

Star Guidance January - March 2021

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I don't know about you, but I am ready to move forward into 2021. But before we finish with 2020, we have one last major event to witness. This is the Jupiter Saturn conjunction on 21 December at 6 degrees of Capricorn. These two planets conjunct every 20 years and they last met in the sign of Capricorn on February 18, 1961. When these two powerhouse planets meet, they release deep karmic ramifications which shape a generation. The 1960s were a time of social and political reckoning and exploration. Again, we find ourselves in a position to reexamine how our society implements justice for all.

These questions reflect the energy of Capricorn. Capricorn is the sign where we begin to move beyond personal wants and needs begin to consider the larger community in which we live. This conjunction will be a turning point and the good news is that we will begin the new year with forward motion directed toward addressing the issues which have been stagnant in 2020. Jupiter, who is debilitated in Capricorn, will be moving very fast and will enter the next sign of Aquarius in early April, rather than sitting in his debilitated sign for the whole year. While he will return in late summer during his retrograde phase, we can appreciate his segmented time in Capricorn.

To use a construction analogy, in 2020 we completed the demolition phase and now we can move into the rebuilding phase and make changes deep in the structure. This process will take several years but we can study the transits to see what karmic lessons will be expressed in 2021.

To analyze a whole year of transits is a daunting task. It is best to begin by studying indicators that do not occur every year. These include the transits of the nodes, Saturn, Jupiter and Mars.

Rahu will remain in Taurus and Ketu will remain in Scorpio throughout the year. These are the exalted signs for the nodes which indicates that both will be strongly expressing their best qualities. Rahu will be promoting progress in the fixed earth sign of Taurus where we can expect advances in production, manufacturing, and the financial world. The advances can come at the expense of feeling stable as Rahu works by churning up the *status quo* so that new innovation can emerge.

Ketu in Scorpio, a fixed water sign, will be emphasizing spiritual development which will raise our consciousness. Ketu will encourage us to reject old habits and patterns that no longer work. This process can be challenging as we rely on these old

coping skills and will need to adopt new ways of managing stress and anxiety. If you already recognize negative coping skills within yourself, this year will help you to break these habits, compulsions and addictions. Ketu will bring deep internal transformation in 2021.

Saturn will spend the whole year in Capricorn, his own sign. As he was there for the majority of 2020, we can see that he does not hesitate to bring the issues of the common people to the forefront of the news cycle. Capricorn is the cardinal or moveable Artha sign which represents what we produce and what we value. The question of what we value will arise on the personal, community, country and global level throughout 2021. Saturn's key function is to balance our karmic debt. He ensures that we pay back our debits and cash in our credits. It is only when we reach a zero balance that we are able to slip the bonds of maya and ascend to higher realms of consciousness.

Saturn was born the son of the King and was abandoned to become a servant. His role is to represent the underclasses to those in power. In doing so, he treats everyone the same and does not demonstrate deference to anyone. Therefore, in modern parlance, Saturn can be said to be teaching us about privilege. Privilege describes the ways that certain social norms afford us higher or lower status based on an inherent trait rather than our individual merit.

Fundamentally, the current global conversation can be framed as a conversation about privilege. 2021 is an important time to identify where in our own lives that we benefit from privilege and where we suffer from lack of privilege. Avoid the trap of feeling shame or guilt about areas of our lives where we have privilege. Instead recognize that we each have a unique mix of privileges. It is important to integrate this knowledge into your daily life because privilege is not a passive act. When we accrue unearned gains, we perpetuate a system that deprives others of a fair chance in the world. This is a complex issue and will not be resolved in a year, but it has come to consciousness and if we engage in the exploration of privilege, we will begin to manifest a more just and equitable society. This will also allow us to gain insight into Saturn's lessons in our own lives.

As I said earlier, Jupiter will be moving through his weakest sign Capricorn until early April when he enters Aquarius, the other Saturn ruled sign. Jupiter will Station at 8 degrees of Aquarius on June 20 and retrograde back to 28 degrees of Capricorn on October 8. Jupiter will return to Capricorn from September 14 until November 20. These periods in Capricorn are likely to bring a conflict between ideas and values in whatever house Capricorn occupies in your chart.

While Saturn represents the common person, Jupiter represents the leaders and ideas of the *status quo*. Jupiter likes the way things are and resists change in the traditional culture. Jupiter is a planet of esoteric wisdom and knowledge and when Jupiter is weak, he can embrace false narratives and incorrect ideologies in service of maintaining the current order. This energy will be most evident when Jupiter is in Capricorn.

