

Lahiri Mahasaya – Naisargika Dasa analysis

By Hari Mahalingam, SJC Singapore.

©Hari Mahalingam and Jyotish Digest to which the manuscript is submitted for publication; decision pending

Dedicated to and offered at the lotus feet of Lahiri Mahasaya.

INTRODUCTION

Sri Sri Lahiri Mahasaya (1828 – 1895), henceforth referred to as Lahiri Mahasaya, was a great yogi from the state of Bengal in India. He is best remembered for his contributions to revive and spread the lost art of *kriya yoga* among the millions of ordinary people seeking a balance in their material and spiritual pursuits. Although a householder (*grihastha*) himself, he singlehandedly proved that it was possible to attain spiritual perfection. His guru was the incomparable Sri Sri Mahaavatara Babaji, often referred to as the deathless saint and who is believed to have existed for perhaps more than a thousand years, existing even today and playing an active role in the spiritual affairs of Bhuloka. At the explicit command of Babaji, Lahiri Mahasaya learnt the subtle nuances of *kriya yoga* and dedicated his life to propagating the art of *kriya yoga* among the householders who sought his guidance.

As is common of most highly advanced spiritual souls in India, very little information is available on Lahiri Mahasaya and most of the known material is contained in the popular book ‘Autobiography of a Yogi’ by Paramahansa Yogananda (1946) in which Swami Yogananda himself mentions that he has translated some portions of a biography in Bengali on Lahiri Mahasaya by Swami Satyananda (1941). With very little published information available on Lahiri Mahasaya, the aim of this article is to examine the important events in the life of Lahiri Mahasaya using *Naisargika Dasa*. For this purpose, the principal reference is the book by Paramahansa Yogananda.

NAISARGIKA DASA

Naisargika means natural and the phrase ‘Naisargika Dasa’ means a *dasa* which is totally based on the natural evolution of a manushya or human life. The great Varahamihira used principally only two *dasas* viz., Naisargika and Moola. This *dasa* was explained by Pandit Sanjay Rath in his article “Naisargika Dasa” (2003) wherein, the basic principles, periods assigned to the planets and the computation of *antardasas* were dealt with. A fine explanation of the life of another great saint, Swami Vivekenanda using Naisargika Dasa is also given. For a detailed explanation and use of Naisargika *dasa*, the reader is advised to refer to the above mentioned article but for the sake of clarity, a short description is given below.

Different periods (in years) have been assigned to each of the planets from the Sun to Saturn based on their natural role in the development of a human being. The nodes have been excluded from this scheme as Rahu represents the desire that causes rebirth while Ketu rules the state of *moksha* or the time between rebirths. A summary of the different planetary periods is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Naisargika Dasa Scheme

Planet	Years	Ends at Age	Remark
Moon	1	1	Maximum brain growth
Mars	2	3	Physical growth
Mercury	9	12	Period of learning
Venus	20	32	Sexual maturity and marriage
Jupiter	18	50	Period of wisdom
Sun	20	70	Authority, fame
Saturn	50	120	Old age, diseases etc.

Readers will appreciate how the naisargika *karakas* for each of the planets have been related to the particular developmental phase in the life of a human being. Karaka means significator and for example, it is well known that Venus is the natural *kalatra* karaka or the significator of marriage. So it is easy to understand that the period of sexual maturity and marriage from 12 to 32 years of age is governed by Venus. In a similar manner, the other planetary periods can be understood.

It can be seen that the naisargika dasa scheme is a general scheme and universally applicable to all human beings. In order to differentiate the naisargika dasa scheme for two individuals, we need to compute the antardasas within each one of the dasas. The computation of the antardasas depend on the relative positions of the planets with respect to the main planet governing the dasa. Both the order and weightage assigned to all the planets except the main dasa planet depend on the relative positions and are summarized below.

