Varaha Mihira's Brihat Jataka from time immemorial has been considered as the standard textbook on Astrology. The commentaries by Bhattotpala have made Brihat Jataka immortal and a standard work.

The English translation of Varaha Mihira's Brihat Jataka is a monumental work in completing which the difficulties in translating a beautiful, technical and suggestive work in Sanskrit had to be surmounted by hard labour, profound research and want of adequate expressions.

It is not mere a translation work; the ripe experience of Mr. Rao for over 60 years in the field of Astrology and his sound judgment on doubtful points have substantiated its value further.
PREFACE TO FIFTH EDITION

It is with feelings of considerable pride that I present the fifth edition of my grandfather’s English translation of *Brihat Jataka*.

There are several translations of this matchless book into English available in the market. But Prof. Rao’s translation has been acclaimed not only as authentic, based mainly on the commentaries of *Bhattopala* but also as embodying in the notes, Prof. Rao’s vast practical experience in the field of astrology.

It is hoped that this translation, out of print for a long time, will supply a long-felt want to the vast number of astrological students and savants, for an authoritative presentation of Varaha Mihira’s treatise in simple English.

I must record my appreciation of the helpful attitude displayed by my good friend Mr. G. K. Ananthram in readily coming forward to publish the book in an attractive manner. My thanks are due to him.
FOREWORD

This translation of Brihat Jataka by my revered father, the late Prof. B. Suryanarain Rao, was commenced as early as 1908, when I was in the College classes and it was given as a supplement to The Astrological Magazine and then got up in a book form. It was not till 1918 that the first edition was issued and owing to change of residence and settlement at a village, many of the books were lost and a second edition was issued by about 1921. It was also sold out and circumstances did not permit the issue of the third edition immediately. When my nephew Prof. B.V. Raman had established The Astrological Magazine on a sound basis and began the reprint of some of my father's works like 'Jaimini Sutras', 'Stree Jataka', etc., he asked me to revise 'Brihat Jataka' so that a third edition of the book may be placed before the public. What with the scarcity of paper, printers, and war conditions, the book is seeing the light of the day in 1948, after a lapse of more than 25 years. I have carefully revised the translation and have added many concrete examples while discussing the Yugas and Bhavas and have tried my best to make it as
intelligent as possible to a layman who takes it up for the first time to study. Brihat Jataka from time immemorial has been considered as the standard text-book on Astrology and all other works like Jataka Chandrika, Sarvartha Chintamani, etc., come only next to Brihat Jataka. More than the text, the commentaries by Bhattacharya have made Brihat Jataka immortal and a standard work. A brief summary of Bhattacharya’s life is given under Chapter IV on page 119 of this work. *The Astrological Magazine* has also devoted many pages to his work and times. This English version of Brihat Jataka by my father is not a mere translation as is found in the other editions of Brihat Jataka but the ripe experience of Mr. B. Suryanarain Rao for over 60 years in the field of Astrology and his sound judgment on doubtful points with as clear and as convincing language as ever written in astronomical literature and to which standard very few have come up so far as my humble knowledge goes. As one who sat at his feet and learnt a few invaluable gems of astrological principles, I have placed this fourth edition, through the kind solicitude of my nephew Prof. B. V. Raman. The inclusion of the original slokas in Devanagari, will it is hoped appeal to a wider circle of astrological students.

B. LAKSHMINARAIN RAO, B.A.

BANGALORE
2-5-1957.

PREFACE

In presenting the English translation of Brihat Jataka, to the educated public of the world, I make no appeal for their indulgence. This is a monumental work, where the difficulties in translating a beautiful, technical and suggestive work in Sanskrit had to be surmounted by hard labour, profound research, want of adequate expressions in a poor and non-constructive language like the English by the selection of the most comprehensive expressions and by laborious mental analysis, which would have a tendency to minimise the linguistic incongruities so difficult to reconcile. How far I have succeeded in my attempts to simplify the technicalities by my notes is a matter for decision by the succeeding generations.

