



Today's Astrologer Article
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The Navamsa - A Quick Interpretative Method
By Judi Thomases

Navamsa is a Hindu word referring to the Ninth Harmonic. It was also called the Novien by Roman astrologers. The Ninth Harmonic relates to the spiritual. As far as I can determine, not much has been written about it, nor have many astrologers been using the Navamsa in practical client applications. However, through fortuitous circumstances, I've been able to evolve a new and highly usable method for doing so.

As background, here's a true story: In 1980, I attended a lecture on the subject by Mohan Koparkar given at an A.F.A. Convention. Later, when he told me that he "owed me a karmic gift" by reason of his South Node to my Venus, I barely understood what he meant![i]

Regardless of my bafflement at his statement (and unorthodox theory), it was the truth because the Navamsa Method is his gift to me.

At first, I must confess, I retained little from his original lecture. The Navamsa Method as Mohan taught it involves a sliding scale from 0 to 9, upon which are placed one's planets, major angles, Arabic parts, etc. by a system whereby everything is rounded off to a single number value. The diagram is drawn in a horizontal fashion:



Figure 1.

In order to work with this scale, one needs to know not only the degrees of planets or points, but also their minutes of arc. The single number value is derived by rounding out the item's degree depending on whether its minutes are greater or less than 30, and then using only the second digit of the degree for the final placement determination. Mohan, in fact, used his sliding scale to place the item nearer the single remaining number value to which it most closely rounded out.

For instance, 1 Capricorn 52 becomes a "2", while 21 Aries 02 becomes a "1".)

Years later, when I picked things up again, I didn't know what to do with these planets/points sliding in-between numbers. But something inspired me to toy with it. What to do with this??!, I thought. So now I can reduce everything in a chart to a single number, but then what?!

A brainstorm hit, and I tried using a simpler diagram -- a vertical list of numbers from 0 to 9:



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0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Figure 2.

Now, I thought, what happens if I put all the items from one's chart into this diagram, not sliding in-between numbers, but stationed at whatever value they were rounded out to?

Natal Placement		becomes Navamsa # Value
Sun	11 Capricorn 41	= 2
Moon	7 Pisces 29	= 7
Mercury	6 Capricorn 23	= 6
Venus	15 Sagittarius 44	= 6
Mars	28 Scorpio 25	= 8
Jupiter	5 Taurus 41	= 6
Saturn	7 Taurus 56	= 8
Uranus	22 Taurus 29	= 2
Neptune	27 Virgo 42	= 8
Pluto	3 Leo 40	= 4
Node	5 Libra 37	= 6
Vertex	4 Leo 11	= 4
Part/Fort	17 Aquarius 32	= 8
ASC	21 Sagittarius 44	= 2



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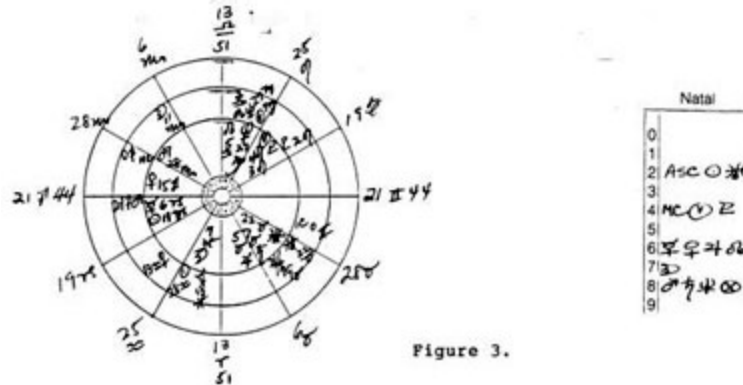


Figure 3.

Now I had something I could work with, a graph of one's chart. As each item was rounded out to a single number value, I placed it to the right of the column. In this way, certain values had one or several items at their stations, while other values had none at all. Research about these groupings in many charts soon showed that personality traits not emphasized in the natal chart, but apparent in the native's behavior, were revealed by the "aspects" uncovered this way.

Mohan's method was quick and easy, but this method is even simpler, allowing the natal chart to be broken down very quickly, and giving a graphic device that can be easily analyzed for hidden patterns.