Table 2: Weightage assigned to the planets for computation of antardasas

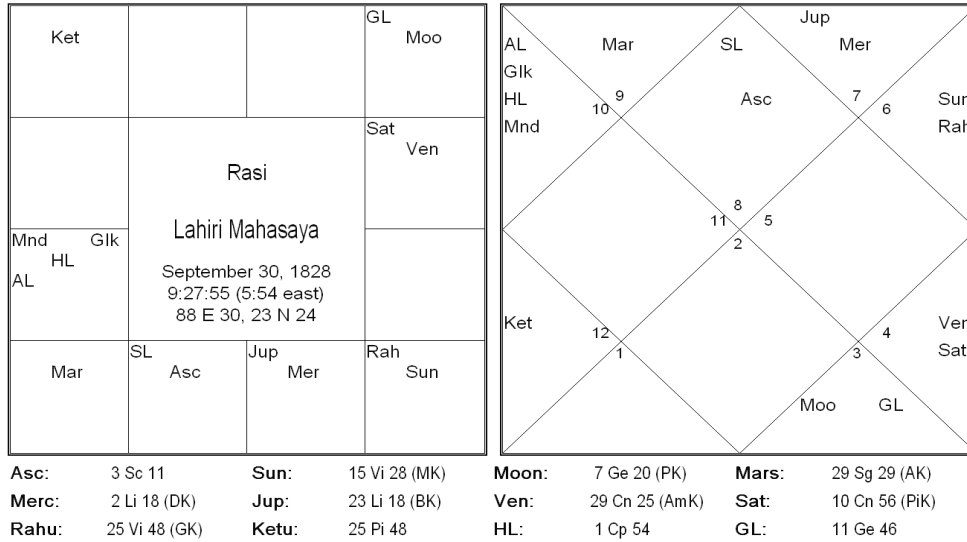
Position of planet from main dasa planet	Weightage assigned
7 th house	1/7
4 th & 8 th house	1/4
5 th and 9 th house	1/3
1 st house (conjoined)	1/2
2, 3, 6, 10, 11 & 12 th house	1

After calculating the weightage for each of the planets based on their relative positions with respect to the main dasa planet (which does not get an antardasa), the sum of the respective weightages is found and the total planetary period for the dasa planet is divided by this total weightage to get the multiplier in years. Then the order of the antardasas is based on the planets in kendras (1, 4, 7 & 10th houses) followed by those in panapharas (2, 5, 8 & 11th houses) and finally those in apoklimas (3, 6, 9 & 12th houses). The exact order of the antardasas within the kendras or panapharas or apoklimas is based on the strength of the houses being considered and standard rules for determination of the

strength of signs may be used here (for example, see Rath (2000)). As an example, the antardasas in the naisargika dasa of Venus are computed step-by-step for the chart of Lahiri Mahasaya below.

CHART OF LAHIRI MAHASAYA

Lahiri Mahasaya was born on 30 September, 1828 in a village called Ghurni located in the Nadia district near Krishnanagar, Bengal (Yogananda, 1946). His chart (Rath (2004)) is given below:



The Naisargika Dasa scheme for the above chart is shown in table 3. As an example, the computation of the antardasas for Venus naisargika dasa are summarized in tables 4, 5 & 6.

Table 3: Naisargika Dasa for Lahiri Mahasaya

Dasa	Period (years)	Start-Date	End-Date	Till Age (years)
Moon	1	1828-09-30	1829-09-29	1
Mars	2	1829-09-30	1831-09-29	3
Mercury	9	1831-09-30	1840-09-29	12
Venus	20	1840-09-30	1860-09-29	32
Jupiter	18	1860-09-30	1878-09-29	50
Sun	20	1878-09-30	1898-09-29	70
Saturn	50	1898-09-30	1948-09-29	120

In table 6, the sequence of the antardasas is calculated by comparing the strengths of the signs housing the respective planets. We consider the planets in kendras to Venus and they are Saturn (conjoined Venus) and Jupiter & Mercury (4th). Although Cancer and Libra have equal number of planets, Libra contains Jupiter & Mercury and thus is stronger. Within the sign, Jupiter has a higher longitude than Mercury and thus Jupiter

shall furnish the first antardasa followed by Mercury and finally Saturn. Next, there are no planets in panapharas to Venus and so the planets left are Moon, Sun and Mars. Since Moon is aspected by Jupiter, it furnishes the next antardasa followed by that of Mars (placed in friendly house and also the atmakaraka) and Sun (conjoined Rahu, its sworn enemy). In this manner, the antardasa order is determined.

