A Very Unusual Triple Conjunction – Sun, Mercury, and Saturn on February 28, 2024

By **Professor Juliana Swanson (ACVA Provost and Dean of Academics)** *and*
Dr. Lynn Bootes (ACVA Dean of Students & Registrar)

Professor Juliana Swanson writes:

The Sun, Saturn, and Mercury will be exactly conjunct at 15 degrees of Aquarius on February 28. This trifecta will be within an effective orb of conjunction from February 22 into the early days of March. Mercury will be in a planetary war with Saturn from February 26 to March 2, as well. These combinations can bring up a great deal of rebelliousness, eccentricity, financial worries, mental strain, conflict with others, or a tendency to slip into bad habits.

Dr. Lynn Bootes writes:

The Atma or higher purpose represented by the Sun in Aquarius predominates over both grahas – Mercury signifying nervous system and communication and Saturn signifying age, fixed structures, and chronic conditions. But at the same time, Mercury, and Saturn, being in a compatible sign Aquarius, magnify the traits of Aquarius. And being at exactly midpoint at 15 degrees in the sign, the three planets are Vargottama, which increases their strength. This also means that at each sunrise, the Lagna will be at 15 degrees Aquarius and all four will be in the Lagna of each divisional chart, a powerful Raja Yoga of political influence. In Jyotish, unlike Western Astrology, Aquarius does not in itself signify revolution or sudden change. It will seem in these weeks that the most rigid and sclerotic traditions are being adhered to, perhaps against our wishes, emotions, and logic. Yet, as Juliana has pointed out to me in our conversations, the middle of Aquarius from 6d40 to 20d00 Aquarius falls in the Nakshatra of Shatabhishak, whose Deva is Varuna, associated with the sea and with the sky full of stars. Also, Rahu is the Vimshottari Dasha lord for Shatbhishak, giving this conjunction the flavor of the urgent need for change represented

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by this shadow planet. In our personal lives, this may be a fruitful time for editing a piece of writing, perfecting a meditation or logical practice, or honoring old traditions. We must guard against excessive criticism of self and others which is hurtful, both in the private and public spheres. If there are values or traditions we honor, we may be steadfast in upholding them, but accepting of change if that time has come. This excessive rigidity will begin to melt soon as the Sun and Mercury quickly move on to Pisces.

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