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DEVATA · BY AYURASTRO

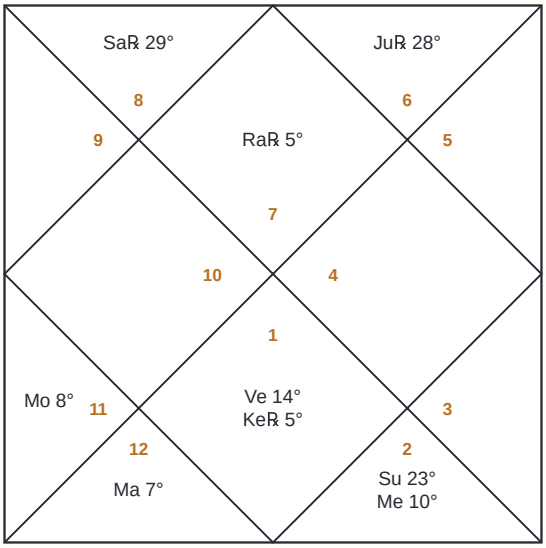
Vedic Astrology Reading

grounded in the classical Jyotiṣa texts

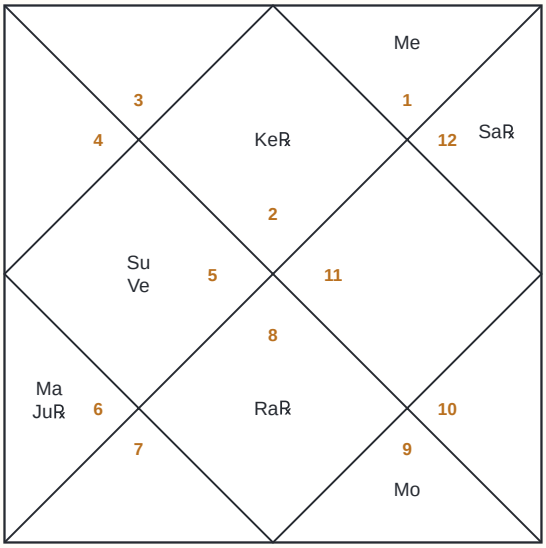
prepared for **Prince (sample)** · June 7, 1958 at 18:17 (UTC−5) · Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

reading as of January 1, 1984 · prepared by **Renay**

RĀŚI (D1) · LIBRA RISING 23°25'06"



NAVĀṂŚA (D9) · TAURUS RISING



North Indian style: house 1 at the top, counting counter-clockwise; the small number is the sign, 1 = Aries … 12 = Pisces.

Where Saturn Stands Today

As I write this, at the opening of 1984, Saturn is moving through Libra — the sign of your ascendant, and the ninth sign counted forward from your Moon, which sits at nearly nine degrees of Aquarius. In the reckoning of transits, it is always the Moon that serves as the measuring point; and from your Moon, Saturn at present stands a long way off from the three signs that make up Sade Sati.

So let me say the plainest and most useful thing first: **Sade Sati is not running for you now.** Whatever this year brings, it will not be brought by that cycle.

The name itself simply means "the seven and a half." Saturn takes roughly two and a half years to cross each sign of the zodiac. When he enters the sign immediately *before* your Moon's sign, then crosses over the Moon's own sign, and finally moves into the sign immediately *after* it, those three consecutive signs take him something close to seven and a half years to traverse. That whole stretch is called Sade Sati. It is named for its *length*, not for its severity — a point worth holding onto, because the name has acquired a reputation in common talk that the classical texts themselves never quite give it.

What the tradition does say is that during these years the slowest and most deliberate of the planets passes directly across the point that governs your mind, your moods, your rest, your sense of home and nourishment. Saturn's nature is to slow things down, to test the foundations, to ask whether what you have built will hold weight. Over the Moon, he asks this of your inner life. That is demanding. It is not doom. It is, in the older and better sense of the word, a *maturing*.

The Shape of the Coming Arc

When it begins

The calculation sets the beginning of your next Sade Sati at **20 March 1990**.

That is more than six years from the date of this letter. I want you to feel the length of that runway, because it is the single most practical fact in this reading. You are not inside the season. You are standing well before it, with years of ordinary weather in between — years in which anything you choose to strengthen, settle, repair or put in order will still be standing when Saturn arrives. Very few people get to read about their Sade Sati this far ahead of it.

The opening season

From 21 March 1990, Saturn begins the **rising phase** — his passage through the twelfth sign counted from your Moon. The computed window before me carries this first season through to **20 June 1990**, and it is this opening passage that the figures detail most closely.

The peak and the setting

After the rising comes the **peak**, when Saturn crosses your Moon's own sign of Aquarius and stands directly over your natal Moon. This is the heart of the arc, and the phase the texts treat most seriously.

After that comes the **setting** phase, as Saturn moves into the sign beyond your Moon — the second from it — and the long pressure begins to ease and finally lift.