The multiple items, or Navamsa conjunctions, can be considered like syntheses of these energies in a chart. For instance, in Fig. 3, (my own) the pattern of Sun/Uranus/ASC jumps out very strongly. In the natal chart, there's a Sag rising, a lot of earth, and a lot of Neptunian stuff, so you might say that the person is psychic or mystical or even (with a Libra MC) involved in the arts, all of which is true. But other than Uranus quinquaxing the ASC, you might not see the astrologer in that chart at all. However, the Navamsa pattern here shows this much more strongly, as well as showing a free-spirited, offbeat personality. Being as objective as I can about my own natal chart, I can't see these things quite as clearly in the wheel as they show in the Navamsa.

The Navamsa is showing other patterns here too, e.g., the difficult Mars/Saturn/Neptune, bringing lots of frustration and disappointment but also practical idealism and structured planning.



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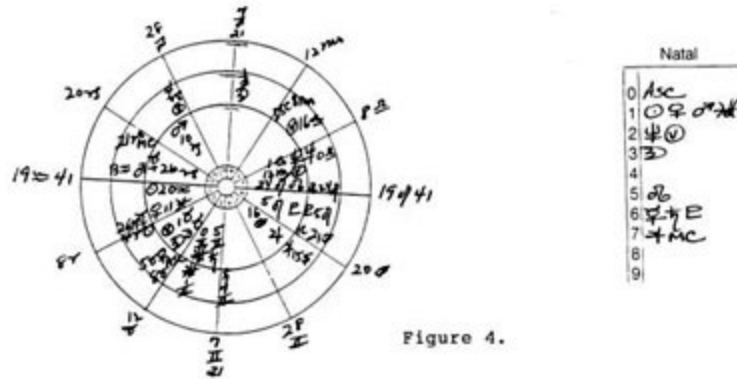


Figure 4.

Fig. 4 is another example of a person's natal chart vs. the same person's Navamsa by this method.

From his natal chart alone, what would jump out at you about his love life? Well, there are good and bad aspects to Venus, and pertinent aspects involving his Sun, ASC and Node. Certainly, Mars sextile Venus in Pisces would be very nice for his relationships involving his Sun, ASC and Node. while Mars sextile Venus in Pisces would be very nice for his relationships with women, who are friendly and very giving. But there are some problems here with the square of Venus to Saturn.

A quick look at his Navamsa, however, reveals something important: Sun/Venus/Mars/Uranus = change, excitement, intensity, impulsivity. This man has been engaged 7 times, married twice and is about to get married very impulsively for the third time. So, the Navamsa pattern describes this man. The natal chart (except for the eccentricity or unconventionality of Aquarius) doesn't show this, but it just pops right out at you in the Navamsa. The first thing that you see there is the number of relationships, and the impulsiveness in the way that he jumps into them and out of them.

Other patterns are Jupiter/MC (expansion and growth in the career, plus money - great career moves). He has had an amazing career history beginning as an auto mechanic, becoming an electrical engineer, getting into computers, then becoming a doctor, and now as a head doctor for a large corporation - is that shown by the natal chart alone? Mercury/Saturn/Pluto (depressive) - indicates that he has a tendency towards alcoholism.

Certainly some of this can be seen in the natal chart. I always work with the natal chart to analyze a person, but I've found that this method brings out things in an amazing way.

Then I found yet another way to use this Navamsa column. I realized that you could place anything else similarly on the left of this scale, given a specific date with the specific degrees and minutes for the planets and points on that date. What I work with the most would be the progressions. By placing the year's progressed planets etc. to the left of the column, the second most important usage for the Navamsa method revealed itself, a way to compare that year's energy pattern against the natal chart.



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Progressed '87	Natal
	0
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9

Figure 5.

This was soon shown to substantiate or reinforce the patterns that might already be emerging from analysis of the Solar Return, transits, progressions to natal, and progressions to progressions that we are all accustomed to working with. In fact, if the same pattern emerged four times, one could be very secure in that prediction. However, this columnar method of comparison also uncovered potential for the year that was frequently not even visible by other methods, but which proved time and again accurate in forecasting.

