

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.

Tiger Woods: Anatomy of an Accident

On Tuesday evening, February 23, an email landed in my inbox from one of my students,¹ with some salient astrological observations regarding Tiger Woods’s horrendous car crash earlier that day. This prompted a deep dive into Tiger’s chart, revealing how this event not only shows up in the natal chart itself, but also reverberates in the current *dasha/bhukti*,² one key divisional chart,³ and the *gochara*⁴ (transits) of the day.

Let’s begin with a look at the birth chart of Tiger Woods. (See **Chart 1**, at right.) He has a Virgo *lagna* (Ascendant), with a *swa rashi* (own sign) Jupiter aspecting the *lagna*, as well as a powerful (retrograde) Saturn.⁵ Retrogression is a raw strength; hence, a natural malefic retrograde can amp its potential to destabilize matters. His *lagna lord* (ruler of the 1st), Mercury, is in the 5th *bhava* (house), aspected only by Saturn. These combinations will prove to be exceedingly important when we consider the *gochara* the morning of his accident.

From the standpoint of affliction, clearly *lagna lord* Mercury is only afflicted, with no compensatory stabilization by benefics. The Ascendant has some protection through the aspect of Jupiter. This begs the question as to why Tiger Woods is able to manifest so much success and wealth in his life. It comes down to the central issue in astrological interpretation: asking the

relevant question. When considering health and vulnerability, Saturn is a problem in this chart. However, when examining pre-eminence, Saturn contributes greatly as it forms *yogas*⁶ for fame, elevation, and, along with other combinations, wealth. When will the auspicious combinations show up, and vice versa? It depends on the native’s stream of karma active at the time an astrologer considers a chart, a primary factor in astrological interpretation.

Since a serious accident like this one is in the wheelhouse of the downside combinations in the natal chart, it will be fascinating to see the convergence of what would be called *papa* (unfortunate) karma — Tiger Woods’s “peanut butter sandwich”⁷ — at the time of this event.

The natal chart (first slice of bread) already shows vulnerability for the *lagna* and the *lagna lord*. We can characterize that vulnerability further as coming through Saturn, the common afflicter of the indicators of the 1st *bhava*. Saturn is a *graha* (planet) that can give grief, obstacles, limited mobility, and the like. In a Virgo chart, it is the lord of the 6th, a *bhava* that likewise stands for grief, pain, obstacles, accidents, etc., served up by Saturn’s *sambandha* (mutual relationship) with Mercury, which in this case is a mutual *drishti* (aspect),⁸ and its aspect to the 1st. But this is a natal consideration and therefore a static trigger.

The peanut butter itself, the central feature of the sandwich, would be

Retrogression is a raw strength; hence, a natural malefic retrograde can amp its potential to destabilize matters.

Jp _{21°57'} 7 Pis	Ke _{25°46'} 8 Ari	Ma _{24°2'} 9 Tau	mc _{0°24'} 10 Gem
6 Aqu	Chart 1: Tiger Woods		Sa _{7°35'} 11 Can
Me _{2°54'} 5 Cap			12 Leo
Su _{15°26'} 4 Sag	Mo _{28°51'} 3 Sco	Ra _{25°46'} 2 Libr	As _{0°53'} 1 Virg

Start Date	Age	Dashas
9/ 14/ 2014	38.7	Mo Sa
4/ 14/ 2016	40.3	Mo Me
9/ 13/ 2017	41.7	Mo Ke
4/ 15/ 2018	42.3	Mo Ve
12/ 14/ 2019	44.0	Mo Su
6/ 14/ 2020	44.5	Ma Ma
11/ 10/ 2020 now	44.9	Ma Ra
11/ 29/ 2021	45.9	Ma Jp
11/ 4/ 2022	46.8	Ma Sa
12/ 14/ 2023	48.0	Ma Me
12/ 10/ 2024	48.9	Ma Ke
5/ 9/ 2025	49.4	Ma Ve

Table: Tiger Woods’s Vimshottari Dashas



Charts are in the South Indian format, using the Lahiri *ayanamsha* and the Mean Node.

indicated by which of the grahas are activated at this time in his life. In other words, what are his dasha and bhukti lords? Tiger is in his Mars dasha as of June 2020 and his Rahu bhukti as of November 2020. (See **Table**, previous page.) Though Rahu definitely has a role to play, we will mainly tell the story through dasha lord Mars.

To begin with, Tiger has a very strong Mars as it is retrograde. It is the *karaka* (significator) for accidents and is aspecting the 4th bhava, where we read vehicles, while also aspecting the *karaka* for vehicles, which is Venus. Mars rules the 8th bhava in this horoscope and is also the 3rd lord, thus ruler of two so-called negative bhavas, while Mars itself is a natural malefic. Note that the 3rd bhava is eighth from the 8th, a relationship that is highlighted in the Vedic tradition as being a reflection of the 8th-house themes. For all these reasons, the tradition regards Mars as the most troublesome graha for a Virgo lagna.

