

Hideous & Kinky

...another perspective on the Moon's Nodes

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This article is a snippet for those unfamiliar with the sometimes very alien experience of Vedic or Hindu astrology. The Nodes in Vedic Astrology have some similarities to those multivariate interpretations that evolved in the Western tradition such as Classical, Ebertin & Rudhyar, but digress radically in their essentially malefic nature.

You won't find definitions of nodal delineations **exactly** like these in the Hindu astrological texts. The following are my derived delineations based on a collection of influences and applied methodologies.

Rahu and Ketu

Rahu is the North Node (Dragon's Head). It is part of the polarity with Ketu, the South Node (Dragon's Tail). They function as 'shadow' planets; they mostly work in tandem with other planets, taking on their nature and 'deranging' it, whilst in turn eclipsing the planet's healthy functions.

For the most part they function as malefics, but can bring positive results in some circumstances. Each has its positive and negative characteristics but in a polarized way the positives of one are the negatives of the other. My findings indicate the following which includes some strong similarities with traits attributed to those 'new boys' Uranus and Neptune:

	RAHU	KETU
+	<i>positive/unafflicted RAHU</i> = <i>Positive Uranus</i>	<i>positive/unafflicted KETU</i> = <i>positive Neptune</i>
-	<i>negative/afflicted RAHU</i> = <i>negative Neptune</i>	<i>negative/afflicted KETU</i> = <i>negative Uranus</i>

Rahu

Rahu, in its positive effects, is akin to a positive Uranus with additional traits that are not Uranian. Like Uranus, Rahu's upbeat characteristics are offbeat, eccentric, radical, inventive, original and foreign or alien. Rahu delights in the unexpected.

What is non-Uranian about a positive Rahu?

Strangely, Rahu is materialistic, and when positive will often bestow material success and material acquisitions in abundance. This is because one of its major negative traits pertains to an excessive desire nature due to it being the mouth of the serpent that only tasted the immortality. However, Rahu does augment one's fantasy life in the area of mental desires as well as the material. Whereas Venus will rule one's everyday desires, comforts etc, Rahu will augment one's capacity for mental rather than physical delicacies.

So in turn, negatively, Rahu is insatiable, driven, greedy and clamoring. Rahu usurps and is not trustworthy. This brings us to its negative traits, which are akin to a negative Neptune. Rahu, when afflicting or afflicted, undermines, deceives, coerces and perverts. Unlike Ketu, Rahu disrupts (Uranus) and vexes rather than destroys. Rahu would rather horrify or spook you, increasing anxieties and phobias (Neptune) rather than annihilate totally because it requires somebody or something to torment.

Ketu

To a degree both nodes are mindless, the dumb and dumber of planets. Ketu is more so because it is the immortal tail of the serpent where the Amritsar was digested and achieves immortality without the mind and ego to direct it.

Unlike Rahu, Ketu is prepared to withdraw from contact with others. Indeed, Ketu withdraws from the entire material sphere. Ketu tends to drain away attachment in whichever house it is positioned. Like a positive Neptune, Ketu signifies spiritual and aesthetic liberation. Ketu is detached, self-sacrificing and reclusive.

If we think of the mythical Neptune holding his trident then we can picture the warrior element in Neptune that we don't usually associate with the Neptunian astrological influence. A positive Ketu embodies this element in the 'Greenpeace

warrior' who would go beyond even death for a cause. The downside of this is Ketu's terrorist talents and anarchistic bomb throwing expertise. When afflicted, Ketu will take on negative Uranian influences with a touch of Martian impetus, and can often destroy with impersonality.