Table 4: Weightage & Multiplier for Venus Naisargika dasa

Planet	Position from Ve	Weightage
Sun	3	1.000
Moon	12	1.000
Mars	6	1.000
Mercury	4	0.250
Jupiter	4	0.250
Venus	Dasa	0.000
Saturn	1	0.500
Total	=	4.000
weightage		
Dasa Period	=	20 years
Multiplier	=	5 years

Table 5: Antardasa periods in Venus Naisargika Dasa (based on a year of 12 months and 30 days in a month)

Planet	Antardasa	Y	M	D
Sun	5	5	0	0
Moon	5	5	0	0
Mars	5	5	0	0
Mercury	1.25	1	3	0
Jupiter	1.25	1	3	0
Venus	0	0	0	0
Saturn	2.5	2	6	0

Table 6: Antardasa order in Venus Naisargika Dasa

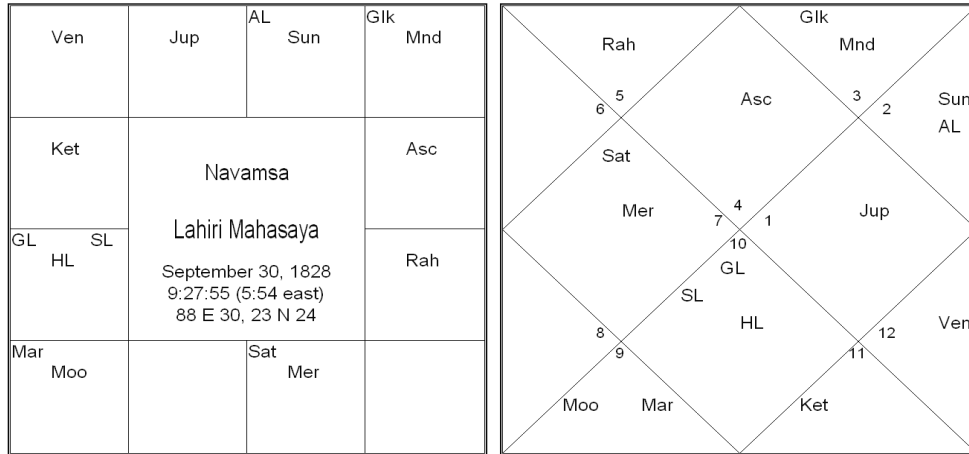
Antara	Period	From	To	Age
Jupiter	1-3-0	1840-09-30	1841-12-30	13
Mercury	1-3-0	1841-12-30	1843-03-30	14
Saturn	2-6-0	1843-03-30	1845-09-30	17
Moon	5-0-0	1845-09-30	1850-09-30	22
Mars	5-0-0	1850-09-30	1855-09-30	27
Sun	5-0-0	1855-09-30	1860-09-30	32

Finally, Tables 7 & 8 show the antardasa schemes for the naisargika dasas of Jupiter and Sun. The computations for these two dasas are given in appendix 1.

VENUS NAISARGIKA DASA

Before delving into the Venus naisargika dasa, let us examine a few details about his childhood. Lahiri Mahasaya, formally named as Shyama Charan Lahiri, was born to the 2nd wife of his father. The 7th lord from both the 9th lord (Moon) in rasi and the naisargika karaka for father, Sun is Jupiter and is placed in the 2nd from Sun suggesting remarriage for the father. Mars is the 7th lord from Taurus, which is the 9th from Sun. Mars is placed in the 8th from Taurus which indicates remarriage again. The 4th lord is Rahu (placed in moolatrikona) and the 7th lord from Aq is Sun, conjoined Rahu in the 2nd from Leo (husband). 4th from the naisargika karaka for mother, Moon is Vi, the 7th lord from which is Jupiter, placed in the 2nd from Vi along with Mercury (lord of Vi). Thus, all these indicate that his mother was the second wife of his father.

Yogananda writes that “at the age of 3 or 4, Lahiri was often observed sitting under the sands in a certain yogic posture, his body completely hidden except for his face”. Now from table 3, age 3 is ruled by Mars, who is the atmakaraka and sits in the 2nd house of face while age 4 onwards is ruled by Mercury who is in the 12th house of meditation. The fact that Lahiri is a spiritually realized soul is brought out by the observation that the istadevata or lord of 12th from the karakamsa is none other than the atmakaraka himself and conjoined the Moon indicating that the blessings of Bhagwan Krishna are with him. Now it is well known that Bhagwan Krishna narrated the Bhagavad Geeta in which the methods for spiritual self-realization or *yoga* are given.



Readers may also note the presence of a strong tapasvi yoga in the rasi chart where Saturn and Venus conjoin in the 9th house of Cancer with Ketu in trines to it and the atmakaraka aspecting it from Sagittarius indicating that the tapasvi yoga is a continuation of the several past lives spent in lonely meditation (confirmed from the account of the first meeting with Babaji in the Himalayas). The placement of the yoga also suggests that

the purpose is to serve as a spiritual leader (9th house) and develop the science of kriya yoga among the followers (5th house).

