

Jyotish: The Science of Time

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From: Shyamasundara (Dasa) ACBSP (Astrologer)

Date: 07-Aug-94

Subject: Kala-sakti

(Camp Sudbury, Ontario, Canada)

Hare Krsna Prabhus,

In the following series of articles we investigate the role of the time factor in astrology. This is an excerpt from a writing project I am working on. As usual I have put the foot notes between * *.

YS Shyamasundara Dasa

JYOTISH: THE SCIENCE OF TIME

In the ultimate issue jyotish is not, as some people misunderstand, the science of karma, but rather it is the science of time (kala). The horoscope is called the kala cakra, the wheel of time. The Man in the Zodiac*1* is called the kala purusa - the time man (personification of time). We have also seen that the horoscope itself is one big clock with ten hands rather than three. Therefore it would behoove us to investigate the nature of time since it is so intimately connected with astrology. In this section we shall examine time from various angles with special emphasis on the opinion of the revealed scriptures.

Mysterious Energy

In BG 11.32 Krsna has stated that He is time and that time is all-destructive, and “among subduers I am time” (BG 10.30). That time is Krsna by virtue of being one of His multifarious energies explains, to a great extent, the truly mysterious nature and effects of time. Our perception of time can be dependent on our age, which in itself is caused by time. For example it is a common

adage that time flies faster the older you get. That somehow a year shrinks with every passing new year. This perception of shrinking time is prevalent in all cultures. How is it possible for time to shrink or at least to appear to do so?

Shrinking Time

For a possible explanation let us consider the following experience that I had as a child growing up in Northern Canada, where the seasonal changes are dramatic. As a boy of four years I recall being amazed when winter came and snow appeared again (as it had done one year previously since time immemorial). It seemed to me that I could remember this white stuff falling out of the sky and piling up all over the place. It had happened, I thought, a long time ago and here it was happening again. As I grew I found that it did indeed occur on a regular basis, a yearly basis, but like everyone I noticed that as I grew older the time interval seemed to mysteriously grow shorter even though there were still 365.25 days in the year, none added or subtracted. It occurred to me that the only explanation for this shrinking time was my own previous experience of time. To a child of four years, one year would represent 25% of my total previous experience of time to that date. But now that I am 40 years old, one year represents only 2.5% of my previous total experience of time. This is a dramatic decrease by a factor of 10. By the time I am 80, one year will only represent 1.25% of my previous experience. Thus the longer a person lives the smaller a year becomes in relation to their total previous experience of time in this life.

Time Dilation

It has been observed by investigators that the perception of time can be influenced, either shortened or lengthen, because of the effects of certain types of drugs. This is especially true with psychomimetic drugs such as LSD, Mescaline, and others in this category. The users of these drugs often report that they felt that time seemed to stand still. That a moment seemed like eons. This subjective effect of the drug could cause trauma to a user if they were illegally using it in a surreptitious way and were trying to cover their activities by acting 'normal'. One user reported to me that he once became quite anxious because of this time dilation effect. He had gone to the latrine to answer the call of nature, but to him it had felt as if a greatly inordinate length of time had been spent using the facilities (he said it felt like years) and thus he became afraid that his friends and family would consider that he was lost and send the police in search of him (the last people he would want to meet under such conditions would be the constabulary).

To experience radical time dilation and contraction one need not be a drug user. You need only to lay down and sleep. It is common experience that in deep sleep (susupti) a long span of time, say 45 minutes, is perceived as lasting only one or two moments. The opposite is true of svapna, the dreaming state. A man may lay down and take a nap and have a dream in which it seems as if many whole lifetimes have gone by, but on waking he finds that less than five minutes have passed.

It is unclear as to whether these time distortions related to drugs and sleep states are the effects of the drugs and sleep states on our perception of time. Or whether these are qualities of time which these other states of perception allow us to capture.

Then there is the phenomena of time being relative to the species of life that is experiencing it. For example a solar year of 365 days is experienced differently by a dog, human or demigod. It is commonly understood that one dog year is equivalent to seven human years. Whereas one human year is equivalent to only one day of the demigods. Thus our existence in relation to the demigods would be comparable to that of microbes in relationship to us. Several generations of microbes will have come and gone in the course of one day for us.

