



The Observatory

MARCH 2023 EQUINOX EDITION

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This season all eyes will be on Jupiter, which features both of the big events of the planetary season – Spring in the Northern Hemisphere, Fall for those South of the Equator.

-First on the list: the Equinox March 20, followed closely by the New Moon on March 21 in Pisces. We have Sun, Moon, Mercury, Jupiter, and Neptune all in Pisces. This quadruple combination brings the shift of the seasons together with the maximum high and low tides of the New Moon, the watery and big Jupiter, and rapid Mercury all together in a water sign. A "high tide" time for spirit, compassion, and insight, but also a literal high tide and high-water time for weather events. In light of the present trend toward sea level rise and more extreme storm events, please pay attention to your surroundings!

-Second: Jupiter enters Aries and joins an all-star lineup in Aries in Mid-April. Shortly after the Sun enters Aries on April 15, we get the New Moon and Solar Eclipse in Aries on April 20. Mercury stations and goes retrograde in Aries beginning April 21. Jupiter then enters Aries on April 22 where it will stay for about a year. They join Uranus and Rahu in Aries.

-Third: The best weekend of the year – Friday- Sunday April 21-23 for Western Hemisphere, Saturday-Monday Eastern Hemisphere. This happens every year as the Sun is exalted in Aries and the Moon is exalted in Taurus, known as Akshaya Tritiya. Here is a chart for several time zones of interest to readers of the Comet:

<i>Moon in Taurus</i>	<i>Ingress - entry</i>	<i>Egress - exit</i>
<i>Pacific Daylight Time -7 h</i>	<i>Friday April 21 4:32 pm</i>	<i>Monday April 24 12:01 am</i>
<i>Eastern Daylight Time - 4h</i>	<i>Friday April 21 7:32 pm</i>	<i>Monday April 24 3:01 am</i>
<i>India Standard Time +5h30</i>	<i>Saturday April 22, 5:02 am</i>	<i>Monday April 24 12:32 pm</i>
<i>Eastern Australian Daylight Time +11h</i>	<i>Saturday April 22, 11:32 am</i>	<i>Monday April 24, 6:02 pm</i>

It is exceptional to have the added energy of newly arrived Jupiter in Aries plus Mercury and Rahu. And Moon is joined with Venus in its own sign of Taurus.

However, being so close to a recent Solar Eclipse, even an annular one, means that Rahu lies very close to the Sun. This can be desirable for creative endeavors or unusual events but may not produce stability.

Traditionally this has been a most auspicious time of the year to hold a wedding, according to Vedic Muhurtha principles, and many event venues will have been booked up months ago. It is also a useful muhurta for those who want to offer a house for sale, to plan a cultural event or party, or get together with a special someone. But as it is at the Solar Eclipse, be prepared for weather surprises and high tides. The good news for most of us is that this Solar Eclipse does not create a dark path of totality across any spot on the globe and is thus not at all like the Solar Eclipse which passed over the USA in 2017.

And need I mention that this is also a wonderfully auspicious time to begin Jyotish study for sincere students, as well as for other worthy practices such as yoga, meditation, and healing.

-The Rest of the Story – Other than Mercury retrograde, all the visible planets are marching along in their usual directions. **Saturn in Aquarius** will be casting a special one-way aspect on all planets in Aries this season, creating an element of conflict between the forces of stability and order and those of change. **Mars in Gemini** most of the season is in a mutual rulership (Parivartana Yoga with Gemini's sign lord Mercury, which is located in Mars' sign Aries from April 1 to June 8. There will be communication, often intense, but very little agreement. For those who follow the outer planets, **Uranus in 22-26 Aires** will join the all-star lineup described above to add surprise and possibility of sudden changes. **Neptune in 1-3 degrees Pisces** adds to the watery story of the group of Pisces planets in the early season. **Pluto in 5-6 degrees Capricorn** holds station but is less in the center of things than in past seasons. **Rahu in Aries and Ketu in Libra.**

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 when listed are EDT -5:00 Calculated for New York City, USA

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

March

March 20, Equinox 5:24 pm EDT

March 21 New Moon, 12:22 pm EDT at 6d25 Pisces

March 21 Venus conjunct Rahu at 10d Aires

March 28 Mercury conjunct Jupiter at 23d Pisces

March 30 Venus conjunct Uranus at 22d Aires

April

April 1 Mercury enters Aries

April 6 Full Moon, 9:34am EDT at 21d38 Virgo

April 6 Mercury conjunct Rahu at 9d Aries

April 7 Venus enters Taurus

April 12 Sun conjunct Jupiter at 27d Pisces

April 20 New Moon/Solar Eclipse 8:12 am EDT at 5d32 Aries

Annular Eclipse visible from Northwest Australia and Papua, New Guinea and parts of the Pacific Ocean

April 21 Mercury stationary retrograde at 21d26 Aries

April 22 Jupiter enters Aries

May

May 1 Pluto stationary retrograde at 6d11 Capricorn

May 2 Mercury at inferior conjunction with Sun going retrograde 21d26 Aries

May 3 Venus enters Gemini

May 5 Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse 10:15 pm EDT at 20d28 Libra

Penumbral Eclipse visible in Australia and many regions bordering the Pacific Ocean in East Asia and Indonesia

May 10 Sun conjunct Uranus in Aries

May 11 Mars enters Cancer

May 15 Mercury stationary direct at 11d40 Aries

May 19 New Moon 10:43 am EDT at 3d46 Taurus

May 31 Venus enters Cancer

June

June 2 Jupiter conjunct Rahu at 9d Aries

June 3 Full Moon 10:41 EDT at 18d42 Scorpio

June 5 Mercury conjunct Uranus at 26 Aries

June 8 Mercury enters Taurus

June 17 Saturn stationary retrograde at 17d Aquarius

June 18 New Moon 11:37 EDT at 2d13 Gemini

June 21 Solstice at 10:57 am EDT