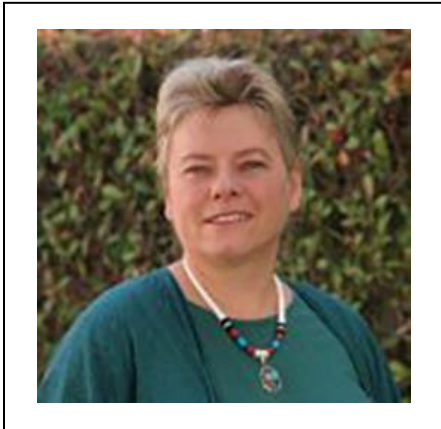


Observing the Month of Aries

Highlights from the Spring Equinox Edition of the Comet



**By Dr. Lynn Bootes,
ACVA Dean of Students & Registrar**

Like all of our readers who were near the path of the total Solar Eclipse across North America on April 8, I found myself in awe (living at 95% totality). The quiet in the days before, during, and after was amazing. And it appears that millions assembled peacefully – those from far away and local people, bridging some cultural and political divides which have become larger of late. It is no small thing to be reminded of the dominion of Sun and Moon over all beings on the Earth, especially at a time when we live in cubicles and stare at devices. I offer my obeisance to the Divine Ones who manifest through the Grahas and pray that I may be guided in my words and choices.

The events coming up are more ordinary and less anxiety-provoking. I compared notes with the ACVA Leadership Team after the Mars/Saturn conjunction on April 10 – my family experienced some dental emergencies, and another had a minor injury requiring sutures. Actions on the world stage seem hidden in the shadow of the Eclipse – we may find out more in months to come.

Here are a few highlights of the Mid-April to Mid-May period – when the Sun is in Aries.

Jupiter conjoins Uranus April 21. Please see Charlotte Benson's letter for comments on this event – although Uranus is not part of the traditional Jyotish, many pay attention to the invisible outer planets at such times.

April 23, Full Moon at 9deg41 Aries/Libra. Moon in Swati Nakshatra. Mars and Venus are the sign lords of Aries and Libra. Mars leaves Aquarius and enters the more compatible Pisces on the 24th, Venus completes its short and exalted stay in Pisces on the 25th. The Nakshatra lord for the Swati Moon is Rahu, and the Sun Nakshatra lord for Ashwini is Ketu. I am looking for echoes of the Great Eclipse at a smaller scale at this Full Moon, with the extra passion of Mars and Venus.

Mercury is retrograde until April 25 at 21deg48 Pisces. This is a last chance to “clean up” old business, completing tasks undone. Moving direct, Mercury enters Aries on May 10 and new ventures more likely to move forward.

Jupiter enters Taurus May 1. In the past few months, Jupiter passed by Uranus at the end of Aries – the sense of urgency for righteous action (or disruption) was powerful. Now Jupiter in Taurus will bring a

calmer influence with more attention to the desire nature and to food and fertility. A welcome change from militancy, I hope.

May 7, New Moon at 23°37' Aries/Bharani. The sign lord for Aries is Mars, now in Pisces, where passion pays attention to compassion and intuition. Meanwhile the Nakshatra lord for Bharani is Venus, now in Aries. Bharani evokes images of the Lord of Death, Yama, but also of birth of living beings and creative ideas.

May 8-10 (in USA) – Ahskaya Tritiya. The auspicious 2 ½ day period when the Sun is exalted in Aries and the Moon in Taurus. This is a propitious time for many muhurtas, popular for weddings. I have found it auspicious for offering a home or vehicle for sale, opening a business, or holding a gathering.