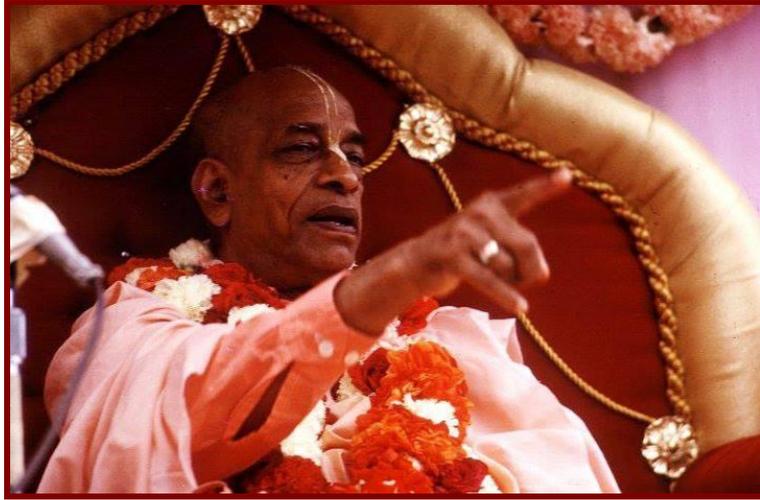


THE ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

ALL GLORY TO SRI GURU AND SRI GAURANGA



-His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

“We think that we have met Your Goodness by the will of providence, just so that we may accept you as captain of the ship for those who desire to cross the difficult ocean of Kali, which deteriorates all the good qualities of a human being.” (Srimad Bhagavatam 1.1.22)

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Mithuna Twins Astrological Services “Home of the Bhrigu Project”

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The Astrological Newsletter (Please e-share it with your friends)

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Dear Prabhus,

Dandavats to the Vaishnavas — and welcome to the issue.

THE BHRIGU PROJECT: Often we are asked “What is the Bhrigu Project of Mithuna Twiins?” Simply put, it is a means of individually analyzing the different aspects of the basic birth chart through understanding the chart’s different elements. Then, once each facet is understood like pieces of a puzzle, it becomes easier to zoom in focus upon the chart as an entire unit. As we have learned, this is the system that Sage Bhrigu taught to his students, to understand the individual facets of a chart before understanding the whole picture.

In *gyotish shastra*, the horoscope is calculated according to the ascendant—the constellation that is rising on the Eastern horizon at the time of birth. The basic chart is known variously as the *janma chakra* or the *lagna kundali*. Of course there are many, even uncountable, branches to astrology, but the Bhrigu Project emphasizes first the *janma chakra* because that is the basis of all the astrological sub-divisions. Everything grows out of the *janma*, the precise moment of birth.

According to our teachers, Bhrigu Muni’s system is to first ascertain the significance of the individual planets according to their positions in signs and houses with deference to planetary lordship. The planets are studied not only in relation to the rising sign, but according to the 12 *rashis* or Moon signs, the 27 *nakshatras*, the 108 *nakshatra padas* or quarters, the 36 *lagna drekkanas*, the *yogas*, the external movements of planets or *gochara*, the *dasha / bhukti* system or *vimshottari*, etc.

Astrology is a personal science because it is created by the Supreme Person, Sri Krishna, and therefore an astrologer must acknowledge the individual personalities of each of the planets. In this unique and ever-changing world controlled by the Supreme Lord, no two charts are identical. Just as a simple telephone dial has only 10 digits, yet through dialing different combinations you can speak to practically anyone throughout the world, so different combination of planets describe the unlimited individualities of all living entities. In this world, individuality is defined as the uniqueness of the personal soul as filtered through

the effects of millions of lifetimes of *karma-phal*. Though planets speak also of the original pure *atma*, astrology is more concerned with the physical encumbrances to which the fettered *atma* has become heir to based upon past good and bad activities; the karmic destiny of the *samsari*.

We began researching the Bhrigu Project in the mid 70's and it has now grown to over half a million words of research which are filed and carefully edited for the benefit of the coming generations of ISKCON devotees.

For the past five years Srimati Abhaya Mudra Dasi has been giving her invaluable insight into the Bhrigu Project, a collaboration that has added more shape, focus and clarity. Needless to say, this knowledge of astrological analysis is aimed at brahminical devotees of ISKCON as well as advanced savants of *jyotish shastra* as it cannot be appreciated by the uninitiated.

Astrology is an exceedingly deep science. It is nothing less than the story of the individual soul whose saga is written in the sky by the demigod agents of Sri Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. And that is why the Lord's literary incarnation, Srila Vyasadeva, has given so much detailed information on astrology in his *Puranas*, including the crest jewel of all *Puranas*, the *Srimad Bhagavatam*. In truth, only the Supreme Lord can be the all-knowing astrologer since all uncountable living entities—each with a unique horoscope—is His part and parcel.

When Mother Yashoda was binding her mischievous Makhan Chora with a rope, she found that the rope was always two inches too short. In this way, as far as we can advance in Krishna consciousness, the Lord (though near as per His own will) is always two inches ahead of us on the road back to home back to Godhead. Similarly, there is always something more to astrology, some additional depth that cannot be penetrated entirely. This is what makes this the supreme subject of the unlimited individuality of the souls so vast. Because astrology measures both the eternal nature of individuality as well as the influences of lifetimes of karmic reactions through the agency of destiny, who but Krishna, the Creator of this science, can fully understand it? Perfection in astrology is achieved when the devotee sees the carefully timed workings of the Supreme Lord throughout the cosmos, surrenders to His will, and—unloading the shackles conditioning, birth and death—returns to the anti-material world of Vaikuntha far beyond this dark world of material dualities, *samsara* and *karma*. That is the goal of the Bhrigu Project.

Always wishing you the very best in Krishna consciousness, I beg to remain,
Yours at the lotus feet of the servants of Srila Prabhupada,

Patita Pavana das Adhikary, Ed

The Moon sign is the basis of Vedic astrology because the Moon is Lord's agent that supplies nourishment to the Universe. But when a devotee sees the Moon, he remembers,

Krishna, the Full Moon of Vrindavana

Lord Krishna informs Arjuna in *Bhagavad-gita* (10.21)

*adityanam aham vishnur jyotisham ravir amsuman
marichir marutam asmi nakshatranam aham shashi*

“Of the Adityas I am Vishnu, of lights I am the radiant Sun. I am Marichi of the Maruts and among the stars I am the Moon.”



Sri Sri Vrindavana Chandra

Srila Prabhupada comments on this verse that, “Among the stars, the Moon is most prominent at night, and thus the Moon represents Krishna.”

