

THE OBSERVATORY

SEPTEMBER 2023 EQUINOX EDITION

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to Fall in the Northern Hemisphere and Spring in the Southern Hemisphere. This time of rapid seasonal change always brings adjustments, but we can always help ourselves and our clients by aligning with all the other changes of Lunar Cycles, Eclipses, and changes in the paths of the planets. September closes out with a relative lack of planetary news after the Equinox on September 23.

Early October – Planetary Scene-Shifting. Be ready for change in the first week of October as Mercury, Venus and Mars all move to the next Rashi (Zodiac Sign). Mars conjoins Ketu on October 4th, and on October 9th he makes a Vedic special 1:4 aspect to Pluto at 4d30 Capricorn. While not all Jyotishas use the outer planets, those who do will want to pay special attention to dramatic power plays.

Mid October – Annular Solar Eclipse affecting a Gandantha point. The maximum will be **October 14** at 1:55 pm EDT in the USA, and it will be visible (but not totally dark) in the Western United States. Be sure to use eye protection if you choose to view. Sun and Moon will be at 26d28 Pisces, but the Lunar Nodes, Rahu and Ketu will be at 0d41 Aries and 0d41 Libra, respectively. This is particularly significant for Rahu, as the nodes are abstract points which move backwards relative to the stars, and the boundary between Aries and Pisces is particularly significant as it is also a boundary for the Nakshatras and for many of the divisions of the Rashis. In the ancient teachings, these times of Gandantha were particularly important for maintaining spiritual practice, compassion, and composure as many things about us may be shifting. Also be prepared for weather extremes.

October 14-20 – Add Mercury, Mars, and Jupiter to the Mix as the Sun enters Libra. Just after the New Moon/Solar Eclipse, the Sun, Moon, and Mercury enter Libra, where they share the sign with Mars and Ketu. Meanwhile, a bright Jupiter in retrograde motion dominates opposite with Rahu in Aries. Consulting Jyotishis can expect calls from distressed clients who wish to understand the puzzling changes happening in their lives. There is a sense of urgency and need to take action – let us hope to take only the necessary actions.

October 28-29 – Lunar Eclipse - Mars and Mercury opposite Jupiter. This partial Lunar Eclipse will be visible in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Australia. Shortly thereafter, Mars in Libra reaches exact opposition to mighty Jupiter in Libra, and Mercury joins the crowd from Libra. Add in the Sun and Ketu in Libra and the Moon and Rahu in Aries. This will be an intense Halloween weekend in the lands that celebrate this holiday. Mars and Jupiter in combination tend to make big plans.

November 13 - Lakshmi Purnima, the New Moon of Diwali at 26d32 Libra. While Diwali is an important Hindu festival, this Libra New Moon is the national civic holiday of India and many other South Asian nations, and in addition is useful as a chart for analyzing the “market new year.” See below for the days and times for New York and for Mumbai in India. This is a particularly challenging new year to interpret, as Rahu and Ketu are about to change signs, and we have Jupiter and Mars in the mix. The outer planet Uranus is also at 27d Aries, magnifying the challenges of the times. Sun, Moon, and Mars change signs into Scorpio shortly thereafter. The fortunes of nations and regions can be surprisingly different from one another this year in dramatic fashion, in a way that mirrors the dramatic weather and climate changes and other current events. In daily lives, we can certainly celebrate life, community, and family in the most positive way possible. Some will be motivated to start the path of study to Jyotish at this time of change.

November 25 – Mars in Scorpio/Saturn in Aquarius. These two planets which have important roles in the cosmos are also called malefic planets, as they activate the difficulties of being incarnated in a material world, with all its passions and mortality. Both are very strong in their own signs in November and December, and they stand in mutual drshti (special aspect) to one another. We can expect tense standoffs between intense fixed emotions and equally intense fixed social values in these months, particularly at the Full Moon on November 27 (Sun in Scorpio/Moon in Taurus) and New Moon on December 12 (Sun and Moon in Scorpio). These lunations will activate for people who have a fixed sign emphasis in their birth charts. As this Full Moon on November 27 is the Thanksgiving Weekend in the USA, wise ones will hold their tongues at family gatherings and exercise awareness and patience in travel. The New Moon in Scorpio on December 12 is the Hanukkah season, so those who gather need to be aware as well.

