

Health and Disease of the Heart

Kalapurusha and the Curious Role of the Third House

Tamiko Fischer

In the Kalapurusha, or the cosmic personification of time as depicted by the signs and houses of the Zodiac as they correspond to the human body, the heart is a part of the body whose house and sign significations are subject to some difference of opinion, and so the factors for vulnerability to heart attack or heart disease are also open to some debate.

In his very systematic and exceptionally clear book *Essentials of Medical Astrology*, Dr. K S Charak makes mention of this debate:

“...As can be seen, there is some difference of opinions in these main divisions. The most glaring difference is that according to the celebrated Varahamihira the heart falls in the 4th house of Kalapurusha, i.e., Karka, while according to the author of the Vamana Purana it falls in the 5th house of the Kalapurusha, i.e., Simha. Varahamihira’s distribution is simple in that the first four signs of the zodiac extend from the head to the diaphragm of the Kalapurusha, the next four signs from the diaphragm to the perineum (i.e., representing abdomen, pelvis and private part) while the last four signs represent the lower limbs from the level of the hip joints. However, in our present understanding of the ailments of the heart, when we consider the individual houses (as different from signs) in a horoscope, we will be inclined to consider the 5th house for heart ailments.”¹

Tamiko Fischer is an American who began her study of Jyotish in 1998. Since 1997 she has spent half of the time in Kerala, India, at M.A. Math, the ashram of Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, where she practices Jyotish. She can be reached at: tamiko9@hotmail.com.

In the chapter on heart disease that follows later in this book, Dr. Charak presents the following points that must be examined in order to determine cardiac illness:

1. *Affliction to the Sun*: This is by far the most important factor in causing cardiac illness. The Sun may suffer affliction as given below:
 - (a) Association or aspect of Mars, Saturn and RKA
 - (b) Debilitation
 - (c) Paapakartari, i.e., being surrounded on either side by malefics
 - (d) Relationship with the 6th, the 8th, or the 12th houses or lords
2. *Affliction of Simha*: By malefic association or aspect.
3. *Affliction to the fifth house*: By association or aspect of natural malefics or the lords of Trika houses. Here it is important to consider the fifth house:
 - (a) from the lagna;
 - (b) from the Sun;
 - (c) from the MD and AD lords
4. *Affliction to the fifth lord*: Affliction by natural malefics, by lords of the Trika houses or by retrograde planets.
5. *The fourth house*: Affliction to the fourth house from the lagna or the Sun indicates chest complications or surgical treatment of heart disease. Predominance of benefic influence here, as on the Sun and the 5th house/5th lord, indicates conservative treatment and recovery.
6. *The dasha scheme*: In the presence of sufficient affliction, the dasha of

the planets associating with the Sun, the fifth house, the fifth lord, etc., lead to cardiac illness. The AD of a retrograde planet in the fifth house, in the MD of a malefic planet, is of particular importance.”²

While honoring the above-mentioned factors as primary (especially considering that Dr. Charak is both an astrologer and a surgeon!), in this article I would like to humbly propose the importance of yet another factor to be examined when assessing the health or disease of the heart: here I would like to study the very striking role of the 3rd house and 3rd lord, as specifically seen in the case of heart disease and heart attack.

In *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra*, the Kalapurusha is described in the following way:

“...The 12 signs beginning from Aries are respectively the head, face, arms, heart, stomach, hip, space below navel, the private parts, thighs, knees, ankles and feet of the Kalapurusha”.³

Here it is helpful to reflect more on the role of two different houses, signs and even planets representing attributes of the heart before specifically focusing on the role of the 3rd house. The Sun, the sign of Simha (Leo), and the 5th house rule the heart as a specific physical organ of circulation and vitality, while the Moon, the sign of Karka (Cancer) and the 4th house correspond to the general physical area of the chest where the heart is located, the blood (and blood-related disease), as well as to the receptive and feeling qualities associated with the heart chakra as a seat of consciousness. With both luminaries single-handedly ruling attributes of the heart- and as an organ simultaneously signified by both an active and a receptive planet- the heart is given special status in Jyotish as a seat of equal physical and emotional power and expression. These dual significations of the Sun and the Moon suggest that the Rishis saw the heart (and its health) as an interrelation of physical and emotional

factors more directly than with any other internal organ.

