



The Observatory

DECEMBER 2022 SOLSTICE EDITION

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We begin the next season (winter in the Northern Hemisphere and summer in the Summer Hemisphere) with the drama of Mars. Mars is in Taurus and has been stationary and then retrograde in the last part of Taurus since mid-November. It has been far north of the Ecliptic, and very bright. For those in the Northern Hemisphere, it has been quite the dominant celestial object at night, living up to its ancient reputation as an omen of war. It will end retrograde on January 13, but will remain bright in Taurus until March 13, when it moves to Gemini.

Saturn makes headlines as it leaves its own sign Capricorn on January 18, after two and a half years at the peak of its power. It will be in its other sign, Aquarius, but with a different set of zodiacal flavors and energies, more related to the abstract and intellectual rather than the raw exercise of power. Jyotishis will be ready for a new set of clients whose concerns are activated by Saturn's change of residence. Also on January 18, Mercury finishes a retrograde period and begins forward motion. This is a good date to mark in your calendar, as new ventures may have a better chance of success after this time.

Neptune will enter Pisces on February 19, where it will join Jupiter and Venus. Auspicious beginnings for spiritual, artistic, and romantic events will be possible. The Moon's Nodes, Rahu, and Ketu, remain in Aries and Libra. It is likely that the weather will be less dramatic now that the fall eclipses are well past. Except for Mercury's retrograde in January, the Sun, Mercury, and Venus proceed through their forward motion in their signs for the rest of the season.

I looked briefly at the Solstice ingress chart for December 21, 2022. The time is 16:48 in Washington, DC – at sunset, with Sun, Moon, and Mercury aspecting the Gemini Lagna from the 7th house. Jupiter is bright and overhead in Pisces in the 10th house. This looks better than I expected from my American eyes. The same moment in Moscow is 23:48 (a few minutes before midnight). The Lagna is 29d10 of Leo, with that bright Mars overhead in the 10th and weak Moon in Scorpio in the 4th. The last degree of a sign in the Lagna does not indicate strength or lasting power, but for now the strong Mars dominates.

Then I looked at the same moment for Kiev, Ukraine – 11:48 pm. Although it is the same moment, it is farther south, and the Lagna is 4d21 Virgo. The same planets are in the chart, but they are in different places, with Sun, Mercury, and Venus in the 4th house in Sagittarius, and Jupiter in Pisces in the 7th house. There is less sheer power, but technical ability, communication, and a strong motivation

of valuing the homeland. One cannot make a prediction of the fate of an entire nation on one moment in time, but at this moment, the Ukraine ingress chart seems to show a beginning, and the Russian one an ending.

DECEMBER 21-31, 2022

SOLSTICE: 12/21/2022 at 16:48, Washington, DC

New Moon: 12/23/22 at 7d12 Sagittarius

Mercury enters Capricorn 12/28/22

Mercury stations retrograde 12/30/22 at 0d09 Capricorn

Venus enters Capricorn 12/30/22

Mercury returns to Sagittarius moving retrograde 12/31/22

JANUARY 2023

Full Moon 1/06/23 at 22d07 Gemini

Sun enters Capricorn 1/15/23

Mars stations direct 1/13/23 at 13d57 Taurus

Mercury stations direct 1/18/23 at 13d59 Sagittarius

Saturn enters Aquarius 1/18/23

New Moon 1/21/23 at 06d48 Capricorn

Venus enters Aquarius 1/23/23

FEBRUARY 2023

Full Moon 2/05/23 at 22d16 Capricorn

Mercury enters Capricorn 2/08/23

Sun enters Aquarius 2/14/23

Venus enters Pisces 2/16/23

Neptune enters Pisces 2/19/23

New Moon 2/29/23 at 7d08 Aquarius

EARLY MARCH 2023

Full Moon 3/07/23 at 22d09 Leo

Venus enters Aries 3/13/23

Mars enters Gemini 3/13/23

Sun enters Pisces 3/16/23

Mercury enters Pisces 3/17/23

New Moon 3/21/23 at 6d25 Pisces

EQUINOX: March 20, 2023, 5:24 am, Washington, DC