

Venue: Emeraldo Hall, Hotel GRT,

No. 120, Sir, Thyagaraya Rd, T. Nagar, Chennai- 600017, India. Tel : +91 44 2815 0500 / 5500 / 5151; www.grthotels.com

Dates: December 23rd and 24th (Sat & Sun), 2017

Organizers:

'Tat Tvam Asi'

(A Regd Non-Profit Public Charitable Foundation, established by Dr. Sankara Bhagavadpada, for addressing the complex problems of the *inner sufferings* in human lives and for bringing lasting relief and liberation from these *inner sufferings*, through enquiry into *the nature of the self and suffering*)

And

'Foundation for Healing Beings'

(A Regd Non-Profit Organization for Comprehensive Education, in the USA and Canada, with Sri Madhu Sai Deevanapalli, as the Founder President. Goals: Inner Peace and Outer Abundance through Self-Awareness)

Tenor of the Conference:

Understanding Vedic Astrology-through Enquiry and Dialogue(Samalochana)

1. Background: International Conference on Vedic Astrology (ICVA)

There have been many serious Vedic astrology conferences, where a large number of astrologers and those interested in astrology; gather together, to hear from their *Jyotish Guru* and other learned men and women in the field; the *Guru's* Keynote address, as well as listen to others, when they present short and long papers.

I myself have vastly benefitted from my repeated participation in six of the Annual Intl Conferences of the Systems Approach(SA) to Hindu astrology (2006-2011), in Gurgaon, Delhi, under the leadership of the founder of the Systems Approach (SA), the eminent *Jyotish Guru*, the Late Prof. V. K. Choudhry. In fact, it was the life-time work of the Late Prof. V. K. Choudhry, which brought home to me the knowledge of the SA, for analysing and interpreting any *Jyotish* Chart.

In this context, I wish to put on record, my appreciation and gratitude to the eminent, Late Prof. V. K. Choudhry, and to his son Sri. Krishna Rajesh Chaudhary, who is also an eminent Astrologer. Though, I consider myself to be a Vedic astrologer, fundamentally affiliated to the SA School of Hindu astrology founded by the eminent, Late Prof. V.K. Choudhry, I have nevertheless always granted myself the intellectual freedom that is so necessary for researchers, which in turn has enabled me to swing back and forth from classical Vedic astrology (VA) to the SA, and also to continue to learn from many other eminent Vedic astrologers, who may be practising entirely different systems of Vedic astrology, than what I have been used to, in my long years of study and practice.

2. The Customary Structure and Focus in Intl Conferences in the Past:

During such conference proceedings, it is true that people do ask brief Qs for understanding how astrology works under various conditions, and the *Jyotish Guru* or speaker presenting his/her paper will certainly answer those Qs, thereby dispelling the darkness.

Nevertheless, such brief Qs, arising in the 'highly time-constrained' context of conference proceedings; much like 'separate sparks' which do not 'join together' in a coherent way, to make a blazing fire; do not generally develop into a more profound understanding, arising from freely flowing discussions, enquiries or dialogues. These are not only slower, but also last longer and therefore demand sustained attention for longer time periods.

For this slower and deeper creative process, *samalochana* (*thinking together*) may be a more representative term. Therefore, the usual fast-paced pattern in all Intl conferences will result in inhibiting these deeper and more fruitful discussions within the seminar halls; so that, they have a chance of happening, at least during the more relaxed lunch and refreshment breaks, or when the whole event has come to a natural finale.

The reason for the Qs of keen listeners, not developing and flowering further into broader and deeper dialogues, leading to discovery, understanding and learning; is that the Intl conferences, are mainly only meant for annually making known new findings and new discoveries, and not for understanding a discipline broadly, deeply, originally and profoundly, especially, when such an ancient discipline has suffered the ravages of time for a full millennium.

2. New Samalochana (Thinking Together) Culture in the ICVA 2017

The *new cultural form* taken by the present ICVA 2017, does not have a historical precedent in Chennai, or for that matter anywhere else. It has the obvious stamp of

an emerging new age of deeper spiritual understanding, where, while we may legitimately speak of 'my country and your country', for historical, linguistic and cultural reasons; we are also becoming morally obliged to transcend our narrow definitions and accept the validity of 'our one common home, the earth', and 'our one collective human heritage'.

We have now moved into a unified global age (Vasudaiva Kutumbakam), in which the spiritual heritage (Vedic astrology in the present case) of one people and one civilization has already rapidly come home to all peoples in all civilizations. The rather well-known interflowing of the East and the West is only one dominant cyclical exchange in this planetary unification, whose acceleration, we are witnessing at this time. No one knows for sure, the ramifications and the good and bad consequences of this emerging global melting pot civilization. Therefore, in this perilous and uncertain hour, it becomes our moral responsibility to share the best 'healing medicine' we have, with the rest of the world.

Vedic Astrology, being the 'eye of wisdom' (*Jyotisham Ayanam Chakshuhu*), is one of the ancient and efficacious of these 'healing medicines' coming down to us from the ancient Vedic civilization - for understanding and transcending the afflictions of the body, mind and soul.

The ICVA proceedings will be entirely in the form of enquiry through dialogue (samalochana). Live discussions of the 'Tat Tvam Asi' School - between a teacher and many seekers and scholars of astrological knowledge, who have now come to form a global Vedic astrological learning community.

Further Information:

Trustees of Tat Tvam Asi will answer your Qs, if you are from India or Asia.

(i) Sri Kannan Subramanian, Mob: +91 98403 08087, e-mail:skannan1944@gmail.com

(ii) Sri Sambasiva Ramanananda, Mob: +91 98409 60279, e-mail:balaji_baktha@yahoo.com

(iii) Sri Sankara Bhagavadpada, Mob: +91 98840 10548, e-mail:bhagavadpada@gmail.com

If you are from Canada, USA, South America,

Sri Madhu Sai Deevanapalli, Canada. Mob: 001(626)244-4219, <u>e-mail: srimadhuji@gmail.com</u>

This announcement on the ICVA 2017 comes to you from Sankara Bhagavadpada

Sankara Bhagavadpada, Ph D, *Jyotish Ratan* Websites: <u>www.tat-tvam-asi.org</u>, <u>www.hinduworldastrology.net</u> & <u>https://www.Neelankarai.org</u> Email: <u>bhagavadpada@gmail.com</u>, <u>sankara@hinduworldastrology.net</u>, Address: 'Ashirvad', No.2/507, III Cross Street, Sunrise Avenue, Neelangarai, Chennai – 600 041, Phones: +91-44-24491233, Mobile: +91-9884010548