I use the exact positions of the radix chart progressed to the native's nearest birthday. However, any significant date would do, for instance, the date that you're casting that chart (horary).

I do not put the Moon into the progressed Navamsa because it moves too quickly for a "fix" on its position for that year. (Although I haven't yet done it, I don't see any reason not to experiment using the progressed Moon's positions for a monthly Navamsa.)

Progressed '87	Natal
	0 ASC
MC ♄ ♃	1 ☉ ♀ ♂ ♃ ♄
	2 ♄ ☉
♂	3 ☽
♂	4
♂ ☉	5 ♂
♀ ♀	6 ♀ ♃ ♂
☉	7 ♄ MC
ASC ♄	8
	9

Figure 6.



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Here, Jupiter has progressed to 15 Cancer 30 exact. (see Fig. 4). I use a little arrow, sort of floating in-between two number values, to show that you can't round it off. I just do it this way so that I know that a planet or point is in the middle between two numbers. However, there's no reason not to decide arbitrarily that 30 minutes is rounded off to the next value.

I've found also that the progressed Node, Vertex, and Part-of-Fortune are like karmic signals. If you have a link-up in the natal Navamsa between one of these, and planets or angles, something karmically important is going on.

Example: In Fig. 3, Pluto/MC/Vertex are all linked in my karma, and Mercury/Venus/Node - self-expression and creativity - are linked with my spiritual path. The flavor of destiny, fate or dharma hovers around that situation, not necessarily involving other people or emotional matters. Example: In Fig. 6, the Navamsa shows Vertex to Jupiter/MC in '87, which is a significant linkage, while the MC is linked with Neptune/Uranus to Sun/Venus/Mars/Uranus. Together, this shows a lot of career activity this year; he has just begun a new job in a new location.

To interpret link-ups in a progressed Navamsa, I look at each set as conjunctions, able to be handled negatively or positively. If, for instance, the native shows a joining of ASC and Uranus at a single value, and the year's progressions (to the left of the column) show Saturn, also at this value for the year, I would interpret the energy as being restrictive of freedom yet maturing if handled properly. Willpower and discipline would be required. Dieting might be especially successful, but there would be a high level of frustration. If Mars joined Saturn on the left, however, the frustration would be unbearable, and explosive outbursts plus accident-prone behavior could be expected, as well as sporadic bursts of energy. None of this, however, might be apparent from the transits, Solar Return or progressed directions alone.

In a progressed Navamsa, the heavy planets are going to hang out at whatever number value to which they reduce. They're not going to move too far because in one's whole progressed lifetime they're only going to move a few minutes. At some point they may round out to a higher or low number, but they're pretty much going to stay around one value. On the other hand, the MC, ASC and faster planets are going to move every year, creating ever-changing patterns against the heavier planetary energies. However, it may just be that the MC, ASC, etc. end up being rounded out to the same number value the following year even if they've reached a degree higher by progression. And a heavy planet can move back to a lower degree if it's retrograde. So there is some flexibility, and you do have to sit down and actually work this out each year.

The MC of course is also the IC, just as the ASC is also the DSC. Example: In Fig. 6, the MC in the '87 progressed Navamsa shows something significant re career or real estate that will benefit this man in the wallet too. In fact, he had sold a lot of property and bought a very expensive piece of property, and he has relocated this year. All of which may be shown by other transits -- I am not saying that this replaces conventional Astrology. That's not how I use it. But this will back it up.

In Fig. 6, the MC lines up with Uranus. This always works; it always denotes a move. Whereas his natal chart doesn't show the move as clearly: nothing is at 7 Sag anymore, nothing is near his progressed MC at 21 Capricorn yet, either by transits or progressions, and there are no exact major aspects by progression to his natal chart. Uranus, the chart



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ruler, will be squaring the progressed Mercury, ruling the intercepted seventh and the fourth, but not until the fall, while the move took place in early summer. However, just by looking at the Navamsa pattern, you can predict a move, a significant career change, etc.