Regarding the divine appearance of Lord Vrindavana Chandra, His Divine Grace writes in *Krishna*, “The great sages and the demigods, being pleased, began to shower flowers. At the seashore, there was the sound of mild waves, and above the sea there were clouds in the sky which began to thunder very pleasingly.

“When things were adjusted like this, Lord Vishnu, who is residing within the heart of every living entity, appeared in the darkness of night as the Supreme Personality of Godhead before Devaki who also appeared as one of the demigoddesses. The appearance of Lord Vishnu at that time could be compared with the full Moon in the sky as it rises on the eastern horizon. The objection may be raised that, since Lord Krishna appeared on the eighth day of the waning Moon, there could be no rising of the full Moon. In answer to this it may be said

that Lord Krishna appeared in the dynasty which is in the hierarchy of the Moon; therefore, although the Moon was incomplete on that night, because of the Lord's appearance in the dynasty wherein the Moon is himself the original person, the Moon was in an overjoyed condition, so by the grace of Krishna, he could appear just as a full Moon.

In an astronomical treatise by the name *Khamanikya*, the constellations at the time of the appearance of Lord Krishna are very nicely described. It is confirmed that the child born at that auspicious moment was the Supreme Brahman or the Absolute Truth.”

Indeed, the comparison of Krishna to the full Moon continues as the Lord blossoms as the Darling of the Vrajavasis. Srila Vyasadeva writes in *Srimad Bhagavatam* (10.20.42-45):

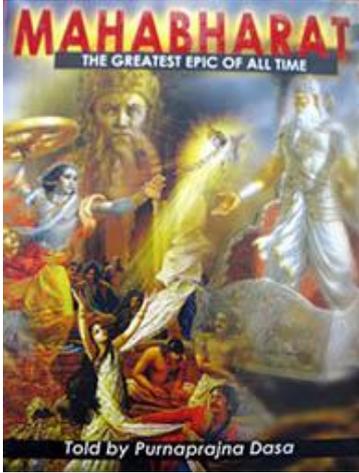


“The autumn Moon relieved all creatures of the suffering caused by the Sun’s rays, just as wisdom relieves a person of the misery caused by his identifying with his material body, and as Lord Mukunda relieves Vrindavana’s ladies of the distress caused by their separation from Him. Free of clouds and filled with clearly visible stars, the autumn sky shone brilliantly, just like the spiritual consciousness of one who has directly experienced the purport of the Vedic scriptures. The full Moon shone in the sky, surrounded by stars, just as Sri Krishna, the Lord of the Yadu dynasty, shone brilliantly on the earth, surrounded by all the Vrishnis. Except for the *gopis*, whose hearts had been stolen by Krishna, the people could forget their suffering by embracing the breeze coming from the flower-filled forest which was neither hot nor cold.”

From the Mahabharata:

Sage Markandeya’s Predictions for Kali Yuga

The following translation of Mahabharata (Book 3, Vana Parva, Markandeya Samasya) is taken from the century old unabridged version by Kisari Mohan Ganguli. We have updated the English. –Ed.



and delightful.”

Thus addressed, that foremost of *munis* Markandeya began his discourse again, delighting that tiger of the Vrishni race and the other sons of Pandu as well, saying, “Listen, O monarch, to all that has been seen and heard by me, and to all, O king of kings, that has been known to me by intuition from the grace of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. O bull of the Bharata race, listen to me as I narrate the future history of the world during the sinful age.

Assault on the Four Legs of the Bull of Dharma

“In the Krita age, everything was free from deceit and guile and avarice and covetousness; and morality like a bull standing on all the four legs. In the Treta Yuga, sin took away one of these legs and morality then only three legs. In the Dwapara, sin and morality are mixed half and half; and accordingly morality is said to have two legs only. In the dark age (of Kali), O best of the Bharata race, morality mixed with three parts of sin lives by the side of men. Accordingly morality then is said to wait on men, with only a fourth part of itself remaining.

“Know, O Yudhisthira, that the duration of life, energy, intellect and physical strength of men decrease in every *yuga*. O Pandava, the *brahmanas*, *kshatriyas*, *vaishyas* and *shudras*, (in the Kali age) will deceive others with their practices of morality and virtue. Men in general will deceive their fellow man by spreading a false net of virtue. And men with bogus reputations of learning will, by their acts, cause Truth to be contracted and concealed. And in consequence of their short duration of life, they will not be able to acquire much knowledge. And due to their poor fund of knowledge, they will be devoid of wisdom. And for this, covetousness and avarice will overwhelm all of them. And—wedded to avarice, wrath, ignorance and lust—men will entertain animosities towards one another, desiring to take one another's lives.

“*Brahmanas*, *kshatriyas* and *vaishyas*—their virtue contracted and divested of asceticism and truth—will all be reduced to the level of *shudras*. And the lowest

orders of men will rise to the position of the intermediate ones, and those in intermediate stations will, without a doubt, descend to the level of the lowest ones. O Yudhisthira, such will become the state of the world at the end of the *yuga*. Men will regard their wives as their (only) friends. And men will live on fish and milk of goats and sheep, for cows will become extinct. Even those persons who observe vows—all will become covetous. Opposing one another, men will seek to take the lives of one another. People will become atheists and thieves. They will even dig the banks of streams with their spades and sow grains thereon, yet even those places will prove barren for them at such times.

“Those men who are devoted to ceremonial rites in honor of the deceased and of the demi-gods will be avaricious, and will also appropriate and enjoy what belongs to others. The father will enjoy what belongs to the son; and the son, what belongs to the father. And those things which are forbidden in the scriptures will also be enjoyed by men. The *brahmanas*, speaking disrespectfully of the *Vedas*, will not practice vows. Their understanding will be clouded by the science of disputation and they will no longer perform *homa* sacrifices. And deceived by false reasoning, they will direct their hearts towards everything mean and low. And men will till low lands for cultivation, employing cows and calves that are a mere one year old for drawing the plough and carrying burdens.

“And sons having slain their fathers; and fathers having slain their sons will incur no disgrace. They will frequently save themselves from anxiety by such murderous deeds, and even glory in them. And the whole world will be filled with *mleccha* behavior and notions. Sacred ceremonies and sacrifices will cease and joy will be nowhere to be found, and general rejoicing will disappear. Men will rob the possessions of helpless persons of friendless persons who have no one to help them. Men will be possessed of little energy and strength, without knowledge and given over to avarice, folly and sinful practices. Men will accept with joy the gifts offered by wicked people with words of contempt. O son of Kunti, the kings of the earth will have hearts wedded to sin. And though they will be without knowledge, they will always be boastful of their wisdom. These kings will challenge one another out of a desire of taking each other’s lives. Towards the end of that period the *kshatriyas* will become the thorns of the earth. They will be filled with avarice and swollen with pride and vanity. Unable and unwilling to protect (their subjects), they will take pleasure in inflicting punishments only. And attacking and repeating their attacks upon the good and the honest, and feeling no pity for the latter, even when they will cry in grief, the *kshatriyas* will, O Bharata, rob their subjects of their wives and wealth.

