

STAR GUIDANCE

MARCH -JUNE 2021

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Hello readers,

Ramdas Bill Sinclair is taking a sabbatical from ACVA this season, and I will fill in with the Spring 2021 season Star Guidance. As we reflect upon the profound changes in the stars and planets which culminated in the Jupiter/Saturn conjunction of December, 2020, we are also most grateful to have passed through the crucible of the most intense Rahu/Ketu convergences of many decades if not centuries. And then there was the behavior of Mars, which made its closest pass to the earth at the opposition to the Sun last year, which astrologers also know as the time when Mars appears to slow down, stop, and move backwards against the stars – the Retrograde.

Our winter season saw a very rough transition from the Trump Presidency to the Biden Administration in the US, and in Europe the process of Brexit finally happened. In Asia, China has asserted dominance in Taiwan, against the Uighur peoples, and with military buildup. COVID deaths peaked in the winter and have been falling in many countries as effective vaccines arrive and a variety of public measures were or were not followed. "Global warming and the unusual planetary and nodal movements have brought extreme cold and winter weather to many parts of the Northern Hemisphere. People all over the world are wondering if and when they can return to "normal" and what is the new normal? People of minority ethnic or religious affiliation live in fear of the sort of ugly scapegoating which has marred the recovery from epidemic in past centuries.

For myself, I am filled with cautious hope. After a year of fear, restrictions, illness and death even in my consciousness, I see improvements. I call it the COVID blizzard. There is a lot of digging out, recovery, reassessment and rebirth, a lot of catching up and adjusting. One media reporter has announced that the young children of this generation are the "Generation C," whose lives will always be marked by this year of isolation, no in person school, and the economic hardships and loss of loved ones. Yet people have connected across the globe, and have come together in common purpose to take up tasks which must be done, and made new alliances against hate and fear.

In the next few months, we will finally be done with the Mars/Rahu conjunction! Mars entered Taurus on February 21, where it joined Rahu. Those two reach exact conjunction on March 28, just after the spring equinox, but on April 14 Mars will move on to Gemini. These two grahas together in Taurus brought us a rash of temper flareups, mental health and drug crisis events, and violent crime in my local community and elsewhere. There have been a number of violent events in some of the usual global hotspot. Mars has its purpose – moving and creating activity, and adding heat and fire to all sorts of processes – but we will breathe easier with him away from Rahu with its mobilization of unseen forces. I think the public obsession with conspiracy theories will ebb, though it never goes away.

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Speaking of Rahu and Ketu, those two lunar nodes which mark the eclipses will continue their slow backwards movement through Taurus and Scorpio. When the Sun and Moon reach the zone of Rahu and Ketu we will be in Eclipse Season. As a resident of Tornado Alley, I am predicting the greatest intensity of such storms will fall around the Lunar Eclipse on May 26 and the Solar Eclipse on June 10. There may even be early hurricanes in that period, and spring floods are likely. While most of us are so eager to catch up on family gatherings, meetings and travel, it would seem prudent to delay until after Eclipse Season, particularly if you live in a region prone to late spring weather events. Since both Trump and Biden have Rahu in Taurus and Ketu in Scorpio prominent in their natal charts, I would not be surprised to see some further developments in the political drama in the USA play out in that period.

Another thing to look forward to! After Mars gets past its conjunction with Rahu on March 28, we will FINALLY be done with these seemingly never-ending rounds of Kala Sarpa Yoga. This is the term we Vedic astrologers use for the situation in which all the visible planets are on one side of the axis formed by the Moon's Nodes, Rahu and Ketu. I call it the "Spin Cycle Out of Balance Yoga," the sort of thing that happens when you wash a heavy, unbalanced load and it gets the washer out of balance – that maddening Thump Thump Thump – which can even send the washer out of position. We have been enduring months and months of Kala Sarpa for half of every Lunar cycle – event after event after event. Are you ready to take the wash out and have done with it? March 28, mark the date!!

Individuals who have the Ascendant (Lagna), Sun, Moon or important planets in Taurus or Scorpio (sidereal zodiac) will experience effects from Rahu and Ketu all year, but particularly at the end of March with the Mars/Rahu conjunction and in late May/early June with the Eclipse season. It will be very easy to feel stuck or obsessed in some way, but it is important to remember that this seemingly unending feeling WILL pass, and to reach out for help until it does. This is the season for all of us to reach out to those who have extended themselves and are exhausted or down. In Vedic astrology we have a tradition of planetary remedies – sometimes we might wear a particular color or jewel, or practice a mantra. But now is the time to remember that the most powerful remedies of all are the Dhana remedies, in which our gifts to the world help us repair our own hearts.

