banker become an informant. This did not sit well with Snowden, who resigned from the CIA shortly afterward (February 2009). Several years later, Snowden leaked this story, which was vigorously denied by a Swiss public official.

This whole episode beautifully illustrates the way the Saturn-Venus combination works in his chart. On the one hand, he got a prestigious job, reflecting the fact that Saturn as the 10th-house lord and Venus as the 1st-house lord make an auspicious combination for career. On the other hand, he wound up inserting himself into a situation that was not really part of his job description, and he even kept the potential scandal a secret until it served him to make it public years later. Saturn aspecting Venus tends to compel a person to meddle and get embroiled in intrigues.

The year 2009 was pivotal for Snowden. He joined Dell, Inc., worked on their CIA account, rose up through the ranks, and earned the confidence of many heads of the CIA's cyber systems. This success would facilitate the acquisition of much of the information he would later leak.

Simultaneously, Snowden entered his *Sadhe Sati*, a famous transit pattern involving the 7½-year transit of Saturn over the natal Moon and the Moon's adjacent signs/houses. It can be likened to a karmic washing machine — the dirt comes out into the water, you spin around a lot, rinse off, and spin

Start	Age	Dasha	Bhukti
09/11/1982	-0.8	Ra	Ma
09/30/1983	0.3	Jp	Jp
11/17/1985	2.4	Jp	Sa
05/30/1988	4.9	Jp	Me
09/05/1990	7.2	Jp	Ke
08/12/1991	8.1	Jp	Ve
04/12/1994	10.8	Jp	Su
01/29/1995	11.6	Jp	Mo
05/30/1996	12.9	Jp	Ma
05/06/1997	13.9	Jp	Ra
09/30/1999	16.3	Sa	Sa
10/03/2002	19.3	Sa	Me
06/12/2005	22.0	Sa	Ke
07/21/2006	23.1	Sa	Ve
09/20/2009	26.3	Sa	Su
09/02/2010	27.2	Sa	Mo
04/02/2012	28.8	Sa	Ma
05/12/2013	29.9	Sa	Ra
03/18/2016	32.7	Sa	Jp
09/30/2018	35.3	Me	Me
02/25/2021	37.7	Me	Ke
02/22/2022	38.7	Me	Ve
12/23/2024	41.5	Me	Su
10/30/2025	42.4	Me	Mo
03/31/2027	43.8	Me	Ma
03/27/2028	44.8	Me	Ra
10/15/2030	47.3	Me	Jp
01/20/2033	49.6	Me	Sa

Table: Edward Snowden's Vimshottari Dashas

some more. Hopefully, you come out of the machine without being hopelessly twisted up, but fresh as a daisy from having deposited a chunk of linty karma down the drain, and ready to embark on a new chapter in your life.

Should this Sadhe Sati transit occur while Saturn commands the stage (i.e., while a Saturn dasha is running), it will be more intense. And if both Saturn and the Moon happen to be the main players onstage together (Saturn dasha and Moon bhukti, or subperiod) during this transit — an occurrence that would happen at most twice in a lifetime — the combination has the potential for delivering a very powerful outcome indeed.

Let's recall that Snowden happens to have a powerful natal Saturn actually sitting in the Libra 6th house with the Moon. The Moon is strongly destabilized by this association with Saturn and, along with other indicators in the chart, contributes to vulnerability in the primal mind (as opposed to the conscious thinking mind). Even the *Pari-vartana Yoga* (a combination similar in ways to mutual reception in Western as-



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trology) between the Moon and Venus doesn't allow either planet to escape the Saturn influence, because Saturn is in the 6th and aspects the 3rd — both of the houses that are involved in the yoga.

In September 2009, transiting Saturn moved into Virgo, starting the Sadhe Sati cycle. In September 2010, the combined period of Saturn and the

Moon on center stage began. Then, for a few months beginning in November 2011, Saturn slipped into Libra directly over the Saturn–Moon natal combination where it also reiterated its natal affliction by transit to 1st lord Venus. This is a compelling confluence of natal promise, transits, and dashas.

In March 2012, a supervisor at the CIA placed an assessment in Snowden's file referring to a suspicion that Snowden tried to "break into classified computer files to which he was not authorized to have access."⁵ This catapulted Snowden to the next level in his transition to whistleblower. In April 2012, just as the Saturn–Moon period was over and Mars joined Saturn onstage, Snowden began the actual download of documents that would be the bulk of what was leaked. His Saturn–Mars period, urged on by transiting Saturn right on natal Saturn–Moon, could be viewed astrologically as crossing the line between emotional disturbance (the Saturn–Moon period) and taking action (the Saturn–Mars period). Snowden left the CIA for a Dell assignment with the

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NSA, where he ironically obtained a top secret clearance.