In '88, a different pattern will be forming in his chart. Although I haven't worked it out precisely yet, I would think that Venus moving down to link up with Jupiter/MC could be more money, but MC moving to Neptune may be a lot of confusion re career or residence.

If everything - the transits, the progressions, the Solar Return, and the Navamsa - is saying the same thing, giving the same pattern, reinforcing it, you have a very clear picture of what is going on in the person's chart. The Progressed Navamsa method can be used between any natal and progressed charts, or between the progressed and the Solar Return, or natal and Solar Return.

There's still another thing you could do with this Navamsa chart.

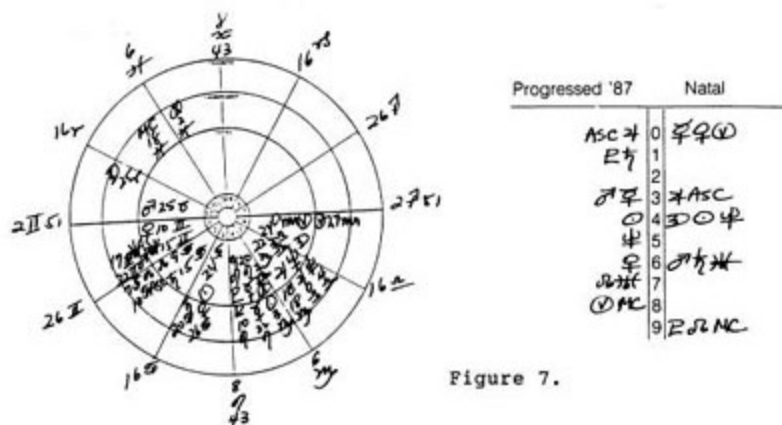


Figure 7.

First, in Fig. 7, let's look at the natal and Navamsa charts of the most recent love relationship of the client of Fig. 6. Since it was progressed to this woman's last birthday, the chart's pattern was in effect from July '86 to July '87. In her natal chart, she has her Moon in Libra in the sixth, square the Sun in Cancer in the third, and Venus right on the ASC conjunct Uranus, and by itself Venus trifles Neptune. She's idealistic, but with an inner conflict in her relationships. In her natal Navamsa, she has Moon/Sun/Neptune = idealistic but a lot of confusion and lack of grasp of reality in relationships with men. She doesn't see men for what they are.

She has not really confided about her first marriage, which left her apart from her two children, but her second marriage, which lasted only 6 months, produced another child that she must raise alone. And now she's jumping very quickly into a relationship with the man we just looked at who has a history of very impulsive and changeable relationships with women.

The frustration and tension don't show as clearly in her natal chart as in her natal Navamsa. Uranus in the first house



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is rebellious and unconventional, while Mars in the twelfth is repressed. However, these two planets plus the Saturn in Cancer are not connected at all in the natal chart. But looking at her Navamsa, we find Mars/Uranus/Saturn = impulsivity, frustrations, difficulties; however, Jupiter/ASC = relationships which can benefit her.

They met when this Navamsa was in effect, in '86. The aspects by progression to the natal chart do not show why she met someone this year that she's willing to marry. However, in the Navamsa, there is ASC/Jupiter to Venus, Sun to Moon, Venus to Mars (a sexual attraction), and Venus to Uranus (exciting). The Venus/Saturn shows a problem - she's in Maryland and he was in New Jersey, so Venus/Saturn has been the separation, and Venus/Uranus, the sporadic nature of their interaction. So here I'm illustrating patterns that aren't showing up (at least, not as obviously) in the natal chart.

Since he didn't arrive until after July, which is into her progressions of '87, if I were to do the Navamsa for '87, things would move, and the pattern would change. Then MC would come down to a link-up with Pluto/MC/Node, the ASC would come down to a connection to Pluto/Saturn, the Sun would come down to a connection to Neptune, Mercury would come down to line up with Neptune, and Venus would link up to the Node/Uranus. She's selling her house so that they can move in together, but just by eyeballing it, that doesn't look too wise.

Which brings me to the third thing I can do with this Navamsa method: to use it as a form of synastry, lining up any two natal Navamsas to see how they relate to each other. And again, I would use all the other methods - composite, comparative, and relationship - as well.

