



# SYSTEMS APPROACH

## TO VEDIC ASTROLOGY

*By John Fyfe*

Photograph Steven Ramon

**In 1993, I began my journey into the world of Vedic Astrology. This brought me to India to study with Professor Choudhry who was teaching the Systems Approach to Vedic astrology. Professor Choudhry had taught traditional Vedic astrology for 20 years, working with K.N. Rao at his institute.**

The Systems Approach changed some basic philosophies in traditional Vedic astrology. Initially, Mr. Choudhry received a great deal of criticism for making these changes, but after several years the professor's system was becoming known to help students cut to the chase when defining a person's chart.

I had almost five years of self-study before I landed on the professor's doorstep to become his pupil.

For many months the professor and I met at one of New Delhi's popular hotels where we would sip chai and munch on an assortment of Indian delicacies while we perused and analysed chart upon chart. I spent six hours a day with the professor and then studied an additional 4 to 6 hours in the evening on the rooftop of my guesthouse. I came to see in a short time that I was able to pinpoint the strengths and weakness of planets within minutes. I was thrilled to finally become confident with my analysis of a chart after years of deliberating; going back and forth with my conclusions. The next step for me was how to put that into layman's language for my clients to understand.

"Experience," Mr. Choudhry said to me. "Practice and experience and then you will become a true *Jyotishi* (Vedic astrologer). Professor Choudhry was indeed a pioneer of the Systems Approach and I will be eternally grateful to him. He died in August of 2017 at the age of 62.

### Most Effective Point

The Systems Approach uses a technique that we call the Most Effective Point (MEP), which stipulates that any planet within 5 degrees of the ascendant degree, in any sign, will become more powerful, for better or worse. For example, an ascendant at 15 degrees that has Jupiter at 14 degrees will enhance Jupiter's strength by 80%. If Jupiter were at 13 degrees, then the effect would be at 60%, at 12 degrees the impact would be 40%, and so forth.

The same is to be considered when a planet is past the 15-degree point of the ascendant, meaning that a planet at 16 degrees would also have an 80% impact and when at 17 degrees, the effect would be at 60%.

If Jupiter is a benefic planet (Jupiter is a malefic for Capricorn, Cancer and Taurus ascendants), then much will become enhanced for that person, especially when in a Jupiter *Dasha* (planetary period). More doors will open for these people when this planet is close to the MEP.

The MEP theory applies to all planets that are within five degrees of the ascendant degree. Therefore Saturn, Mars, Rahu and Ketu (the north and south node) will often bring constant challenges to a person when they are within the MEP. Their malefic effect would damage houses they occupy as well as houses they aspect.

They would afflict any planets that they conjoin or aspect, and this affliction would vary according to how many degrees they are within. Any malefic planet within 1 degree of the MEP will be severe.

Charts having the Sun at the MEP in the 10th house, (the house signifying a person's purpose and fame), have been shown for those in the limelight or, at the very least, are recognized by their peers and friends to some degree. Many people who become public figures have this configuration.

However, don't get into a bother if you don't have benefic planets at the MEP in your chart, for you will experience these occurrences from the planets in transit.

### ***MEP applies to all planets within five degrees of the ascendant degree***

Every month you will have the Sun passing through the MEP in your chart lasting for ten days; with the Moon, this occurrence will take place ten hours every two and half days. Therefore, it is important to know your chart and be able to make the best of things when these power points occur with your planets!

People born with a benefic planet at the MEP will have this positive energy as a constant in their lives, but other factors could neutralize or even derail this strong placement, such as a malefic Saturn on their MEP.

All planets will have a profound effect when they reach the MEP, and they will affect the houses they aspect as well. Venus, Mercury, Moon and the Sun only have a 7th house aspect which is the opposition house from where they are situated. However, Mars, aspects the 4th, 7th and 8th houses from where it's placed, Saturn aspects the 3rd, 7th and 10th, while Jupiter, Rahu and Ketu aspect houses 5, 7 and 9. All planets have a profound effect when they are at the MEP.

The systems approach also looks at the *Mooltrikona* (the natural home for planets) which determines when benefic planets become malefic. Planets, except for the Moon and the Sun, govern two signs and therefore the *Mooltrikona* is the primary sign for each planet. For example, Jupiter rules Sagittarius and Pisces, with Sagittarius being the main sign for Jupiter, becoming its *Mooltrikona* sign.

Saturn rules Capricorn and Aquarius, with Aquarius becoming the *Mooltrikona* sign for Saturn. With Venus, the *Mooltrikona* sign is Libra; for Mercury, its Virgo; for Mars its Aries, and for the Sun and Moon, it is Leo and Cancer.

When any of these *Mooltrikona* signs are in the 6th, 8th or 12th house, the planet which rules this *Mooltrikona* sign becomes a malefic and they will afflict planets, as well as houses that they aspect when they are within five degrees of the MEP. The same applies to benefic planets who are also within 5 degrees, enhancing planets, and houses, they aspect. Therefore, Venus, Moon, Jupiter and Mercury, generally known as benefic planets, can bring great difficulties when they are categorized as a malefic.

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**John Fyfe** is the recipient of the prestigious *Jyotish Kavi* award, given for one's excellent service to Vedic Astrology. John is originally from Montreal, Canada and has travelled extensively in the U.K. and Europe. He presently spends much of his time in Toronto, Canada and Colorado, U.S.A. He writes weekly astrology blogs on Facebook. In 2019, he will be introducing his book, *An introduction to Vedic Astrology with the Systems Approach*. His website is [www.therealjohnrfyfe.com](http://www.therealjohnrfyfe.com)