Jupiter makes a big change on April 6, when it moves from Capricorn, its sign of greatest weakness or debility, to Aquarius. Jupiter has in essence been in eclipse to Saturn this year, and while Aquarius is not its favorite sign, it will at least be out of Saturn's deep shadow. Aquarius is also ruled by Saturn, but we will begin to be able to articulate what our collective hopes might be for the next 20 year cycle with Jupiter in Aquarius. Jupiter joins the outer planet Neptune which brings in an element of inspiration to the year. People who have their Lagna, Sun, Moon or important planets in Air signs (Aquarius, Gemini, Libra) will experience this change as a breath of fresh air. Jupiter will be making a full aspect to Leo and brighten up those folks who do so poorly when Saturn dominates. Water sign people (Pisces, Cancer and Scorpio) will be looking forward to 2022 when Jupiter in Pisces will really be in its own element and sign.

Saturn will remain behind in Capricorn along with Pluto, which is now totally done with being in Sagittarius and will be in Capricorn to stay for many years. Capricorn will remain a sort of center of gravity of our collective consciousness until Saturn exits the sign in 2022. Saturn in its own sign, where it manifests its inherent desire for inertia or stability, depending on what spin you put upon it. After the wild gyrations of the past few years, stability and a long term plan (Capricorn's forte) will seem like a good thing. However, with the outer planet Pluto along for the ride, the undertone is a

drumbeat of profound change. There will be no true going back to the previous order. Climate change is a reality. The power politics of the Middle East/oil hegemony has changed. We have realized just how profoundly social media and the internet connect us and can manipulate us, courtesy of both small extremist groups and massive superpowers. We are having to face up to the shadow side of our most idealistic assumptions – whether the corruption of racism or the sunny assumption that our own idealistic view must be the right one. And we live in a world which can sequence a virus and produce billions of doses of vaccines in a year or two.

Saturn's gift to us is humility. The loudest, the brightest is not always the best. We can overcome by putting one foot in front of the other as we start a new cycle which will play out over generations. It is a fine thing to be at the beginning of such a season!

Several other dates are worth noting for our spring season. The lovely time when the Sun is in Aries while the Moon is in Taurus (both in their exaltations) will occur from April 15-17. This has been a traditionally favorable time for weddings in India, but I have found it has been a great time for other muhurthas such as placing a house on the market or planning a cultural event. Venus, Mars and Mercury all change signs between April 11-16, so expect a change in a lot of day to day activities. Venus begins the spring season invisible next to the Sun (combust), but will emerge again after April 26, when it will become visible as the Evening Star in the west after sunset. Mercury, which was visible with Jupiter and Saturn in early March, will be inside the Sun's rays and will be retrograde from May 30 through June 22. All the more ordinary events of our lives will need to carry on – the weddings, graduations, and reunions. Gardens to plant, friends to see, businesses to nurture. In this season of hope, let's plant our seeds.

Late March Transits and Conjunctions

20 March – Spring Equinox – 6 Pisces

26 March – Venus combust Sun – 11 Pisces

28 March – Mars/Rahu Conjunction – 20 Taurus

28 March – Full Moon – Hasta/Virgo – 14 Virgo

April Transits

6 April – Jupiter enters Aquarius – Friend

11 April – Venus enters Aries – Friend

12 April – New Moon – Revati/Pisces – 28 Pisces

14 April – Mars enters Gemini - Neutral

14 April – Sun enters Aries – Exalted

14-16 April – Moon in Taurus – Exalted

16 April – Mercury enters Aries – Friend

27 April – Full Moon – Swati/Libra

April Conjunctions

26 April - Mercury/Venus Conjunction – 19 Aries

May Transits:

1 May – Mercury enters Taurus – Friend

5 May – Venus enters Taurus – Own sign

11 May – New Moon – Krittika/Aries - 27 Aries

15 May – Sun enters Taurus – Great Enemy

23 May – Saturn stations Retrograde – 19 Capricorn

26 May – Full Moon – Anuradha/Scorpio – 10 Scorpio

26 May – Lunar Eclipse – Anuradha/Scorpio – 11 Scorpio

27 May – Mercury enters Gemini – Own sign

29 May – Venus enters Gemini - Friend

30 May – Mercury stations Retrograde – 0d 34m Gemini

May Conjunctions:

11 May – Mercury conjunct Rahu – 16 Taurus

18 May – Venus conjunct Rahu – 16 Taurus

June Transits:

3 June – Mercury retrogrades back into Taurus – Friend

3 June – Mars enters Cancer – Debilitation sign

10 June – New Moon – Rohini/Taurus – 25d12 Taurus

16 June – Sun enters Gemini – Friend

20 June – Jupiter stations Retrograde – 8 Aquarius

23 June – Venus enters Cancer – Great Enemy

24 June – Full Moon – Mula/Sagittarius – 8 Sagittarius

June Conjunctions

11 June – Mercury conjunct Sun – 26 Taurus