Next, we examine the transit of Mars, the planet who is charged with manifesting new ideas and approaches through the application of individual and collective willpower. In 2021, Mars will be transiting the first 8 signs of the zodiac, Aries to Scorpio. These are the signs which represent personal and collective expression in the material, physical world of Maya. So, we can look for him to support implementation of proposed solutions which will be further revised and adapted to serve the collective good of the people.

This overall theme of re-examining our values is further supported by the retrograde cycles of Mercury and Jupiter. In each of their retrograde cycles they station in the very early degrees of the Kama (desire) signs and spend the majority of the retrograde in the prior Artha (value) signs. Here we see a rare pattern which emphasizes the rebalancing of our consumerism vs our core values that we want reflected in society.

Further, Saturn's retrograde cycle occurs in the Nakshatra of Sravana, where the narratives tell of the defeat of the Asura King Bali by the simple brahmacharya manifestation of Vishnu, Vamana. Here Bali surrenders his worldly kingdom and gains enlightenment and contentment.

Finally, unlike 2020 when we had multiple long-term overlapping retrograde cycles, the most challenging time from retrograde planets will be from 27 September to 8 October when Mercury, Saturn and Jupiter are all retrograde.

With these themes in mind. Here are the transit dates and conjunctions for January, February and March. I wish you all a year of growth and contentment.

January Transits:

- 1 Jan – 20 Feb **Mars** in Aries (Mulatrikona)
- 1 Jan until 4 April **Jupiter** in Capricorn (Debilitated)
- 3 Jan **Venus** enters Sagittarius (Neutral)
- 4 Jan **Mercury** enters Capricorn (Friend)
- 14 Jan **Sun** moves into Capricorn (Enemy) – Makar Sankranti
- 25 Jan **Mercury** enters Aquarius (Friend)
- 27 Jan **Venus** enters Capricorn (Friend)
- 30 Jan **Mercury RX** @ 2 Aquarius until 21 Feb (Friend)
- 14 Jan **Sun** moves into Capricorn (Enemy) – Makar Sankranti

January Conjunctions:

- 30 Dec 2020 – **Venus/Ketu** conjunct 24° Sc (Jyeshtha – Me)
- 10 Jan **Mercury/Saturn** conjunct at 8° Cap (Ut Ashadha - Su)

- 11 Jan **Mercury/Jupiter** conjunct at 11° Cap (Sravana - Mo)
- 13 Jan **New Moon** @ 29° Sagittarius (Jyeshtha – Gandanta)
- 14 – 24 Jan **Stellium Su/Me/Ju/Sa**
- 24 Jan **Sun/Saturn** conjunct @ 10° Cap (Sravana - Mo)
- 28 Jan **Full Moon** @ 14° Cancer (Pushya)
- 29 Jan **Sun/Jupiter** conjunct @ 15° Cap (Sravana - Mo)

February Transits:

- 11 Feb – **New Moon** at 29° Capricorn
- 12 Feb – **Sun** enters Aquarius (Enemy)
- 20 Feb – **Venus** enters Aquarius (Friend)
- 21 Feb – **Mars** enters Taurus (Neutral)
- 21 Feb – **Mercury** stations Direct @ 16° Capricorn (Friend)
- 27 Feb – **Full Moon** 14° Leo

February Conjunctions:

- 6 Feb – **Venus/Saturn** conjunct 11° Capricorn
- 11 Feb – **Venus/Jupiter** conjunct 18° Capricorn
- 13 Feb – **Mercury Rx/Venus** conjunct 20° Capricorn
- 14 Feb - **Mercury Rx/Jupiter** conjunct 19° Capricorn

March Transits:

- 11 March **Mercury** enters Aquarius (Friend)
- 13 March New Moon - 28° Aquarius (Revati, Me)
- 14 March **Sun** enters Pisces (Friend)
- 16 March **Venus** enters Pisces (Exalted)
- 28 March Full Moon – 14 Virgo (Hasta, Mo)

March Conjunctions:

- 5 March – **Mercury/Jupiter** Conjunction 23 Capricorn
- 26 March – **Venus combust Sun** 11 Pisces
- 28 March – **Mars/Rahu** Conjunction 20 Taurus