

The Observatory

Vernal Equinox Edition 2019

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Welcome to the Vernal Equinox, with the temporary equilibrium between the light and the dark, in both the Northern and the Southern hemispheres. This season celebrates the return of light and life for many cultures, through observances of the holy days of Easter, Passover, and Ramadan.

This quarter begins with our Sun in the sign of a friend, in Pisces, Uttara Bhadrapada nakshatra. There is also a full Moon, super Moon on the day of the Equinox. Mercury is retrograde in Aquarius. Five different planets/grahas are at the very end of signs: Venus is just leaving Capricorn, Mars is just leaving Aries, and Jupiter is sandhi gandanta, at the tail end of Scorpio. And of course, Rahu/Ketu is backing out of Cancer, and out of Capricorn. Even Saturn is in late degrees of Sagittarius. This is quite an unusual cluster of planets shifting signs simultaneously.

The beginning of the second quarter of 2019 holds the potential of some political crises based on the conjunction, by sign, of Ketu with Saturn in Sagittarius. I remember hearing warnings, as long as four or five years ago, about a possible global economic recession, or other traumatic mundane events, based on this simple conjunction. If one considers the amplifying effect of powerful Pluto, which is in late Sagittarius, also being in the mix, conditions look even more concerning. Remaining mindful of the polarization of “Truth” versus “Dogma” could help neutralize this rare and disturbing constellation of planets.

Jupiter dipping into his own sign of Sagittarius, in very late March, may serve to put this philosophical polarization into high relief. It may be that some sort of religious, moral or ethical tide begins to turn.

Jupiter only stays in Sagittarius until April 22, when it retrogrades back into Scorpio. But while it is there, in its secure Moolatrikona placement of Sagittarius, Jupiter is able to create wonderful Hamsa (swan) yogas 4 times per day, for 2 hours at a time, at around sunrise, noon, sunset, and midnight local times. Jupiter will be weak in degrees this quarter, but still offers some minor opportunities.

Saturn maintains its deliberate journey through Sagittarius.

There are some lovely highlights this quarter as both the Sun and Venus are exalted, in mid-April; Mercury and Mars will be parivartana yoga in early May; and Mercury and Venus will be well-placed in their respective home signs, in early June. So – make the most of what positive energy is available!

Here are some of the ingresses, and aspects, of the planets:

MARCH

20 Vernal Equinox. Full (Super) Moon in Uttara Phalguni. Saturn 3rd house aspect (sextile) to Mercury

21 Venus enters Aquarius

22 Mars enters Taurus

23 Rahu enters Gemini; Ketu enters Sagittarius (True Node measurements)

24 Mercury conjunct Neptune

28 Mercury resumes direct motion in Aquarius

29 Jupiter enters Sagittarius

APRIL

2 Mercury conjuncts Neptune (again)

4 New Moon in Revati nakshatra. Vedic New Year

7 Saturn sextiles Mercury (again)

9 Venus conjunct Neptune

10 Jupiter turns retrograde. Saturn throws 10th house aspect to Sun

11 Mercury enters Pisces

12 Saturn sextiles Venus

14 Sun enters the sign of his exaltation, Aries. Jupiter trines Sun

15 Venus enters the sign of his exaltation, Pisces

18 Full Moon in Chitra nakshatra

22 Jupiter retrogrades back into Scorpio. Jupiter will be in the complex gandanta zone for a few days.

29 Saturn stationary, retrograde in Sagittarius

MAY

2 Jupiter trines Mercury

3 Mercury enters Aries

4 New Moon in Bharani nakshatra

5 Mars opposite Jupiter

6 Mars enters Gemini. This creates an exchange yoga with Mercury – mildly useful.

7 Akshaya Tritiya – “Day of Everlasting Achievement”. Both Sun and Moon are exalted!

8 Mercury conjunct Uranus

9 Jupiter trine Venus

10 Venus enters Aries

15 Sun enters Taurus

18 Full Moon in Anuradha nakshatra. Mercury enters Taurus. Venus conjuncts Uranus

21 Mercury conjunct (combust) Sun

30 Mercury opposite Jupiter

JUNE

1 Mercury enters Gemini. This creates possibilities for clever Bhadra yogas to exist for 2-hour periods around sunrise, noon, sunset, and midnight, your local time.

3 New Moon in Mrigashira nakshatra. Some sources state that this is the planet Saturn's birthday

4 Venus enters his own sign of Taurus. Good for material prosperity and creativity, Malavya yogas are formed at the 2-hour cross quarter sections of the day.

10 Sun opposite Jupiter

14 Mars opposite Saturn, and is also quite close to Ketu. Pay attention and exercise patience and common sense.

15 Sun enters Gemini

16 Full Moon in Jyeshtha nakshatra. Mercury opposite Saturn

18 Mercury conjunct Mars. Saturn throws 3rd house aspect onto Neptune.

19 Mercury opposite Pluto. Mars opposite Pluto. Care, caution and consideration are advised.

20 Mercury enters Cancer

21 Summer Solstice

Please take very good care of yourselves, dear readers. "Illigiti non carborundum". And best wishes to all in managing to maintain a sense of perspective, and a sense of humor this quarter.