On a deeper level of analysis, we could turn to the divisional chart known as the *Ashthamamsha*, the eighth divisional chart (D-8). It often indicates severe challenges, chronic health issues, scandals, etc. It is most powerful when there is confluence with something you might be seeing in the natal chart — and indeed, both Mars and Rahu are very problematically placed in Tiger's D-8 (chart not shown). These are not the only red flags for Mars and other dicey indicators in the natal chart, but the rest will have to wait for future articles and columns.

Now let's turn to the transit chart at the time of the accident, which was re-

		Ma ^{0°57'}	
		Ra ^{21°52'}	Mo ^{24°21'}
2 Pis	3 Ari	4 Tau	5 Gem
As ^{25°43'} Su ^{11°14'} Ve ^{3°27'}	Chart 2: Car Accident		6 Can
1 Aqu			
Jp ^{21°13'} Me ^{17°14'} Sa ^{13°44'}			7 Leo
12 Cap			
	mc ^{29°46'}		
	Ke ^{21°52'}		
11 Sag	10 Sco	9 Libr	8 Virg

If there is no karmic pattern in the main chart relating to a particular theme or outcome, the transits will not, on their own, fructify something — for better or worse.

ported to have occurred at 7:12 a.m. in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. (See **Chart 2**, below left.) The transit chart is the second slice of bread completing the peanut butter sandwich.

There is an old expression, “You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.” It is a good one to keep in mind when you are considering transits. If there is no karmic pattern in the main chart relating to a particular theme or outcome, the transits will not, on their own, fructify something — for better or worse.

Note that Saturn and Mercury are again in sambandha. Natively, they are in mutual aspect, and in the transit chart, they are *yuti* (together in the same bhava), with Mercury stunningly back in its natal position, while Saturn is again powerful, this time in its own rashi. As we have a fairly accurate time, it is highly likely they are in the 12th bhava, representing loss, falls (literally and figuratively), hospitals, confinement, and so on.

Equally stunning are the dasha and bhukti lords, Mars and Rahu. They are in the 4th bhava which, relevant for this analysis, signifies vehicles. Both are indicators of papa karma, accidents, and sudden changes. Mars represents speed; Tiger was apparently driving very fast at the time of the accident. If we superimpose Mars and Rahu in the natal chart by rashi, they are both in Taurus in Woods's 9th bhava. Interestingly, Mars had just entered into Taurus the day before the accident. Why is this highly significant? Like Saturn and Mercury, Mars also moved back into its

natal position, *recreating* its affliction to the 4th bhava and its lord. It seems that the time was ripe for this karmic event to happen. Keep in mind again that Mars is the 3rd and 8th lord, throwing those themes into the mix through its aspects. Bhukti lord Rahu is debilitated in this rashi, increasing its potential downside.

The reported injuries were mainly to his right leg, especially the ankle and foot. Legs can be read in the 9th bhava (upper), the 10th (knees and the gait in general), the 11th (shins and ankles), and the 12th (feet and ankles). All these bhavas are afflicted in this transit chart, but the long-term difficulties are with the feet and ankles. The lord of the 11th is Jupiter, debilitated in the 12th. Saturn, the lagna lord of the transit chart, is likewise in the 12th, along with Tiger's lagna lord, Mercury. That his gait might be problematic going forward can be indicated by the 10th lord and bhava affliction of Rahu and Ketu. The 10th lord, Mars, being a natural malefic does not protect the body parts when aspected back to its own bhava.

Note that all these afflictions are likewise present in the static combinations of the natal chart. The 12th lord, the Sun, and the 12th bhava itself are afflicted by Mars. The 11th bhava is occupied by Saturn, while its lord, the Moon, is debilitated, dark, and afflicted by Mars. The 10th bhava is afflicted by the Sun; and its lord, Mercury, by Saturn. The 9th bhava is afflicted, and its lord, Venus, is afflicted by Mars.

Tiger Woods is very, very lucky to be alive. It is interesting, in the midst of all of the above, to consider why this might be. For one thing, he drove a luxury car with a price tag of around \$50,000 and a safety feature of ten airbags. Though, natively, Tiger's 4th bhava is afflicted, its lord, Jupiter, is swa rashi and utterly unafflicted aspecting the lagna. Perhaps that was a saving grace.

Chart Data and Sources

Tiger Woods, December 30, 1975; 10:50 p.m. PST; Long Beach, CA, USA (33°N46', 118°W11'); AA: birth certificate.

Car Accident, February 23, 2021; 7:12 a.m. PST; Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, USA (33°N46', 118°W21'); A: news reports.

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Astrology Conference Calendar (Updated April 2021.)