Regarding the 3rd house and its specific relationship to the health of the heart:

1. On the most fundamental level, the 3rd house is 12 houses away from the 4th, which inherently makes this house one of negation or obstruction to the 4th. Planets in the 3rd house during their dashas and sub-periods create an unsettling influence to 4th house meanings.

2. The 3rd house governs willful and forceful energy (which perhaps can include ailments characterized by suddenness, such as attacks or seizures), where the natural karaka for this house is Mars. As an Upachaya house, it is a house of goals and effort. In the *Phaladeepika*, the attributes of the native who has a prominent 3rd house is described as follows:

“When the lord of the 3rd house and that of the Ascendant are connected, by their mutual exchange of places and are strong, the native shall be brave, valorous, friendly to his brothers and capable of performing daring acts.”⁴

3. When the 3rd house is very prominent the native is energetic, yet the vulnerability of this attribute is over-exertion or a strong sense of personal doer-ship, where mental repose and physical rest go unvalued.

At its worst, the 3rd house can also be a house of grasping, impulsiveness and risk-taking. From my own observations, as the least refined of the Kama Sthanas, or houses of enjoyment, this house is very often prominent in the charts of people in the grip of compulsive behaviors such as various substance abuse tendencies, sexual compulsiveness, gambling, reckless spending, reckless driving, etc.

In considering Mercury as another natural karaka of the 3rd house since this planet rules the 3rd sign of Gemini in the natural zodiac: Mercury governs the natural skill and dexterity associated with the 3rd house, as this house governs communications,

systematic or technical writing, as well as the hands and arms. As a karaka that represents the intellect, Mercury’s nature can act in conflict with the centered heart. Periods of Mercury-Moon or Moon-Mercury running in combination in the dasha sequence of the natal chart are often characterized by the native wavering between the feeling intelligence of the emotional heart and the rational skill of the mind, where these periods can be mentally unsettling and confusing, sometimes even when both of these planets are strong and well placed.

According to some schools of thought, such as in Brihat Jataka, the 3rd house governs some portion of the highest area of the upper chest.⁵ Considering this view, malefic influence to this house begins to affect the region approaching the heart.

Here one could assume that malefic planets that are in or that aspect the 3rd house late in degree (and where they would be approaching the 4th house) would become more malefic

to the heart as compared to malefic planets influencing the beginning of the 3rd house. *This is an area for research.* When a planet is very late in degree it will also more likely change bhavas in the Bhava chart, where a planet in the 3rd house may fall in the 4th bhava.

The following are several example charts to illustrate the role of the 3rd house in cases of heart attack and heart disease:

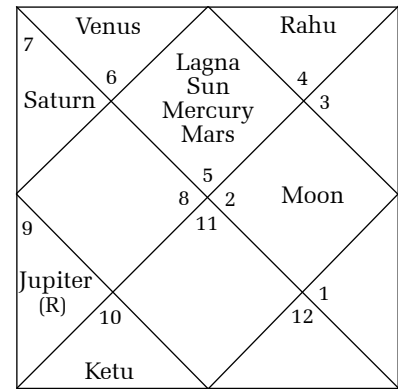
Chart 1

Example 1 is the birth chart of well-known English comic actor Peter Sellers (born on September 8, 1925; at 6:00 hrs; South Sea, Hampshire England, 50°N47’, 01’W04’), who died July 24, 1980, of a heart attack at the age of 55.

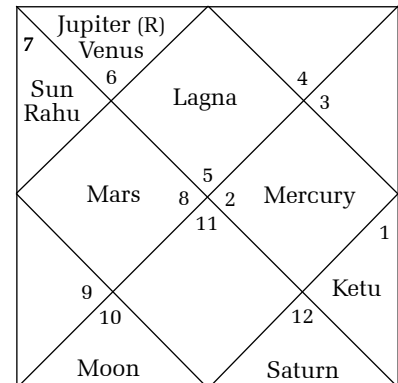
- *Third house factors:* Saturn as 6th and 7th (Maraka) lord is placed in the 3rd house, and while exalted, Saturn is at the mercy of its debilitated dispositor Venus placed 12 houses away from its own house.