December 1 – Rahu moves to Pisces and Ketu moves to Virgo. Finally, these two change signs! They are away from Jupiter and Uranus, and in general, Rahu is much more at home in Pisces where it joins watery Neptune and can express a more spiritual and less combative nature.

December – Jupiter, Mercury and Venus bring cheer. Mercury moves to Jupiter’s sign Sagittarius on November 30, and receives a beneficial trine aspect from Jupiter in Aries all month. Venus enters Libra on December 5, and is in its own sign and in an opposite full aspect to Jupiter. This combination adds some cheer to December holiday season for those who celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Yule. Mercury reaches its station and begins retrograding on December 13, and while that may be frustrating for those making plans last-minute, it prolongs this positive combination. The Sun joins the fun in Sagittarius on December 17. The month will have many auspicious muhurtas for social and artistic events, as well as gatherings for spiritual practice.

December 21 – Winter Solstice in Northern Hemisphere/ Summer Solstice in Southern Hemisphere.

Wise students of Jyotish remember that while the changes in our own times seem dramatic, the sages have documented ages of such events, and found ways to survive and pass down the great traditions to us. Celebrate in joy and create seeds for the future.

THE ALMANAC

Times listed are EDT (-4:00h) until Sunday, November 5, and EST (-5:00)h after end of Daylight Savings Time in USA, unless otherwise specified.

Calculated for New York City, USA

The exact time and date of these events will vary around the world.

Sidereal zodiac, Lahiri Ayanamsha.

September:

September 23, Equinox 1:49 am EDT

September 29, Full Moon at 11d14 Pisces, 5:58 am EDT

October:

October 2, Mercury enters Virgo

October 2, Venus enters Leo

October 4, Mars enters Libra

October 4, Mars conjoins Ketu

October 9, Mars in Libra makes 1:4 aspect to Pluto at 3d42 Capricorn

October 10, Venus in Leo opposite Saturn at 6d40 Aquarius

October 11, Pluto stations direct at 3d42 Capricorn

October 14, New Moon and Annular Solar Eclipse at 26d28 Pisces, 1:55 pm EDT

Visible in the Western United States. In parts of India, East Asia and the Pacific, the Eclipse will be on October 15.

October 18, Sun enters Libra

October 19, Mercury enters Libra

October 19, Mercury conjoins Ketu at 0d Libra

October 20, Mercury conjoins Sun at 2 degrees Libra

October 28-29, Partial Lunar Eclipse at 10d44 Aries, maximum at 4:14 pm EDT in USA

October 28, Mars 17d10 Libra opposite Jupiter in Aries

October 29, Mercury conjoins Mars at 17 degrees Libra, and is opposite Jupiter in Aires

November:

November 3, Venus enters Virgo

November 4, Mercury at 27d16 opposite Uranus in Aries

November 4, Saturn stationary direct at 6d19 Aquarius

November 3-4, Mercury at 0d59 Virgo is opposite Neptune in Pisces

November 7, Mercury enters Scorpio

November 13, New Moon at 26d32 Libra. This is the New Year Day of the Diwali, the New Moon of Lakshmi. The time for New York City will be 4:30 am, in Mumbai, 4:55 pm.

November 16-17, Sun enters Scorpio

November 17, Mars enters Scorpio

November 18, Sun conjoins Mars at 1d Scorpio

November 25, Mars at 6d42 Scorpio makes 1:4 aspect to Saturn in Aquarius. Note that Saturn makes a 1:10 aspect to Mars, the only mutual Drishti aspect in Jyotish which is not an opposition.

November 26, Mercury enters Sagittarius

November 27, Full Moon at 10d31 Taurus

November 30, Venus enters Libra, conjoins Ketu at 0d02 Libra

December:

December 1, Rahu moves from 0d Aries to 29d59 Pisces (True Node), Ketu moves from Libra to Virgo

December 6, Neptune stations direct at 0d42 Pisces

December 8, Jupiter at 14d14 Aries makes 1:5 trine aspect to Mercury in Sagittarius

December 10, Venus at 7d25 Libra makes opposition aspect to Jupiter in Aries

December 12, New Moon at 26d11 Scorpio

December 13, Mercury stations retrograde at 14d17 Sagittarius

December 17, Sun enters Sagittarius

December 18, Jupiter retrograde at 11d41 Aries makes 1:5 trine aspect to Mercury retrograde in Sagittarius

December 21, Solstice at 10:27 pm EST