May 27-31, 2021: 37th Annual Northwest (Virtual) Astrological Conference (NORWAC). **For info:** phone: (206) 930-7614; email: nwastroconf@gmail.com; URL: www.NORWAC.net

June 24-26, 2021: 9th Annual Great Lakes Astrology Virtual Conference, *Finding the Flow*. **For info:** email: glacastrology@gmail.com; URL: www.greatlakesastrology.com

August 18-22, 2021: ISAR Conference, Westminster, CO. **For info:** URL: ISAR21.com

September 17-19, 2021: Astro Magia: A Symposium of Art, Academy, Philosophy, & Practice (Online). **For info:** URL: <https://astromagia.org/>

September 23-26, 2021: The Astrology Gathering, Lily Dale, NY. **For info:** email: theastrologygathering@gmail.com; URL: theastrologygathering.com.

October 29 - 31, 2021: 53rd Annual AA Conference 2021, Wyboston Lakes, UK. **For info:** URL: <https://astrologicalassociation.com>

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References and Notes

1. Big shout-out to Diego Iglesias.
2. Penny Farrow, "Timing Is Everything," in *The Mountain Astrologer*, April/May 2018, p. 14.
3. Farrow, "A Fine Family or a Rowdy Brood," in *TMA*, Oct./Nov. 2019, p. 16.
4. Farrow, "The Peanut Butter Sandwich," in *TMA*, Aug./Sept. 2018, p. 16.
5. Retrogrades are indicated in the chart by underlining.
6. Farrow, "Elevator Going Up," in *TMA*, Feb./March 2018, p. 20.
7. See Note 4.
8. Farrow, "The Intricate Weave of Relationships," in *TMA*, Aug./Sept. 2017, p. 21. Note: Sambandha is different from the concept of mutual reception.

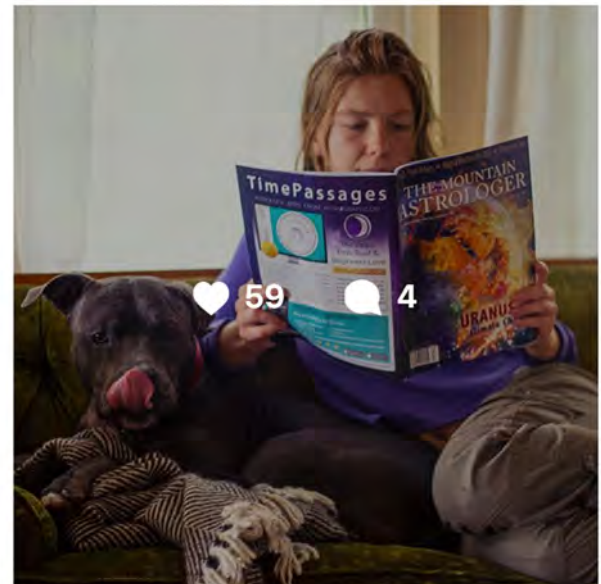
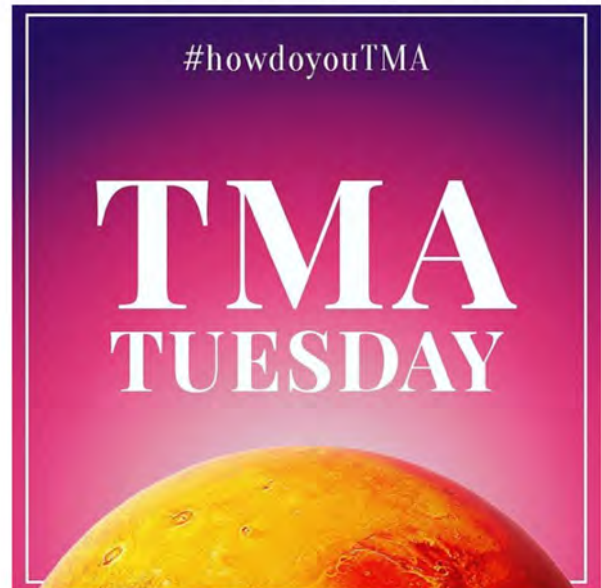
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Penny Farrow has an MS degree from Cornell University and an extensive career as a teacher, researcher, and businesswoman. Involved in the Vedic tradition since 1971, she has studied Jyotisha intensively since 1991, primarily under the personal tutelage of Hart deFouw. She taught Jyotisha and Sanskrit at Vedic Vidya Institute in San Rafael, California for eight years. Now residing in Florida, Penny teaches Jyotisha and Sanskrit full-time, including a new online option. Please visit her newly launched Cosmic Kaleidoscope Journal at <https://vedicchart.com/cosmic-kaleidoscope-journal>. Her email is: info@vedicchart.com; website: <http://www.vedicchart.com>



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