

The Observatory: January 15 - February 13, 2025



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The month when the Sun is in sidereal Capricorn is a time for serious intention and work: the cold of the winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the heat of the summer in the Southern Hemisphere. Chinese New Year (the Year of the Snake) begins January 29 on the Full Moon in *Shravana*. Five themes dominate this month:

1. Mars continues moving retrograde in Cancer, and back into Gemini on January 20. The ruling planet of Gemini is Mercury, and these two are each other's worst enemies – giving us more potential for irritability and arguments. Mercury and Mars are exactly in opposition on January 23.
2. Venus conjoins with Saturn on January 18 at 21deg47 Aquarius. Venus softens the rigidity of Saturn for a time.
3. The triple conjunction of Venus, Neptune and Rahu on February 1-3, in 03deg46-03deg56 Pisces. There is a *Parivartana* yoga of Venus and Jupiter in Taurus beginning January 27, adding some positive energy. Venus is also in its exalted sign. The nakshatra of *Uttara Bhadrapada* is one of depth and intensity. This would be an auspicious time for spiritual seekers to get serious about their practice. There's also the potential for great depths of compassion in the "Dragon of the Deep," and renewal in this nakshatra associated with the goddess *Lakshmi*. I'll be paying attention to weather events having to do with water.
4. During the week of February 7-12, we have a few events of note. Pluto enters the nakshatra *Abhijit* on February 7. This "extra" asterism is associated with 8-10 degrees Capricorn and may channel energy from deep in interstellar space. Mercury exactly conjoins the Sun at 26deg44 Capricorn on February 9. Jupiter stations and begins direct motion on February 10.
5. The Full Moon on February 12 occurs at 29deg26 Cancer in the nakshatra *Ashlesha*. Within a few hours both Sun and Moon will have changed signs to Leo and Aquarius. This is one of the *gandanta* regions of the sky – a transitional period. Look for changes, and some endings, at this time.

The Almanac

January 15, Sun enters Capricorn

January 16, Sun at 07deg29 Capricorn exactly opposes Mars at 07deg29 Cancer

January 16, Neptune enters *Uttara Bhadrapada* at 03deg20 Pisces
January 17, Venus enters *Purva Bhadrapada* at 20deg00 Aquarius
January 18, Venus exactly conjoins Saturn at 21deg47 Aquarius
January 20, retrograde Mars moves from Cancer into Gemini
January 21, Sun exactly conjoins Pluto at 07deg29 Capricorn
January 22, Mercury enters *Uttara Ashadha* at 26deg40 Sagittarius
January 23, Sun enters *Shravana* at 10deg00 Capricorn
January 23, Mercury at 28deg59 Sagittarius exactly opposes Mars at 28deg59 Gemini
January 23, Mercury at 29deg05 Sagittarius exactly trines Uranus at 29deg05 Aries
January 24, Mercury enters Capricorn
January 27, Venus enters Pisces
January 29, Mercury exactly conjunct Pluto at 7deg47 Capricorn
January 29, New Moon at 15deg18 Capricorn in *Shravana*. Chinese New Year – Year of the Snake
January 30, Sun at 17deg06 Capricorn in exact trine from Jupiter at 17deg06 Taurus
January 30, Mercury enters *Shravana* at 10deg00 Capricorn
January 30, Uranus stations and begins direct motion at 29deg03 Aries/*Krittika*
January 31, Venus enters *Uttara Bhadrapada* at 03deg20 Pisces
February 1, Venus exactly conjoins Neptune at 03deg46 Pisces
February 1, Venus exactly conjoins Rahu at 03deg56 Pisces
February 3, Rahu exactly conjoins Neptune at 03deg55 Pisces
February 6, Sun enters *Dhanishtha* at 23deg20 Capricorn
February 7, Mercury enters *Dhanistha*
February 7, Pluto enters *Abhijit* nakshatra at 08deg00 Capricorn
February 9, Sun exactly conjoins Mercury at 26deg44 Capricorn
February 10, Jupiter stations and turns direct at 17deg04 Taurus
February 12, Full Moon at 29deg26 Cancer/*Ashlesha*
February 13, Sun enters Aquarius

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