GENERAL

ashtakavarga system of prediction raman bing

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Ashtakavarga System of Prediction: Insights from Raman Bing

In the vast tapestry of Vedic astrology, the **Ashtakavarga** system stands out as a powerful yet often under utilized tool for forecasting the ebb and flow of planetary influences. While many practitioners rely on traditional methods such as *Dashas* and *Transits*, the Ashtakavarga offers a unique, numerically grounded perspective that can enhance both accuracy and depth of analysis. This article delves into the origins, mechanics, and practical applications of the Ashtakavarga system, with particular emphasis on the contributions of the renowned astrologer **Raman Bing**. Whether you're a seasoned astrologer or a curious novice, understanding this system will enrich your predictive toolkit and provide fresh insights into the celestial patterns that shape our lives.

What Is the Ashtakavarga?

The term **Ashtakavarga**literally means "eightfold array" in Sanskrit. It refers to a method of assigning points to each planet based on its position relative to the 12 houses and 12 zodiac signs in a birth chart. Each planet can accrue a maximum of 8 points from each house, resulting in a total of 96 points when all houses are considered. These points are then used to gauge the overall strength, afflictions, and auspiciousness of a planet within the chart.

Unlike the more familiar *Rashi* (sign) and *Bhava* (house) systems, the Ashtakavarga focuses on the **planetary points**that accumulate across the chart. The higher the point total for a planet, the more favorable its influence is deemed to be. Conversely, a low point tally may indicate challenges or weaker influence, prompting a deeper exploration of remedial measures or supportive placements.

Key Components of the Ashtakavarga System

- Points per House: Each planet can receive 0–8 points from a house, depending on its sign, house, and aspects.
- Ashtakavarga Points: The aggregate of points for a planet across all houses.
- Planetary Strength: Determined by the total points, indicating the planet's overall influence.
- Afflictions: Low or negative points can signal obstacles or adverse effects.
- Remedies: Based on point deficits, specific mantras, gemstones, or rituals can be recommended.

Historical Background and Origin

The origins of the Ashtakavarga system trace back to ancient Vedic texts such as the *Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra* and the *Jataka Parijata*. The system was refined over centuries by astrologers who sought a more granular method of evaluating planetary strength beyond the binary concepts of *Shadbala* and *Grah Shadbala.*

In the 20th century, the system gained renewed attention through the work of **Raman Bing**, a distinguished astrologer who integrated Ashtakavarga calculations into modern predictive methodologies. Bing's approach emphasized the practical application of Ashtakavarga points in forecasting life events, thereby bridging ancient wisdom with contemporary astrological practice.

How Ashtakavarga Works: The Eight Point System

The core of the Ashtakavarga system lies in the allocation of points** to each planet based on its position in the natal chart. The process follows a set of rules that consider the planet's sign, house, and aspects. Below is a step by step breakdown of how points are assigned.

Step 1: Identify the Planet's Sign and House

1. Locate the planet in the chart.
2. Note its zodiac sign (e.g., Aries, Taurus).
3. Identify the house it occupies (1st through 12th).

Step 2: Apply the Point Allocation Rules

Each planet has a unique point distribution matrix. For example, the Sun can earn up to 8 points from the 4th house when it is in its own sign, but only 2 points from the 1st house when in a neutral sign. The rules consider:

- Sign Strength: Whether the planet is in its own sign, exalted, debilitated, or in a neutral sign.
- House Position: The house's inherent strength (e.g., 1st, 7th, 10th houses are generally favorable).
- Aspects: Whether the planet is aspecting or being aspected by other planets.

Step 3: Sum the Points for Each House

After assigning points from all 12 houses, sum them to obtain the Ashtakavarga points** for that planet. This total can range from 0 to 96.

Step 4: Interpret the Results

High point totals indicate strong planetary influence, which can translate into favorable life events or natural talents. Low totals may highlight areas of potential difficulty or require remedial action. The Ashtakavarga system thus provides a quantitative measure of planetary potency that can be cross referenced with other predictive tools.

The Significance of Each Planet in Ashtakavarga

While the basic mechanics apply to all planets, certain celestial bodies carry special significance within the Ashtakavarga framework. Below is a concise overview of how key planets are evaluated.

- Sun: Points reflect leadership, health, and vitality.
- Moon: Indicates emotional stability, mental health, and family matters.
- Mars: Represents courage, energy, and conflict.
- Mercury: Governs intellect, communication, and commerce.
- Jupiter: Signifies wisdom, growth, and spirituality.
- Venus: Relates to love, beauty, and financial prosperity.
- Saturn: Reflects discipline, hardships, and long term goals.
- Rahu & Ketu: Influence destiny, karma, and hidden aspects.

Ashtakavarga in Vedic Astrology: Practical Uses

Beyond its theoretical appeal, the Ashtakavarga system offers tangible benefits for astrologers:

1. Event Timing: High Ashtakavarga points for a planet can signal auspicious periods for actions related to that planet's domain.
2. Compatibility Analysis: Comparing the Ashtakavarga totals of two individuals can reveal potential harmony or conflict in relationships.
3. Career Guidance: A strong Venus or Jupiter Ashtakavarga may point toward artistic or spiritual vocations.
4. Remedial Planning: Low points for Saturn might suggest specific rituals or gemstone recommendations to

mitigate delays or obstacles.

Calculating Ashtakavarga: A Step by Step Guide

To illustrate the calculation process, let's walk through a simplified example using a sample birth chart. Note that professional astrologers often use software to automate this process, but understanding the manual method enhances insight.

Example Chart Data

- Sun: Aries, 4th house
- Moon: Taurus, 9th house
- Mars: Gemini, 2nd house
- … (other planets omitted for brevity)

Step by Step Calculation

1. Identify Points per House: For the Sun in Aries (own sign) in the 4th house, assign 8 points.
2. Repeat for All Houses: Apply the point matrix for each house the Sun influences (including aspects).
3. Sum Points: Add up points from all 12 houses to get the Sun's total Ashtakavarga.
4. Interpret: If the Sun's total is 70/96, it is considered strong, indicating leadership and health.

Repeating this process for each planet yields a comprehensive profile of planetary strengths and potential challenges.

Raman Bing and His Contributions to Ashtakavarga

While Ashtakavarga has ancient roots, **Raman Bing**played a pivotal role in modernizing its application. Bing's approach is distinguished by the following innovations:

- Integration with Dasha Analysis: He combined Ashtakavarga points with Vimshottari Dasha periods to refine predictive accuracy.
- Statistical Validation: Bing conducted empirical studies comparing Ashtakavarga predictions with real world outcomes, establishing credibility.
- Accessible Methodology: He published user friendly manuals that demystified complex calculations, enabling practitioners worldwide.
- Remedy Framework: Bing developed a systematic remedial plan based on Ashtakavarga deficits, bridging predictive insight with actionable guidance.

Because of these contributions, many contemporary astrologers credit Bing with revitalizing the Ashtakavarga system and making it an indispensable part of modern Vedic astrology.

Case Studies: Ashtakavarga in Action

Below are two illustrative scenarios that demonstrate how Ashtakavarga can shape predictive outcomes.

Case Study 1: Career Advancement

- Client: 28 year old software engineer.
- Chart Highlights: Jupiter in the 10th house with 80 Ashtakavarga points.
- Interpretation: A strong Jupiter indicates a natural inclination toward growth and leadership. The high points suggest that the client is likely to receive a promotion or new opportunity within the next 12 months.
- Remedy: Wearing a yellow sapphire and reciting Jupiter mantras to reinforce the planetary strength.

Case Study 2: Health Concerns

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