Then there are the higher demigods such as Lord Brahma and his associates. Lord Brahma has a lifetime of 100 years by his calculation which translate, according to Surya-siddhanta and other texts, to be 311,040,000,000,000 human years. Thus one second for Lord Brahma is equal to 100,000 years for us. According to astronomical texts such as Surya-siddhanta and the Puranas, in cosmic time it is presently the day after the 50th birthday of Lord Brahma. And it is about 11:40 AM for him on his planet. He will be having lunch in about 20 of his minutes, which would take 120,000,000 years of our time. Definitely mind boggling! There are several instances in the Puranas where it is recounted that a person would be transported from the human worlds to that of a deva such as Brahma. And even though they were only gone for what appeared to be a short length of time by their experience, when they returned millions of years had come and gone.

The Experience of King Kakudmi

The following example from the Bhagavata Purana, illustrates time dilation on Brahmaloaka, the planet of Lord Brahma, the demiurge of this universe. This historical incident begins with the mention of a submarine kingdom called Kusasthali*2*. The residents of this kingdom were descendants of the solar dynasty. And though they are considered human, they were endowed with mystic powers, not found in ordinary humans today. The King of Kusasthali, Kakudmi,

was able to travel to the world of Brahma and experience Brahma's perception of time:

“O Maharaja Pariksit, subduer of enemies, Revata, constructed a kingdom known as Kusasthali in the depths of the ocean. There he lived and ruled such tracts of land as Anarta, etc. He had one hundred very nice sons, of whom the eldest was Kakudmi. Taking his own daughter, Revati, Kakudmi went to Lord Brahma in Brahmaloaka, which is transcendental to the three modes of material nature, and inquired about a husband for her. When Kakudmi arrived there, Lord Brahma was engaged in hearing musical performances by the Gandharvas and had not a moment to talk to him. Therefore Kakudmi waited, and at the end of the musical performances he offered his obeisances to Lord Brahma and thus submitted his long-standing desire. After hearing his words, Lord Brahma, who is most powerful, laughed loudly and said to Kakudmi, ‘O King, all those whom you may have decided within the core of your heart to accept as your son-in-law have passed away in the course of time. Twenty-seven catur-yugas have already passed. Those upon whom you may have already decided are now gone, and so are their sons, grandsons and other descendants. You cannot even hear about their names.’”³

1 Each sign of the zodiac is assigned a portion of the body, as are the nakshatras, planets, and houses. In this way the body is described. We shall go into this concept in much greater detail in subsequent courses.

2 For a discussion of the nature of this kingdom and other lands mentioned in Vedic literature as being possible parallel realities see *Alien Identities* by Richard L. Thompson.

3 SB 9.3.28-32

END OF PART 1, TO BE CONTINUED

From: Shyamasundara (Dasa) ACBSP (Astrologer)
Date: 10-Aug-94
Subject: Kala-sakti

According to Vedic calculations a catur-yuga is equal to 4,320,000 earth years. Thus twenty-seven such cycles would be equal to 116,640,000. From our previous statement that one second of Brahma was equal to 100,000 earth years we find that Kakudmi had only been waiting for 19 minutes and 26 seconds while Lord Brahma finished listening to the musical performance of the Gandharvas. (We shall discuss the Vedic divisions of time in a later section.)

Contemplating these strange effects of time plus the fact that day by day we

get older and eventually will die at the hands of time we begin to appreciate why time has engrossed the minds of philosophers for so long.

God created Time so that everything wouldn't happen at once.*4*

As we shall soon see the calculation of time is ultimately based on the astronomical motion of the Sun, Moon and other planets. Just think, it would be difficult to be even aware of the passage of time if it were not for the successive rising and setting of the sun which demarks the night and day of our experience. The daily solar cycle controls when we rise, go to sleep, eat, work, mate, etc. Studies have been done on subjects who have been isolated from the sun and other atmospheric cycles by being placed deep underground in caves such as the Carlsbad Caverns. These experimental subjects were given no clocks and put on no schedules. There was no routine time of contact. All efforts were made to obliterate any sense of time and cycle caused by the sun or anything else. The subjects contacted the surface with telephones and gave information as to when they would get up, eat, go to sleep, etc. It was found that gradually the persons*5* sleep-wake cycle would dramatically change to a 48 hour cycle rather than a 24 hour cycle. This went on for months with major variations in the wake-sleep cycle. This clearly shows how we are closely governed in our normal experience by the rising and setting of the sun. The sun not only gives us our daily cycle but also our seasonal changes leading to the yearly cycle.