In 1846, at the age of 16, Lahiri Mahasaya married Srimati Kashi Moni. At that time, the antardasa of Moon in the Venus naisargika dasa was running. Moon is the navamsa lagna lord conjoined the atmakaraka and aspected by exalted naisargika kalatrakaraka, Venus. In rasi chart, Venus is placed in the house of Cancer ruled by Moon who is placed in the 8th (maranakarakasthana, boding ill-health for mother who passed away early in childhood) and aspected by atmakaraka Mars again. Four children (2 sons and 2 daughters) were born of the union between Lahiri Mahasaya and Kashi Moni. AL and UL are in Capricorn along with upagrahas Mandi and Gulika indicating a happy & longlived marriage but with the usual amount of misunderstandings sown by the diabolical upagrahas. In 1851, Lahiri Mahasaya took the job of accountant (Mercury) in the military engineering department (Mars) of the British Government (Sun, Rahu). This took place in the antardasa of Mars, where Mars is the lagna co-lord and 6th lord of service placed in dhanasthana aspected by 9th lord Moon. The karaka for the 2nd house, Jupiter is placed in the 12th indicating that the income shall come from foreign sources and conjoined Mercury while Rahu (foreign) and Sun (government) aspect the 2nd house. Ketu is well placed in moolatrikona and 5th house indicating that there shall be complete efficiency in the job as well as promotions (aspect of Sun here again). The 10th house has 2nd house argala from Venus in the 9th house. It may also be noted that Venus is the dispositor of the 2nd house karaka which completes the picture.

Although dates are not given, it may be fair to assume that the death of Lahiri's father took place in Venus-Sun antardasa. It is mentioned that the event happened a few years after the job. Venus is the 2nd lord from Sun and is also the enemy of Sun. As mentioned before, Sun is weakened due to the conjunction with Rahu.

JUPITER NAISARGIKA DASA

Table 7 below shows the antardasas in the dasa of Jupiter. This was a monumental turning point in the life of Lahiri Mahasaya as it was with the advent of this dasa that Lahiri Mahasaya had the first of many meetings with the great Babaji. This happened at the age of 33 in 1861 and the dasa running at that time was Jupiter-Mercury. This is only natural as Jupiter is the devaguru ever willing to teach the intelligent student (Mercury). More to the point, both Jupiter and Mercury are placed in the 12th house of meditation promising a major turning point in his life.

Table 7: Antardasas in Jupiter Naisargika Dasa

Antara	Period	From	To	Age
Mercury	1-10-10	1860-09-30	1862-08-10	33
Venus	3-8-21	1862-08-10	1866-05-01	35
Saturn	3-8-21	1866-05-01	1870-01-22	37
Moon	1-2-26	1870-01-22	1871-04-18	38
Mars	3-8-21	1871-04-18	1875-01-09	44

Sun	3-8-21	1875-01-09	1878-09-30	50
-----	--------	------------	------------	----

The seventh from Libra shall show the meeting place of the master and the student and that is Aries which covers the area of the foot of hills which in this case was the magnificent Himalayas near Ranikhet or more specifically, a cave on Dronagiri Mountain. This shows the superb use of the naisargika dasa in accurately pinpointing the monumental change in Lahiri Mahasaya's life.

In a space of two weeks from that soul-lifting meeting, Lahiri Mahasaya was a transformed man and effortlessly entered into the unbroken state of nirbikalpa Samadhi with the grace of his guru. After this, Babaji told him that his duty was to inculcate spiritual solace through yogi in the hearts of countless grihasthas who despaired for spiritual guidance. Then Lahiri Mahasaya returned back to Banaras in the same year to start his efforts in propagating the lost art of kriya yoga.

SUN NAISARGIKA DASA

In 1886, at the age of 58, Lahiri Mahasaya retired from service. At that time, Sun-Jupiter was running. Sun is placed in the 11th house, aspecting the 8th house of retirement while Jupiter from the 12th house also aspects the same house. Being weak due to the conjunction with Rahu, Sun dasa had to show the end of service.