		Moon	
	Chart-1 September 8, 1925		Rahu
Ketu			Lagna Sun Mercury Mars
Jupiter (R)		Saturn	Venus

Lagna	16°22’	Mars	23°57’	Venus	27°48’
Sun	22°12’	Mercury	04°45’	Saturn	17°26’
Moon	01°34’	Jupiter (R)	19°52’	Rahu	11°02’



Saturn	Ketu	Mercury	
	Navamsha		Lagna
Moon			
	Mars	Sun Rahu	Jupiter (R) Venus



- *Vimshottari dasha*: Mr. Seller's death occurred at the very start of the Saturn dasha, in the period of Saturn-Saturn-Saturn.
- In addition to the malefic Saturn as dasha lord placed in the 3rd house where from here it single-handedly aspects both the 5th house and 5th lord, with the assumption that the time of birth is accurate within several minutes, in the Vargas Saturn is also in the 3rd house in the Drekkana, the Dwadashamsha, as well as several of the other divisional charts that are unrelated to physical health (not pictured).
- *Additional factors*: In the birth chart the 4th lord Mars is severely combust; the Sun as Karaka of the heart is in close conjunction with a Mars very strong in Shad Bala. While Mars is a yoga karaka planet for a Leo (and a planet that no doubt contributed greatly to the yogas for his fame), the extremely fiery Sun-Mars conjunction in the 1st house is questionable for the health of the heart.
- *If we are to also consider the Moon as indicator of the emotional heart*: Even though the Moon is exalted, it is both isolated in Kemadruma yoga and directionally weak in the 10th house, a placement that can make the *Manas*, or the feeling mind, somewhat dependent on public approval or achievement instead of centered in the heart.

By transit, at the time of death the dasha lord Saturn was passing over the 1st house at 29°44' Leo and is in the 3rd Drekkana, or the last third of a sign, where Saturn is classically believed to deliver its full results in transit⁶. From its transit over the 1st house Saturn simultaneously aspects the 3rd house while transiting the 4th lord.

Chart 2

Example 2 (female native, born on August 19, 1949) is a chart that appears in the *Essentials of Medical Astrology* as an example chart to illustrate the factors for heart disease.

Rahu			Moon Mars
Chart-2			
Lagna Jupiter (R)	August 19, 1949		Sun Mercury Saturn
			Venus Ketu

Lagna	00°44'	Mars	24°52'	Venus	05°36'
Sun	02°59'	Mercury	23°43'	Saturn	14°40'
Moon	02°07'	Jupiter (R)	00°37'	Rahu	24°56'

12	11	Lagna Jupiter (R)	9
Rahu			8
		10	
	1	7	6
	4		
2	3	Moon Mars	Venus Ketu
		5	Sun Mercury Saturn

	Sun	Mars	
Venus Rahu	Navamsha		Saturn Ketu
Lagna Jupiter (R)			
	Mercury	Moon	

Venus Rahu	11	Lagna Jupiter (R)	9
12			8
		10	Mercury
	Sun	1	7
	4		Moon
2			
Mars	3		6
		5	Saturn Ketu

	Mercury	Ketu	Moon
Mars	Drekkana		Sun
Lagna Jupiter (R)			
Saturn	Rahu		Venus

Mars	11	Lagna Jupiter (R)	9
12			8
		10	Rahu
	Mercury	1	7
	4		6
2			
Ketu	3		5
	Moon		Venus Sun

In the commentary on this chart, Dr. Charak states:

“This lady suffers from cardiomyopathy, a progressive, crippling genetic disorder of the heart muscle, from which she can have little chance of cure.”

In regard to the timing, he writes: “The symptoms have been particularly severe since the onset of Saturn in the Vimshottari dasha, coinciding with Sankata (Rahu) in the Yogini dasha.”...⁷

In this chart there are multiple afflictions to general health.

- *Third house factors*: Here not only is the 3rd lord Jupiter retrograde

and debilitated in the lagna with its dispositor adversely placed in the 8th house, but this placement of the 3rd lord debilitated in the lagna repeats in the Vargas, in the Navamsha and the Drekkana, as well as in the Dwadashamsha (not pictured).

- *Vimshottari Dasha*: In regard to the provided information of the start of Saturn dasha being the period of particularly severity of symptoms: while this may have been the timing for a health crisis, in the birth chart both Rahu and

Jupiter-the planets ruling the two previous dashas- are connected to the 3rd house by position and rulership, and it can be assumed that the heart condition was diagnosed or developed under the influence of these two previous dasha lords.