Between the day and the year the cycle of the Moon is prominent. Indeed the etymological origin of the words: mensuration (to measure), menstruation (women's period), and month; are all derived from the Moon. The waxing and waning phases of the Moon give us each a two week period. Which divided in two give us a week of seven days.

Time is the fourth dimension.

Time is the fourth dimension and integral to astrology. The horoscope is calculated for a specific time and place. These are the only two pieces of information necessary to calculate a chart. Thus each instant of time is pregnant with immense amounts of data that reveals the fate of individuals, places and things in the past, present and future. When predictions are made they are done in reference to a certain schedule of events which happen in chronological order. Thus it is no exaggeration to say that jyotish is the science of time.

We have, in this course, greatly stressed the spiritual side - the need for spiritual discipline in order to become a good astrologer. The reason for this will become even more clear when we examine what the sastra says about time and its relationship to Sri Krsna.

From examining sastra we can arrive at three basic conclusions:

- 1) The identity of Krsna with time, or more properly that time is one of Krsna's energies.
- 2) That Krsna, as the time factor causes the material creation.
- 3) Time has very serious effects on the living entities.

We shall give a few example verses and purports by Srila Prabhupada for each. (Some verses illustrate more than one point.)

Kala, time, is special manifestation of Krsna's energy

“The Supreme Personality of Godhead said: Time I am, the great destroyer of the worlds, and I have come here to destroy all people...” BG 11.32

“Vidura inquired from Maitreya: O my lord, O greatly learned sage, kindly describe eternal time, which is another form of the Supreme Lord, the wonderful actor. What are the symptoms of that eternal time? Please describe them to us in detail.” SB 3.10.10

“By exhibiting His potencies, the Supreme Personality of Godhead adjusts all these different elements, keeping Himself within as the Supersoul and without as time.” SB 3.26.18

“Please also describe eternal time, which is a representation of Your form and by whose influence people in general engage in the performance of pious activities.” SB 3.29.4

“Lord Visnu, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is the enjoyer of all sacrifices, is the time factor and the master of all masters. He enters everyone's heart, He is the support of everyone, and He causes every being to be annihilated by another.” SB 3.29.38

Kala, the time factor, causes material creation

“Maitreya said: Eternal time is the primeval source of the interactions of the three modes of material nature. It is unchangeable and limitless, and it works as the instrument of the Supreme Personality of Godhead for His pastimes in the material creation.” SB 3.10.11

PURPORT

The impersonal time factor is the background of the material manifestation as the instrument of the Supreme Lord. It is the ingredient of assistance offered to material nature. No one knows where time began and where it ends, and it is time only which can keep a record of the creation, maintenance and destruction of the material manifestation. This time factor is the material cause of creation and is therefore a self expansion of the Personality of Godhead. Time is considered the impersonal feature of the Lord. ...Metaphysically, time is distinguished as absolute and real. Absolute time is continuous and is unaffected by the speed or slowness of material things. Time is astronomically and mathematically calculated in relation to the speed, change and life of a particular object. Factually, however, time has nothing to do with the relativities of things; rather, everything is shaped and calculated in terms of the facility offered by time. Time is the basic measurement of the activity of our senses, by which we calculate past, present and future; but in factual calculation, time has no beginning and no end. Canakya Pandita says that even a slight fraction of time cannot be purchased with millions of dollars, and therefore even a moment of time lost without profit must be calculated as the greatest loss in life. Time is not subject to any form of psychology, nor are the moments objective realities in themselves, but they are dependent on particular experiences. Therefore, Srila Jiva Gosvami concludes that the time factor is intermixed with the activities - actions and reactions - of the external energy of the Lord. The external energy, or material nature, works under the superintendence of the time factor as the Lord Himself, and that is why material nature appears to have produced so many wonderful things in the cosmic manifestation. Bhagavad-gita (9.10) confirms this conclusion as follows: 'This material nature, which is one of My energies, is working under My direction, O son of Kunti, producing all moving and nonmoving beings. Under its rule this manifestation is created and annihilated again and again.'