The precise dates on which the peak opens and the setting closes lie beyond the window that was computed for this reading, and I will not guess at them; they belong to a fuller calculation we can run closer to the time. But their order is fixed and their character is well described, and that is what I will walk you through now — so that when each arrives, you will recognise it.

The Rising Phase — Saturn in the Twelfth from Your Moon

From 21 March 1990

The twelfth house is called *vyaya* in the old texts, and the word means expenditure — outgoing, release, what leaves the hand. When Saturn enters this position relative to the Moon, he does not arrive with a blow; he arrives with a slow drawing-down. People often describe the opening of Sade Sati as a season in which things quietly cost more than they used to: more energy, more sleep, more money, more patience. Commitments that were easy to carry begin to feel heavy. One wants more solitude than usual and has less appetite for crowds.

This is the phase in which the structure of your life is being surveyed rather than struck.

What may wear thin

Phaladīpikā gives a sober principle here, and I will translate its intent rather than its blunt language. It observes that when the significators of a matter are weak to begin with — poorly placed, pressed upon by difficult planets, standing in the sixth, eighth or twelfth — then when their season comes, the matters they govern give way. The text speaks of "destruction." What it actually describes is attrition: *what was already built on thin ground is what subsides.*

This is enormously useful to know six years in advance. The rising phase does not invent trouble out of nothing. It finds the places that were never quite sound — the arrangement you knew was unsustainable, the debt you kept deferring, the health matter you have not looked at, the agreement everyone has quietly stopped honouring — and it removes the possibility of continuing to ignore them. Read kindly, Saturn in the twelfth is a clearing of the ledger. Things leave that were already leaving.

What holds and what helps

The Uttara Kālāmṛta places a strong counterweight beside this, and it matters. That text reminds us that a transit is never read on its own. It lists the planets that carry the real promise of a chart — the lord of the Moon's sign, the lord of the rising navāṃśa, the lord of the ascendant, the lords of the tenth and the ninth, of the fifth, the third, the fourth and the seventh, and the lords of the second and the eleventh. When these planets stand together, or in one another's signs, or in signs where they are at home, exalted, or among friends, and when they are joined or looking at one another, then — says the text — they give, in order, *advancement; conveyances and standing; happiness and children; and wealth.*

In plain language: the good things a chart is built to deliver are not cancelled by a hard transit. They continue to be delivered, on their own schedule, by their own planets. Saturn passing through the twelfth from your Moon makes the delivery feel more effortful and more expensive. It does not revoke it.

So the right posture for this opening season is not defence. It is **economy** — in the honest sense of that word. Spend where it counts. Rest more than feels necessary. Keep your obligations few and keep them well. Let go of what has already left.

The Peak — Saturn Over Your Moon

This is the stretch that gives Sade Sati its reputation, and I want to describe it accurately rather than dramatically.

Saturn standing on the Moon brings weight to the inner weather. The Moon governs mind and feeling, rest, the mother, the home, the sense of being nourished and at ease. Saturn's whole nature is gravity, delay, endurance and seriousness. Where the two meet, people commonly report a flattening of spirits, a heaviness in the mornings, a reluctance to begin things, a sense of being older than one was. Sleep and routine become genuinely important rather than optional. Relationships require more deliberate tending, because warmth no longer radiates on its own; it has to be offered on purpose.

Not a season without dignity

It is worth hearing that Varāhamihira, in the Bṛhat Jātaka, does not treat Saturn as a planet that ruins whatever it touches. In his listing of the placements in which Saturn performs *well* — the sixth, his own sign, the eleventh, the eighth, the fourth, and the rising place itself — the rising place is expressly named. Saturn at the beginning of a cycle is Saturn at a threshold, and a threshold is where things are consolidated as well as tested. Of the Moon in that same list he says that from the ascendant she is auspicious. These are not the notes of a tradition that regards this combination as a catastrophe. They are the notes of a tradition that regards Saturn as the planet of consequence.

The doctrine of ripening

The same text sets out something more important still. It teaches that results *ripen* — that the planets placed in the angles and the houses following them deliver their effects in the first, the middle and the last portions of life, each in turn, and that the planet standing in an angle at the ascendant matures its results earliest. "It is not," Varāhamihira says carefully, "that there is no ripening of results."

I find this one of the kindest ideas in the whole tradition. Nothing in your life arrives arbitrarily. Things come due. Harvest is not punishment; it is the far end of a sowing. The peak of Sade Sati, more than any other period, is a season of ripening — what you have built honestly becomes visible and solid, and what you have built carelessly becomes visible too. Many people date their real adulthood, their first serious responsibility, or their most durable piece of work to exactly this crossing.

And a reminder of proportion

In closing his great survey, Varāhamihira lists what he has covered: the ripening of effects, the qualities of the lunar mansions, of the lunar days and the karaṇas, the qualities of the constellations together with the birth-star — and then, among all these, the transit of the planets. Gochara is one chapter. It sits alongside many others.

