

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.

The Power of Illusion (or is it the Illusion of Power?): Rahu, Ketu, and the Wizard of Oz

Eclipse — a most spectacular, terrifying, hoodwinking, conjuring, phantasmal, astronomical event. The disappearance of the Sun, the bloodying of the Moon. Reality or illusion? If what you see is what you get, it is both. The eclipse spectacle shows great invention and innovation, an extensive range of possible presentations, intensity, charisma, and a radically altered view of the cosmos.

And the illusionists? Those ambitious tricksters, Rahu and Ketu. They have no substance, are shadowy outsiders; but yet, there is power in the confusion they wreak, in the manipulation and misconceptions. Yes, illusion is potent, and the purveyors can whip up the masses, disguise reality, and become “Oz, the Great and Powerful.”

The creation story of Rahu, Ketu, and the Churning of the Ocean¹ conveys these characteristics. Myths embody important realities and even astronomical principles, enabling wisdom to be passed down through generations. For example, a lovely TED Talk² speaks to a stunning link between the Moon’s affinity for *Rohini* (one of his 27 wives) and the frequency with which Rohini (the Sanskrit name for the fixed star Aldebaran) is occulted (covered) by the Moon. Rohini is the marking star for the *nakshatra* (lunar constellation) that bears its name.³ In a

similar way, the astrological effects of eclipses on a native or a society can be gleaned from this myth.

Though dramatic eclipses visible at the time of birth are obviously quite rare, every chart contains, and must contend with, Rahu and Ketu. Their DNA brings themes implicit in the creation myth into the individual’s destiny pattern. There are endless permutations and outcomes that Rahu and Ketu can create in the ecosystem we call a chart. Let’s look at a few themes that Rahu and Ketu bring forward, or color, in the horoscopes of two famous natives.

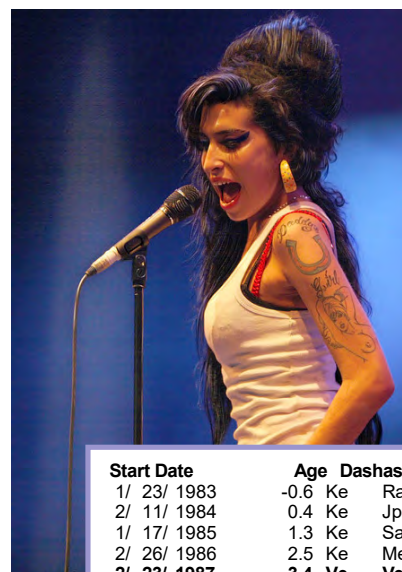
Amy Winehouse

Not only are Rahu and Ketu straddling the 1st–7th house axis (see **Chart 1**, below), Amy was actually born in a Ketu *dasha* (planetary period) and Rahu *bhukti* (sub-period).⁴ (See **Table 1**, below right.) The encircling “embrace” of the dragon seemed inevitable — a compelling portrait of destiny and karma.

Amy’s incredible talent was evident from the beginning as was her maladjustment to societal norms. Unfortunately, she became a member of the infamous 27 club, a group of young celebrities who passed away at 27 years old; Amy succumbed to alco-

hol poisoning after a long battle with drug and alcohol addictions.

Why are the effects of the nodes in this chart so dramatic? Not only is the Rahu–Ketu axis across the 1st–7th house axis, Rahu is debilitated and Ketu is exalted, which exaggerates their effects. All of the *grahas* (planets) except for the Moon are “in the belly of the snake,” a pattern known as *Kala Sarpa Yoga*



		As ^{24°8'}	
		Ra ^{26°37'}	
11 Pis	12 Ari	1 Tau	2 Gem
	Chart 1: Amy Winehouse		Ma ^{26°55'}
10 Aqu			Ve ^{29°35'}
			3 Can
			Su ^{27°51'}
9 Cap			Me ^{29°24'}
			4 Leo
Mo ^{6°48'}	Ke ^{26°37'}	Jp ^{10°41'}	Sa ^{8°19'}
8 Sag	7 Sco	6 Libr	5 Virg

