

The Observatory Solstice – December 2018

Compiled by Charlotte Benson

Here we are, once again, at the time of year when the Sun, magnificent Surya, stands still in the sky for a few days, to once again turn towards his Northern trajectory. We here in the Northern hemisphere are honoring the lengthening of the hours of daylight with timeless celebrations from many traditions.

This quarter begins with Saturn in Sagittarius, remaining direct in Purva Ashadha nakshatra, for the duration; Rahu is in Cancer, just having moved into Punarvasu nakshatra, Ketu in Capricorn, Uttara Ashadha nakshatra; Jupiter, and Mercury are together in Scorpio, Anuradha nakshatra; Mars is finishing his transit through Aquarius rasi, Purva Bhadrapada nakshatra. The Sun occupies Sagittarius, in deep Mula nakshatra; and Venus finishes his long and lovely sojourn through Libra, in Vishakha nakshatra.

This is a rather rare and simple time, when all the visible planets are moving in direct motion, since they are all travelling relatively close to the Sun. 2018 should resolve itself rather peacefully, while these planets are all going forward, and while Mercury is with Jupiter, and Venus still in Libra. The beginning of the second quarter of 2019 may be quite different, but that's a story for the next edition!

Here are the ingresses, and major aspects between the planets:

DECEMBER

21 Solstice

22 Full Moon in Gemini rasi

23 Mars ingress Pisces rasi

27 Jupiter enters Jyeshtha nakshatra

28 Mars enters Uttara Bhadrapada nakshatra

29 Sun enters Purva Ashada nakshatra

31 Mercury ingress Sagittarius rasi (Mercury gandanta in Mula nakshatra)

JANUARY 2019

1 Sun conjunct Saturn. Moon conjunct Venus and Jupiter. Happy New Year!

5 Partial Solar Eclipse, in Purva Ashadha. Additional spiritual practices are advised during eclipses.

10 Mercury enters Purva Ashada nakshatra

11 Sun enters Uttara Ashada nakshatra

13 Mercury conjunct Saturn

14 Sun ingress Capricorn rasi. Makar Sankranti - Capricorn transition celebrates the Sun being northly

16 Mars enters Revati nakshatra

17 Venus enters Jyestha nakshatra

18 Mercury enters Uttara Ashada nakshatra. Mercury conjunct Pluto

20 Mercury ingress Capricorn. Total Eclipse of the Moon. Visible throughout most of North and South America. However, traditional wisdom suggests avoiding the actual sight of an eclipse in process.

21 Mercury conjunct Ketu

22 Venus conjunct Jupiter

24 Sun enters Shravana nakshatra

25 Jupiter trine (5th house aspect to) Mars

26 Mercury enters Shravana nakshatra

29 Venus ingress Sagittarius (Venus is gandanta now.) Sun conjunct Mercury

31 Saturn casts a 3rd house aspect onto Neptune

FEBRUARY

3 Mercury enters Dhanistha nakshatra

4 New Moon in Shravana. Mars gandanta

5 Mars ingress Aries rasi, Ashwini nakshatra. Venus enters Anuradha nakshatra. Chinese New Year – the Boar – just fyi

6 Sun enters Dhanishta nakshatra

7 Mercury ingress Aquarius rasi

10 Venus enters Purva Ashadha. Mercury enters Shatabhisha nakshatra

12 Sun ingress Aquarius rasi. Mars conjunct Uranus

18 Mercury conjunct Neptune. Venus conjunct Saturn

19 Sun enters Shatabhisha nakshatra. “Supermoon” Full Moon. Moon is perigee – closest to Earth. Saturn casts 3rd house aspect to Mercury

21 Venus enters Uttara Ashada nakshatra

22 Venus conjunct Pluto

24 Venus ingress Capricorn rasi

25 Mars enters Bharani nakshatra. Mercury enters Pisces rasi, Purva Bhadrapada. Venus conjunct Ketu

28 Mercury enters Uttara Bhadrapada

MARCH

3 Sun enters Purva Bhadrapada nakshatra

5 Venus enters Shravana nakshatra. Mercury stationary retrograde (Rx) in Purva Bhadrapada

6 New Moon in Purva Bhadrapada. Sun conjunct Neptune

8 Saturn 3rd house drishti to Sun

10 Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 am – U.S.

14 Sun conjunct Mercury

15 Sun ingress Pisces rasi, Purva Bhadrapada nakshatra. Mercury retrogrades back into Aquarius rasi.

Jupiter enters its gandanta position, at 29 degrees of Scorpio

16 Venus enters Dhanistha nakshatra

17 Mars enters Krittika nakshatra

18 Sun enters Uttara Bhadrapada nakshatra

20 Equinox. Full Moon