

STAR GUIDANCE Fall Season 2021



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At ACVA, our Seva (service) is to train a new generation of Vedic astrologers. I have seen Jyotish newsletters with some pretty dire predictions about conflict for this season. While I certainly offer my prayers for the welfare of the world, I try to take my lessons from the Bhagavad Gita and focus on the task at hand. I take hope that at this time there are so many around the world who are doing the same in big and small ways, as Krishna advised Arjuna. I am old enough to remember other decades and seasons of crisis and worry, when it seemed as though the worst would happen – and often enough when we look back conscious individuals around the world responded in amazing ways. I try to remember that in the end being “right” about some issue may be less important than a big picture I cannot even grasp. As the Sage Parasara reminds in chapter one of the Brihat Horasara, as humans we at best see only one portion of a toe of one foot of Ganesh.

The Fall Equinox begins on September 22, just after the Full Moon of September 20. Moments before the Equinox, Mercury will have moved into Libra and on the 27th reaches its stationary point and begins retrograde movement. All of these are the predictable changes. This year, however, the dwarf planet Pluto is sitting at the first and second degrees of Capricorn, so that every time one of the planets reaches the beginning of Libra, it receives a strong “special” 1:10 aspect from Pluto back to the sign of Libra. While the outer planets are not part of the tradition of Vedic Astrology, many Vedic astrologers pay attention to them as a marker for some of the worldwide changes in mass consciousness that developed in the past century. I take this as an omen that all the people of the world must work together if we are to survive.

Beginning in August, Mercury and Mars locked in a triple conjunction – first on August 19, on Oct 9/10 as Mercury moves retrograde, and finally as Mercury passes Mars going direct on November 11. These two grahas are not so happy working together! Nerves are raw, people are tending to climb a wall of worry, and some are losing their tempers. Mercury is at least in its own sign of Virgo, and it is Mars which is in difficulty in that sign. Try reasoning with someone who is consumed with rage! Try getting a person tied up in knots with worry to take some simple steps to aid a situation. I can guarantee that each of us will have many chances to serve the world in big and small ways.

Jupiter begins the fall season moving retrograde back into the last degrees of Capricorn, where it is at its weakest (debilitated). However, its stay there is brief, and while in Capricorn it makes a helpful trine to the Sun on October 16. Then on October 18 it goes direct, the Sun enters Libra, Mercury goes direct, and then on October 20 there is a Full Moon. Definitely a happier scenario in the 2nd half of October.

There will be a New Moon on November 4 at 18d21 Libra at the start of Diwali. Sun, Moon, Mercury and Mars are grouped in Libra, with Jupiter and Saturn in Aquarius. Mars and Saturn are in a mutual aspect as long as they remain in the signs of Libra and Capricorn, which is basically all of November through December 6. Hindus and all Indians will be faced with all sorts of challenges of how to get through yet another holiday season while coping with the difficulties of COVID and political situations.

The Lunar Eclipse at 2d37 Taurus on November 19 is followed by the return of Jupiter into Aquarius on the 21st, where it can start to express some of its positive, hopeful energies. American Thanksgiving travel may be interesting if the Eclipse produces weather extremes. Those of us who gather at the Sedona Conference on November 18-23 will be able to get a good look at that full moon!

The Solar Eclipse takes place on December 4, well before the Christmas/New Year holidays. The most notable planetary event is the entrance of Venus into Capricorn, where it is exactly conjoined with Pluto and then stops in apparent motion and goes retrograde for a few weeks. The Venus retrograde cycle only happens 5 times in 8 years, and many astrologers relate it to matters of money and financial valuation. We wind up the year with Mercury/Venus/Sun/Pluto all in the first few degrees of Capricorn. Watch for major changes in how the people make and respond to issues around control and long term planning.

Late September Transits and Conjunctions

15 Sept – Jupiter moves retrograde back into Capricorn
17 Sept – Sun enters Virgo
20 Sept – Full Moon 3d35 Pisces
22 Sept – Fall Equinox at 7:21 pm UDT
22 Sept – Mercury enters Libra
22 Sept – Pluto at 0d18 Capricorn makes a 1:10 aspect to Mercury in Libra
27 Sept – Mercury stationary retrograde at 1d19 Libra

October Transits and Conjunctions

2 Oct – Mercury moves retrograde back into Virgo
3 Oct - Venus enters Scorpio
6 Oct– New Moon 19d12 Virgo
6 Oct – Pluto stationary direct at 1d09 Capricorn
6 Oct - Mars makes 1:8 special aspect to Uranus at 19d46 Aries
8 Oct – Sun conjunct Mars at 20d50 Virgo
9 Oct – Sun conjunct Mercury 22d25 Virgo
9-10 Oct – Mercury retrograde conjunct Mars at 22d06 Virgo at 11:45 pm UDT (Greenwich)
9-10 Oct – Venus conjunct Ketu at 8d22 Scorpio
11 Oct - Saturn direct at 12d43 Capricorn
16 Oct – Jupiter trine Sun at 28d11 Capricorn/Virgo
18 Oct – Mercury direct at 16d06 Virgo
18 Oct – Jupiter direct at 28d10 Capricorn
18 Oct – Sun enters Libra, receives 1:10 aspect from Pluto in 1d Capricorn
20 Oct – Full Moon 2d48 Aries
22 Oct – Mars enters Libra
31 Oct – Venus enters Sagittarius

November Transits and Conjunctions

3 Nov – Mercury enters Libra
4 Nov – New Moon at 18d21 Libra
11 Nov – Mercury going direct conjunct Mars at 13d32 Libra
17 Nov - Sun enters Scorpio
18 Nov – Mars opposite Uranus at 18d05 Aries/Libra

19 Nov – Full Moon/Lunar eclipse at 2d37 Taurus
21 Nov – Jupiter enters Aquarius going direct
26 Nov – Mercury conjunct Ketu at 7d33 Scorpio
29 Nov - Mercury conjunct Sun at 13d Scorpio

December Transits and Conjunctions

Dec 4 – New Moon/Solar Eclipse at 17d45 Scorpio
Dec 6 – Mars enters Scorpio
Dec 7 – Mars makes 1:4 aspect to Jupiter at 1d22 Scorpio/Aquarius
Dec 9 – Venus enters Capricorn
Dec 13 – Venus Conjunct Pluto at 1d11 Capricorn
Dec 16 – Sun enters Sagittarius
Dec 19 – Full Moon at 3d21 Gemini
Dec 19 – Venus stationary retrograde at 2d20 Capricorn
Dec 21 – Winter Solstice 3:58 pm UDT
24 Dec – Saturn makes 1:4 aspect to Uranus at 16d56 Capricorn/Aries
Dec 25 – Venus retrograde conjunct Pluto at 1d33 Capricorn
Dec 29 - Mercury direct conjunct Venus retrograde at 00d17 Capricorn
Dec 30 – Mercury direct enters Capricorn
Dec 30 – Mercury direct conjunct Pluto at 1d2 Capricorn
Dec 31 – Venus retrograde enters Sagittarius