Party A Natal		Party B Natal
♀♀♃	0	ASC
	1	♃♀♃♃
	2	♃♃
♃ASC	3	♃
♃♃♃	4	
	5	♃
♃♃♃	6	♃♃♃
	7	♃MC
	8	
MC♃♃	9	

Figure 8.

In Fig. 8, we have the parties from Fig. 6 and Fig. 7. Her Venus lines up with his ASC, which is nice. His Moon lines up with her Jupiter/ASC, which seems happy and simpatico. Her Mercury lines up with his ASC, which is great for communications. But her Mars/Saturn/Uranus to his Saturn/Mercury/Pluto is difficult, tough to live with. By analyzing these two people's synastry Navamsas, I see affection but few karmic linkups, and several things that could be very upsetting, angering, and frustrating - power plays and so forth. So, by the Navamsa alone, this is not the ideal to find in a diagram that was being used for relationships, and as an astrologer, I wouldn't give this relationship a very high rating of compatibility.



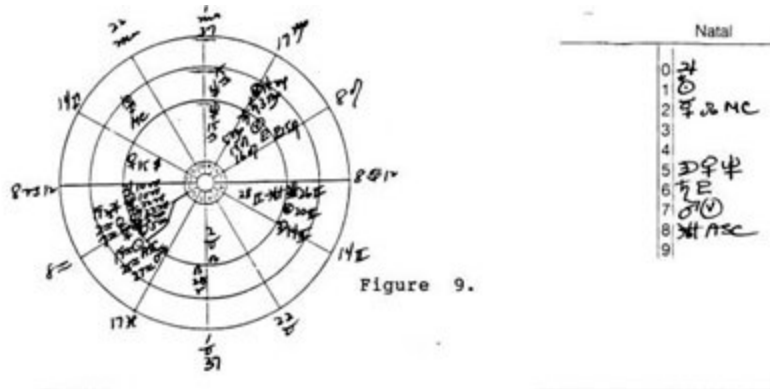
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The Synastry Navamsa can be used between any two natal charts.

The Navamsa means the 9th Harmonic, which is spiritual. Spiritual energy is revealed by your planets, not by the house placements, so this is like a shortcut to what is going on in the soul. It's a shortcut to getting to the depth of the chart, the inner motive.



In Fig. 9, the natal chart reveals a major stellium in Capricorn/Aquarius, North Node in Taurus, a loaded Leo eighth house, and a one-degree Scorpio MC. The career might be in finances or real estate, or something structured in the arts like video, writing or set design, maybe theatre; creative and off-beat. And this man has had lots of careers, all very far out and interesting. But something jumps out of the Navamsa - Mercury/Node/MC = writings or publishing. He has self-published a manual tied to a popular tv show, and has sold collectable movie memorabilia (posters, film) - all creative self-expression through the career.

Progressed '87	Natal
♃♂	0 ♃♂♂ ASC
	1 ♃♂♂
♃♀	2 ☉☽
☉	3 ☽
	4 MC
ASC♌	5 ♀
MC	6
♃♂	7 ♌
☽	8 ♃
♃♀	9 ♂

Figure 10.

In Fig. 10, this lady is a Capricorn, so the progressed year would have started at the beginning of '87 for her. What's happening about her love life this year? Saturn/Venus, Sun/Vertex, DSC/Node to Venus, Sun/Moon = love life



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activated, a special guy, but problems (she's married). Mars/Neptune = sneaking around.

Marriage itself would be shown, as it is in regular progressions, by Venus to the MC, or to the Sun. Venus to Mars might just be a hot love affair! Everything that you look at is going to give you information with this method.

Progressed '87	Natal
	0 ♃♁
♀	1
♁♁♁	2 ♀ ASC ⊕
♁♁♁	3 ♀ ♁
	4 ⊕♁♁ MC
MC ♁ ⊕	5 ⊕
	6
⊕ ASC ♃	7 ♁♁
♀	8 ♁
	9

Figure 11.