South Indian charts, Lahiri ayanamsha, and the Mean Node

Start Date	Age	Dashas
1/ 23/ 1983	-0.6	Ke Ra
2/ 11/ 1984	0.4	Ke Jp
1/ 17/ 1985	1.3	Ke Sa
2/ 26/ 1986	2.5	Ke Me
2/ 23/ 1987	3.4	Ve Ve
6/ 24/ 1990	6.8	Ve Su
6/ 25/ 1991	7.8	Ve Mo
2/ 22/ 1993	9.4	Ve Ma
4/ 25/ 1994	10.6	Ve Ra
4/ 24/ 1997	13.6	Ve Jp
12/ 24/ 1999	16.3	Ve Sa
2/ 23/ 2003	19.4	Ve Me
12/ 24/ 2005	22.3	Ve Ke
2/ 23/ 2007	23.4	Su Su
6/ 13/ 2007	23.7	Su Mo
12/ 12/ 2007	24.2	Su Ma
4/ 18/ 2008	24.6	Su Ra
3/ 13/ 2009	25.5	Su Jp
12/ 30/ 2009	26.3	Su Sa
12/ 12/ 2010	27.2	Su Me
10/ 18/ 2011	28.1	Su Ke
2/ 23/ 2012	28.4	Su Ve
2/ 22/ 2013	29.4	Mo Mo
12/ 24/ 2013	30.3	Mo Ma
7/ 25/ 2014	30.9	Mo Ra
1/ 24/ 2016	32.4	Mo Jp
5/ 25/ 2017	33.7	Mo Sa
12/ 24/ 2018	35.3	Mo Me
5/ 25/ 2020 now	36.7	Mo Ke
12/ 24/ 2020	37.3	Mo Ve
8/ 24/ 2022	38.9	Mo Su
2/ 23/ 2023	39.4	Ma Ma
7/ 22/ 2023	39.9	Ma Ra

Table 1: Amy Winehouse’s Vimshottari Dasha–Bhuktis

(black cobra yoga).⁵ The lord of the *lagna* (Ascendant) is Venus, which is powerful because it is retrograde, but heavily afflicted by its *yuti* (association) with debilitated Mars and the *drishti* (aspect) by exalted Saturn. It is also in the nakshatra of Ashlesha, whose deity is *Sarpa* (the snake). Venus is in the very last degree (29°35') of the water *rashi* (sign) of Cancer — a perilous no-man's land between the junction of water and fire rashis, where grahas are vulnerable.

Amy's pattern is particularly intense, manifesting in her physical appearance, her voice, and persona. She was hypnotic, fascinating, compelling, utterly innovative, and iconic. Her influence pervades the pop scene to this day and is especially notable in superstars like Lady Gaga.

L. Ron Hubbard

L. Ron Hubbard (LRH), Dianetics, and the Church of Scientology also epitomize these nodal themes. While supporters portray him as a pioneer, nuclear physicist, philosopher, world traveler, and writer — most of the world, including many governments, saw his movement as a powerful and lucrative cult that gave him uncanny power over his minions. The organization, it is said, seduced followers with the vision of rehabilitating their omnipotent and perfect self through techniques and devices invented by LRH. So, it is not surprising that his biographies have titles like: *L. Ron Hubbard: Messiah or Madman?*

Ve ^{24°20'} 5 Pis	Sa ^{11°12'} Ra ^{20°2'} 6 Ari	7 Tau	8 Gem
Su ^{29°1'} Me ^{22°21'} 4 Aqu	Chart 2: L. Ron Hubbard		9 Can
Ma ^{6°53'} 3 Cap			Mo ^{8°29'} 10 Leo
	As ^{27°50'} 1 Sco	Jp ^{21°42'} Ke ^{20°2'} 12 Libr	11 Virg

He transformed himself from a writer of very idiosyncratic science fiction into a guru, conferring upon the faithful his spiritual scriptures, the Red and Green volumes (a collection of his writings, tapes, etc.). Control was absolute, and the organization raked in millions in what has been described as a mafia-like global racket — complete with intimidation, lawsuits against any opposers, corruption, smoke and mirrors, and lies.

