

Greetings from the president of ACVA

Hello fellow lovers of Jyotisha – students, alumni, and friends.

Hope this finds you and your families doing well enough in these strange times.

According to what I understand about Jupiter's tenancy in Aquarius, at the time of this message – it is incumbent on each of us, individually, to remember to manage our thoughts. Although the value of practicing this principle might be self-evident, the importance of intentionally choosing positive, creative, life-affirming thoughts is especially crucial in these times of conflict. The cumulative effect of these independent thoughts of good-will to all, when consistently practiced, does have an effect on the outcome. In this particular case, in the outcome of what happens to the autonomy of Ukraine.



As a learning exercise, we may want to take a look at the Vedic New Year chart, defined as the moment of the new Moon, in Pisces. Being based in the U.S. I have calculated this chart for April 1, 2022 @ 2.24 am, in Washington, D.C. It is quite unbalanced, shall we say, with all seven visible planets (plus two invisible planets) located within three signs, all confined within the portentous Kala Sarpa yoga. Natural malefics Saturn and Mars are powerful in their sign of dignity. The natural benefics, Jupiter, and Venus are in close quarters, too, possibly offsetting the harsh nature of malefics in Capricorn. There are sixty names for each of these Vedic years calculated through Jyotish measurements. April of 2022 into March of 2023 is named "Shubhakruti" which can be loosely translated to imply "positive/beneficent creation".

Given the difficulties of the current moment, it seems like there is something to look forward to, based on the year of Shubhakruti. Each of us has the power to spiritually contribute, through our intentionally sattvic thoughts, to the welfare of those in fear and pain. Let's pray for, and think of, peace and positive creation. "Loka Samasta Sukhino Bhavantu" – may all beings be content.

ACVA is doing very well, being supported by Jupiter in Kumbha. Our scholarship program has been a remarkable success, and we are blessed to be able to continue offering special tuition rates. We have a wonderful cohort of interested and

interesting international students. It's amazing to me how Jyotisha holds appeal to citizens of so many diverse nationalities. A recent graduate, Dr. Sarah, sat for her exam from Israel. She passed the Jyotisha Ratna exam with distinction and intends to practice Jyotish within the structures of her culture. Another group of students, from lands far away from the U.S., is nearing completion of their studies, and will sit for the JR exam, and go on to begin their respective professional Jyotish practices. This is very gratifying for all of us here at ACVA – the college is fulfilling its dharma!

Special thanks and appreciation to friend of ACVA Siddha Deva, Simon Chokoisky, for the generous donation of his considerable time and talents to ACVA's first online seminar on "The Jyotish of Cryptocurrency." Thanks to each of you who attended this fund-raiser for ACVA! A replay of this webinar will be available for purchase through the ACVA store. Simon also organized donations to ACVA in the form of proceeds from the sale of NTF's of nakshatra images, created by Nadya Lakaeva.

As a measure of the truth of the phrase "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" ("the world is my family") the ACVA family has been collaborating with our sister organizations Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Kepler College, and the National Ayurvedic Medical Association. ACVA board member Ramdas Bill Sinclair lectured for Komilla's recent online conference on "Saturn." ACVA instructors, Dr. Lynn Bootes and Gary Gomes, presented for Kepler College recently. ACVA Director of Technology and Corporate strategy, Dr. Sisira Amarasinghe will contribute to a panel for the NAMA conference, in Tucson Arizona 4/22-4/25/22. And, in keeping with the theme, I will be presenting a lecture on "The Subtle Qualities of the Bhavas" at the International Society of Astrological Research's conference, in the Denver area, on 8/28/22.

Ms. Ronnie Gale Dreyer, Sanskrit scholar, author and ACVA graduate, and instructor will be presenting her thoughts on "The Eclipses of 2022" for ACVA on the day of an eclipse, Saturday, 4/30/22 at 9 am Pacific Daylight time. Keep an eye out for a flyer with details.

*One final note – a correction: Dr. Sisira Amarasinghe was presented with the *Jyotish Navaratana* award for outstanding contributions to the field of Jyotisha in 2021 - and not the *Jyotish Ratna* diploma, as previously reported.*

With my best wishes for your good health, prosperity, and contentment, as you celebrate the many and varied sacred festivals of this time of year,

Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)