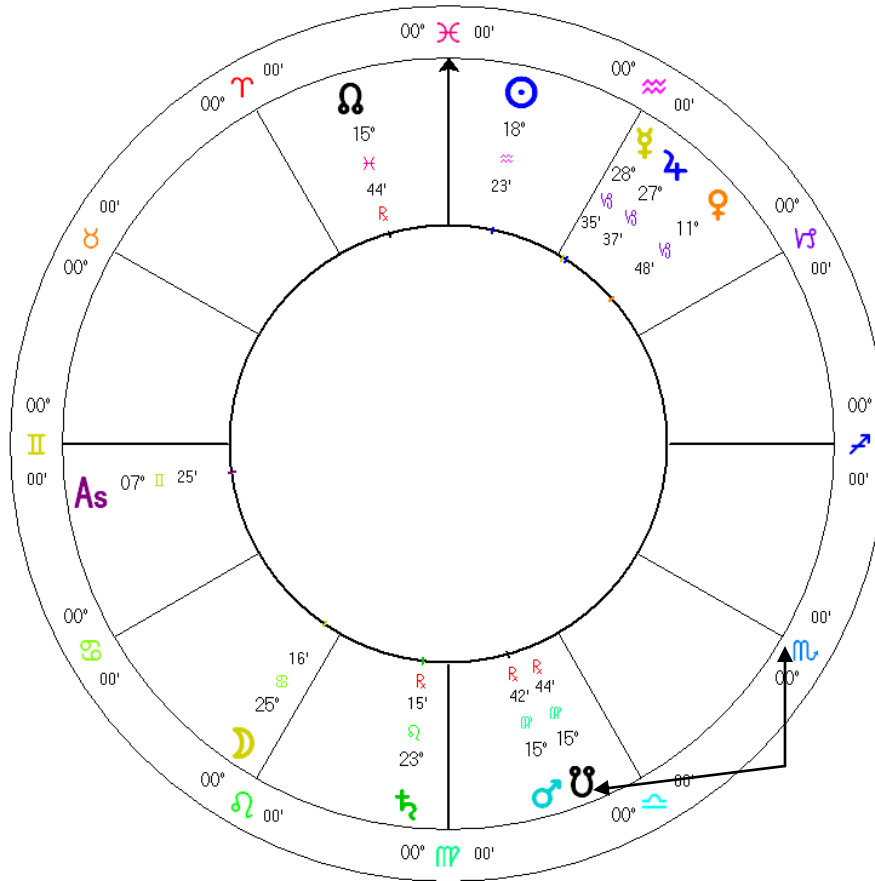
Put simply, Ketu is reclusive, whilst Rahu is exclusive. Ketu is introspective, whilst Rahu seeks external stimuli. Both nodes are involved in scandals and 'outing' one's private foibles at embarrassing moments; Rahu out of mischeviousness and Ketu because it strips away untruth and pretentiousness. Both are usually present when one is poisoned, especially by snakebite!

The nodes share a number of disagreeable traits that are commonly unpredictable and are neither Neptunian nor Uranian; and they will take on and exaggerate the nature of the planets they aspect or conjunct. Watch for them near personal points and check that person's ability to stay on the straight and narrow!

Here are some practical examples. Please forgive the usual recourse to using the 'famous' or 'celebrity' natal chart examples to 'prove' a thesis via the selected best case studies approach. Remember that the chart positions are for the Sidereal zodiac and the House system is Whole sign as used by both Vedic and Ancient Western astrologers.

Let's look at the physical aspects of the Nodes as they apply to the charts of Karen Carpenter of the 70's musical duo and Christopher Reeve, the actor most famous for his Superman role. As I described in Part 1, the nodal polarity is particularly concerned with too much or too little. Rahu devours and gluttonizes, and thus accumulates; and, Ketu shuns and withdraws, and thus diminishes.

Karen Carpenter
Natal Chart (1)
 2 Mar 1950
 11:45 am +5:00
 New Haven, Connecticut
 41°N18'29" 072°W55'43"
Geocentric
Lahiri
Whole Signs
Mean Node
 Rating: AA



The Ruler of the 6th house (illness) Mars is in partile conjunction to Ketu. In this case the lord of illness is eclipsed literally by the great subtractor. Of course, this alone doth not make a fait accompli but along with Mercury as Ascendant ruler and dispositor of the 6th ruler in the malefic 8th house shows a repeated theme of a potentially weak constitution as seen through the 1st (life force/ vitality) and 6th (Illness) rulers. Karen died of heart failure due to Anorexia Nervosa on Feb 4th 1983 in her Venus Dasa (in 8th House and Rules 12th) and Ketu Bhukti (conjuncting 6th lord) the planetary period timers of events that are an essential part of Vedic Astrology.

