In this series of articles on kārakas for different bhāvas we shall now try to understand the kāraka for the 8th bhāva. Some of the kārakas are mentioned specifically in Jyotish texts, and some need to be understood by implication. As usual we shall begin by looking at what Sage Pārāshara says about the kāraka of the 8th bhāva.

The sage says:

सूर्यो गुरुः कुजः सोमो गुरु-मृगः सितः शनिः
मुः सूर्यो गुरुः कुजः सोमो गुरुर्भूमः ससतुः
शनिः
गुरु-शचन्द्रसुतो जीवो मन्दश्च र्भावकारकाुः॥

Sun, Jupiter, Mars, Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn
are the kārakas of bhāvas (from 1 to 12).

Thus, Saturn is kāraka for the 8th bhāva. The 8th bhāva is referred to as the Āyush bhāva and Saturn is also called the Āyush kāraka. However, it is also good to remember that besides life or Āyush, 8th bhāva also represents many other things and Saturn will naturally be kāraka for those matters too. So, let us see what else is attributed to the 8th bhāva in order to understand the role of Saturn as the kāraka for the 8th bhāva. As usual let us go to Sage Pārāshara and find what he says about the 8th bhāva. The Sage Pārāshara in his “Brihat Pārāshara Horā Shāstra” tells us:

आयु रणं रिपुं चापि दुर्गं मृतधं तथा।
गत्यानुकान्तिकं सर्वं पदंप्रभाविकल्यणं॥

Life span, war, a deceiver, cheat, rogue, an enemy, an adversary, a foe, wealth of the dead (legacy), forts/castles, as well as the previous life are to be seen from the 8th bhāva.

Here I would like to point out that, in the ancient classics, the 6th bhāva is also called the “Ripu Sthāna” and amongst its attributes, the word “Shatru” is used. Generally, the words “Shatru” (शत्रु) and “Ripu” (रिपु) are used as synonyms.

Thus, we find that while describing the attributes of the 6th bhāva the Sage Pārāshara says:

मातुङ्गान्तकशान्ताः शर्यास्वव ब्रणादिकाः।
सप्तकाराम चापि यद्भवं निर्मातीतयेत॥

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Maternal Uncle, fear of death, enemies, wounds, scars etc. mistress/second wife (or stepmother) should be seen from the 6th bhāva.

An astrologer, especially one understanding Sanskrit, must now wonder as to how is it that the Sage refers to enemy as attributes of both the 6th and the 8th bhāva? In order to clarify the difference between enemy as envisaged with respect to the 6th bhāva (Shatru-शत्रु), and enemy as understood with reference to the 8th bhāva (Ripu-रिपु). I would like to dwell a bit more on this at the cost of diverting a bit from the kāraka for the 8th bhāva.

Let us understand that “Shatru”, attributed to the 6th bhāva means: an over-thrower (of the reign of the king), an enemy, foe, rival, a hostile king (esp. a neighbouring king as a natural enemy). Now let us see what is meant by “Ripu”. “Ripu” attributed to the 8th bhāva means: 1) deceitful 2) treacherous 3) false, meaning a deceiver, a cheat, a rogue, an enemy, an adversary, or a foe.

The next question that must strike an astrologer is what exactly the difference between the two. The key is provided by attributes of word “Shatru”, where it means a hostile king who is from neighbouring country. This means that Shatru as referred to with respect to 6th bhāva refers to those who are near to us or rather those with whom we interact, as a matter of course by reason of some pre-existing conditions, and whom we can’t wish away. That is why 6th also refers to maternal uncle, disease (fear of death), wounds and so on. In such case, it is obvious that the enmity here could also arise, to some extent, as a result of our own action. It is therefore obvious that in case of 8th bhāva the enemy referred to, is not someone with whom we have to interact by default, but someone who might wish us ill without any fault on our side. So, a cheat whom we never have met, or an adversary who might not be close to us, someone whom we might trust but not one near to us, even our competitor whom we view more as our adversary and not mere competitor etc. would be indicated by the word “enemy”, with reference to 8th bhāva. Other matters referred to, like legacy etc. are clear as Saturn is described as old and one who is conservative. Being long lasting his being kāraka for 8th bhāva representing forts is also not very difficult to understand. Saturn is also known to be deceptive, as we have already seen in the article on Saturn earlier. Thus, Saturn being the kāraka for the cheat referred to in attributes of 8th bhāva, and represented by it, is pretty clear.

Having understood the logic behind Kāraka, so far, let us find out how this played out in our standard chart of Arnold Schwarzenegger.
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We find in Arnold’s chart that the kāraka for 8th bhāva, Saturn is somewhat weak as its navāmśha rāśi Aquarius is occupied by Rāhu in Navāṃśha chart, and he is placed within 6 degrees of Sun, so combust and thus weak. This Saturn though placed in the 2nd house of accumulated wealth and though owning the 8th bhāva of legacy, could therefore not give any legacy from his father. We also observe that the close association of Sun the kāraka for father and Saturn the kāraka for “Ripu”, did result in enmity between the two, more so once Arnold was away from him, to the extent that Arnold got own father investigated for his role in Nazi regime, and did not attend his funeral. Here, we can see that the enmity peaked when there was no interaction between the son and the father and Saturn played its role as “Ripu”.

We observe Saturn the kāraka for forts/castle aspecting Arnold’s 4th bhāva and his home Brentwood mansion, with a bridge leading to entrance, much like a drawbridge of an ancient castle, which is most uncommon in California, showed its (Saturn’s) influence as karaka for

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forts/castle. For those interested, here is the link to youtube video of his house Brentwood Mansion. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kV1VmOD6PQ
It is also interesting that he became Governor of a state which could be akin to a king of ancient times and lives in a king’s residence, though originally an actor. Since this is a lesson on the kāraka for the 8th bhāva, we are not going into other aspects of Saturn’s position in 2nd bhāva, its weakness and strengths and their results, for Arnold, here.

Having, thus understood how Saturn the kāraka for 8th bhāva plays out in our standard chart, in the next article, we shall look at the karakas of the 9th bhāva.