

Star Guidance

Winter Solstice 2021 to Spring Equinox 2022



by Lynn Bootes

Dear Readers,

The flavor of this winter season owes much to the happy event of Jupiter passing into Aquarius and moving rapidly toward Neptune at the end of Aquarius. While Saturn continues to dominate from its own sign of Capricorn, the brightness of Jupiter is finding more expression. Many of us are noticing, amidst the difficulties, that many people are becoming more spiritually aware. Let us hope that continues.

We begin the Winter season with Venus moving retrograde and very close to Mars, Sun and Pluto in the early degrees of Capricorn. This combination brings to mind intense power plays, currency fluctuations, and deep seated passions. These energies are the strongest between December 19, when Venus first goes retrograde at 2 degrees Capricorn, and March 6, when Venus and Mars reach conjunction at 5 degrees Capricorn, within 2 degrees of Pluto. Mercury joins the dance as it moves through a period of retrograde from January 14 to 29 in these same degrees. On the world stage there will no doubt be much going on both in public and behind the scenes. In our personal lives, we do have the choice to channel the passion and energy of Capricorn into focused work. Venus is a planetary friend of Saturn, the ruler of Capricorn, and Mars is exalted in Capricorn. Saturn in Capricorn

is in its own sign, and Mercury too is a planetary friend to Saturn. Let's roll up our sleeves and do what needs doing!

In March, we can look forward to the Sun joining Jupiter and then Neptune in Aquarius, with Mercury in close attendance. This combination of mental energies of Mercury with the Sattvic qualities of Jupiter and the Sun will be most welcome. We can hope that the leaning of outer planet Neptune towards Moksha lends its awareness of the greatness of the Universe, with the clarity of Mercury, Jupiter and the Sun allows us to see what is necessary.

This entire winter season is one in which all the grahas except the Moon are on one side of the Rahu/Ketu axis – between Scorpio and Taurus. And half of each month, the Moon too will be inside this Kala Sarpa. This pattern has been repeating now for several years, ever since the Jupiter/Saturn conjunction closed in while the outer planets also are grouped in the same part of the sky. Half of every month we will experience this sense of being out of balance, and having to live with the karmic imbalances described by Rahu and Ketu in the myths: the Snake's head Rahu in endless insatiable desire, and the headless tail Ketu seeing liberation, but the two unaware of each other. As astrologers we can be in a powerful position to explain to people about this cosmic imbalance, that we must address but not take personally. We can look at the brilliant stars of the night sky and appreciate the life of the cosmos and the the myriad lives within ourselves and in the living beings of the earth.

OM SHANTI SHANTI

Late December Transits and Conjunctions

14 December - Ketu and Mars conjunct at 6d16 Scorpio

15 December Sun enters Sagittarius

19 December Full Moon at 3d02 Gemini

19 December Venus stationary, begins retrograde at 2d19Capricorn

21 December Winter Solstice

25 December Venus conjunct Pluto moving retrograde

30 December Mercury enters Capricorn, conjunct Pluto

31 December Venus moves back into Sagittarius

January 2022 Transits and Conjunctions

2 January New Moon at 17d49 Sagittarius

14 January Mercury stationary, begins retrograde at 16d09 Capricorn

15 January Sun enters Capricorn

16 January Sun conjunct Pluto

17 January Mars enters Sagittarius

17 January Full Moon at 3d16 Cancer

29 January Venus direct at 17d55 Sagittarius

29 January Mercury retrograde conjunct Pluto at 2d43 Capricorn

February 2022 Transits and Conjunctions

1 February New Moon at 17d42 Capricorn

4 February Mercury direct at 0d13 Capricorn

12 February Mercury conjunct Pluto

13 February Sun enters Aquarius

16 February Full Moon at 3d20 Leo

27 February Mars enters Capricorn

28 February Venus enters Capricorn

March 2022 Transits and Conjunctions

2 March New Moon at 17d37 Aquarius

4 March Venus and Mars conjunct Pluto at 3d38 Capricorn

5 March Sun conjunct Jupiter at 20d40 Aquarius

6 March Venus conjunct Mars at 5d38 Capricorn

7 March Mercury enters Aquarius

13 March Sun Conjunct Neptune at 28d41 Aquarius

15 March Sun enters Pisces

16 March Rahu moves from Taurus to Aries, Ketu moves from Scorpio to Libra

18 March Full Moon at 3d20 Virgo

21 March Spring Equinox

21 March Mercury conjunct Jupiter at 24 degrees Aquarius

23 March Mercury conjunct Neptune at 29 degrees Aquarius

29 March Venus conjunct Saturn at 27 degrees Capricorn