In late 2012, Snowden contacted *Guardian* reporter Glenn Greenwald and later Laura Poitras, a documentary filmmaker who had screened a piece on NSA whistleblower William Binney. By this point, the 6th house had become even more of a powder keg, with transiting Rahu moving into Libra for a period of 18 months to join both transiting Saturn and natal Saturn–Moon in that sign.

The final straw came in March 2013. Snowden himself said his “breaking point” was “seeing the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, directly lie under oath to Congress.”⁶ Snowden considered this a flagrant violation of ethics and now found himself at the point of no return. He would later say, “There is no saving an intelligence community that believes it can lie to the public and the legislators who need to be able to trust it and regulate its actions. Seeing that really meant for me there was no going back. Beyond that, it was the creeping realization that no one else was going to do this. The public had a right to know about these programs.”⁷ He quit his job at Dell three days later (March 15) and methodically set a course of action that would irrevocably change his life.

In March 2013, he started working for Booz Allen Hamilton, a leading provider of management and technology consulting services to the U.S. government in defense intelligence. He was assigned to the NSA center in Hawaii, working as an infrastructure analyst. However, his game plan seemed to be to gather as much intelligence as possible on all the ways the NSA was spying, so that he could eventually leak it. The Saturn–Mars period was about to escalate into Saturn–Rahu, whereby Rahu not only gives its own effects but doubles up as another Mars and Sun via Rahu’s propensity to disguise itself as other planets.

The Road Less Traveled

In May 2013, Snowden took a leave of absence from this position ostensibly to treat his previously diag-

nosed epilepsy. This hiatus enabled him to initiate the final phase of his plan.

In mid May, he gave the historical electronic interview to Poitras, disclosing the copied documents that were published later by German newsmagazine *Der Spiegel*. In this interview, Snowden promised that “nothing would stop subsequent disclosures.” On May 20, he flew to Hong Kong and remained there

*Clearly, Snowden
sees himself
as the martyr
at the altar
of personal rights
and freedom.*

when the leaked documents began to be published. His exile was now in full play. Note the affliction of the Rahu–Ketu axis transiting across the 6th–12th axis and natal and transiting Saturn blasting the 6th, 12th, and 8th houses. These houses carry the intertwined themes of foreign countries, confinement, secret plots, secret enemies, spying, double dealing, agony, enemies, lawsuits, and, yes, whistleblowing.

The ensuing drama, the immense scope of the leak, its ramifications, and Snowden’s twisted path to the refuge in Russia under the ironic “protection” of Putin (the king of 8th-house themes) is well documented. Though Snowden was at least partially aware of the likely consequences of his revelations, the domino effect of collateral damage was probably unforeseen, especially under the influence of the crowd of malefics.

So, Who Is Edward Snowden?

Let’s examine what Snowden said about some of his motivations and what he was able to bring about in terms of the shift of U.S. public policy regarding surveillance. No final judgment of this complex personality and his actions is possible as yet because the wheel of time keeps turning, and a new planetary actor is coming to center stage soon.

In May 2013, Snowden said, “I understand that I will be made to suffer for my actions and the return of this information to the public marks my end.”⁸ Clearly, Snowden sees himself as the martyr at the altar of personal rights and freedom.

And then there is the evocative quote that he took from the Nuremberg trials: “Individuals have international duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience. Therefore individual citizens have the duty to violate domestic laws to prevent crimes against peace and humanity from occurring.”⁹

How do we even begin to describe the tangled forces that were pulling on Snowden? They are rooted in the central paradox of the chart. His basic nature appears to be that of a highly principled individual with a commitment to action, who upholds universal standards of ethics and integrity. On the other hand, that vulnerable 8th house compels involvement in treacherous matters. The two planets at center stage during the critical time of the document release represent that divide. In this context, we can view Saturn as the powerful 9th lord of dharma and Rahu as the unpredictable outlier, both planets teaming up with impulsive and angry Mars to initiate the pre-emptive strike.

Perhaps the paradox is not so much who Edward Snowden is as it is a reflection of the universal dilemma: What does a person who has strong core principles (right or wrong) do when he collides with the powers that be who don’t see things the same way? Depending on the stakes, this is a dangerous game. The nexus of this paradox from the chart perspective is Snowden’s fascinating Saturn, with its multifaceted role in the unfolding karma of his gripping story.

