

Nadi grantha refers to various works on the nadi, especially nadi jyotisa (nadi subsystem of Vedic astrology). Related words are nadi cakra and nadi dipika which refer to specific works.

Nadi jñana refers to the knowledge of the nadi. **Nadi tarmga** also means a nadi astrologer who may also be adept at handling poisonous substances and medicine.

Nadi nakshatra has been loosely used to refer to the janma nakshatra (i.e. moon nakshatra) which it is not. It is instead related to the nakshatra occupied by a planet.

It is evident that the **nadi astrology** links the subtle pulse to the horoscope and is the **most intricate system** of Vedic Astrology. The word nadi refers to a tub or pipe in the body which carries the vital fluids. It can also refer to metaphysical tubes like channels like the nadi which carries the prana or the vital breath. The coconut offered as a symbol of removing one's sins is also called **nadi-kela** and is the fruit of the tree of karma which becomes the seed for another life/ tree to grow. In a similar manner the **nadiamsa** is the smallest zodiacal division that forms the seed for the new life to manifest the karma which is the fruit of another previous existence. The interpretation of the chart takes a new color and a much deeper meaning if we are doing it at the depth of the nadiamsa.

The nadi-ka is a measure of time (= ½ muhurta) or length (=1/2 danda) and is used in mundane astrology although its real usage is lost due to a lack of appreciation and understanding of the nadiamsa itself. Nadirtarga means an astrologer who is conversant with nadi grantha and has nadi jñana (knowledge of the nadi).

In ayurveda, nadi means pulse (in the vein) and nadi kuta refers to the matching of nadi in the charts of the bride and groom to ensure good health and longevity. If the nadi is a mismatch then one of the two or both are surely going to suffer physically besides showing the danger of genetic and other disorders in the progeny.

Nadi astrologer Durai Subburathinam states, “The very word Nadi in Tamil means “destined to come on its own accord.” There is no such meaning to the word nadi in sanskrit nor in any of the other Indian languages we are aware of. In Hindi language, nadi means river and refers to flowing fluids. We request the reader to have this meaning verified from experts of that language.

Most of the real knowledge is hidden in various nadi literature spread over the length and breadth of India. In north India this is popularly called Brighu nadi while in the south it is more popular by the name of Agastya nadi. Generally the nadi are attributed to a sage who along with his disciples had contributed substantially to its creation. There are also many nadi books dealing with the nadi literature and attempting to consolidate them. Foremost among them is the Candra-kala nadi (a.k.a Deva Keralam).

1.1.2 Nadi grantha¹

There are various jyotisa literature related to the nadi like Graha nadi(Surya nadi, Candra nadi, Kuja nadi, Budha nadi, Guru nadi, Sukra nadi, Sani nadi) Lagna nadi, Lagnadhipati nadi, Sarva nadi, Yoga nadi, Candrakala nadi, Saptarsi nadi, Agastya nadi, Brighu nadi, etc. Some of these like the Saptarsi nadi are an examination of horoscopes or ‘case studies’ that bring out the principles and use of hora sastra.

¹ Books or literature containing palm-leaf manuscripts of horoscopes and readings

Others like the Candrakala nadi enunciate principles through illustrations of specific combinations having a focus on the nadiamsa with the objective of teaching how to use the nadiamsa along with other tools of jyotisa like astakavarga, dasa, transits etc. However the principles in themselves are not restricted to the nadiamsa and are more like an illustration.

Agastya Nadi (South India) and Brighu Nadi are compilation of horoscopes and life events, something like a databank that was collected around the time of the recording of the hora sastra.

1.1.3 Genesis of the nadi

Durai Subburathinam, a Chennai based traditional Nadirtaga has old palm-leaf bundles or Nadi Granthas authored by the seven seers that expound minute details about a person's life and gave Vedic remedies to tide over the sins committed in a past life.

There are two theories about the palm leaves – one that the prophecies are written for those souls that were expected to come for a reading and the other that all possible chart combinations were recorded. The latter claim is strongly disputed by many Vedic astrologers. In a hard hitting article titled 'Chasing an elusive Nadi leaf'² L. Abeykoon says that the second claim is absurd as the database would be far too large even for the most advanced computers to handle. Nadi astrologer Subburathinam states, "We have only a certain amount of leaves. Natives whose leaves are here will somehow or other come to us at the appropriate age specified on the leaves from any corner of the world. Leaves are there not only for Indians, but also for foreigners belonging to other religions. Whoever is destined to look into the leaves will come to us on his own accord.

