

On the Importance of the Birth Time:

In Vedic Astrology, the accuracy of one's time of birth is of great importance and often a few minutes' difference can radically change the information in the chart.

On a technical note, as many as sixteen sub-charts are traditionally used that are specific to various areas of life (such as profession, relationship, residence, children, etc.) These sub-charts can change every few minutes yet they are very important and carry much weight when it comes to making astrological prediction. Fortunately, a strength and beauty of Jyotish is that if one's time of birth is in question, it is possible to confirm or reconstruct the birth chart through studying various major life events.

If you are uncertain of your time of birth but the exact time is recorded somewhere: It is highly recommended that the birth information be researched by checking a birth certificate, contacting hospital records, locating a baby book, etc., to make the most accurate, constructive and best use of your consultation. The more accurate the information provided by you as a client, the more clear and helpful will be your experience with astrology.

If your time of birth is uncertain with a relatively small window of time (10-15 minutes): As part of a first-time reading it is a necessary standard practice to gather and check information given by the client to establish the correct fit of the birth-time.

If this situation applies to you, when providing your birth details please also provide a short list of several (about 4 to 5) specific dates of major life events.

These can include events such as:

- Marriage (or the beginning and/or ending dates of a major relationship).
- Birth of children.
- Death of a parent (also major illness for a parent or death of a grandparent is helpful information).
- Major changes in residence (this includes buying or selling property, moving or major travel).
- Changes in work (this can include beginning or ending a job, or changes in title/promotion).
- Events related to education such as starting school, graduation or changing a course of study.

When providing the date of an event, the exact day is not necessary, but the accurate year and month (or at very least the season) are essential. (If there is uncertainty about the exact year or season of an important life event, it is better to omit using the date altogether rather than create a foundation of dubious data.)

If your time of birth is known within an approximate window of several hours or completely unknown within 24 hours: If your approximate birth time is known within several hours, when providing your birth details please also provide an initial list of a minimum of 10 or more specific major life events from varied areas of life. Any additional details around the birth are helpful, such as a mother's recollection that 'the birth occurred 'in the early morning before sunrise', 'after breakfast but before lunch', etc. In addition to collecting a preliminary list of dates, we would be in contact periodically by e-mail or phone to go over any additional questions I am likely to have while working on narrowing down your birth time.

When one's time of birth is unknown within many hours or completely unknown within 24 hours, please know that this situation presents a significant challenge to the astrologer. Major chart rectification is a technical and involved process and there is no absolute guarantee that an accurate time of birth can be found. However, if you desire to work with your Vedic birth chart, rectification is a necessary step when the exhaustive search for an accurate birth record proves unsuccessful.

For more information about this process as it applies to your own particular situation, please contact me.