

The Observatory

Vernal Equinox March 20, 2018

By Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)

Welcome to Spring, and the temporary equilibrium between the light and the dark. This season celebrates the return of light and life, in many cultures, with the holy days of Easter, Passover, and Ramadan (in May.)

This quarter begins with our Sun in the sign of a friend, in Pisces, Uttara Bhadrapada nakshatra. Venus transits the sign of his exaltation, Pisces, in Revati nakshatra, accompanied by debilitated Mercury there. Saturn continues moving through Sagittarius, in complex Mula nakshatra. Mars is right there, too. Rahu is in Cancer, Ashlesha nakshatra; Ketu is in Capricorn, Shravana nakshatra. Jupiter is retrograding though Libra, in Vishakha nakshatra.

It will be interesting to observe the actual effects of retrograde Mercury, while debilitated in Pisces, from March 23 until April 15. Will this retrograde motion somewhat cancel Mercury's debilitation?

There are some creative planetary conditions developing now, including the possibility for 3 different types of Maha Purusha yogas, during this quarter. Mars is in direct motion and exalts in Capricorn – for the duration of this quarter. This placement creates conditions for a Ruchaka yoga to form. This occurs 4 times per day, for 2 hours at a time, for a total of 8 hours during the course of each day. The same is true of Venus while he occupies Pisces, until March 25. Since Pisces is the sign of Venus' exaltation, while Venus transits through the 4 angles of the sky, for about 8 hours during the course of the day, this creates a lovely Malavya yoga. Also, Venus going into his own sign of Taurus, from April 19 – May 14, 2018 repeats these Malavya yoga-producing conditions. These two planets, Mars and Venus, in their high-functioning states may take a bit of the sting out of the notoriously strained conjunction of Mars with Saturn, in the deep and dense constellation of Mula.

Mercury also has the power to form its own special yoga, Bhadra yoga, while he is in Gemini, from June 9 – June 25, 2018. These are special times to make your best causes, towards future best effects.

A helpful exchange-of-signs (parivartana) yoga is also in play until March 25 while Venus is in Jupiter's sign, and Jupiter is in Venus' sign. Sun is at his highest degree of exaltation (10 degrees of Aries) April 22, 2018. "The Day of Lasting Achievement" when both the Sun, and the Moon occupy their exaltation signs, Aries, and Taurus, respectively, is on April 18 this year.

Here are the ingresses of the planets into signs. And some notes on some of the most significant planetary aspects for this quarter.

MARCH

20 Vernal Equinox.

22 Mercury stationary retrograde, and debilitated. Self-observation would be a good practice now.

24 Mars squares the Sun.

26 Venus enters Aries.

28 Venus conjuncts Uranus. This is usually quite lively, fun and creative.

30 Mars enters Purva Ashadha nakshatra, in Sagittarius.

31 Full Moon in Chitra.

APRIL

1 Mercury conjunct Sun.

2 Mars conjunct Saturn. The few days around this conjunction require patience, mindfulness, and anger management. Choose your battles and live to fight another day.

4 Mars square Mercury.

13 Sun enters Aries, sign of his exaltation.

15 New Moon in Ashwini. Mercury stationary direct, still in Pisces.

16 Venus opposite Jupiter.

17 Saturn stationary retrograde.

18 Sun conjunct Uranus. "Day of Lasting Achievement".

19 Venus enters Taurus.

24 Mar enters Uttara Ashadha nakshatra. Mars separating from the same nakshatra that Saturn occupies, may dispel some of the tension and frustration of the last few weeks.

26 Saturn squares Mercury.

27 Mars conjunct Pluto. Classical Jyotisha does not formally recognize the planet Pluto – however I just wanted to identify this combination of two powerful planets. Self-mastery is the best idea at this moment.

28 Rahu retrogrades into Pushya, in Cancer. This is significant for those with planets in Pushya.

29 Full Moon in Swati.

MAY

2 Mars enters Capricorn, sign of his exaltation, until November.

8 Sun opposite Jupiter.

9 Mercury enters Aries.

12 Mars squares Mercury.

13 Mercury conjuncts Uranus.

14 Sun enters Taurus. Venus enters Gemini.

15 New Moon in Krittika.

16 Mars squares Uranus. Accidents and disruptions are possible now.

22 Mercury opposite Jupiter.

26 Mercury enters Taurus.

27 Mars enters Shravana nakshatra.

29 Full Moon in Jyeshtha.

JUNE

1 Jupiter trines Venus.

5 Sun conjunct Mercury.

8 Venus enters Cancer.

9 Mercury enters Gemini.

13 New Moon in Mrigashira.

15 Sun enters Gemini. "Gemini is indicated by a man with a club, and a woman with a lute, in close embrace." Brihat Jataka. Mercury opposite Saturn.

17 Jupiter retrogrades back into Swati nakshatra.

19 Jupiter trine Mercury.

21 Summer Solstice. Venus opposite Saturn.