Table 8: Antardasas in Sun Naisargika Dasa

Antara	Period	From	To	Age
Moon	3-9-21	1878-09-30	1882-07-21	53
Mars	0-11-15	1882-07-21	1883-07-06	54
Jupiter	3-9-21	1883-07-06	1887-04-27	58
Mercury	3-9-21	1887-04-27	1891-02-18	62
Venus	3-9-21	1891-02-18	1894-12-09	66
Saturn	3-9-21	1894-12-09	1898-09-30	70

It is well nigh impossible to time the longevity matters for spiritually realized souls like Lahiri Mahasaya as their departure from the Bhuloka plane is decided not by the planets administering the karmas due on Bhuloka but by Lord Narayana unto who most of the supersouls plunge into eternal union with him. Nevertheless in early 1894, Lahiri Mahasaya received an intimation of his passing from the peerless Babaji who sent a cryptic message through his student, also an illustrious Yogi called Swami Yukteswar. The antardasa was that of Venus, which is the 7th (maraka) and 12th lord also involved in the tapasvi yoga, thus marking the end of the activity for which the tapasvi yoga was destined.

It may be noted that Rahu, Sun and Moon all aspect the 2nd house (stronger of the maraka houses) containing the lagna lord and atmakaraka Mars. Since Sun is the weakest of all the three (Mars being the atmakaraka shall not kill the native), Sun naisargika dasa has the potential to bring death. Saturn in Cancer, conjoins the maraka 7th lord Venus, aspects

Rahu and Sun. Venus furthermore is the dispositor of the maraka 2nd lord Jupiter who is also the rudra as well. Thus it is clear that Saturn is suited to do what he normally does and the end came in the summer of 1895 when Sun-Saturn antardasa was running. The third from AL shows the manner of death and Ketu in it shows a death due to a mistake committed by lancing a severe boil (Mars aspecting 3rd from AL; Ketu also shows wounds or diseases of skin). The time of passing is not recorded but the date is given as 26 September 1895 when the tithi at that time was Sukla Navami ruled by Sun.

CONCLUSIONS

Readers may appreciate how the various events in a persons life can be accurately tracked using Naisargika Dasa. Even if very little data is available concerning the biography of the person, the years marking the various events can be tracked very easily using Naisargika Dasa. Readers will also appreciate that a knowledge of the various naisargika karakas are of utmost importance in understanding the application of naisargika dasa. A knowledge of this dasa scheme can be very useful in delineating the basic indications of a chart and to check whether birth time rectification is required or not.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank his Jyotish Guru Parthasarathy, Sarajit Poddar and Paramaguru Sanjay Rath for encouraging him in his Jyotish studies.

REFERENCES

- Satyananda, S. (1941), Sri Sri Shyama Charan Lahiri *in Bengali*, publisher unknown.
- Rath, S. (2000), Narayana Dasa, pp.35-37, Sagar publications, New Delhi, India.
- Rath, S. (2003), Naisargika Dasa, 10th International Symposium on Vedic Astrology, Sedona, Arizona, USA.
- Rath, S. (2004), Atmakaraka, SJC Nagpur Conference, Nagpur, India.
- Yogananda, P. (1946), Autobiography of a Yogi, Jaico Publishing House, Bombay, India.

APPENDIX 1: Computation of antardasas in Jupiter and Su naisargika dasas.

Table A1: Weightage & Multiplier for Jupiter Naisargika dasa

Planet	Position from Ve	Weightage
Sun	12	1.000
Moon	9	0.333
Mars	3	1.000
Mercury	1	0.500
Jupiter	Dasa	0.000
Venus	10	1.000
Saturn	10	1.000
Total	=	4.833
weightage		
Dasa Period	=	18 years
Multiplier	=	3.724 years

Table A2: Antardasa periods in Jupiter Naisargika Dasa (based on a year of 12 months and 30 days in a month)

Planet	Antardasa	Y	M	D
Sun	3.724	3	8	21
Moon	1.241	1	2	26
Mars	3.724	3	8	21
Mercury	1.862	1	10	10
Jupiter	0	0	0	0
Venus	3.724	3	8	21
Saturn	3.724	3	8	21

Table A3: Weightage & Multiplier for Sun Naisargika dasa

Planet	Position from Ve	Weightage
Sun	Dasa	0.000
Moon	10	1.000
Mars	4	0.250
Mercury	2	1.000
Jupiter	2	1.000
Venus	11	1.000
Saturn	10	1.000
Total	=	5.250
weightage		
Dasa Period	=	20 years
Multiplier	=	3.8095

Table A4: Antardasa periods in Sun Naisargika Dasa (based on a year of 12 months and 30 days in a month)

Planet	Antardasa	Y	M	D
Sun	0	0	0	0
Moon	3.8095	3	9	21
Mars	0.9523	0	11	15
Mercury	3.8095	3	9	21
Jupiter	3.8095	3	9	21
Venus	3.8095	3	9	21
Saturn	3.8095	3	9	21