- *Additional factors:* In the birth chart there is affliction to the Sun in the 8th house conjunct Saturn and 6th lord Mercury. Here the 4th lord is adversely placed in the 6th house, and the 5th lord is debilitated and conjoined with Ketu. Also, the Moon is afflicted due to its placement in the 6th house and conjoined with Mars.

Chart 3

Example 3 (born on October 27, 1916; at 2:30 hours EST; at Cleveland Ohio, USA 41°N29', 81°W41') is the chart of a female who died on June 26, 2006 at the advanced age of 89 years. In June 2002 she was first diagnosed with the advanced stages of heart disease following her first heart attack, after which time she experienced

	Jupiter (R)		
	Chart-3 October 27, 1916		Saturn Ketu
Rahu			Lagna Venus
	Mars	Sun Moon	Mercury

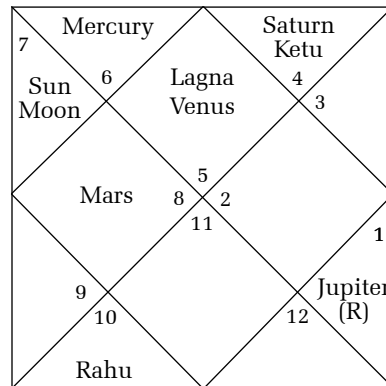
Lagna	18°32'	Mars	11°02'	Venus	29°24'
Sun	10°51'	Mercury	24°25'	Saturn	07°40'
Moon	16°38'	Jupiter (R)	07°12'	Rahu	00°40'

			Jupiter (R)
Moon	Navamsha		Ketu
Sun Rahu			Mercury
Venus		Mars	Lagna Saturn

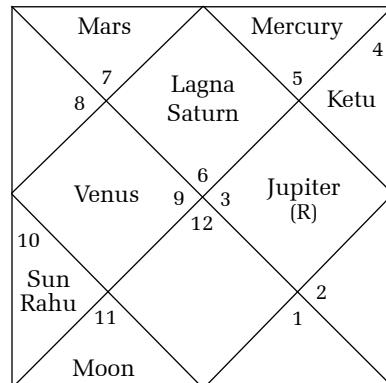
numerous minor heart attacks and several major attacks before dying peacefully after a long life.

- *Third house factors:* Here the Sun as lagna lord and karaka of the heart is debilitated in the 3rd house, conjoined with the 12th lord Moon (which additionally makes for a dark Moon). Both planets are receiving the aspect of the 8th lord Jupiter. The lagna lord participates in a Parivartana Yoga, exchanging places with 3rd lord Venus in the lagna.
- *Vimshottari dasha:* In June of 2002, during the period of Sun-Jupiter the native suffered her first heart attack. This period was ruled by the dasha of the Sun as Karaka of the heart placed in the 3rd house, and the sub-period of the 8th lord who aspects both the 3rd house and lagna lord.

Shortly before her death, during the period of Sun-Venus-Ketu, which is the dasha of lagna lord in the 3rd house and the bhukti of the 3rd lord, the native suffered a major



Mars	11°02'	Venus	29°24'
Sun	10°51'	Saturn	07°40'
Moon	16°38'	Rahu	00°40'



Mars	11°02'	Venus	29°24'
Sun	10°51'	Saturn	07°40'
Moon	16°38'	Rahu	00°40'

heart attack, and survived this heart episode before passing away at the very start of the Moon dasha which is the period of the 12th lord in the 3rd house, in the period of Moon-Mars.

- *Additional factors:* While Mars is stable in its own sign in the 4th house, it is a fiery planet that is also very strong in Shad Bala. This placement has given excellent fortune in regard to ownership of land and property; however, for the physical body it is still a naturally malefic planet in a house that points to vulnerability to the heart. Also, the fifth lord Jupiter is receiving the aspect of 6th lord Saturn, where the aspect is exact in degree.

