

Greetings from the president of ACVA

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Happy Holidays!

Hoping that this note finds you and your family doing well, or at least well enough. To our many Turkish students suffering in the turmoil of that country's political situation, we send extra prayers of support.

Things are ramping up here at ACVA, Inc. Jupiter's ingress into Aquarius may be part of the reason. Since late last month, Jupiter has been transiting Dhanistha nakshatra, which you probably know is appropriate for studying the ancient shastras. Since ACVA's curriculum is Shastra-based this may be why we've had recent record enrollments.

Jupiter's advent into Kumbha rasi is a distinct improvement over his previous placement, don't you think? There's reason for optimism. Aquarius/Kumbha is associated with consciousness, among many other concepts. It seems that we humans now have an opportunity for raising our own consciousness, and for literally choosing to think higher thoughts, and to choose to entertain more elevated ideas. Creativity with the object of benefitting the greater good; evolution for the collective, through the agency of individual ideas; altruistic thoughts which somehow improve the general populace – these are some of the best attributes of Guru in Aquarius. We contribute to global peace and prosperity, individually, through our thoughts, and awareness of the concept that "The world is my family" – Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Speaking of our global spiritual family, the recent Sedona Vedic Astrology Conference was truly epic. Not only because the speakers and ambience were as wonderful as ever, but also because it was held under the full Moon eclipse, and while Jupiter was changing signs! Dr. Dennis Harness, president emeritus of ACVA, hosted a capacity crowd which included about 50% newcomers. It was gratifying to see so many eager new faces there. ACVA presented an "Introduction to Jyotish" lecture on the night of the eclipse, and it was very well received. Dr. David Frawley, ACVA's first president, was there, speaking brilliantly as ever, after a long absence. It was an entertaining and enlightening way to celebrate Jupiter in Aquarius.

So, pranams, Dr. Harness, for your continued support of the college. Thanks also, to our generous donors, and those conference attendees who offered their service as volunteers for ACVA.



Since it's the December solstice, I feel that I must remind the world that the Three Astrologers (a.k.a. the Three Wise Men, Three Kings, The Magi) are responsible for the development of Western Civilization, as we know it. If those three independent-minded astrologers had followed instructions and reported back to King Herod, after visiting Bethlehem, there would be no Christianity. Ergo the Western World would look quite different, for good or for ill, from what it is today. Those three astrologers were well-educated, they understood the prophecy; they were expert astronomers, too. And they had developed their intuitions and followed their inner voices. May we aspire to be like those ancient wise astrologers!

Teal green, retrograde Comet Leonard has entered our field of vision recently and will be visible for a few more days. This "Dhuma Ketu" or comet, deserves our observation, and perhaps our research can add to the rather scant body of evidence about the contemporary effects of these rare comets.

Dear readers, in this busy season of plenty for many, please spare a thought for those in need. Please support your own fifth house, by offering a gesture of support to the less fortunate.

With every best wish to all,

Charlotte Benson