

President's Letter – September 2018

Hello dear friends, and learners.

It seems like we are in a golden moment here – for a while. I'm so happy – I began writing to you under a Bhadra yoga – thank you exalted Mercury! And now there is a lovely Malavya yoga going on -courtesy of the setting swakshetra Venus. The planets are visible, and in they're in dignity. I was doing some planetary darshan this evening. Observing the planets through the dry air of the desert – the sight is truly awe-inspiring. Please go outside after sunset this week and look for shimmering Venus in the Western sky. Very close is giant Jupiter at the very end of the sign of Libra. Further to the east is the faint, but distinctive, dull glow of Saturn. A little bit further is magnificent Mars. And then there is the full Moon! Let's somehow make the best causes for ourselves, for future good effects, under this current positive energy.

We have so much to be grateful for now. When I meet with my Jyotish clients, I often do a little back-testing of their recent transit experiences. I wonder how some of you did with the exalted but retrograde Mars, in July and August 2018? Mars seemed to live up to its nasty reputation for property damage by fire and floods, across America, and the globe. There were several property “issues” here at my house! Mars is much more focused on accomplishment now, thank heaven. To balance Mars' insults to my garage roof, by an odd coincidence – the first day of Venus' ingress into Libra – somehow – stargazer lilies in vases appeared throughout my home – which now smells like heaven.

ACVA wants to express appreciation to our tutor Ronnie Gale Dreyer for her scholarly support. And to James Braha for the same support. We must also acknowledge the special encouragement from Dennis Harness (happy recent birthday!) I'm personally grateful to ACVA director Swati Tipnis. Also, pranams to the great Western astrologers, A.T. Mann, and Michael Lutin – for their superb hospitality in New York last month. They made my talk on “Introduction to Vedic Astrology” at the Rubin Museum for Himalayan Art in that city a huge success. People are so fascinated with Jyotish! It was an amazing experience –the hall was sold- out - Ronnie will tell you about it.

ACVA is taking good care of business, and has taught, examined, and conferred certificates on some pretty special “summa cum laude” learners this quarter. These recent graduates justify our confidence in the bright future of the profession of Jyotish. It is truly impressive to see the passion and aspiration of these young people. These ACVA courses are purposely arduous – our graduates achieved something remarkable – academic degrees in the sacred science of Jyotisha.

And of course, the generosity of donors to the William Levacy Memorial Scholarship fund have helped keep the lights shining in the hallowed halls of ACVA. That is something else to be grateful for. Thanks, and welcome to the team, Carlos. Thank you, Jupiter, for moving forward into Scorpio! Christina Collins has offered some of her considered ideas on Guru in Vrishchikha – gracias!

Even more uplifting events to look forward to: ACVA Tutor Komilla Sutton's Fresh Talents of Jyotish conference in San Francisco in early November. And ACVA president emeritus Dennis Harness' Sedona Vedic Astrology Conference in later November. I will happily be at both gatherings – please come and join us there. There are few things quite as wonderful as learning from experts about Jyotish, in the presence of lovely people.

Enjoy Venus' long transit of Libra! Wishing good health, prosperity, and contentment to all.

