# **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 Retinue of the Royals

Kings, queens, government leaders, and rock stars appearing in public typically have a retinue attending and supporting them.

The attendants might include those who check out the security of the venue, advisors keeping the VIP briefed, other high-ranking individuals appropriate to the occasion, and the guards who defend the flank and protect the VIP's person. The elite in-group gathered around the VIP projects a tableau of unmistakable magnificence and power.

The iconography of India reflects this archetypal display. For example, the well-loved image known as the Ram Darbar shows the revered Lord Rama under his royal umbrella with his family and entourage. In an analogous way, it is "unseemly" for the royal *grahas* — the Sun representing the king and the Moon representing the queen — to appear in a chart without attendants. The interpretation of this predicament differs subtly, depending on whether it is the Sun or the Moon that is involved, but the central concept remains the same.

Certain *yogas* (auspicious or inauspicious combinations) in Jyotisha are often referred to as "attendant yogas." Taken together, they formalize this idea that it is important for the royals not to be isolated. These combinations are found across most of the texts. There are variants in the spellings and even in the interpretation, but the main ideas are apparent.

The two primary groups of these yogas are the Ravi yogas (attendants of the Sun) and Chandra or Lunar yogas (attendants of the Moon), each formed according to specific dictates. They must involve the grahas that are among the five true planets (*tara grahas*). And they must be either in the 2nd *bhava* (house) from the luminary, or in the 12th, or both. The shadow grahas, Rahu and Ketu (nodes of the Moon), do not count in forming these yogas. Also, the Sun and Moon themselves cannot form these yogas for each other.

Since so many charts have either the Sun, Moon, or both with one or more grahas ahead of, behind, or on either side of the respective luminary, some useful guidelines promote appropriate interpretation. Natural benefics are preferred, though even natural malefics are better than an unattended luminary. After all, bodyguards and bouncers are part of the typical retinue. These natural benefics are best when they are strong and visible. Like it or not, VIPs generally surround themselves with attractive faces. Because these combinations are so common, another important way they become prominent is if the component grahas, including the luminary, are also forming various other yogas, something my teacher referred to as "stacking."

The three Ravi yogas given in the classic work Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra are Veshi yoga, a tara graha 2nd from the Sun; Voshi (or Vashi) yoga, a tara graha 12th from the Sun; and Ubhayacari (also called Ubhayacara) yoga, tara grahas in both the 2nd bhava and 12th bhava from the Sun. (See **Diagram 1**, below.) Let's look at a couple of charts in this regard.

#### Ubhayacari SU VE ME Charts are in the VE Veshi South Indian format, 2.nd using the Lahiri from ayanamsha and the SU the Sun Mean Node. SU VE Voshi 12th from the Sun

#### **Diagram 1**

Abraham Lincoln's chart is a splendid example of both strength and stacking of the attendant yogas. (See **Chart 1**, below.) Note the exalted Venus and Jupiter in the 2nd bhava from the Sun forming a Veshi yoga x2. Though the Moon is in the 12th bhava, it is not forming the Ubhayacari yoga because the Moon is not a tara graha (true planet). We always want to know if the native has enough strength in the chart to utilize the yogas found, and in Lincoln's case, his *lagna* (Ascendant) lord Saturn goes to the positive 10th bhava where it is aspected only by Jupiter with no affliction. The lagna itself hosts the Sun and a strong Mercury (directional strength or *dig bala*). Though the Sun will "burn" the 1st bhava, there is ample evidence that Lincoln was able to utilize the gifts in the chart.

| Jp <sub>0°53'</sub><br>Ve <sub>16°15'</sub><br>2 Pis        | <u>Ke</u> <sub>15°44'</sub><br>3 Ari                   | 4 Tau   | <b>5</b> Gem |
|---|--|---|--------------|
| Su <sub>2°15</sub><br>Me <sub>19°6</sub> As <sub>0°52</sub> | <b>Chart 1:</b><br>Abraham Lincoln                     |   | 6 Can        |
| MO <sub>5°47'</sub><br>12 Cap                               |  |   | 7 Leo        |
| 11 Seg  | mc <sub>16°15'</sub><br>Sa <sub>11°56'</sub><br>10 Sco | Ra <sub>15°44'</sub><br>Ma <sub>4°18'</sub><br>9 Libr | 8 Virg       |

How would this splendid Veshi yoga play out for Lincoln? We will focus on the themes of the 2nd bhava, especially since multiple yogas are formed there. In addition to the double Veshi yoga, Jupiter and Venus are entirely unafflicted, forming a double Sushubha yoga (unafflicted benefics in the 2nd bhava). Along with Mercury, they form a stunning Saraswati yoga (a yoga for learning, uplifting speech, and intelligence). Further, these two benefics form yogas for wealth, such as the 2nd lord and 11th lord Jupiter with the 9th lord Venus. There is also a skillfulness yoga (Kalanidhi yoga) formed with Venus. All of these yogas bring out primarily the themes of the 2nd bhava — the bhava of speech. To top it all off, Venus is shining very brightly as the evening star, lending its beauty and enchantment

| Jp <sub>8°37'</sub><br>8 Pis                                  | Me <sub>7*58</sub> , Ma <sub>21*4</sub><br>Su <sub>15*25</sub> , mc <sub>26*57</sub> ,<br>9 Ari | Ve <sub>23*45</sub> ,<br>10 Tau   | 11 Gem                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ra <sub>23*19'</sub><br>Mo <sub>1*10'</sub><br>7 Aqu<br>6 Cap |   | <b>Chart 2:</b><br>Dale Earnhardt |                                    |
| 5 Sag   | 4 Sco   | 3 Libr                            | <u>Sa</u> <sub>3*4</sub><br>2 Virg |

to all the combinations it touches. Is it any wonder that Honest Abe's words have rung true through time and continue to light up the hearts and minds of people everywhere.

The second example is the chart of Dale Earnhardt, the legendary race driver. (See **Chart 2**, below.) The strength of the attendants and the Sun ratchets up the impact of the Ubhayacari yoga; note benefics in the bhavas on either side of the Sun. Like Lincoln's Ravi yoga, the grahas forming this yoga are powerful and stacked on other significant combinations. The Sun is exalted as the lagna lord, Jupiter is *swa-rashi* (in its own sign) in the 8th, and Venus in the 10th, also swa-rashi, is making the Mahapurusha yoga known as a Malavya yoga. This yoga is formed when Venus is *swa* or exalted in a *kendra* (1st, 4th, 7th, or 10th bhavas). As a natural benefic in the 10th bhava with no affliction, Venus is also making an Amala (spotless) yoga.

The Sun is making two wealth yogas with Mercury, amped up by the fact that Mercury is also strong by retrogression. Powerful swa-rashi Mars with the Sun creates Raja yogas (yogas for pre-eminence), and the whole tableau is bright and beautiful. Check out Venus as the splendid evening star high in the sky and very visible after the king leaves, dazzling the audience as it dances its way to the horizon.

In the next column, we will turn our attention to Queen Moon and consider a somewhat different role for her attendants.

### **Chart Data and Sources**

**Abraham Lincoln**, February 12, 1809; 6:54 a.m. LMT; Hodgenville, KY, USA (37°N34', 85°W44'); B: bio/ autobiography. (Note: Author agrees with the sidereal Aquarius rising.)

**Dale Earnhardt**, April 29, 1951; 1:07 p.m. EST; Concord (Cabarrus County), NC, USA (35°N25', 80°W35'); AA: BC/BR in hand.

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