



Letter from the president of ACVA

September 2022 Equinox Edition

by Professor Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)

President, ACVA

Greetings dear ACVA friends, students, alumni, and faculty:

We hope this finds you and your family doing well. It's been another busy quarter for ACVA as we continue to perform our seva of offering the highest caliber Jyotish education. The college is benefitting from the brilliant skills of our experienced and high-functioning faculty and staff, and from contributions from generous friends of ACVA.

Thanks and gratitude to Nicholai Bachman, who has generously donated his excellent audio files of the proper pronunciation of Sanskrit terms for Jyotish application. These audio files are now embedded into our Level 1 curriculum – they sound wonderful!

ACVA is also in the process of receiving two separate rare book libraries, from international friends of ACVA. Thank you! And as ever, I am personally so very grateful for the contributions of our volunteer Team, tireless I.T. staff, and donors.

One of our recent international graduates, Shompa Dasgupta from India, had this to offer about the value of the efforts of our college and faculty:

"Studying at ACVA was one of the best decisions of my life! I have not just gained precious divine knowledge of how cosmic energies work in our lives and how & why peoples' lives play out the way they do, but I have also gained knowledgeable and genuine lifelong Gurus. The fact that I could study at my own pace made it much easier to learn the

complex subjects of this course. And that the ACVA certificate is recognized across geographies proved to be a bonus too! The entire experience of studying at ACVA has been quite liberating!

"If, as an astrology enthusiast, you wish to get to the next level of human enlightenment, to be empowered with special cosmic knowledge and divine wisdom to make you a class apart from the ordinary human being, to make you a bit like God's own messiah, then this course is for you! It will surely help make you a divinely insightful being capable of transforming lives! This course gives you the power to improve lives in an incredibly positive way!"

High praise indeed!

At the time of this writing, Budh is retrograde in its exaltation. This has been very educational, to say the least! It's amazing what one can learn when essential systems break down. We hope that you're able to maintain your perspective, if you're experiencing the complexity of this rare retrograde cycle.

On a personal note, I presented a lecture on "Wisdom of the Jyotish Bhavas" to an appreciative audience at the International Society of Astrological Research conference, a few weeks ago, in the Denver area. Western astrologers enthusiastically received the lecture, eager to know about Jyotish. There is a lot of interest in Vedic Astrology, from students of Astrology trained in the Western version. As I so enthusiastically pointed out – the bhavas of Jyotisha are much more comprehensive and specific than the limited connotations of the same houses in Western Astrology. We jyotishis are fortunate to know the subtleties the multi-faceted bhavas! I also did a lot of "institutional" networking there, connecting with the presidents of Kepler college, and the American Federation of Astrologers – and with the president of ISAR, too, of course. Each of these institutions respects the value of Vedic Astrology, and they each offer their versions of courses in Jyotish. In fact, our own Dr. Gary Gomes teaches Jyotish at Kepler College, as well as here at ACVA. More information on the results of our collaboration with our Western organizations, to follow in my next letter to you.

*Speaking of conferences, please remember to use ACVA's special promotional code "acva108" for a 10.8% discount on registration fees for the virtual **Maharishi Parasara Conference**. This virtual conference carries on the previous work of ACVA's president emeritus, Dr. Dennis Harness, in presenting a world-class faculty from the comfort of your own screen! November 17 – 21, 2022. I will be presenting on Monday, 11/21/22. Please join me there, online – it will be a beautiful experience.*

www.parasaraconference.com.

ACVA will continue to offer our complimentary online seminar series, for your benefit. Dr. Lynn Bootes, ACVA's Dean of Students, presented a fascinating look at political astrology and Raja yogas last week. If you missed her lecture, please look for it on our YouTube channel. We'll keep you informed of our next offering, in October. And please remember that we have a vast treasure trove of recorded digital material available for purchase to everyone, through our ACVA store: www.acvaonline/store.

Here's another glowing testimonial from a recent international graduate, Sarah Halevi, from Israel:

"Studying Jyotish at ACVA college has given me a whole new life. I start most mornings looking up at the predawn sky, tracking Jupiter, Mars, and Saturn, greeting Venus today as a morning star. The planets are no longer just intriguing pricks of light, but Presences. The ACVA curriculum manages to convey the profundity of Jyotish, while always maintaining a practical approach. We learn the logical steps of chart analysis, historical understanding of time keeping and Hindu society, the ethics of being a counsellor. The information is imparted gradually, layer by layer, grahas, rashis, bhavas, how they work together in yogas, then the orchestration of dashas and gochara, until the mind learns to think multi-dimensionally, attaining understanding of how karma works in a human life, a truly awesome thought. Lest we get carried away, ACVA emphasizes that the goal of study is not the power of knowledge, but to help people. I am profoundly grateful to have studied at ACVA, and want to thank all my tutors, and their teachers, for helping me to partake of this Divine science."

We hope you enjoy this editions articles from our brilliant ACVA faculty. Stay well until we meet again.

Fondly,

Professor Charlotte Benson (Jyoti Devi)