“No one will ask for a girl (for purposes of marriage) and no one will give away a girl (for such purposes), but the girls will themselves choose their lords, when the end of the *yuga* comes. The kings of the earth, their souls steeped in ignorance, and discontented with what they have, will rob their subjects by every means in

their power. And without doubt the whole world will be *mlecchified*. And when the end of the *yuga* comes, the right hand will deceive the left; and the left, the right.

Deceit Abounds in Kali Yuga

“Men with false reputations of learning will feign truthfulness, and the old will betray the senselessness of the young, and the young will betray the dotage of the old. And cowards will have reputations for bravery and the brave will be cheerless like cowards. And towards the end of the *yuga* men will cease to trust one another. Full of avarice and folly, the whole world will have but one kind of food. And sin will increase and prosper, while virtue will fade and cease to flourish. And *brahmanas* and *kshatriyas* and *vaishyas* will disappear, leaving, O king, no remnants of their orders. Towards the end of the *yuga* all men will become members of one common order, without distinction of any kind. And fathers will not forgive sons, and neither will sons forgive their fathers.

“When the end approaches, wives will not wait upon and serve their husbands. And at such a time men will seek those countries where wheat and barley form the staple food. O monarch, both men and women will become perfectly free in their behavior and will not tolerate one another’s acts. O Yudhisthira, the whole world will be *mlecchified*. And men will cease to gratify the demigods by offerings of *shraddhas*. No one will listen to the words of others and no one will be regarded as a preceptor by another. O ruler of men, intellectual darkness will envelop the whole earth, and the life of man will then be measured by sixteen years, on attaining to which age death will ensue. And girls of five or six years of age will bring forth children and boys of seven or eight years of age will become fathers. O tiger among kings, when the end of the *yuga* will come, the wife will never be content with her husband, nor the husband with his wife.

“The possessions of men will never be much, and people will falsely bear the marks of religion, and jealousy and malice will fill the world. And no one will, at that time, be a giver (of wealth or anything else) in respect to anyone else. All the inhabited regions of the earth will be afflicted with dearth and famine, and the highways will be filled with lustful men and women of evil repute. At such a time, the women will also entertain an aversion towards their husbands. And without doubt all men will adopt the behavior of the *mlecchas*, become omnivorous without distinction, and cruel in all their acts.

“O foremost of the Bharatas, urged by avarice men will, at that time, deceive one another when they sell and purchase. And without knowledge of the ordinance, men will perform ceremonies and rites, and, indeed, behave as they please. When the end of the *yuga* comes, urged by their very dispositions, men will act cruelly, and speak ill of one another. People will, without compunction, destroy trees and gardens. Men will be filled with anxiety as regards the means of living. And, O

king, overwhelmed with covetousness, men will kill *brahmanas* and appropriate and enjoy the possessions of their victims. Successive generations, oppressed by *shudras* and afflicted with fear—and crying ‘Oh!’ and ‘Alas!’—will wander over the earth without anybody to protect them. When men will begin to slay one another, becoming wicked and fierce and without any respect for animal life, then will the *yuga* come to an end.

“O king, even the foremost of the regenerate ones, afflicted by robbers, will quickly fly in terror like crows. They will seek refuge, O perpetuator of the Kuru race, in rivers and mountains and in inaccessible regions. O lord of the earth, always oppressed by bad rulers with burdens in the form of taxes, the foremost of the regenerate classes will in those terrible times take leave of all patience. They will perform improper acts by even becoming servants of the *shudras*. *Shudras* will expound the scriptures, and *brahmanas* will wait upon and listen to them thus settling their course of duty accepting such interpretations as their guides. And the low will become the high, and the course of things will look contrary.

Where the Supreme Lord is Not Worshipped

“Renouncing the worship of the Supreme Lord, men will worship bones and other relics deposited within walls. And, at the end of the *yuga*, the *shudras* will cease to wait upon and serve the *brahmanas*. And in the *ashrams* of great *rishis*, and the teaching institutions of *brahmanas*, and in places sacred to the Supreme Lord and sacrificial compounds, and in sacred tanks, the earth will be disfigured with tombs and pillars containing bony relics and not graced with temples dedicated to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. All this will take place at the end of the *yuga*, and know that these are the signs of the end of the *yuga*. And when men become fierce and destitute of virtue and carnivorous and addicted to intoxicating drinks, then does the *yuga* come to an end.

“O monarch, when flowers will be begot within flowers, and fruits within fruits, then will the *yuga* come to an end. The clouds will pour rain unseasonably when the end of the *yuga* approaches. And at that time ceremonial rites of men will not follow one another in due order; and the *shudras* will quarrel with the *brahmanas*. And the earth will soon be full of *mlecchas*, and the *brahmanas* will fly in all directions for fear of the burden of taxes. And all distinctions between men will cease as regards conduct and behavior, and afflicted with honorary tasks and offices, people will fly to forest retreats and subsist on fruits and roots. And the world will be so afflicted that rectitude of conduct will cease to be exhibited anywhere. And disciples will set at naught the instructions of preceptors, and seek even to injure them. And preceptors will become impoverished and will be disregarded by men. Friends and relatives and kinsmen will perform friendly offices for the sake of the wealth only that is possessed by a person. And when the end of the *yuga* comes, everybody will be in want.

Planetary Positions Marking the Beginning of Satya Yuga

“All the points of the horizon will be ablaze, and the planets and constellations will be destitute of brilliancy, and the planets and planetary conjunctions will be inauspicious. And the course of the winds will be confused and agitated, while innumerable meteors will flash through the sky, foreboding evil. And the Sun will appear with six others of the same kind. And all around there will be din and uproar, and everywhere there will be conflagrations. The Sun, from the hour of his rising to that of setting, will be enveloped by Rahu. And the demigod of weather, Indra of a thousand eyes, will shower rain unseasonably.

“When the end of the *yuga* comes, crops will not grow in abundance. The women will always be sharp in speech and pitiless and fond of weeping. They will never abide by the commands of their husbands. When the end of the *yuga* comes, sons will slay fathers and mothers. Women, living uncontrolled, will slay their husbands and sons. O king, when the end of the *yuga* comes, Rahu will swallow the Sun unseasonably. And fires will blaze up on all sides. Travelers, unable to obtain food, drink and shelter (even when they ask for these), will lie down on the wayside refraining from urging their solicitations.