² Refer WebPages of Sri Lankan astrologer Lakshman Abeykoon M.Sc.:
<http://jyotisha.00it.com/Nadi.htm>

2. NADI READINGS

The doyen of the Kannada tradition of Jyotisa, Dr.B.V. Raman spent many years trying to unravel the mystery of the Nadi granthas. His observation was that most were good at discussing the past until the present but were poor with future events and dates. He believed that the best of all these were the 36 Tantra nadis containing 1,588,320 astrological charts that re-occur every 360 years. Dr. Raman cites an example reading of the leaf for Mahatma Gandhi: “The native will be born in a holy city on the coast of the ocean. At the age of 20, he will go to a foreign country. His mother will die at the age of 22 in his absence. He will marry at 13. At 32, he will be a lawyer. He will always speak truth and will be pure in heart. There will be no distinction between his thoughts, words and deeds. Before the age of 65, he will meet the king of the white race. He will resort to fasting for the good of the world and will live beyond the age of 70.”

2.1 PROCEDURE AND PRACTICES

In Hostiapur, Punjab, the Nadi reader casts a chart for the moment you walk in his door and then proceeds to find the appropriate leaf, which may take hours.

At the Nadi centre in Chennai, only your thumb print is used. In another interview to the Express Starteller magazine, Durai Subburathinam an exponent of Kausika Agasthiya Nadi says that the lines on the thumb are classified into 1008 types (refer R.G. Rao’s book on thumb prints for more information. The details of the leaves are divided into twelve principal chapters (parts) which are really the twelve houses of the zodiac and the matters signified in them. In addition there are four more chapters. Chapter 13

and 14 deal with the previous birth and the sins committed therein. Remedial measures are also given for getting rid of the effect of the sins of the past birth. Chapter 15 prescribes the medicines and methods of consumption for chronic diseases. The 16th chapter gives predictions for the current dasa and antardasa periods in considerable detail. In addition to these, there is also a special chapter (17th Chapter) for Prasna where any query is answered. All these were written hundreds of years ago by our Maharsi.

In Puri, Orissa the Durga nadi practitioner³ draws a chakra on the floor and a stone has to be placed in one of the boxes by the client. A palm leaf is extracted based on the calculations from the stone placement and the questions in the mind of the client and the answers to these questions are read out.

The Acyuta Gaddi (seat of Mahapurusa Acyutananda at Mangala devi temple in Puri district, Orissa) uses copper plates that have absolutely nothing written on them. The client has to randomly pick one leaf from a bundle and then writings appear in ancient oriya script that not only list all the questions in the mind of the client but also give the detailed answers including remedial measures. A visit to this place and nadi reading was a part of the SJC Annual Conference at Puri in 2004 and many Vedic astrologers who attended had a first hand experience of this reading.

2.2 BLACK MAGIC RITES

Dr. Raman investigated and found that “some of the nadi practitioners worshipped ksudra devata (kind of black magic) and the correctness of the forecasts depended upon the intensity of the rituals performed and recitation of the mantra to propitiate the devata”. Sincere nadirtaga are rare and most of

³ Sri Bhagavan Mishra, nadi astrologer, has been observed by the scribe doing Durga nadi readings

the frauds have a detailed questionnaire that intelligently determines the details about the client before giving it back to him!

Details of these kinds of magic rituals to get powers to foretell the past has been mentioned in various tantra works and one example that is well known is the worship of the sakti called 'Karna Pisacini' (Ear Ogress) who when supportive whispers the information about the client in the ears of the occult practitioner.

2.3 SOME ISSUES AND INFORMATION

Nadi astrologer Subburathinam states, "We show them the particular leaf with the predictions, and some of our customers are able to read the leaves on the own. Some even buy their leaves for preservation." Permitting other people or clients to buy their palm leaves means that they are going to end up losing these leaves from their stock or compilation unless they have some sort of a mechanism in place to recreate these palm leaves or make duplicates of it. In fact there is a whole industry on this based in a village in Tamil Nadu which is manufacturing palm leaf copies for use by different sections of nadi astrologers giving room for considerable doubt on the genuineness of the copy, ability of interpretation of the nadi reader and also the authenticity as to whether these are real copies or something created anew. The indiscriminate copying and creation of palm leaf manuscripts or pages is going to end up ruining the whatever little faith people have on these Agastya nadi readers.

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