Eventually, he had to spend his life at sea to avoid “all the people after him.”⁶ After eight years, he went into hiding in numerous places, moving on when his whereabouts were disclosed. His last years (he died in 1986 at age 74) were spent in a motorhome on a ranch, continuing to write and run the church,⁷ which has carried on unabated to the present time.

The chart of LRH is fascinating. (See **Chart 2**, below left.) Let's start with the Scorpio *lagna* — a rising *rashi* that is well known for power, secrets, magic, and something unsettling. The rising nakshatra of Jyeshtha furthers the narrative, as the mighty Indra is the deity who becomes drunk with power. A talisman is the symbol for this nakshatra, intimating divine protection provided by powerful unseen forces.

Start Date	Age	Dashas
2/ 27/ 1941	30.0	Mo Ra
8/ 29/ 1942	31.5	Mo Jp
12/ 29/ 1943	32.8	Mo Sa
7/ 29/ 1945	34.4	Mo Me
12/ 28/ 1946	35.8	Mo Ke
7/ 29/ 1947	36.4	Mo Ve
3/ 29/ 1949	38.0	Mo Su
9/ 28/ 1949	38.5	Ma Ma
2/ 24/ 1950	39.0	Ma Ra
3/ 14/ 1951	40.0	Ma Jp
2/ 18/ 1952	40.9	Ma Sa
3/ 29/ 1953	42.0	Ma Me
3/ 26/ 1954	43.0	Ma Ke
8/ 23/ 1954	43.4	Ma Ve
10/ 23/ 1955	44.6	Ma Su
2/ 28/ 1956	45.0	Ma Mo
9/ 28/ 1956	45.5	Ra Ra
6/ 11/ 1959	48.2	Ra Jp
11/ 3/ 1961	50.6	Ra Sa
9/ 9/ 1964	53.5	Ra Me
3/ 30/ 1967	56.0	Ra Ke
4/ 16/ 1968	57.1	Ra Ve
4/ 17/ 1971	60.1	Ra Su
3/ 11/ 1972	61.0	Ra Mo
9/ 10/ 1973	62.5	Ra Ma
9/ 28/ 1974	63.5	Jp Jp
11/ 15/ 1976	65.7	Jp Sa
5/ 30/ 1979	68.2	Jp Me
9/ 4/ 1981	70.5	Jp Ke
8/ 11/ 1982	71.4	Jp Ve
4/ 11/ 1985	74.1	Jp Su
1/ 28/ 1986	74.9	Jp Mo
5/ 30/ 1987	76.2	Jp Ma

Table 2: L. Ron Hubbard's Vimshottari Dashas–Bhuktis

Hubbard's *lagna* lord is an exalted Mars in the 3rd *bhava* (house) with no influence on it other than a tight relationship with debilitated Saturn sitting with Rahu in the 6th *bhava*. Both the 3rd and the 6th *bhavas* welcome malefics and provide the native with increased courage and even brashness, especially when the malefics are in exaggerated states like exaltation and debilitation. Indeed, it was in May 1950 during his Mars–Rahu *dasha*–*bhukti* period (see **Table 2**, below left) that he published *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, which launched the movement that would later morph into the Church of Scientology.⁸ Jupiter, as the 2nd-house lord of speech, is in the 12th house in the Rahu–Ketu axis and aspected by that debilitated Saturn. This can be seen as a signature for deceptive speech bundled in skillful spiritual wrappings.

Though his last ten-plus years were during his Jupiter *dasha*, he spent the bulk of his life in the Rahu *dasha*, fulfilling his destiny as the unstable genius who would unleash one of the most controversial, grandiose, out-of-the-mainstream movements in modern history. It is a life that perfectly reflects Rahu's insatiable desire for power and immortality. L. Ron Hubbard — the Wizard of Oz!

Chart Data and Sources

(in order of appearance)

Amy Winehouse, September 14, 1983; 10:25 p.m. GDT; Enfield, England (51°N40', 0°W05'); A: from memory; Frank Clifford quotes Margaret Zelinski who obtained the data from Winehouse's mother via a mutual friend of theirs.