“When the end of the *yuga* comes, crows and snakes and vultures and kites and other animals and birds will utter frightful and dissonant cries. And when the end of the *yuga* comes, men will cast away and neglect their friends and relatives and attendants. O monarch, when the end of the *yuga* comes, men—abandoning their countries, directions, towns and cities—will seek for new ones, one after another. And people will wander over the earth, uttering, 'O father, O son', and such other frightful and rending cries.

“When those terrible times will be over, the creation will begin anew. Men will again be created and distributed into the four orders beginning with *brahmanas*. And about that time, in order that men may increase, Providence, according to His pleasure, will once more become propitious. *And then when the Sun, the Moon, and Brihaspati will join together in the constellation Pushyami (in the sign of Cancer), the Krita age will begin again.* Once more clouds will shower seasonably as the stars and stellar conjunctions again become auspicious. And the planets, duly revolving in their orbits, will become exceedingly propitious. All around, there will be prosperity and abundance and health and peace.

The Brahmana Kalki Will Save the World

“Commissioned by the will of Providence, a *brahmana* of the name of Kalki will take his birth. And he will glorify the Supreme Lord (and He will be His part incarnation). He will possess great energy, great intelligence, and great prowess. And he will take his birth in a place of the name of Shambhala in an auspicious *brahmana* family. And vehicles and weapons, and warriors and arms, and coats of mail will be at His disposal as soon as He will think of them. And He will be the King of kings, ever victorious with the strength of virtue. And he will restore order and peace in this world crowded with creatures and contradictory in its course. And that blazing *brahmana* of mighty intellect, having appeared, will destroy all things. And He will be the Destroyer of all, and will inaugurate a new *yuga*. Surrounded by other *brahmanas*, the *brahmana* named Kalki will exterminate all the *mlecchas* wherever those low and despicable persons may take refuge.” 🌀

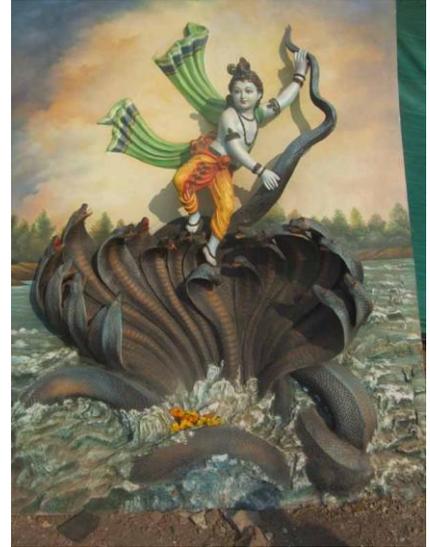
From the Bhagavata we learn that there are ...

Three Types of Omens

There is a story of a father who wanted to see if the horoscope of a certain eligible young man matched that of his virgin daughter's. He approached the village *pandit* and handed the two charts to the astrologer for his opinion. The astrologer immediately returned them without even a glance. “These two cannot be married,” he decreed with certain finality.

“But how can you tell?” wondered the astonished father.

As it turns out, at the very moment that the two charts had been placed in his hands, the astrologer heard a chilling scream. Therefore, simply on the basis of this omen—this *nimitta* or foretelling—he understood that there was no need for anything further. The marriage would not be productive.



Nimitta Shastra

This science of foretelling events—*nimitta shastra* or omenology—is discussed throughout the revealed Vedic scriptures, especially the *Puranas*, *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*. As Arjuna tells Krishna (*Bg* 1.30):

na cha shaknomy avasthatum bhramativa cha me manah

nimittani cha pashyami vaparitani keshava

“I am now unable to stand here any longer. I am forgetting myself, and my mind is reeling. I *foresee* only evil, O killer of the Keshi demon.”

What were these omens, these *nimittas*, that Arjuna noticed? The *Mahabharata* explains that there was every sort of terrible portent at the time of the Battle of Kurukshetra, and Arjuna—trained by the greatest sages of the era—certainly observed each one of them. Indeed, there was a *nimitta* that was so astounding, even stunned Srila Vyasadeva himself.

Omens Foretelling the Battle of Kurukshetra

Now a lunar cycle is called a *paksha* which literally means “wing.” One *paksha* normally lasts for fifteen days. Just as a bird has two wings, there are two *pakshas* or fortnights in a month. These are the waxing phase or *shukla paksha* and the waning phase or *krishna paksha*. Because the lunar month is shorter than the solar month, sometimes *tithis* or lunar days become compressed. Therefore, a *paksha* occasionally completes in fourteen days. But during the time of the Mahabharata War a rare astronomical event occurred: the full *paksha* became compressed into thirteen days instead of fifteen. This phenomenon has been discussed in the Bhishma Parva, third *adhyaya*. There it is said that the Sun and Moon entered into the same house one after the other creating *amavasya-tithi* on the *trayodashi* day. Such a peculiar condensation of the *tithis* down to thirteen from the usual fifteen is very portentous and is inevitably followed by great retribution. Srila Vyasadeva discusses this ominous condensation of *tithis* in the *Mahabharata*:

*chaturdashim panchadashim bhuta purvamcha shudhashim
imantu nabhi janeham amavaasyam trayodashim
chandra surya bhougastou ekamevam trayodashim
aparvani grahane tou prajaa sakshapaishyatah*

“I have seen fourteen days in a *paksha*, I have seen fifteen days and even *pakshas* lasting sixteen days also. But never before have I seen an *amavasya* falling on the thirteenth day. And that, too, was during the same month when there were eclipses of both the Sun and the Moon eclipses falling during the missing *tithis*.”

Sri Krishna Learns Nimitta Shastra from Sandipani Muni

Ominous indeed! Sandipani Muni taught this science of *nimitta shastra* to Sri Krishna and Balarama when the two Brothers attended his *gurukula* in Avantikapura. In *Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead*, Srila Prabhupada writes: “Krishna then learned the art of foretelling events by seeing signs. In a book called *Khanar Vachana* (“spoken by Khanar”), the various types of signs and omens are described. If, when one is going out, one sees someone with a full bucket of water, then that is a very good sign. But if one sees someone with an empty bucket, it is not a very good sign. Similarly, if one sees cow’s milk along

with a calf, it is a good sign. The result of understanding these signs is that one can foretell events, and Krishna learned the science.”