Chart 4

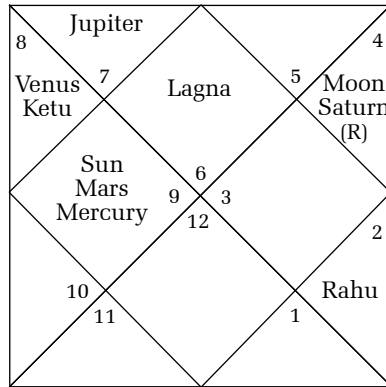
Example 4 is the chart of legendary and enduring English rock musician David Bowie (born on January 8, 1947; at 23:50 hours GMT; at Brixton, England, 51°N28' 01°W00'), who underwent an emergency angioplasty procedure to clear a blocked artery on June 25, 2004, while on a concert tour and suffering what he initially believed to be simply a pinched nerve in the shoulder.

- *Third house factors:* In the birth chart, lagna lord Mercury is conjoined with Mars who is 3rd and 8th lord placed in the 4th house. Here, the 3rd lord Mars is combust within less than one degree of the Sun, where the Sun also happens to be 12th lord. There is some difference of opinion as to the effects of combustion when it is within less than one degree and whether this placement weakens a planet or instead bestows an especially strong, laser-like quality known as "Cazimi", where a planet is said to be in the very heart of the Sun and thus especially strong.

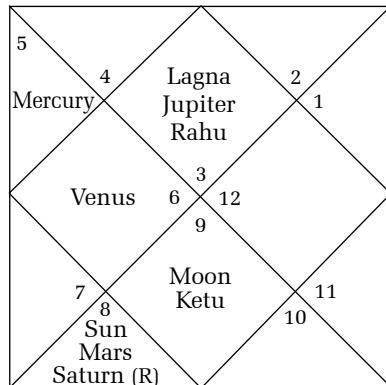
In the 3rd house itself is Ketu, giving effects of its dispositor Mars as well as Venus by conjunction. Venus is a functional benefic, but as 2nd lord has Maraka potential.

		Rahu	
Chart-4 January 8, 1947			Moon Saturn (R)
Sun Mars Mercury	Venus Ketu	Jupiter	Lagna

Lagna	16°53'	Mars	24°06'	Venus	09°33'
Sun	24°46'	Mercury	16°03'	Saturn (R)	13°42'
Moon	19°56'	Jupiter	28°37'	Rahu	18°08'



			Lagna Jupiter Rahu
Navamsha			
			Mercury
Moon Ketu	Sun Mars Saturn (R)		Venus



- *Vimshottari dasha*: Bowie underwent emergency surgery during the dasha period of Mars-Jupiter-Saturn, a period that for a Virgo lagna combines the influence of the 3rd lord Mars, 4th lord Jupiter and 5th lord Saturn.
- *Additional factors*: The Moon is afflicted, conjunct the 6th lord Saturn

and receiving the aspect of 3rd and 8th lord Mars.

By transit, Saturn was transiting the 10th house and from here it aspects the 4th house. It had just entered the 3rd Drekkana the week before the time of surgery. The other slow-moving Grahas

were transiting Dusthanas, where Jupiter as Bhukti lord was transiting the 12th house, while Rahu was transiting the 8th house. In conclusion, with the pair of houses, signs and even planets representing various attributes of the human heart, there are many permutations possible with what the potential for heart disease may look like in the birth chart.

May the proposal of the additional significance of 3rd house factors serve as a valid and helpful tool for practical use.

References and Notes:

1. Dr. K.S. Charak: *Essentials of Medical Astrology*, New Delhi: UMA Publications, 2002. p. 41.
2. Ibid. p. 164.
3. Maharshi Parashara: *Brihat Parashara Hora Sastra*, Vol. 1. Trans. Girish Chand Sharma. New Delhi: Sagar Publications, 1995. p. 51.
4. Mantreshwara. *Phaladeepika's Trans S.S. Sareen*. New Delhi: Sagar Publications, 1992. p. 169.
5. An example of the 3rd house ruling the chest appears in Varahamihira's *Brihat Jataka*, Chapter 1- Stanza 4. (Trans. B.S. Rao. New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 1986. pp 35-36).
6. This mentioned principle of Saturn giving its full results in the 3rd Drekkana of a sign appears in *Phaladeepika*, Shloka 26-stanza 25. (Sagar Publications, p. 303). This principle also can be found in various translations of both *Brihat Jataka* and *Namboodiri's Prashna Marga*.
7. Charak. pp164-166. ♣