Christopher Reeve

Natal Chart (7)

25 Sep 1952

3:12 am EDT +4:00

New York, New York

40°N42°51" 074°W00°23"

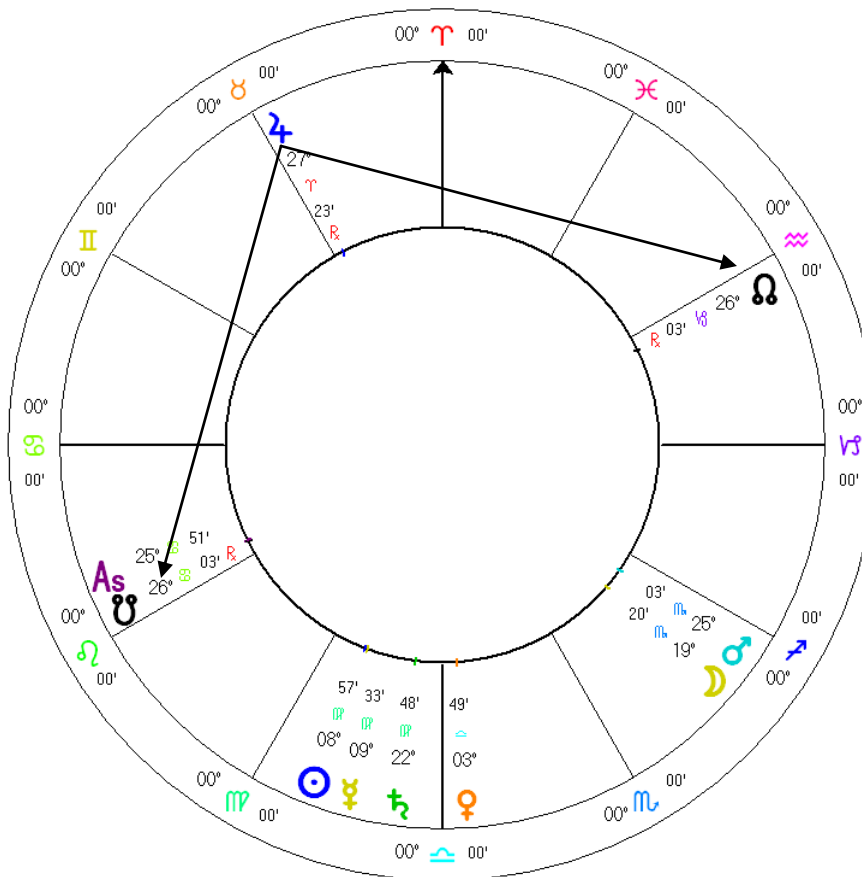
Geocentric

Lahiri

Whole Signs

Mean Node

Rating: A



Christopher Reeve was rendered a quadriplegic on 27th May 1995. Here we see the ruler of the 6th (Jupiter) again afflicted by the Nodes. As also observed in Medieval Western Astrology, Jupiter is at the “bendings” (at the midpoint of the nodes). In turn this is physicalized by the tight conjunction of Ketu (paralysis) on the Ascendant degree and with Sagittarius the sign on the 6th indicating the spinal area as a target of affliction. Secondly a combust Mercury (nervous system and ruler of 3rd house of movement) is besieged between restrictive Saturn and the Sun, both malefics in Vedic Astrology. Christopher was in his Sun Dasa Jupiter Bhukti when he was paralysed.. Like the eclipsing nodes, tight conjunctions of planets link the Dasa/Bhukti timing by association. Here the Sun Dasa is relevant because it is tightly conjuncted by the afflicted Mercury along with the relevant Jupiter sub period as a timer of potential movement/spinal afflictions. Christopher was in his Mercury Dasa from birth to the age of 13.5 and the ages of 8 – 10 were also a possible danger period for the “promise” of the natal chart.