4 Graffiti, men's room, U of Waterloo.

5 In that particular case.

END OF PART 2, TO BE CONTINUED

Text 27451

From: Shyamasundara (Dasa) ACBSP (Astrologer)

Date: 19-Aug-94

Subject: kala-sakti continued

"The eternal time factor has no beginning and no end. It is the representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the maker of the criminal world. It

brings about the end of the phenomenal world, it carries on the work of creation by bringing one individual into existence from another, and likewise it dissolves the universe by destroying even the lord of death, Yamaraja.” SB 3.29.45

PURPORT

By the influence of eternal time, which is a representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the father begets a son, and the father dies by the influence of cruel death. But by time’s influence, even the lord of cruel death is killed. In other words, all the demigods within the material world are temporary, like ourselves. Our lives last for one hundred years at the most, and similarly, although their lives may last for millions and billions of years, the demigods are not eternal. No one can live within this material world eternally. The phenomenal world is created, maintained and destroyed by the finger signal of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Therefore a devotee does not desire anything in this material world. A devotee desires only to serve the Supreme Personality of Godhead. This servitude exists eternally; the Lord exists eternally, His servitor exists eternally, and the service exists eternally.

“Whatever is produced by the materialist with great pain and labor for so-called happiness, the Supreme Personality, as the time factor, destroys, and for this reason the conditioned soul laments.” SB 3.30.2

PURPORT

The main function of the time factor, which is a representative of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, is to destroy everything. The materialists, in material consciousness, are engaged in producing so many things in the name of economic development. They think that by advancing in satisfying the material needs of man they will be happy, but they forget that everything they have produced will be destroyed in due course of time. From history we can see that there were many powerful empires on the surface of the globe that were constructed with great pain and great perseverance, but in due course of time they have all been destroyed. Still the foolish materialists cannot understand that they are simply wasting time in producing material necessities, which are destined to be vanquished in due course of time. This waste of energy is due to the ignorance of the mass of people, who do not know that they are eternal and that they have an eternal engagement also. They do not know that this span of life in a particular type of body is but a flash in the eternal journey. Not knowing this fact, they take the small flash of life to be everything, and they waste time in improving economic conditions.

Astrological implications

The verses of the Srimad Bhagavatam and purports by Srila Prabhupada are very clear and straightforward and don't need much explanation. But we will add our small comments to show the connection with astrology. I shall not re-quote every verse from each category for fear of needlessly increasing the bulk of this presentation but shall include only a few examples.

Krsna is the time factor

Verse 3.10.10-12 confirms that one of Sri Krsna's multifarious energies is eternal time and gives an explanation of how time acts in the creation of the world.

“Vidura inquired from Maitreya: O my lord, O greatly learned sage, kindly describe eternal time, which is another form of the Supreme Lord, the wonderful actor. What are the symptoms of that eternal time? Please describe them to us in detail. (10)

Maitreya said: Eternal time is the primeval source of the interactions of the three modes of material nature. It is unchangeable and limitless, and it works as the instrument of the Supreme Personality of Godhead for His pastimes in the material creation. (11)

This cosmic manifestation is separated from the Supreme Lord as material energy by means of kala, which is the unmanifested, impersonal feature of the Lord. It is situated as the objective manifestation of the Lord under the influence of the same material energy of Visnu. (12)”

Verses 11 and 12 give us a much deeper understanding of the influence of time on the material creation. We see in verse 12 that it is time itself which is the factor that causes the material energy to be 'material' by virtue of separating this energy from the Lord.