We have seen that Saturn represents the powerful agent of dharma and action as lord of the 9th and 10th. These are considered to be two of the most auspicious houses in a horoscope: The 10th is the Midheaven, the zenith of visibility, and the 9th is the principal house of dharma and the only one of three dharma houses (1, 5, and 9) that is completely above the horizon. Saturn also fulfills its role as a creator of pre-eminence by its influence on Snowden’s Ascendant lord, Venus, and, along with other planets like Jupiter

and Mercury, has shaped Snowden with these values.

But on a deeper level, as the 9th and 10th lord, Saturn additionally represents the justice system (9th) and the government (10th). The exquisite lens of astrology tells us all things will have a voice if supported by the prevailing pattern at a certain moment in time. Saturn in its powerful role as an upholder of dharma is also afflicting the Ascendant lord and has the potential of casting Edward Snowden, in the government's eyes (10th lord), as the Benedict Arnold of our times. Indeed, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, in an attempt to prevent Putin from giving asylum to Snowden, called him a fugitive from justice and requested his transfer back to the U.S. Should Snowden return to the U.S., he would face trial and probable imprisonment.

As the wheel continues to turn and the transits have shifted off that sensitive 6th house, there is partial vindication of Snowden's vision in the court of public opinion at home and abroad as well as in the U.S. courts of law (9th house). The government has been compelled to review and check the massive overreach of the NSA. There have been persistent attempts to destroy Snowden's reputation. But other than the obvious breach of leaking the documents and fleeing the country, nothing else has come to light linking



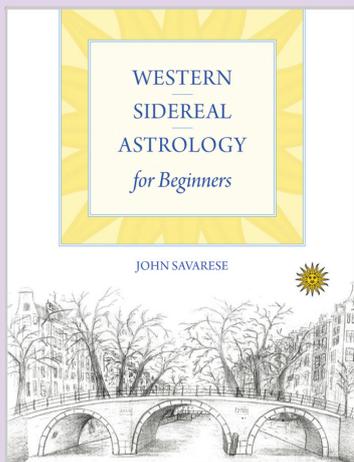
Protesters rally in Hong Kong to support Edward Snowden By VOA [Public domain]

him to spying for foreign powers or for any monetary inducements. However, collateral damage from the leak is still being assessed. Commentators on Fox News, as well as Michael Morell, former acting head of the CIA, were inclined to attribute the success of the November 2015 Paris attacks to Snowden's revelations, claiming that the terrorists learned too much about how they were being tracked. Others disagree with this assessment.

Snowden completed his Saturn-Rahu period in March 2016 and moved into Saturn-Jupiter, where the winds of

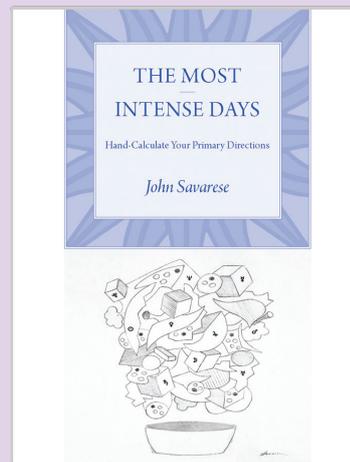
Snowden completed his Saturn-Rahu period in March 2016 and moved into Saturn-Jupiter, where the winds of change have started to blow.

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Snowden

change have started to blow. In a remarkable interview in May 2016, University of Chicago law professor David Strauss asked former Attorney General Eric Holder whether Snowden is a hero or a criminal. Holder said, “Did Snowden raise serious questions about the potential for abuse in our surveillance programs? Absolutely, and we owe him some gratitude for making the stakes clear. We also owe him a prosecution if and when Snowden ever returns for the severe damage created by Snowden from the manner in which he raised those legitimate issues.”¹⁰

September 2018 marks the start of the Mercury dasha. Now it will be Mercury’s turn on center stage, with the promise of fructifying its strong indicators for fame and wealth through speaking, writing, and publishing. There was a foreshadowing of this activity even in the Saturn–Rahu period, since Rahu “mimics” Mercury by being

in Gemini, and again during the Saturn–Jupiter period, since Jupiter and Mercury’s tight relationship will manifest these types of results.

