

THE EASTERN WINDOW

by Penny Farrow



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

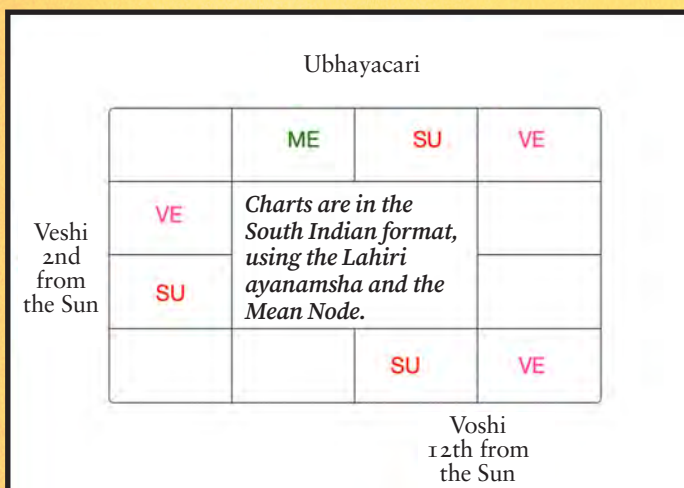
Editor's Note: Cross ventilation produces a breath of fresh air. It is desirable in a house and even in a magazine! In this spirit, we are featuring a series of short articles designed to make some of the basic building blocks and ideas of Vedic astrology more accessible to all. We anticipate that opening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

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.


Diagram 1



<p><u>Jp</u> 0°53'</p> <p><u>Ve</u> 16°15'</p> <p>2 <u>Pis</u></p>	<p><u>Ke</u> 15°44'</p> <p>3 <u>Ari</u></p>	<p>4 <u>Tau</u></p>	<p>5 <u>Gem</u></p>
<p><u>Su</u> 2°15'</p> <p><u>Me</u> 19°6'</p> <p>1 <u>Aqu</u></p>	<p>Chart 1:</p> <p><i>Abraham Lincoln</i></p>		<p>6 <u>Can</u></p>
<p><u>Mo</u> 5°47'</p> <p>12 <u>Cap</u></p>			<p>7 <u>Leo</u></p>
<p>11 <u>Sag</u></p>	<p><u>mc</u> 16°15'</p> <p><u>Sa</u> 11°56'</p> <p>10 <u>Scor</u></p>	<p><u>Ra</u> 15°44'</p> <p><u>Ma</u> 4°18'</p> <p>9 <u>Libr</u></p>	<p>8 <u>Virg</u></p>

<p><u>Jp</u>_{8°37'}</p> <p>8 <u>Pis</u></p>	<p><u>Me</u>_{7°58'} <u>Ma</u>_{21°4'}</p> <p><u>Su</u>_{15°25'} <u>mc</u>_{26°57'}</p> <p>9 <u>Ari</u></p>	<p><u>Ve</u>_{23°45'}</p> <p>10 <u>Tau</u></p>	<p>11 <u>Gem</u></p>
<p><u>Ra</u>_{23°19'}</p> <p><u>Mo</u>_{1°10'}</p> <p>7 <u>Aqu</u></p>	<p>Chart 2: <i>Dale Earnhardt</i></p>		<p>12 <u>Can</u></p> <p><u>As</u>_{1°48'}</p> <p><u>Ke</u>_{23°19'}</p> <p>1 <u>Leo</u></p>
<p>6 <u>Cap</u></p>			<p>5 <u>Sap</u></p> <p>4 <u>Sco</u></p> <p>3 <u>Libr</u></p>

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.



Dr. Susan M. Gorman

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