From the Lord's perspective it is all one energy, His spiritual energy, but from our perspective His energy appears to differentiate into spiritual and material. Prabhupada gives the example of the electrical engineer who produces huge quantities of electricity at the power house. To the engineer it is all electricity but this same electricity can be used to create heat in an oven or to make ice in the freezer. It depends on how the electricity is used. It can thus be understood from this verse that it is kala, time, one of Krsna's energies, which actually causes the transformation of the spiritual energy into material energy and separates it from Krsna.

“...It is something like the tape-recorded voice of a person who is now separated from the voice. As the tape recording is situated on the tape, so the whole cosmic manifestation is situated on the material energy and appears separate by means of kala...”

It is by virtue of being separated from Krsna that distinguishes the material from the spiritual energy. When the energy is separated from Krsna it becomes Maya. Maya, by definition, means not Krsna. The Maya energy, i.e. the material energy is not Krsna because it is not related to Krsna but separated from Him. The jiva, the living entity, is not material but spiritual and is superior to matter, and is always related to Krsna.

“Earth, water, fire, air, ether, mind, intelligence and false ego - all together these eight constitute My separated material energies.

Besides these, O mighty-armed Arjuna, there is another, superior energy of Mine, which comprises the living entities who are exploiting the resources of this material, inferior nature.” BG 7.4-5

So it is important to note that it is the kala-sakti, energy of time, that is transforming the spiritual energy into the apparent material energy.

Then we also see from verse 11 above, that it is time which “is the primeval source of the interactions of the three modes of material nature.” In a previous section [not published here] we have discussed about the importance of the tri-gunas in astrology and how each of the planets represent some aspect of the gunas in varying shades and combinations. By virtue of the gunas interacting this itself causes the appearance of the passage of time. For, I have often noted that astrology can be viewed as a type of meter that measures the changes in the equilibrium status of the tri-gunas as a function of time. (We could call it a tri-guna-meter.) This verse confirms that it is time itself which causes the gunas to interact. And this verse shows the very direct connection between time, the tri-gunas and astrology.

END OF PART 3, TO BE CONTINUED

Text 28564
From: Shyamasundara (Dasa) ACBSP (Astrologer)
Date: 21-Aug-94
Subject: Kala-sakti

This quality of stirring up the material elements and getting the material

creation going is further explained in SB 3.26.15,17

“All these are considered the qualified Brahman. The mixing element, which is known as time, is counted as the twenty-fifth element.” (15)

“My dear mother, O daughter of Svayambhuva Manu, the time factor, as I have explained, is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, from whom the creation begins as a result of the agitation of the neutral, unmanifested nature.” (17)

It is time, the impersonal aspect of Sri Krsna, which activates the material elements and captures the spiritual spark in a tangle of activities and karma. For we speak of karma as past-karma, present-karma and future-karma. And it is the living entity who is subject to karma and thus to time. This doesn't mean that time and karma are synonymous. As stated in the introduction of the Bhagavad-gita, time and karma are two of the five topics of the Gita, along with God, the individual soul, and material energy. Of these five subjects four are eternal but karma is not eternal. So there is distinction between karma and time. But they do interact.

Worship of Krsna imperative for perfection in Astrology

The next verse, 3.26.18, I find to be very intriguing and suggestive.

“By exhibiting His potencies, the Supreme Personality of Godhead adjusts all these different elements, keeping Himself within as the Supersoul and without as time.”

Since Krsna is both within as Paramatma, Supersoul, and without as time there is a direct connection established between the Supersoul and kala, time. This greatly confirms the traditional belief that true expertise and mastery of astrology, the science of time, can only come through sincere sadhana. By practice of bhakti-yoga the mind becomes controlled, when the mind is controlled the Supersoul is attained.

“For one who has conquered the mind, the Supersoul is already reached, for he has attained tranquility...” BG 6.7

At this stage one can communicate with the Supersoul and since there is a direct relation between the Supersoul and time, then as a result the expert Vaisnava astrologer will know past, present and future and thus be a tri-kala jna (knower of the three times).

This is confirmed in SB 3.11.17:

“O spiritually powerful one, you can understand the movements of eternal time, which is the controlling form of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Because you are a self-realized person, you can see everything by the power of mystic vision.”

