

Book Review

The Spiritual Dimension of Vedic Astrology

By Robert Koch

Paravidya Publications, Bend, Oregon 419 pages
\$33.00

Review by Gary Gomes

I have known Robert Koch for ten years and consider him to be one of the finest practitioners of Vedic Astrology. A book by him is a worthwhile event, given the fact that he is a talented astrologer and a former monk of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. The book is the first of its kind in that it provides an array of techniques to ascertain spiritual tendencies in a chart and also provides a detailed discussion of one perspective of Vedic thought.

The first section of the book is devoted to Creation, Cosmology and Jyotish, and provides the theological and technical underpinnings of Robert's approach, and the second is geared toward the Drig Dasa, the tool for timing of spiritual events. In the first section, Mr. Koch provides the spiritual/theological underpinnings of traditional Vedic beliefs (primarily gathered from his experience within his order's spiritual lineage) and discusses techniques for analyzing charts, as taught from his Jyotish Guru Sanjay Rath's perspective.

I was greatly impressed by the depth of thought that went into this presentation, and Mr. Koch should be gratified that he was able to explain so many concepts in such a clear and convincing manner. The array of techniques Mr. Koch uses are commonly associated with a system called Jaimini astrology, but the approach taken here references and reconciles them with similar techniques contained in Brihat Parasara Hora Sastra.

The text really shines in the Drig Dasa section, which discusses the timing of spiritual events. Mr. Koch does a great job of pulling his premises together and illustrating his conclusions. I would recommend this book very strongly to readers who are at the intermediate to advanced level, especially if the reader is interested in the more complicated approaches to chart interpretation contained in the great classical texts.

I would recommend this book highly. It is an extraordinary piece of scholarship, and, obviously, a labor of love and devotion.

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419 pages, softbound, 8.5" x 11"

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Price: \$33.00 USD

<http://www.RobertKoch.com>