In my introduction to the English translation of Sarvartha Chintamani I have plainly referred to these difficulties and doubts and would refer the readers to that work for greater explanations. The priceless commentaries of Bhattacharya in Sanskrit on Brihat Jataka have been fully utilised by me in the course of my work and if I am to express my sense of gratitude to anybody I have to do so to him. Most of the English works on
astrology are sorry performances and no reliance can be placed upon them. If Varaha Mihira is to be respected as the author of Brihat Jataka, his matchless commentator deserves even greater credit for the splendid way in which he has not only made clear many of the obscure passages but also for the valuable quotations he has given so copiously and so aptly in the course of his work. Envy and meanness are the index of lower minds and appreciation and generosity are the indications of a nobler psychic development. I shall close this preface with a simple request to my readers that when they read through my notes they can never complain of wasting their time. Their intellects will be sharpened and their knowledge will be expanded.

Hunsamaranahalli, Mysore Province, India.
21-5-1919

B. SURYANARAIN RAO.

CONTENTS

I. Explanation of Technicalities Used

II. Grahayoni Prabheda or Planetary Natures, Etc.
   Political divisions among planets—Significance of Seven in Nature—Power of the Mind—Planets and colours, castes and sexes—Seasons and flavours—Aspecting angles or Drishti—Friendship and Enmity—Temporary relations—Sthanabala—Digabala—Chesabala—Kalabala—Six sources of strength and their results.

III. Vyiyoni Jaana Adhyaya or Manifold Births
   Clues for the differentiation of species other than human—Animal births and their organs—Birth of Birds and Plants.

IV. Nisheka or Consummation of Marriage
   The part played by Mars and the Moon on menstruation—Forms of sexual union—When conception takes place—Effect of Birth time on Elders—Abortion and easy delivery—Solar rays and pregnancy—Birth of Eunuchs—Birth of Triplets, etc.—Sex determination—Process lead-
Chap. IV.—(contd.)

ing womb—Planetary influences by stages Sex by choice—Malformations—Dumb, dwarf, deaf, cripple children—Duration of gestation.

V. Janma Kula Lakshana or Peculiarities of Birth ...

Father's whereabouts at birth—Unnatural births—Illegitimate births—Divination of the nature of the place child was born in—When the child is forsaken by its mother—Birth rectifications—Lying-in Chamber described—Divisions of the human body—Organs affected by evil conjunctions.

VI. Balarishta or Early Death ...

Combinations for immediate death—Period of early death—Yogas killing mother as well as the child—Quick death—Death within one year—Time of death—Importance of Jupiter in Arishta Bhanga—Antidotes for early death.

VII. Ayurdaya or Longevity ...

Number of years shared by each planet—Reductions—Different views—Period contributed by Lagna—Drisyardha Harana—Kroro-
daya Harana—Sathruksheira Harana—Moudhyar Harana—Longevity of Animals—Combinations producing full longevity—Conflicting theories and their reconciliation—Jeevasarma and his school—Sathyacharya and Lagna Ayus—Exceptions to the applicability of Ayurdaya calculations.

VIII. Dasantardasa—Periods and Sub-Periods ...

Determination of the ruling Dasa and the succeeding ones—Rules allocating sub-periods among other planets—Purna, Rikta, Arohini and Avarahini Dasas—Dasas producing mixed results—Peculiarities of Lagna Dasa—Naisargika Dasas—Results of the Sun's Dasa—Results of the Moon's Dasa—Results of Dasas of other planets—How results are determined—Results enjoyed in dreams and thoughts—Some salient points in judging Dasas.

IX. Ashtaka Varga ...

Ashtakavarga and its relation to transits or Gochara—Benefit of different planets—Importance of Ashtakavarga—Interpretation of the dots and their application—Nature of results.

X. Karmajeeva or Profession ...

Determination of the source of livelihood—Inherited wealth—Legacies through friends or women—Combinations for becoming a dealer in perfumes, bullion, drugs, agriculture, minerals, etc.—Yogas indicating an author, a mathematician, poet, priest, etc.—Combinations to bring money by various means.

XI. Raja Yoga or Combinations for Royalty ...

-Cruel planets and Kingship—Combinations for political power—Illustrations of Raja Yogas—Petty and mighty kings—Kings and character—Combinations showing elevation to Royalty—Weak Raja Yogas—Time of ascendancy to the throne—When kings surrender—Combinations for Bandits.