In the purport Srila Prabhupada says:

“Those who have reached the highest perfectional stage of mystic power and can see everything in the past, present and future are called tri-kala jnas. Similarly, the devotees of the Lord can see everything clearly, that is in the revealed scriptures. The devotees of Lord Sri Krsna can very easily understand the science of Krsna, as well as the situation of the material and spiritual creations, without difficulty. Devotees do not have to endeavor for any yoga-siddhi, or perfection in mystic powers. >>They are competent to understand everything by the grace of the Lord, who is sitting in everyone’s heart.<<“

It is not that the Vaisnava astrologer has to do some special type of sadhana for understanding the time factor. This would be dangerous because the ultimate goal of life is not to be an astrologer, a tri-kala jna. Rather the real goal of life is to attain pure love of Krsna. Some other type of sadhana may distract the devotee astrologer from his path. We must always remember that we are devotees of Krsna first and foremost and that we render our service to Him through our practice of astrology. It is only natural that one who performs a service, whatever it may be, would want to perform it perfectly. Since our service to Krsna is through the practice of astrology we need not do any extraneous non-Vaisnava activities to achieve such perfection. To achieve perfection as astrologers we must first master our sadhana - rise early, chant, read the scriptures, take Krsna prasad, associate with highly developed souls, etc. as outlined by Srila Prabhupada. We must also diligently study the science of astrology - serve our teacher, read the texts, study the planets, look at many horoscopes, etc.

But we have now received many hints on how to increase the speed of our perfection in this science. We have previously mentioned the relationship between the different avatars and the respective planets; that each planet is a manifestation of a different avatara. And we are now discovering the intimate connection between Sri Krsna and His manifestation as the Supersoul and time. The conclusion is obvious, that if we want to perfect our ability to serve Sri Krsna and His devotees through the science of astrology then we must in all sincerity purify ourselves, and pray to Sri Krsna to empower us in this science. The more we advance in devotion to guru and Sri Krsna then the better will our predictive abilities become.

Specifically there are special meditations that the Vaisnava astrologer can do

to increase his ability to predict. Aside from his daily sadhana the astrologer should pray to his guru to bless him with perfection in the science. Then the astrologer could meditate on the different avatars and their manifestations as planets. The astrologer should also worship his ista-devata, his personal deity, for example Lord Nrsimhadeva, for His blessings. Then the astrologer can meditate on verses such as the above which show the relationship between time and the Supersoul. Recitation of specific verses from the Gita which indicate the jiva's dependence on Krsna for everything including knowledge in astrology. For example BG 9.22, 10.10-11, and 15.15; these verses will help us to realize that we are actually small and insignificant. Whatever knowledge we think that we have is a joke. We must pray to simply become an instrument in the hands of God and to request Krsna to please reveal to us the understanding of astrology, and to place on our tongues the words that the seeker needs to hear. If the student is a brahmana he could follow the example of the astrologer that Lord Caitanya met. This astrologer, after doing his calculation, would meditate on the Gopala mantra then only would he predict. Because he had perfected this mantra he had become a tri-kala jna.

Worship of other devatas condemned

One thing that is certain is that no astrologer should worship different demigods for attainment of perfection in Astrology. In India it is sometimes seen that astrologers of different grades worship demigods such as Ganesa, Siva, Durga, Kali, Bhagavati, or Kartikkeya to get astrological proficiency. Some even worship ksudra-devatas, low grade spirits, as we described in the section on Nadis. Some powers may be given, but it becomes tainted, and it is ultimately all useless and sometimes even dangerous for both the astrologer and the seeker. It is dangerous because the ksudra-devatas have been known to extract a price for their patronage. And since these devas are not on the same level as the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krsna, their command over time is imperfect. And it is ultimately useless to worship such beings because astrology is ultimately meant to guide the astrologer and seeker back to Godhead. But if the astrologer himself is not devoted to God, and thus deluded, how can he lead someone else back to Godhead? There is plenty of evidence in the authorized scriptures that such demigod worship has been condemned. Here are few verses from Bhagavad-gita As It Is. (Please consult the purports for further details.)