Obviously, Snowden did achieve international notoriety during those two periods, as articles, books, and scripts were written about him and the ramifications of his actions. He has received international awards and is actively employing social media to comment on ethical and technological issues. He gives prestigious talks via teleconferencing at gatherings such as TED talks and technological conferences like South by Southwest in Austin, Texas. The Mercury dasha should see an increase in all the above. But Mercury also comes with some vulnerability: Can he return to the U.S.? At what cost? A big shift seems inevitable.

And so we return to our initial pondering. Is Snowden a master strategist aiming to gain fame and fortune? An opportunist selling his secrets to the highest bidder? Apparently not, or at least not yet. His story has already spawned mov-

ies and documentaries, including the recently released Oliver Stone film — but was that his motivation?

Or is Snowden a transformative genius forcing a paradigm shift? A passionate and naïve adherent to a vision of truth and honor, despite personal cost or collateral damage? At this point, most evidence from both his chart and world events seems to favor the more idealistic aspects of the paradox.

Whatever the final result/resolution of this paradox, we will remember the name Edward Snowden.

Chart Data and Source

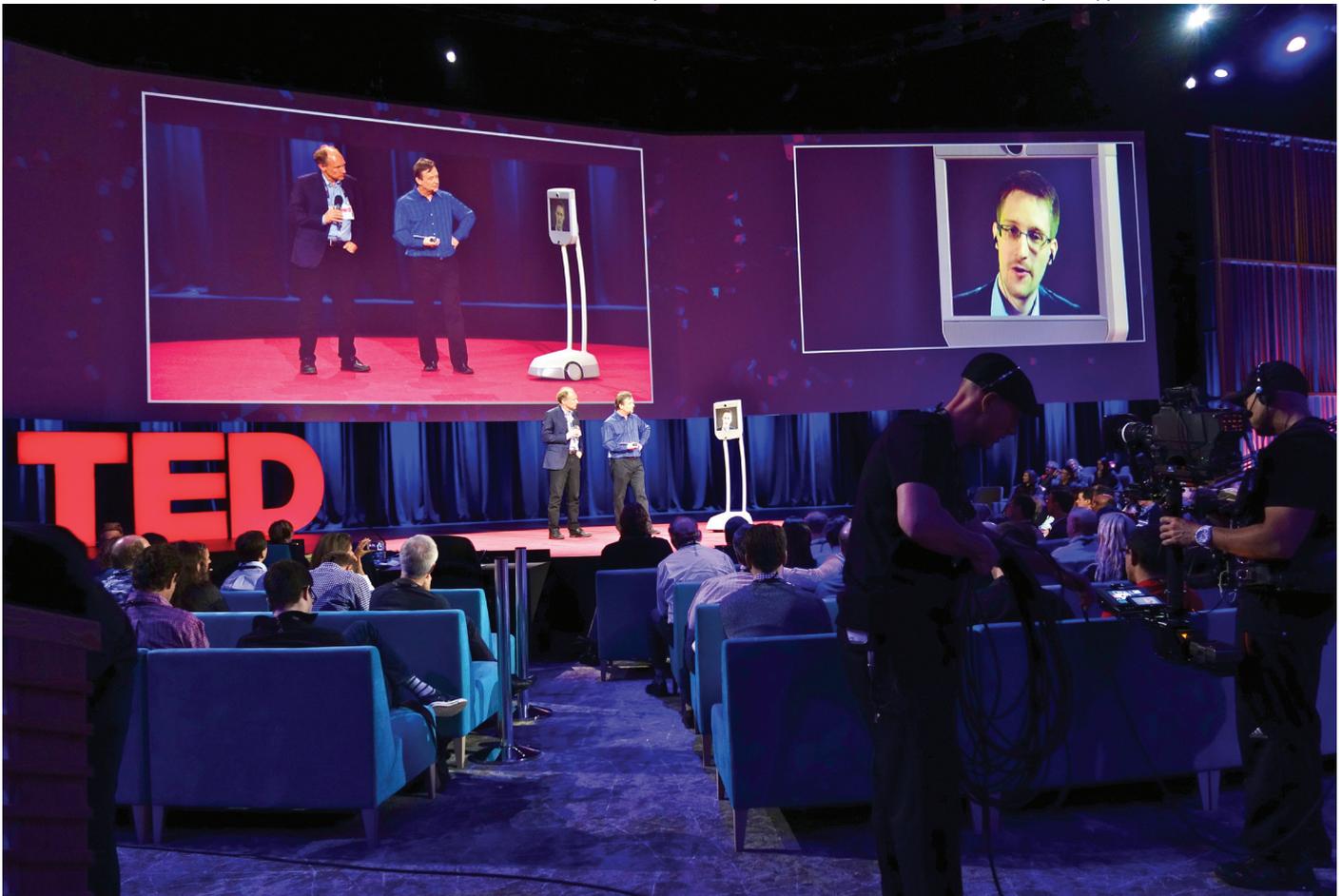
Edward Snowden, June 21, 1983; 4:42 a.m. EDT; Elizabeth City, NC, USA (36°N18', 76°W13'); AA: birth certificate in hand, Scholfield.

