

# Your Soul's Journey

Jyotiṣa Fundamentals

By Vijayalakshmi Natarajan



Divine Journey, LLC Publishing

Sunnyvale, CA

2024

Copyright © 2024 by Vijayalakshmi Natarajan

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher at [info@divinejourney.me](mailto:info@divinejourney.me)

Published by Divine Journey, LLC

First Edition

ISBN: 9781736128954

Cover Design: Vijayalakshmi Natarajan

Illustrator: Eswar Venkatachalam

Copy Editors: Mark Ferreira, Eswar Venkatachalam

Sanskrit Consultant: Eswar Venkatachalam

## CHAPTER ONE

### The Call of the Cosmos: Karma

In a world where understanding life's intricacies is increasingly crucial, delving into the concept of karma holds immense relevance and is fundamental to the study of Jyotiṣa. It is important to understand that the concept itself extends beyond individual circumstances to encompass families, nations, continents, and humanity at large. This can be studied from the birth chart of an individual, community and country. The birth chart is determined by the date, time and place of birth of an individual, place or group, and is a visual depiction of one's karma that is to be lived out and experienced in this lifetime. Let us delve deeper into the concept of karma, as it serves as the foundation upon which the birth chart is understood and exerts its influence.

### The Cycle of the Soul: Reincarnation and Karma

To truly grasp the essence of karma, one must delve into the fundamental concept of the soul's cycle—reincarnation or the transmigration of the soul. While rooted in the beliefs of Sanātana Dharma, this notion has intrigued minds beyond its origins. Think of Hiroshi Motoyama, Ian Stevenson, and various authors who explored life after death, offering evidence of past-life recollections. Such studies shed light on this age-old concept, extending across Southeast Asia and gradually captivating Western cultures too. This journey into karma's depths

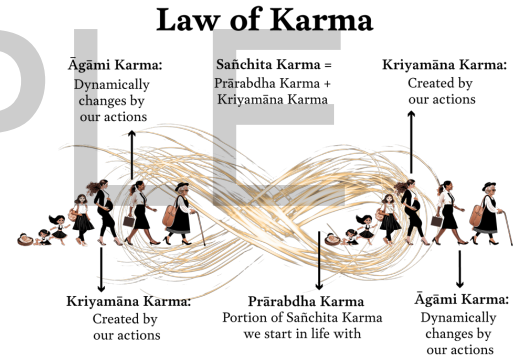
necessitates acknowledging the interconnectedness of lives through time and existence.

Imagine every soul has a timeless account, accumulating karma over lifetimes—a concept called *sañchita karma*. This can be likened to a comprehensive bank balance. The term *sañchita* stems from Saṃskṛtam or Sanskrit, translating to accumulated. Each soul carries this cumulative balance. It encapsulates an individual's history across countless lifetimes, transcending Earthly realms and spanning planes of existence. *Sañchita karma* is an encoding of karma from all the lifetimes since the soul was created.

Upon birth, each soul brings a portion of this *sañchita karma*, termed *prārabdha karma* to its current lifetime. This is akin to destiny. This karma sculpts a pathway; the circumstances, the tendencies and impulses, the genetic code or the opportunities for you to experience certain events, thoughts and feelings. These opportunities and circumstances allow us to either transcend our karma or add to the overall bank balance.

An often-pondered question is: Does destiny supersede free will? Ancient sages have astoundingly affirmed the coexistence of both destiny and free will, a concept known as *kriyamāna karma*. *Kriyamāna* denotes actions undertaken, derived from the term

*kriyā*, meaning action. Thus, the work we engage in or the things that we do represent *kriyamāna karma*. Human beings possess the capacity to influence *prārabdha karma* through *kriyamāna karma*, embodying free will and personal choice. At every juncture, *kriyamāna karma* comes into play, offering opportunities to shape the future. This instills hope and a sense of agency over what may come.



The consequence of one's *kriyamāna karma* is called *āgāmi karma*. This dynamic interplay continues until one's final breath, at which point only accumulated *kriyamāna karma* remains. This gets added to *prārabdha* and gets reconciled to the total bank

balance. The ultimate aim is to achieve a zero balance in the sañchita karma account. This achievement liberates the soul from the cycle of rebirth, elevating it beyond manifestation into an unmanifested state. This state is one of merging with the ultimate reality, transcending any form of existence; which by many has been called Mokṣa or nirvāṇa.