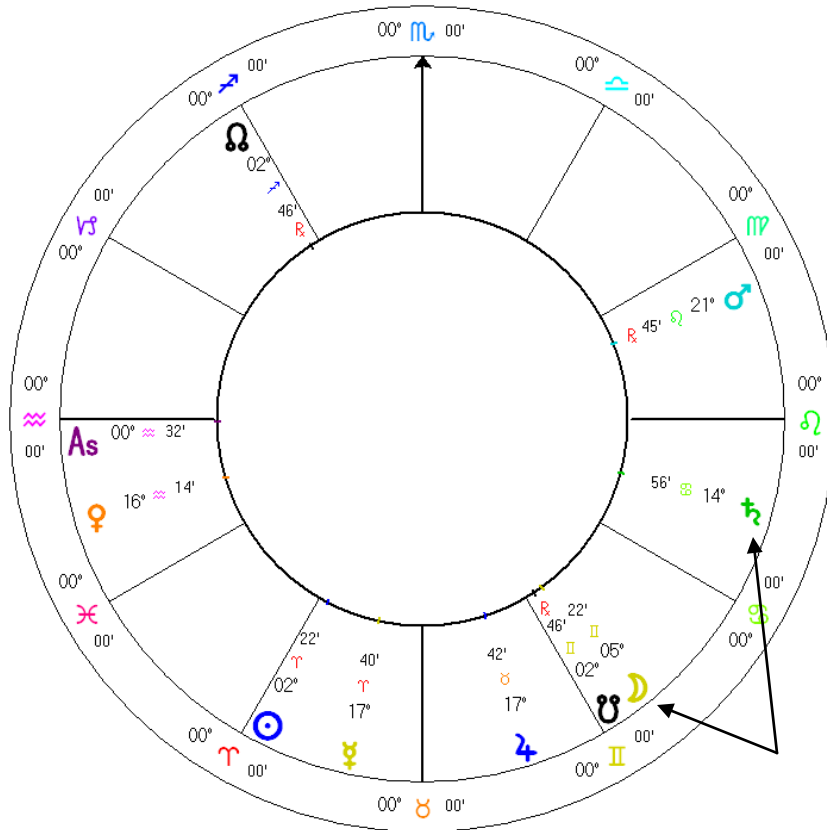
It is obvious that the nodes do not account for the whole affliction in these cases but they are necessarily present to flavour the type of affliction. In Karen and Christophers' charts Ketu flavoured their types of physical afflictions.

Next I will illustrate the nodes by their effects on mental health.

In the previous discussion, I emphasised the physically afflictive capacities of Rahu and Ketu the Vedic named nodes of the Moon. I will now illustrate their tendency to disturb or enlighten the mind.

Firstly here is the Vedic chart of the late British comedian Spike Milligan.

Spike Milligan
 Natal Chart (2)
 16 Apr 1918
 3:00 am IST -5:30
 Ahmadnagar, India
 19°N05' 074°E44'
Geocentric
Lahiri
Whole Signs
Mean Node
 Rating: A