As we learn from the *Mahabharata*, Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, personally discussed the science of omens with his Yadu family members. Thirty-six years after the Mahabharata War, the Yadava *kula* would be destroyed at Prabhas. And Sri Krishna, the knower of all things, had foretold this event by citing astrological calculations: “Rahu has compressed *puṇnima* on *chaturdasi* day. This happened once before at the time of the Mahabharata war and it will occur again soon and will lead to our destruction.” As the Lord spoke, He recalled that Queen Gandhari had earlier placed her curse upon the Yadavas.

There are different types of *nimittas* as we read in *Srimad Bhagavatam*’s description of the Kaliya *damana lila* (10.16.12). We learn there that actually three types of omens—or *tri-vidha*—foretell coming events.

*atha vraje mahopatas tri-vidha hy ati-darunah
utperur bhuvi divvy atmany asana-bhaya-shamsinah*

“In the Vrindavana area there then arose all three types of fearful omens—those on the earth, those in the sky and those in the bodies of living creatures—which announced imminent danger.”

The BBT commentary on this verse cites the authority of Srila Sridhar Swami in this regard. When Krishna was struggling with the Kaliya *naga* the following three types of omens announced imminent danger: (1) on the earth there were disturbing tremors, (2) in the sky there were meteors falling and (3) in the bodies of creatures there was shivering, as well as quivering of the left eye and other parts of the body.

Omens Foretelling the Death of Kamsa

In chapter 41 of *Krishna*, Srila Prabhupada gives a nice description of inauspicious omens, those that the evil King Kamsa experienced the night before his death at the hands of Lord Krishna, the protector of His devotees:

“(Kamsa) could realize that the eighth son of Devaki had appeared and that now his death was imminent. Thinking of his imminent death, he could not rest the entire night. He began to have many inauspicious visions, and he could understand that both Krishna and Balarama, who had approached the precincts of the city, were his messengers of death. Kamsa began to see various kinds of inauspicious signs, both awake and dreaming. When he looked in the mirror he could not see his head, although the head was actually present. He could see the luminaries in the sky in double, although there was only one set factually. He began to see holes in his shadow, and he could hear a high buzzing sound within his ears. All the trees before him appeared to be made of gold, and he could not see his own footprints in dust or muddy clay. In dream he saw various kinds of

ghosts being carried in a carriage drawn by donkeys. He also dreamed that someone gave him poison, and he was drinking it. He dreamed also that he was going naked with a garland of flowers and was smearing oil all over his body. Thus, as Kamsa saw various signs of death both awake and sleeping, he could understand that death was certain, and thus in great anxiety he could not rest that night. Just after the night expired, he busily arranged for the wrestling match.”

The *Srimad Bhagavatam* (10.42.27) describes that such visions were Kamsa’s *bhita dur-nimittas*, or “fearful and evil omens,” at least as far as the *durmatih* (“wicked-minded”) king was concerned:

*dirgha-prajagaro bhito dur-nimittani durmatih
bahuny achastobhayatha mrityor dautya-karani*

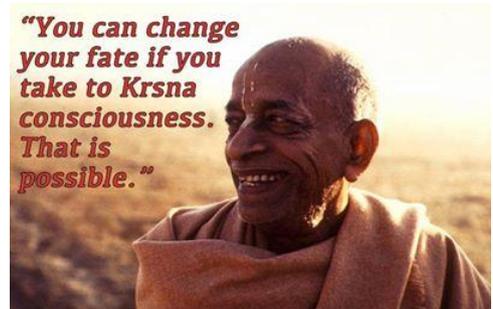
What is certain, however, is that which is an evil omen for a vile tyrant like Kamsa is certainly a victory for the devotees! ☞

The Panchatantra tells the story of a bald man whose head was burning from the Sun. So he proceeded to the shade of a palm tree, whereupon a coconut fell on his head. In this way, man tries to change his destiny by external adjustments, but his karma follows him like a shadow. In the following talk, Srila Prabhupada explains that service to a mahatma alone is ...

The Only Way to Change Your Fate

His Divine Grace A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

(King Rishabhadeva instructed his one hundred sons) “One can attain the path of liberation from material bondage only by rendering service to highly advanced spiritual personalities. These personalities are impersonalists and devotees.



“Whether one wants to merge into the Lord’s existence or wants to associate with the Personality of Godhead, one should render service to the *mahatmas*. For those who are not interested in such activities, who associate with people fond of women and sex, the path to hell is wide open. The *mahatmas* are equipoised. They do not see any difference between one living entity and another. They are very peaceful and are fully engaged in devotional service. They are devoid of anger, and they work for the benefit of everyone. They do not behave in any abominable way. Such people are known as *mahatmas*.”

It is a common saying that “Wherever you go, rascal, your fate will go with you.” Either you go to England or India or you go here or there ... because people are struggling for economic development. But he does not know that I cannot make an inch of development beyond the destiny which is already fixed up.

Already fixed up ...

Don't you see that two men, they are working day and night, very hard. One man has become all of a sudden a millionaire, and another man, he has no employment. Why? Why this distinction? Both of them have worked hard to improve economic development, but one has very quickly become a millionaire, while another is still struggling. He does not know what he will eat tomorrow. Why this arrangement? Who has made this arrangement? So this is actually an important study—that you cannot change your fate. It is already fixed up.

This material condition of life ... as soon as you get a certain type of body, your pain and pleasure are already fixed up within the body's routine. You cannot make any change. Just like the ... I have given many times this example ... of the pig. He is destined to eat stool. Therefore he has been awarded that type of body. So however you canvass this pig, "Why are you eating the stool? Take this halava," he'll not take. It will not take. Because his destiny means he has got that particular type of body.

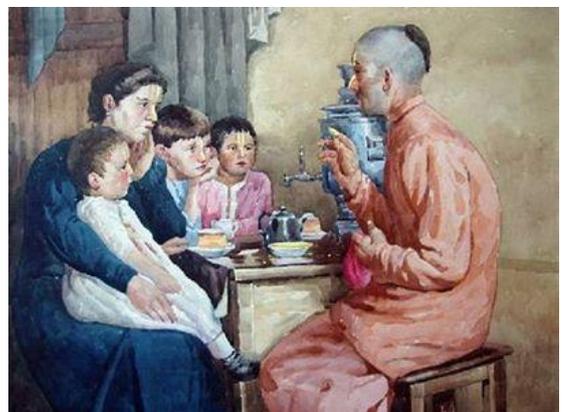
So these are finer studies. According to the body, everyone's happiness and distress is already fixed up. You cannot change it. That is called fate. That is called fate. But you can change your fate if you take to Krishna consciousness. That is possible.