END OF PART 4, TO BE CONTINUED

Text 30243

From: Shyamasundara (Dasa) ACBSP (Astrologer)

Date: 25-Aug-94

Subject: Kala-sakti

“Those whose intelligence has been stolen by material desires surrender unto demigods and follow the particular rules and regulations of worship according to their own natures.

I am in everyone’s heart as the Supersoul. As soon as one desires to worship some demigod, I make his faith steady so that he can devote himself to that particular deity.

Endowed with such a faith, he endeavors to worship a particular demigod and obtains his desires. But in actuality these benefits are bestowed by Me alone.

Men of small intelligence worship the demigods, and their fruits are limited and temporary. Those who worship the demigods go to the planets of the demigods, but My devotees ultimately reach My supreme planet.” BG 7.20-23

“Those in full consciousness of Me, who know Me, the Supreme Lord, to be the governing principle of the material manifestation, of the demigods, and of all methods of sacrifice, can understand and know Me, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, even at the time of death.” BG 7.30

“Those who are devotees of other gods and who worship them with faith actually worship only Me, O son of Kunti, but they do so in a wrong way.

I am the only enjoyer and master of all sacrifices. Therefore, those who do not recognize My true transcendental nature fall down.

Those who worship the demigods will take birth among the demigods; those who worship the ancestors go to the ancestors; those who worship ghosts and spirits will take birth among such beings; and those who worship Me will live with Me.” BG 9.23-25

“Neither the hosts of demigods nor the great sages know My origin or opulences, for, in every respect, I am the source of the demigods and sages.” BG 10.2

It is stated in authentic sastra that the great astrologers of yore obtained their perfection by the grace of Sri Krsna or His devotees. For example it is described in Visnu Purana that Gargamuni achieved perfection in jyotisa by his pure worship of Ananta Sesa, a plenary expansion of the Godhead. It should be noted that while the worship of demigods is condemned and that such

worshippers are characterized as unintelligent this does not mean that the demigods are to be dishonored or offended. They are the servants of Sri Krsna and act in the capacity of universal administrators. They should be accorded all politeness and respect, and can be worshiped by giving them the remnants of Lord Visnu in the form of His prasada. But we should always keep the Supreme Personality of Godhead at the forefront and stay focused on Him. Why go to some lower source for our guidance? We should always go to the top.

The influence of time and the seeker

The following verses give a strong indication of why people seek out an astrologer in the first place:

“The influence of the Supreme Personality of Godhead is felt in the time factor, which causes fear of death due to the false ego of the deluded soul who has contacted material nature.” SB 3.26.16

“Whatever is produced by the materialist with great pain and labor for so-called happiness, the Supreme Personality, as the time factor, destroys, and for this reason the conditioned soul laments.” SB 3.30.2

If it were not for the fear, uncertainty, and the pain of existence in this material world associated with the time factor who would consult an astrologer? These verses also indicate that the astrologer has a higher duty than simply informing the seeker about upcoming twists of fate in the course of time. The astrologer must understand that every soul who comes to consult him is ultimately inspired to do so by Sri Krsna as the Supersoul within the heart of the seeker. Since this soul has been sent to the astrologer by Sri Krsna it is the duty of the astrologer to somehow or other give the seeker ultimate relief from his fear of kala-sakti, the time factor.

“The time factor, who causes the transformation of the various material manifestations, is another feature of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Anyone who does not know that time is the same Supreme Personality is afraid of the time factor.” SB 3.29.37

It is incumbent on every conscientious astrologer to guide his clients on to the spiritual path so that they will understand that they are servants of God, and begin to engage in such service, ultimately achieve pure love of God. By engaging in service their spiritual understanding will develop and they will gradually understand how Sri Krsna is controlling their life in various ways as the time factor. With gradual development of spiritual knowledge fear of the time factor will also diminish.

The degree to which the client can be guided is to be gauged by the intelligent astrologer from a study of the client's chart, the astrologer's experience as a preacher, the purity of the astrologer, and how the astrologer and seeker interact. At the very least, the astrologer should give, as part of the reading a small book, such as Isopanisad, to the client. If the astrologer has no compassion in his heart for the suffering of the conditioned souls he should not be an astrologer.