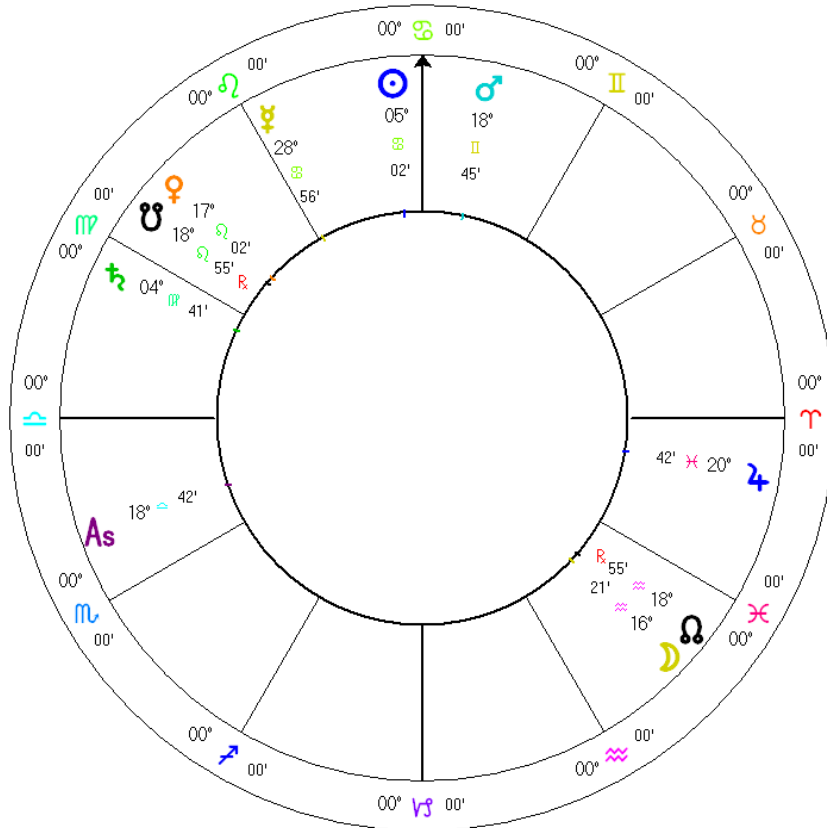


Again like Karen Carpenter, the Moon ruler of the 6th (illness) is eclipsed / associated by Ketu. The Moon is the significator of the mind in Vedic astrology; particularly the soul/mind connection. So planets conjunct the Moon go deep. This time even though Cancer on the cusp also relates to the stomach, Ketu's downside brings a lot of spasmodic disturbances and reclusive tendencies to the Moon that saw Milligan suffer bouts of bipolar disorder that lead to at least 10 nervous breakdowns. Saturn in detriment, dispoised by the Moon, in the 6th is

another confluencing depressive feature of Milligan's natal chart. On the upside, Milligan channelled a lot of this into the Vedic 5th house – the house of creative intelligence assisted by a Gemini Moon - a love of mimicry that resulted in a manifold variety of Goon Show voice impersonations.

According to one source Robin Williams is “normal”, with no bipolar skeletons in his closet. Compare his chart below to Milligan's above.

Robin Williams
Male Chart (5)
 21 Jul 1951
 1:34 pm +6:00
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 43°N02'20" 087°W54'23"
Geocentric
Lahiri
Whole Signs
Mean Node
 Rating: AA

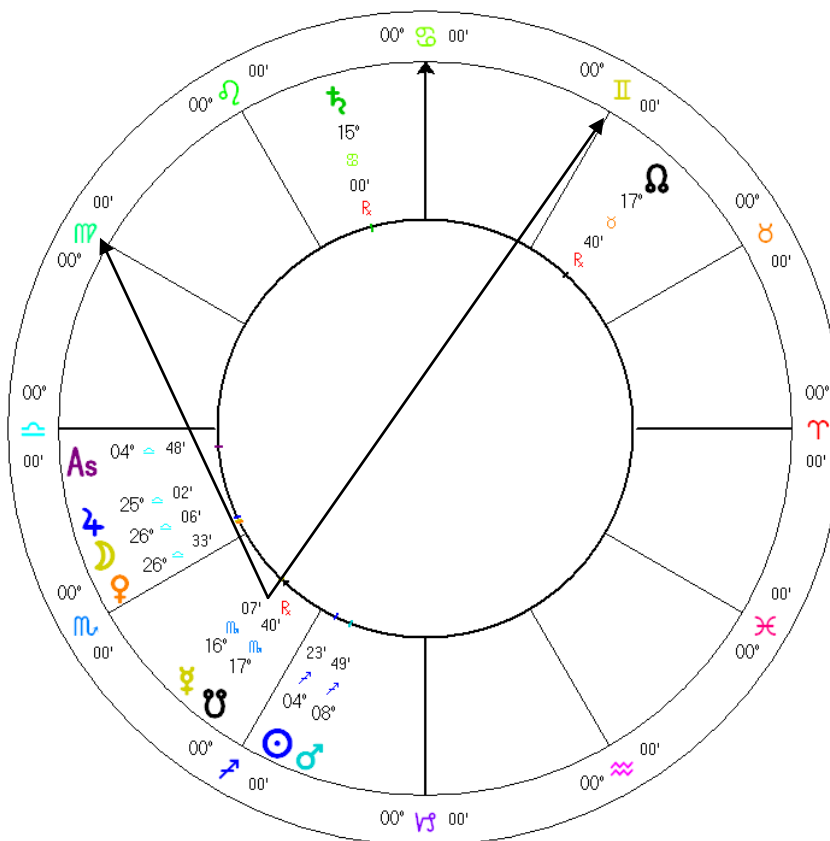


Robin William's health/illness 6th house is fortified by a strong Jupiter in its own rulership. This time however there is a Rahu conjunction, in the 5th, to the Moon his 10th ruler – his career and public notoriety. To define the differences between the Nodes, Rahu is less destructive and much more extrovert than Ketu. Rahu drives more manically than depressively and William's has made a career out of his manic creative intelligence.