So far as your body is concerned ... Just take this example each one of you—you were accustomed to the Western way of life: eating meat, drinking, illicit sex or so many things. But because you have taken to Krishna consciousness, you have stopped. Nobody can stop. No government can do it. Is there any possibility? Not possible. Not possible. Therefore, if you want to change your lot, your destiny, then you must take to Krishna consciousness. There is no other way. This so-called rascaldom, philanthropism this "ism" that "ism," that will not be able to change your lot. (class on *Srimad Bhagavatam* 5.5.3, Stockholm, 9 September 1973) ♪

As a side benefit of preaching the message of Bhagavad-gita As It Is, now

The World Awakens to Reincarnation

As the Krishna consciousness movement continues to spread worldwide, many side benefits continue to manifest. Recognizable here and there are symptoms of *sattva guna* that are gradually leading certain sections of society to the platform of *shudha*





sattva, transcendental goodness in Krishna consciousness. Such social advantages include ecological awareness, healthy vegetarian diet, a greater understanding of *karma* and limiting the evils of uncontrolled sense gratification. Along with these benefits is an understanding of reincarnation; and for this gradual awakening the world is in debt to ISKCON's *brahmana* preachers, especially the *sankirtana* distributors of Srila Prabhupada transcendental literatures.

In the *Srimad Bhagavatam* (5.5.24) Lord Rishabhadeva tells his one hundred sons: "The *Vedas* are My eternal transcendental sound incarnation. Therefore the *Vedas* are *shabda-brahma*. In this world, the *brahmanas* thoroughly study all the *Vedas*,

and because they assimilate the Vedic conclusions, they are also to be considered the *Vedas* personified. The *brahmanas* are situated in the supreme transcendental mode of nature—*sattva guna*. Because of this, they are fixed in mind control (*shama*), sense control (*dama*), and truthfulness (*satya*). They describe the *Vedas* in their original sense, and out of mercy (*anugraha*) they preach the purpose of the *Vedas* to all conditioned souls. They practice penance (*tapasya*) and tolerance (*titiksha*), and they realize the position of the living entity and the Supreme Lord (*anubhava*). These are the eight qualifications of the *brahmanas*. Therefore among all living entities, no one is superior to the *brahmanas*."

Though reincarnation was once considered to be a form of superstitious mumbo jumbo, the world is slowly becoming aware of the eternality of the soul and its transmigration from one body to another largely due to the preachers of *sankirtana* movement. A search through Google Video reveals how widely the science of reincarnation is becoming accepted today, even within the once-atheistic halls of modern academia. Many current ideas offered as proof of transmigration appear to have been taken right out of the pages of *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*.

Studies at University of Virginia Verify Reincarnation



In the following film, Jim B Tucker, MD—Medical Director of the Child and Family Psychiatry Clinic at the University of Virginia's School of Medicine in Charlottesville—offers irrefutable scientific proof of reincarnation. Dr. Tucker and his late mentor Dr. Stevenson have over 2500 such registered cases of past life memory. The following short film **Sam's Story** has

Dr Tucker's commentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ir9Xs1Q9T5g>.

In astrology, the 5th house is called the *purva-punyastan*, the “house of past life piety.” The 8th house or *ayustan*, represents the life itself, as influenced by the birth and death cycle of *samsara*. As we have seen in thousands of devotees' charts, there are generally strong and benefic influences upon the 5th house indicating the pious acts of past lives that have brought them into Krishna consciousness in this life. Only the fortunate who have achieved the mercy of the Lord can be engaged as His servants. As Sri Krishna explains to Arjuna:

*bahunam janmanam ante jnanavan mam prapadyate
vasudevah sarvam iti sa mahatma su-durlabhaha*

“After many births and deaths, he who is actually in knowledge surrenders unto Me, knowing Me to be the cause of all causes and all that is. Such a great soul is very rare.” ♪

A brilliant Russian scientist appears to have borrowed a chapter right out of the Vimanika Shastra ...

The Flying Machine of Viktor Grebennikov

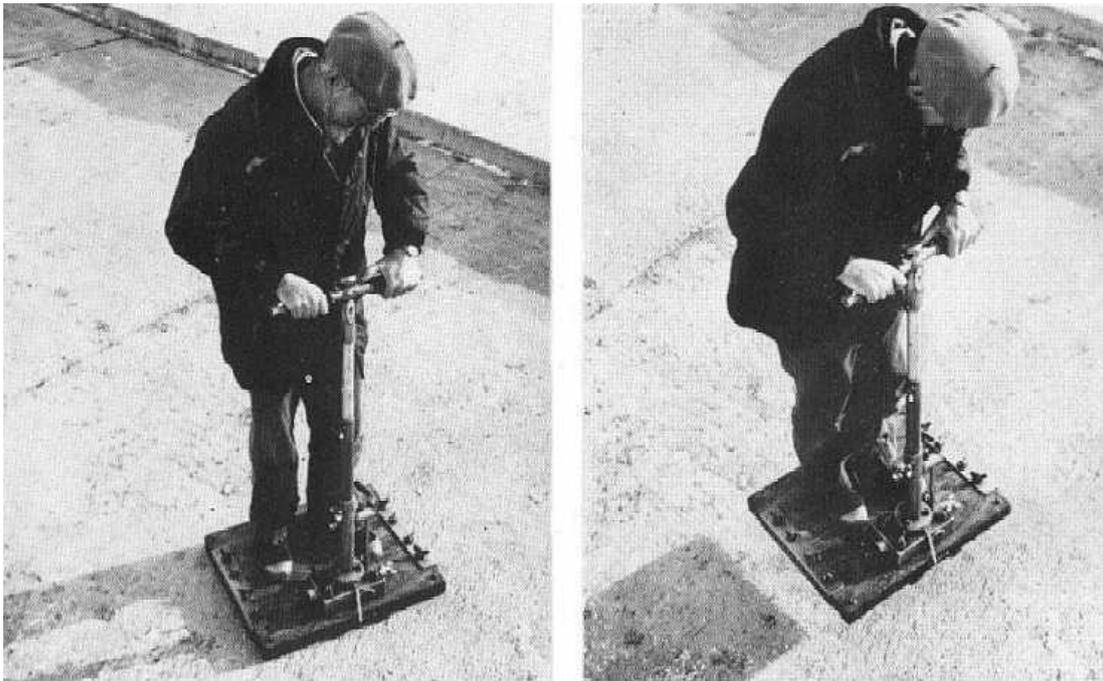
Abhaya Mudra Dasi

The life of the late Russian scientist Viktor Grebennikov (1927-2001) is an inspiration to those who long for a way to travel without dependence on oil-based energy sources—that only defile and exploit mother Earth. According to his book, *My Story*, he discovered the flying secrets of a particular type of insect, which many speculate is a beetle that lifts itself through the influence of the magnetic fields of the Earth. Grebennikov, however, states that the insect is a particular type of a bee which captured his interest when he discovered the magnetic field around their bee hives. This understanding became the basis for his high-speed levitation device.