That is the proper scale. A transit is a weather system passing over a landscape. It is not the landscape.

The Setting Phase — Saturn in the Second from Your Moon

The final stretch, as Saturn moves one sign beyond your Moon, is where the tradition offers its most quietly comforting image.

The Uttara Kālāmṛta calls certain planets *chādakas* — "coverers." The full Moon, Jupiter, Saturn and Ketu, it says, cover the second and the twelfth signs counted from wherever they themselves stand. So Saturn in the second from your Moon is, by this teaching, a **coverer** of that place.

Consider what that word actually says. A covering is a shade, a cloth laid over something. It obscures; it does not destroy. The thing beneath remains entire, and when the covering is drawn back it is found unharmed. The second from the Moon is the place of *artha* — resources, sustenance, speech, family, the accumulated means of living. During the setting phase, these feel shadowed. Money seems to move slowly. Words come out heavier than intended, and are heard more heavily than intended. Family matters ask for patience. The appetite for pleasure is subdued.

None of this is loss. It is covering. And coverings lift.

The same passage closes with a point of real encouragement: all the planets that are lords of a house or significators of a house — whether by aspect, by sitting in the same sign, by joining together, or by standing in one another's signs — are, each in its order, *potent to bestow the yoga*. That is to say: while one planet is drawing a shade across one part of the chart, the others continue to give what they were always going to give. The promise of a horoscope is a chorus, not a solo. One voice falling quiet does not end the music.

By the end of this phase, the heaviness has thinned. People usually notice it in retrospect — a morning some months later when the air is simply lighter, and they realise it has been lighter for a while.

Meeting the Season Well

In the years before

You have an unusual gift here: six years of warning. Use them structurally, not anxiously.

Phaladīpikā's principle — that it is the *weak* places that give way — is also an instruction. Between now and 1990, strengthen what you know to be weak. Put the finances on a footing that could absorb a lean year. Attend to the body's long-deferred matters while they are small. Settle debts, finish what is half-finished, close what should be closed, and bring your agreements with others into clear and honest terms. Build the reserve of sleep, of savings, of goodwill, that you would want to draw on later.

None of this is superstition. It is simply what one does before a long winter, and it is good practice whether or not a planet is moving.

During the arc

Keep a routine. Under Saturn, structure is not a cage; it is a handrail. Regular hours, regular meals, regular work, regular rest — these carry you through stretches when motivation will not.

Reduce, don't expand. This is a season for depth rather than breadth. Fewer commitments, better kept.

Guard your speech, especially in the setting phase. Words land heavily when that place is covered. Say less, and mean it.

Care for the elderly and for your mother. The Moon is under pressure; those she signifies often ask for your attention during these years, and attending to them well is among the most steadying things you can do.

Do the work. Saturn rewards labour and nothing else. Effort made during Sade Sati tends to become the most durable thing a person owns, precisely because it was made without ease.

Be patient with your own mood. The flatness is the transit, not your character. It passes with the transit.

The temper of the whole thing

If I could leave you with one sentence about these seven and a half years, it would be this: *Sade Sati does not take away a life — it makes a life serious.* People come out of it steadier, less easily frightened, clearer about what they actually want, and considerably better at carrying weight. The tradition's harsher phrases — covering, destruction, expenditure — all describe processes of removal, and what is removed is generally what you were already carrying without benefit.

You have six good years before it opens on 20 March 1990, and the first season of it running from 21 March to 20 June of that year. That is a great deal of time to prepare, and a short first chapter to meet.

A Closing Word

This reading is drawn from one classical lens only — the transit of Saturn measured from your natal Moon, as set out by Varāhamihira, by Phaladīpikā, and by the Uttara Kālāmṛta. It has been written strictly from your computed window and from the rules those texts supply for these placements. It does not take account of the dignity of your chart's own lords, the daśā running at the time, or the hundred particulars of your life that no calculation can see — and all of those will shape how any of this is actually felt.

So take it as a map of the terrain rather than a forecast of the journey, and let us sit down together nearer the time to read it against the rest of the chart. You have years in hand, and that is the best position from which to meet anything.

With warmth and good wishes,

Devata

A NOTE FROM YOUR ASTROLOGER

A sample reading. Prince Rogers Nelson was born on June 7, 1958 at 18:17 in Minneapolis; this reading is cast as of January 1, 1984 — inside his Jupiter daśā, months before Purple Rain — so that what the texts said of the years ahead can be read against what happened. A reading for a living person is cast as of the day it is ordered.

Want to expand on these ideas with a live, personal consultation?

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This reading is offered for reflection and self-understanding, drawn faithfully from the classical texts of Jyotiṣa. It describes tendencies and timings the tradition associates with this chart — not fixed fate.

Devata · by AyurAstro · *prepared by Renay*

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