Fig. 11 is a male Gemini, so this progression has just started for him. About career, the natal Navamsa shows Sun/Saturn/Neptune/MC = huge responsibilities; Saturn/MC = construction business - he started from scratch and built up to a big construction company, but Neptune/MC = underhanded dealings (and he himself can be undermined). This year, the Sun had to move ahead to get to 5, the Node had to come up from 7 to get to 5, (maybe it's been there for a few years but it's at 5 now), and the MC had to step down to get to 5, so that all could line up with the Part of Fortune. He opened a showroom, a major career move. Remember, when you see points like the Part of Fortune and the Node, that's like a fated thing. So this was the year it was supposed to happen.

Also, Vertex/ASC/Jupiter to Moon/Node = building a new house, a big, big house. Uranus/Mars to Mercury/ASC/Vertex = breaking up or changeability in a partnership (he had an aborted business partnership), or his wife may leave him. But his wife probably won't leave him because ASC/Jupiter to Moon/Node.



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Progressed '87	Natal
4♄	0
	1
ASC MC ♄	2 ASC ☉ ♄
♀	3
♂♀	4 MC ☽ ♀
	5
	6 ♄♀♄♂
♄	7 ☽
☽	8 ♄♄♄
♄☉	9

Figure 12.

In Fig. 12 (my own progressed Navamsa), since I'm a Capricorn this won't come into effect until Jan. of next year, '88. ASC/MC/Uranus to ASC/Sun/Uranus = a major move. With my youngest child off to college, I'll probably sell the house I've lived in for the last 20 years, and move. Venus/Node to MC/ Vertex/Pluto = big money. I will probably get my asking price for it. Neptune to Moon, and Vertex to Neptune = confusion as to what I'll be doing. Node/Venus = could get married. Node/Pluto = transformative. Mars/Jupiter = something very enterprising, not anchoring too soon. Sun/Saturn = taking on responsibilities, being limited by a male (I have a relationship with a Capricorn), not necessarily liking certain burdens. Relocation? The MC/Uranus is certainly enlivening, (MC/Uranus/ASC to ASC/Sun/Uranus) about as much excitement as I can handle!

Comparing this Navamsa with my natal (in Fig. 3): Uranus is moving into the first, and Venus by progression has trined the MC, thus backing up what was shown above. However, I want to emphasize that what you do by the Navamsa method, such rounding off of numbers, really has nothing to do with progressions or transits. It just happens to be that for the date that you're casting a chart, certain values reveal certain pictures of planetary energy.

If you have a 29 or a 9 or a 19, you have a nine there. In other words, everything would be of the 9th vibration. And so forth. That's really what it's talking about. Synthesis. It's not like numerology. You don't add up, and then keep reducing in that way. However, numerologists might see meaning in which numbers (vibrations) were being emphasized during a time-period.

The Navamsa, then, is your spiritual pattern, the harmonic that's of your spiritual vibration.



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Progressed '86	Natal
♀	♀ MC
♃	♃
	♃ ♃
♃ ♃	♃ ♃
MC ♃	♃ ♃ ASC
ASC ♃ ♃ ♃	♃ ♃ ♃
♃ ♃	
	♃
♃	♃ ♃
	♃

Figure 13.

In Fig. 13, we have a financier, very good looking, who has had two marriages to very attractive women, and owns a mansion and a Rolls Royce. He has very few malefics in the natal Navamsa (and hardly any in the radix chart). A happy life, good karma. Everything he touches turns to gold! His progressed Navamsa for '86 had a biggie, Mars/Neptune/Saturn/Jupiter to Sun/Venus/Mars = a major financial move, something big with money. He bought an old mansion, refurbished it and turned it into a business.

The point is I feel you can derive just as much from interpreting this as from interpreting the natal. I feel very blessed that this new and exciting method was given (channeled?) to me. I think the astrological community will find this method easy, usable and surprisingly accurate. I would welcome any findings to which your own research leads you.

Thank you, Mohan, for a gift I'm still using, learning from, embellishing upon, and now sharing with others!

[i] By Mohan's theory, the North and South Nodes in their role as karmic indicators in relationships denote that one person's benefic to the South Node of another person means that the South Node person owes the nice thing to the person with the benefic!

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