Grebennikov produced a small platform controlled by only a few switches which mechanically regulate lift-off, speed and touch-down. By duplicating the natural engineering of this insect, he found that he could ascend to about one kilometer above the ground and move at the astonishing speed of 1000 kph. He claims that throughout the flight he remained invisible due to the magnetic field's balloon-like protection encompassing him. According to his book, he could observe the world much like being in a movie theatre while traveling without becoming affected either by weather, wind or flight elevation.

This technology has long been used by other mysterious species of living entities that are sometimes observed moving here and there in the sky—the UFO's. In one sense it is a technology for the taking which, if understood, might give a new freedom of movement to the world. Yet Viktor Grebennikov took his secrets of

magnetic flight to his grave. He was reluctant to share the details of his invention because it would have caused the extinction of endangered insects whose natural technology is the basis for his flying platform. A response from his believers within the scientific community that the technology might be artificially duplicated by mimicking nature's talents would not be entertained by the scientist. Naturally Grebinnikov was aware that the giagantic oil cartels would never welcome such a technology due to their fear of losing control over a population who could then freely travel in self-contained flight. For the giants of the land and air travel industries, scientific advancement can only be acceptable as long as it exploits others and denudes Mother Earth.



Drawn by the uniqueness of his *karma*, Mr. Grebennikov's speciality was entymology, the study of insects. His studio was painted to resemble a scene from nature as viewed from the perspective of an insect. It seems that in a previous life he must have saved or protected some insect species, and as a result he was offered in this life the opportunity to understand the world from a bug's vantage. And although Mr. Grebennikov appeared in this world, he actually lived in quite a different dimension. He could not become a part of the official scenery as his own history was out of synch with the experience of the masses. Even skeptics will admit that official accounts of the world and its history can never be complete because each one's story is exceptional.

This world is part and parcel of Sri Krishna, and a complete description of even this insignificant mustard-seed like universe may not be possible even for Lord Ananta Shesha with His unlimited mouths. Other than the Supreme Lord Himself, that person is yet to be born who can bear witness to all the world's miracles. Although people may reside next to each other, one might be able to fly while his

neighbor may not even be able to walk. One may be a fortunate Krishna conscious devotee while the man next door subsists in hellish circumstances. Even during a war one man may lose his life while another is hardly affected by the conflict. There are many parallel realms existing next to each other and, although they may seem to occur in the same dimension, they hardly ever meet.

A Krishna conscious person never identifies with the mundane history of this world of *samsara* because each individual entity is married to his own *karma*. It is a consecrated destiny that can eventually lead the fettered *jiva* soul to pure spiritual awareness in Krishna. Elevation to transcendental Krishna consciousness may seem impossible to a world which cannot see beyond the destined confinements of *karma*. Just as for Mr. Grebennikov flying was an everyday affair, so a devotee experiences what is considered impossible or miraculous by the grace of Sri Krishna. Such is the result of Krishna-*karma* which is nothing less than the association of the Supreme Lord through devotional service. Contrarily, flying in the sky is merely another attempt to enjoy this world without Him. By calling his book *My World*, Mr. Grebennikov hints that he did not wish to share his world of flight with anyone else. But the title was also a tacit admission that he was not inclined to admit that this world actually belongs to Sri Krishna.

However, Grebenikkov was not only a scientist but he was also an artist. Rare souls who are gifted with artistic minds sometimes have the ability to imagine things or put facts together even before they are assembled into a working prototype. To read some of Grebenniko's adventures in English, see this: <http://www.keelynet.com/greb/greb.htm>. The following videos explain more about his amazing flying machine: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= ChsZUwqTeE>> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYJXE4FCm7Q> 

Astro-Nuts



When the American astronauts landed on the Moon, their first business was to take out shovels they had thoughtfully brought along to cover up any evidence of their landing—in order to avoid discovery by the denizens of Chandra-loka!



Letters to the Editor

(Edited for brevity)

“Brilliant”

Dear Patita Pavana Prabhu, I found out about you last year and started eagerly reading your astrological newsletters. I must say they're brilliant and you are so spot on with your astrological predictions too. Thank you for adding me as a friend. Your servant, G M (Australia)

“Lunar Hoax”

Dear Patita Pavana das: You often write that the Americans never went to the Moon because you believe the Vedic version that the Moon is a heavenly planet with rivers of nectar. In this regard, you often deride the astronauts and scientists as hoaxers. Actually, Srila Prabhupada never definitely said that no astronauts went to the Moon. Srila Prabhupada's explanations are open to many interpretations, but you have taken a narrow view. Even the items that the astronauts left on the Moon are visible with a powerful telescope.

DD (USA)

Hmmm, open to interpretation, eh? Maybe you need to clean the lens of your telescope. Since you claim to be a follower of Srila Prabhupada, how do you get around this (Srimad Bhagavatam 5.24.3):

“After hearing from the Sun and Moon demigods about Rahu's attack, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vishnu, engages His disc, known as the Sudarshana *chakra*, to protect them. The Sudarshana *chakra* is the Lord's most beloved devotee and is favored by the Lord. The intense heat of its effulgence, meant for killing non-Vaishnavas, is unbearable to Rahu, and he therefore flees in fear of it. During the time Rahu disturbs the Sun or Moon, there occurs what people commonly know as an eclipse.”

BHAKTIVEDANTA PURPORT: The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vishnu, is always the protector of His devotees, who are also known as demigods. The controlling demigods are most obedient to Lord Vishnu, although they also want material sense enjoyment, and that is why they are called demigods, or almost godly. Although Rahu attempts to attack both the Sun and the Moon, they are protected by Lord Vishnu. Being very afraid of Lord Vishnu's *chakra*, Rahu cannot stay in front of the Sun or Moon for more than a *muhurta* (forty-eight minutes). The phenomenon that occurs when Rahu blocks the light of the Sun or Moon is called an eclipse. The attempt of the scientists of this earth to go to the Moon is as demoniac as Rahu's attack. Of course their attempts will be failures because no one can enter the Moon or Sun so easily. Like the attack of Rahu, such attempts will certainly be failures.”

Your most qualified opinion on these words of the final authority will be welcome. –Ed

“Wife's Service to Her Husband”

Dear Prabhu, I am curious as to whether a wife must always serve her husband, regardless of his activities. What does Srila Prabhupada say on this topic?