L. Ron Hubbard, March 13, 1911; 2:01 a.m. CST; Tilden, NE, USA (42°N03', 97°W50'); A: from memory; Sy Scholfield quotes from *Bare-Faced Messiah: The True Story of L. Ron Hubbard* by Russell Miller, Silvertail, 2015, p. 17.

References and Notes

1. Penny Farrow, “Enter the Dragon: The Story of Rahu and Ketu,” in *The Mountain Astrologer*, June/July 2020, p. 16.
2. Raj Vedam, “TEDx Talks: Of Ancient Star-Gazers and Story-Spinners,” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq_DXtfeXw (accessed May 15, 2020).
3. Farrow, “Meet the Fascinating Wives of the Moon,” in *TMA*, Dec. 2018/Jan. 2019, p. 18.

continued on p. 62

Horoscopes

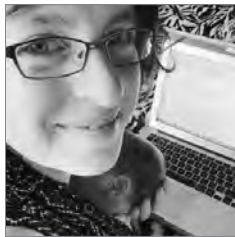
The Full Moon in your sign at the start of September further stimulates your social connections: a quirky acquaintance, perhaps a neighbor, appears out of the woodwork to your aid, just as friends who normally help come up short. Sometimes, you have to accept assistance where it is given and how, and free yourself from expected sources or methods.

This message gets emphasized on September 9, as Mars turns up the heat in your 2nd house, going retrograde until mid November. The 2nd house concerns *all* systems that support you, financial as well as dietary. Consider what truly nourishes you and pursue that. Interestingly, your professional world also adopts new systems to sustain you.

The Virgo New Moon mid month hands the mic to significant others again, and by the end of the month, a group you are involved in finally gets back into gear after a summer-long hiatus. However, you may find that your own needs have shifted enough that you question whether you belong. If you brace yourself for a momentary impasse, you could reset the vibe and establish a fruitful compromise for all involved.

© 2020 Jenn Zahrt – all rights reserved

Jenn Zahrt, PhD, is an author, publisher, and teacher of cultural astronomy and astrology who has been practicing astrology since 1998. She researches the many forms of astrology emergent across human cultures past and present, with a special focus on early 20th-century German culture. She is the founder of Revelore Press, creative director of Sophia Centre Press, and The Catapult Zone online learning community. She has taught and lectured domestically and internationally (Canada, the UK, Germany). Jenn specializes in a mix of traditional and modern techniques and locational astrology. She is currently based out of Seattle, WA. You can find her online at www.celestialspark.com



Eastern Window

continued from p. 17

4. Farrow, "Cosmic Duets: Enthralling Harmonies or Yowling Cats," in *TMA*, June/July 2018, p. 18
5. The Kala Sarpa Yoga is a pattern where all the remaining seven grahas are between Rahu and Ketu. There are variant formations, and some patterns that are not exact can be described as "Kala Sarpa Yoga-like."
6. Russell Miller, *Bare-faced Messiah: The True Story of L. Ron Hubbard*, M. Joseph, 1987, p. 11.
7. Mark Brown, "Creston provided quiet retreat for controversial church leader," in *The County Telegram-Tribune*, January 30, 1986, pp. 1A/5A.
8. Jon Atack, *A Piece of Blue Sky: Scientology, Dianetics and L. Ron Hubbard Exposed*, Lyle Stuart, 1990, p. 107.

© 2020 Penny Farrow – all rights reserved

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. She has studied Jyotisha intensively since 1991, primarily under the personal tutelage of Hart deFouw, and taught Jyotisha and Sanskrit at Vedic Vidya Institute in San Rafael, California for eight years. She now resides in Florida, practicing and teaching Jyotisha and Sanskrit full time, including a new online option. Telephone: (415) 497-2014; e-mail: info@vedicchart.com; website: <http://www.vedicchart.com>

TMA Digital Back Issues
NOW ON SALE!
BUY 3, GET 1 FREE

SCAN ME

members.mountainastrologer.com/purchase