References and Notes

(All URLs were accessed in June–July 2016.)

1. Planetary aspects in Jyotisha are a bit different than in Western astrology. All planets make an aspect seven houses away, and the outer planets have two more special aspects. For Mars, it is

By Steve Jurvetson - Flickr: Edward Snowden's Surprise Appearance at TED, CC BY 2.0.



the 4th and 8th houses from its position; Saturn aspects the 3rd and 10th; and Jupiter aspects its trines — the 5th and 9th. As always, these are counted inclusively.

2. James Bamford, "Edward Snowden: The untold story of the most wanted man in the world," *Wired*, <https://www.wired.com/2014/08/edward-snowden/>

3. All biographical details are taken from Wikipedia and the above-quoted James Bamford article.

4. Glenn Greenwald, Ewen MacAskill, Laura Poitras, "Edward Snowden: the whistleblower behind the NSA surveillance revelations," *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/09/edward-snowden-nsa-whistleblower-surveillance>

5. Erick Schmitt, *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/11/us/cia-warning-on-snowden-in-09-said-to-slip-through-the-cracks.html>

6. Courage Foundation, transcript: ARD interview with Edward Snowden, January 27, 2014.

7. Lukas Albert, "Putin Admits Early Snowden Contact," *The Wall Street Journal*, September 4, 2013.

8. See Note 4.

9. WikiLeaks, "Statement by Edward Snowden to human rights group at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport," <https://wikileaks.org/Statement-by-Edward-Snowden-to.html>

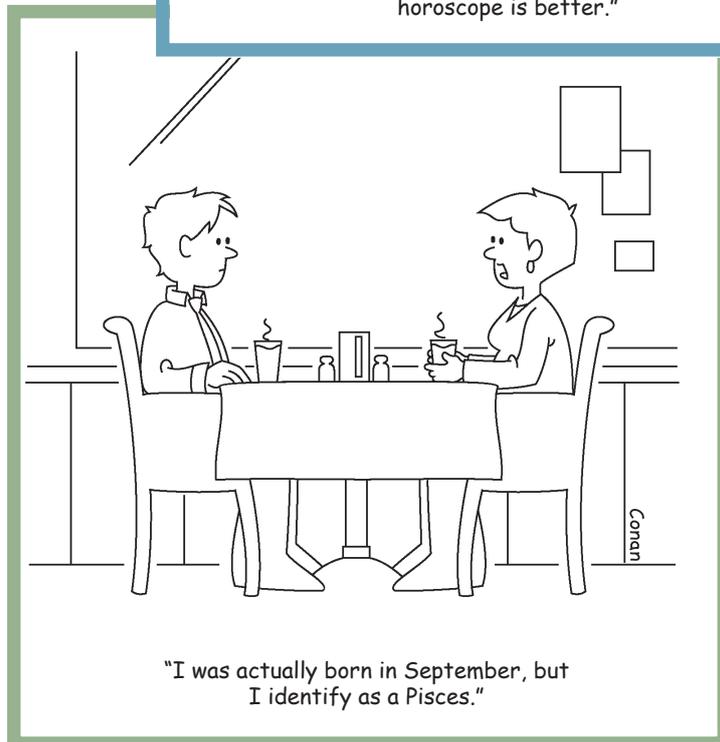
10. Ed Morrissey, *Hot Air*, <http://hotair.com/archives/2016/05/30/holder-we-owe-snowden-a-debt-of-gratitude-for-his-public-service-and-a-jail-term/>

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Penny Farrow has an M.S. degree from Cornell University and has had an extensive career as a teacher, researcher, and businesswoman. She has been involved in the Vedic tradition since 1971 and Jyotisha since 1991. Trained extensively by Hart deFouw, she has been teaching Jyotisha and Sanskrit since 1999. Penny's column, "The Eastern Window," recently debuted in The Mountain Astrologer, and she has also contributed feature articles. She now resides in Florida, practicing and teaching Jyotisha and Sanskrit full time. Telephone: (415) 497-2014; e-mail: info@vedicchart.com; website: <http://www.vedicchart.com>



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