### Delving Deeper into Our Destiny: Prārabdha Karma

While it is not possible to know what our sañchita karma is, each soul's prārabdha karma is more accessible. It represents the "project" we have for this lifetime—a certain portion of the sañchita karma that needs to be addressed. Prārabdha karma is divided into three categories: *dhīra* (firm), *adhīra* (flexible), and *dhīradhīra* (partly firm). The destiny we encounter in life corresponds to these divisions. Unraveling prārabdha karma can be achieved through various methods, including astrology.

Dhīra karma, the fixed type, is unavoidable and stems from past actions. One must undergo this type of karma, but it can be altered, slightly reduced or assuaged through diligent efforts aligned with its themes. This means that if there is something that you may have to endure (sadness, poverty, etc.) then your way to minimize the effect is to help others in similar situations. Adhīra karma is more changeable and easily remedied. It can be

influenced by conscious decisions and willpower. Dhīradhīra karma lies between the two, requiring committed endeavors through the things that we do to transform its effects. These include remedies such as yoga, chanting of mantras, good deeds, helping poor people, etc.

In astrology and in the birth chart, we can see these different types of karmas. Fixed zodiac signs correlate with dhīra karma, movable signs correlate with adhīra karma, and dual signs correlate with dhīradhīra karma. Observing the planets in these signs will offer insight into our life paths and destinies. Planets in fixed signs will give dhīra karma. Planets in movable signs can be easily molded and give adhīra karma. And any planets present in dual signs indicate dhīradhīra karma, which means that you can overcome a challenge, but through effort. While sañchita karma remains an enigma, prārabdha karma serves as a tangible thread connecting past, present, and future. Balancing and refining these threads allows us to navigate life's intricate web with a deeper understanding of our karmic journey.

### The Power of Kriyamāna Karma and the Quality of Karma:

While the ability to discern and alter our karma is not limited to astrological knowledge, it is certainly one methodical way to do so. Because our prārabdha karma is not set in stone and our

freewill can reshape it, knowing the avenues to do so is helpful. Birth charts are significant because they represent our *prārabdha* karma. When astrologers cannot predict events accurately, it's an indication that our *kriyamāna* karma is shaping our destiny. This underscores the potential of freewill in modifying the course of our lives. Conversely, if astrological predictions come true, it should prompt introspection into how our actions have aligned with our birth chart's indications. Free will serves as a means to transform *prārabdha* karma. Our choices stem from the divine spark within us, and this potential to alter our destiny is pivotal. The significance of freewill in the grand scheme of life cannot be underestimated.

*Kriyamāna* karma manifests through three sources: soul, mind, and body. This means that the karma generated can come from three different levels and this further classification of actions helps us to understand their impact. *Vāchaka karma* affects the soul, *mānasa karma* affects the mind and *śarīrika karma* affects the body.

*Vāchaka* karma relates to the consequence of our words and speech. The impact of words is profound, reaching the depths of the soul. It is not only the language or the form of the words that matter, but the intent behind them. Thus, the sages of ancient India emphasized the importance of silence both in the body

(stillness of action) and in the mind (stillness in thoughts) as a means for purification and transformation of the soul.

*Mānasa* karma involves thoughts and intentions. By fostering positive thoughts and intentions, we can address our *mānasa* karma. The act of sending blessings or positive energy to others contributes to this realm of karma.

*Śarīrika* karma is rooted in physical actions performed with the body. Acts of service, visiting temples, and physically helping others fall under this category. Donations also play a role in shaping this aspect of karma, as it involves the exchange of energy generated through body-related actions. These various consequential actions demonstrate how *prārabdha* karma can be mitigated in its totality, offering hope and a means of transformation.

Sage Vālmiki's transformation from a hunter to a sage exemplifies the potential of *kriyamāna* karma. By witnessing a poignant event and changing his actions, Vālmiki altered his destiny. In this way, saints possess a past, and sinners have a future. This transformation illustrates the principle of *āgāmi* karma, where present actions can pave the way for a different future. If you can break the energetic momentum and fulfillment of karma, you have the opportunity to reduce your overall *kārmic* debt. You can

then change your manifesting karma in real time and have the potential to reshape destiny.

As you embark on the study of Jyotiṣa to better understand your own kārmic journey, keep in mind that you have the creative power within you at every moment. This perspective allows us to go from experiencing life passively to understanding the interconnectedness of all circumstances and events. We can truly see our place in the divine play and empower ourselves to create joy, peace and evolution on a soul level. Let us now begin our navigation around the kārmic map.

SAMPLE