It would be interesting to see if fellow comedian Jim Carrey also has this manic Rahu signature?

Let's now look at the enlightening influence of the Nodes. Here is the spoon bending psychic showman Uri Geller's Vedic chart.

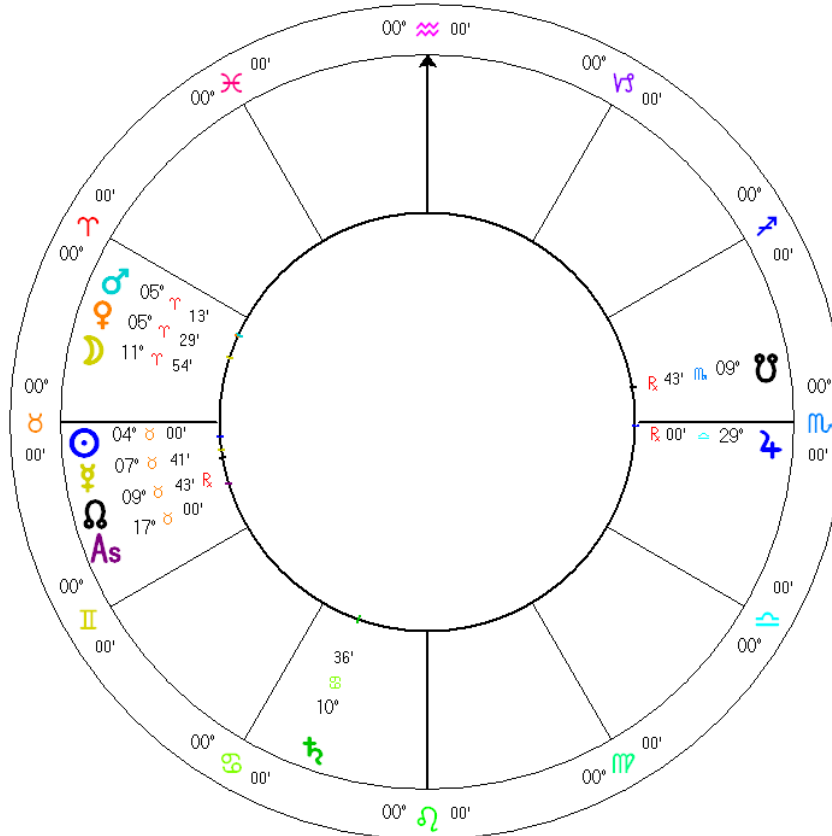
Uri Geller
Natal Chart (2)
 20 Dec 1946
 2:00 am -2:00
 Tel Aviv, Palestine
 32°N04' 034°E46'
Geocentric
Lahiri
Whole Signs
Mean Node
 Rating: A



From his 10th ruler the Moon (mind significator and career / public notoriety) in the 1st conjunct the expansive Jupiter and a strong Venus, we see the charming entertainer. It is given the psi power via Mercury (the output of the mind) conjunct Ketu. Not Ketu alone, but also because Mercury rules the two Vedic house of higher learning (9th) and the house of spirituality (the moksha 12th). In the 2nd this combo becomes a source of income.

David Helfgott (below) channelled his overdriven (Rahu conjuncting) Mercury ruler of his creative talent 5th house by physicallizing and overcoming breakdowns through the Vedic house of vitality, the 1st. Rahu also associates with his Sun, an indicator of a strong life force in the 1st but also indicates that his father (Sun as significator) looms large in his personal space; and, afflicted by Rahu is also a driven and insatiable person in David's life.

David Helfgott
Male Chart (4)
 19 May 1947
 8:24 am -10:00
 Melbourne, Australia
 37°S49' 144°E58'
Geocentric
Lahiri
Whole Signs
Mean Node
 Rating: C
 Australian Data Collection



To conclude, the nodes do not make life easy. They disturb and challenge us to gain control and fight the demons within. They work in tandem with other important chart factors and are personalised when linked to the inner planets or angles. It need not be stressed enough that the nodes closely conjunct planets in a large number of charts and thus should be delineated in light of other confluencing themes in the chart whether physical or mental; positive or negative in their manifestations.

If you would like to discuss this further, you can email me at krissvendsen@hotmail.com