XII. Nabhasa Yogas ...

Varieties of Nabhasa Yogas—Asraya Yogas and their results—Akruti Yogas and results—Certain improbabilities—Speculations on the pre-historic planetary set up—Illustrations on Akruti Yogas and Sankhya Yogas—Merger of different Yogas—Sankhya Yogas Individual results produced by various Yogas—Nabhasa Yogas compared with other Yogas.

XIII. Chandra Yogadhyaya—Results from Lunar Positions and Conjunctions ...

Moon's angular positions and results—
XXII. Reference to Sri Rama's Horoscope—Planes in Ambara and Ambu—Some exceptional cases—The Karaka applied to Horoscope as well as Travel—Importance of Mutual Aspects—Jupiter in Kendra—Time at which a Dasa commences and the Rasi occupied by the Dasa lord, at the commencement, middle and end of a Rasi.

XXIII. Anishtadhyaya or Misfortunes
Prosperity or adversity of Bhavas determined—Twelve kinds of children—Consideration of the houses of children and wife—Legitimate and illegitimate children—Adopted son—Importance of Chandra Lagna—Combinations for Polygamy—Determination of number of wives—Status of the wife—Character of wife—Loss of children and wife—Combinations showing violent or unnatural death to wife—Deformity in wife—Barren women—Adultery—Late marriage—Family extinction—Indications for some nasty diseases—Abdominal diseases—Consumption, Asthma, etc.—Deafness and decomposition of teeth—Man possessed of devils—Blindness—Insanity—Slavery—Baldness—Hysteria—Combinations for Imprisonment—Nature of confinement.

XXIV. Stree Jathaka Adhyaya—Female Horoscopy
Results common or applicable to both men and women—Feminine peculiarities—8th and 7th house functions in a female horoscope—Modest females—Analysis of the Trimsamsa in a girl's horoscope—Indications for Adultery—Divorce—Early widowhood—Immorality—Loving husband—Causes for sexual incompatibility—Need for reference to astrological principles—Physical features of the husband—Planets giving proficiency in fine arts—Determination of the age at which widowhood comes—When wife predeceases husband—Jaana Rasis productive of few children—Planets for a Vedantini.

XXV. Niryanadhyaya—Death
Determination of the kind of disease which may prove fatal—The organ likely to be affected—Place of Death—Unnatural Death—Danger when Moon is subjected to Papakartari Yoga—The time of Death—The Fate of the dead body—The past and future existence of the Soul.

XXVI. Nasta Jataka or Unknown Horoscopes
How to construct a horoscope based on question time—Fixing Jupiter's position—Season—Lunar Day—Birth in daytime or night—Time of birth—Other methods to fix the lunar month, lagna, constellation, etc.

XXVII. Drekkanas Adhyaya
Description of 36 Drekkanas—Their nature, special characteristics—Masculine or feminine—Quadruped or Bird—Serpent or Rope—Drekkanas lords—Use of Drekkanas especially in cases of theft, travel, etc.

XXVIII. Upasamhara Adhyaya or Concluding Chapter
Recapitulation of chapters—Enumeration of chapters of Varaha Mihira's other works—Vivahajataka or work on marriage—Grantha samuchchaya or house building—Skandatraya or astronomy, astrology and natural phenomena—Brihat Jataka—A summary of works by Maha Rishis—Errors from time and copyings—Varaha Mihira's Parentage and place of birth—Aditya Dasa his father—Kapitha his native village—Avantica (Malva) his country—
Pruthuyasas—Shatpanchasat—Purvacharyas—
Mangala or Invocations—Vasishta—Bhradbawa—
Parasara—Vyasa—Vivrithi—Chintamani—Anustap—
The date and year of the commentaries of Bhattotpala—Bhaskaracharya—
Nripasaka—Salivahanasaka—The time and date of the completion of my
translations and notes on this work—Place of my residence in
retirement—My invocation to God—The
astrological diagram at the time of conclusion
and date and time—My prediction about the
future prosperity and success of my work—
The grandeur of Aryan sciences and Literature—
My genealogy, names and dates—My father
Gopala Row’s horoscope—My own horoscope—
Early predictions about my future greatness
My dream in infancy and its strong influence
on my character—My early education and
indifference to studies—My spirit of independ-
dence—My first production in Astrology—My
family and children—Appreciations of my
capacity by the public—My successful National
and Individual predictions—My prediction
about the present Great War—Invocation and
Conclusion.