SN (India)

His Divine Grace is very clear on the point that both the husband and wife must be devotees and both should act in that capacity. They must act in a way that is in accordance with the orders of the spiritual master, in a mood that is pleasing to Sri Guru. Astrological compatibility

is an important, yet secondary, consideration. As it is stated in Sri Garuda Purana (3.19.37) “Women should desert their husbands if they are averse to Lord Vishnu.” Devotional qualifications and fidelity to the order of the spiritual master are paramount, as we see in the following from SB 7.11.28:

“A chaste woman should not be greedy, but satisfied in all circumstances. She must be very expert in handling household affairs and should be fully conversant with religious principles. She should speak pleasingly and truthfully and should be very careful and always clean and pure. Thus a chaste woman should engage with affection in the service of a husband who is not fallen.”

Bhaktivedanta Purport: According to the injunction of Yajnavalkya, an authority on religious principles, *asuddheh samoratiksyo hi mahapataka-dushitah*. One is considered contaminated by the reactions of great sinful activities when one has not been purified according to the methods of the *dasha-vidha-samskara*. In *Bhagavad-gita* (7.15) however, the Lord says, *na mam dushkritino mudhah prapadyante aradhama*: “Those miscreants who do not surrender unto Me are the lowest of mankind.” The word *naradhama* means “nondevotee.” Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu also said, *yei bhaje sei bada abhakta—hina chara*. Anyone who is a devotee is sinless. One who is not a devotee, however, is the most fallen and condemned. It is recommended, therefore, that a chaste wife not associate with a fallen husband. A fallen husband is one who is addicted to the four principles of sinful activity—namely illicit sex, meat-eating, gambling and intoxication. Specifically, if one is not a soul surrendered to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, he is understood to be contaminated. Thus a chaste woman is advised not to agree to serve such a husband. It is not that a chaste woman should be like a slave while her husband is *naradhama*, the lowest of men. Although the duties of a woman are different from those of a man, a chaste woman is not meant to serve a fallen husband. If her husband is fallen, it is recommended that she give up his association. Giving up the association of her husband does not mean, however, that a woman should marry again and thus indulge in prostitution. If a chaste woman unfortunately marries a husband who is fallen, she should live separately from him. Similarly, a husband can separate himself from a woman who is not chaste according to the description of the *shastra*. The conclusion is that a husband should be a pure Vaishnava and that a woman should be a chaste wife with all the symptoms described in this regard. Then both of them will be happy and make spiritual progress in Krishna consciousness.

“Travel to Ukraine?”

Dear Prabhus,

I was thinking of traveling to the Ukraine in March and April. What do the planets show for the situation there?

LG (Warsaw)

No, don't go, or even think about it. Problems have erupted all over the world due to Saturn (the planet of the masses and workers) going into exaltation with Rahu (planet of outcastes and barbarians) for over a year. These tensions have been these simmering for over a year now. Next, problems came to a head as the violent Mars entered Libra and joined the other two malefics Mars and Saturn there. These three malefics in a movable air sign appropriately describe what happened in Crimea: The "Reds" (Mars) landed at the airport (air sign) to quell the unrest caused by the "people" (Saturn) and incited by the shadow governments (Rahu) who are inciting the "protestors" from behind the scenes. Mars joined Saturn and Rahu in Libra 3 Feb. and went retrograde on 1 March while Saturn was stationary, a very bad omen. Saturn turned retrograde the next day. The word the Bhagavata uses to describe retrograde is *vakra*, or moving in a “crooked” direction. Therefore, on the authority of the Bhagavata, retrograde malefics are extremely ominous. The problem might turn very violent at any moment now that

Mars and Saturn have both turned retrograde. This is very unusual, that Saturn and Mars meet while Saturn is exalted in Libra with Rahu (who is always retrograde) and then turn backwards almost simultaneously. We cannot ignore that Saturn, the old man of the zodiac, was in the “oldest” portion of Libra, the very last degree, when he turned around and went back for what he felt was his due. This is exactly like a country returning due to a feeling that there is some unfulfilled debt, and now come back to make good on the collection.

This situation is very similar to the verse given in the Bhagavata 3.17.14 regarding the birth of the two demons Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakashipu:

“Ominous planets such as Mars and Saturn shone brighter and surpassed the auspicious ones such as Mercury, Jupiter and Venus as well as a number of lunar mansions. Taking seemingly retrograde courses, the planets came in conflict with one another.”

Bhaktivedanta Purport: The entire universe is moving under the three modes of material nature. Those living entities who are in goodness are called the pious species—pious lands, pious trees, etc. It is similar with the planets also; many planets are considered pious, and others are considered impious. Saturn and Mars are considered impious. When the pious planets shine very brightly, it is an auspicious sign, but when the inauspicious planets shine very brightly, this is not a very good sign. *End of Purport*

Mars will leave Libra and will return to Virgo in retrograde motion at the end of March. He will continue to be vakra during the whole of April when two very ominous eclipses will be happening. Thus the “Martian effects” will be carried from Libra back into Virgo. Virgo, being an earth sign, is connected to land. It is quite possible that Ukraine would be divided during this time.

Crimea has long been an important strategic area due to its location as a port for entering both Europe and Asia. Uncountable wars have been fought there, and this conflict likewise has every chance of also becoming more violent. The soothing influence of Jupiter’s aspect to Libra could give the possibility of saner minds cooling down the situation. But with two eclipses on the horizon in April, times of darkness loom overhead and those in power lose any sort of rationality. The danger of a localized war in the Ukraine is very real.

Wiki lists some of the invaders who have fought for control of Crimea and it would take an entire subject (Crimeology?) to understand it.

From Wiki: “Throughout the later centuries, Crimea was invaded or occupied successively by the Goths, (AD 250), the Huns (376), the Bulgars (4th–8th century), the Khazars (8th century), the state of Kievan Rus (10th–11th centuries), the Byzantine Empire (1016), the Kipchaks (Kumans) (1050), and the Mongols (1237). In the 13th century, the Republic of Genoa Republic seized the settlements which their rivals, the Venetians, had built along the Crimean coast and gained control of the Crimean economy and the Black Sea commerce for two centuries.”

The effects will spread into the summer when Mars will leaves Virgo and returns to Libra. So the entire conflict will be carried from now to the end of the year (at least till early to mid November) when finally Saturn will finally exit Libra. **The first (lunar) eclipse on April 15th happens in Libra in the nakshatra of Chitra ruled by warlike Mars. The second (solar) eclipse on April 28th happens in Aries, also ruled by Mars.** The first eclipse occurs one day into the solar new year, so it does not bode well for the year ahead. Everything is about Mars and Mars is about hostilities, war and conflict. You should keep away from Ukraine and advise other devotees there to take appropriate refuge in safer areas. That appears to be the situation in a nutshell. –Ed.