

JYOTISH TRENDS January 2018

(Times are for Arizona. Pacific time is one hour earlier than Arizona, Mountain time is same as Arizona, Central time is 1 hour later and Eastern time is 2 hours later).

Lunar high points (affects emotions positively):

Full Moon in Cancer: January thirtieth from 9:52 AM until January 31 at 6:26 AM

(Moon also stays in own sign of Cancer: January 30 from 2:29 AM until February 1 at 2:35 AM. In this position Moon is conjunct Rahu. This ushers in a tendency for more need for emotional freedom as the New Year of 2018 begins.)

Moon will be exalted position in Taurus in January 26 from 12:41 AM until January 28 at 2:25 AM— although it will be aspected by Ketu which lends an inward energy to Moon).

Lunar low points (emotions are more sensitive):

Moon in Scorpio—Moon is in its debilitation/subdued position in Scorpio constellation: January 11 from 12:18 PM until January 14 at 12:44 AM. In this position the moon is at its ebb. Rahu aspects Moon lending a tendency of restless wanting to investigate deeper knowledge and secrets.

New Moon in Sagittarius, January 15 from 4:41 PM until January 16 at 7:16 PM.

(The Moon actually stays in Sagittarius from January 14 from 12:44 AM until January 16 at 1:37 PM. The Saturn conjunction with it may bring a vata or nervous influence to the emotions.)

Additional intense days:

Moon enters Libra constellation from January 9 from 1:49 AM until January 11 at 12:18 PM. Moon will be conjunct Mars and Jupiter which may lend an expansive tendency with intensity to one's emotions.

Moon in Capricorn from January 16 from 1:37 PM until January 19 at 1:47 AM. This position moon is conjunct with Ketu as well as aspected by Mars. It brings a tendency of pitta vata— fiery airy energy to emotions.

Moon in Pisces will be at January 21 from 12:15 PM until January 23 at 8:03 PM. This brings spiritual energy but at the same time some intensity in one's emotions for greater freedom because of Rahu's full aspect.

I. DAYS OF SHIVA---for Transcendental experience of Deep Meditation & Prayer:

January 14 from 2 PM until January 15 at 4:41 PM

January 29 from 1:22 PM until January 30th at 9:52 AM

II. DAYS OF SKANDA (ARCHANGEL MICHAEL)—for Victory and energy to overcome negativity:

January 6 from 4:38 AM until January 7 at 3:33 AM

January 22 from 3:54 AM until January 23 at 4:09 AM

III. DAYS OF GANESH—for removing obstacles and success in action:

January 20 from 1:40 AM until January 21 at 3:03 AM

IV. DAYS OF VISHNU—for harmony, balance, dharma and good relationships:

January 11 from 6:40 AM until January 12 at 8:52 AM

January 26 from 10:44 PM until January 27 at 7:57 PM

V. DAYS OF DURGA (Mother Divine)—for removing difficulties and overcoming fear:

January 9 from 3:44 AM until January 10 at 4:54 AM

January 25 from 2:43 AM until January 26 at 1:01 AM

PLANETARY Sankranti—Points of Transcendence when planets switch constellations

Sun moves into the constellation Capricorn on January 14 at 1:15 AM and stays there till February 12 at 2:15 PM. This shifts the National and individual focus from knowledge orientation to action in a practical way. This will especially affect people with Leo, Capricorn or Cancer rising signs (or Sun/Moon in these signs). Leadership on every level should trend towards finding practical solutions to problems.

Mars is in the Libra constellation where it will stay till January 16 at 4:40 PM. Then it will move into Scorpio till March 7 at 5:55 AM. For Taurus, Aries, and Scorpio rising signs (or Sun / Moon in these signs) it could create more intensity in relationships. The added Mars intensity in Scorpio also adds more energy on the National level tending to give boldness of expression. Mars being in Scorpio is also influenced by Rahu, which brings in a more restless tendency to Mars. This could bring more intensity in Mars actions by individuals and nations.

Mercury moves Into Sagittarius constellation on January 6 at 7:20 AM and stays there till January 27 at 12:35 PM. Mercury in Sagittarius favors use of intellect to solve problems in a more life-supporting expansive way. This position of Mercury in January-Jan. particularly affects people with Sagittarius, Scorpio, Taurus, Gemini and Virgo ascendants (or Moon/Sun in those signs).

Mercury will move into Capricorn constellation January 27 at 12:35 PM and stays there till February 14 at 2:55 PM. This brings in a sharp focus of intellect for details and action. Practical applied uses of communication systems and solutions is emphasized. This will affect especially those individuals who have Gemini, Virgo,

Capricorn and Cancer rising signs or Sun/Moon in those constellations.

Venus moves into the sign of Capricorn on January 13 at 2:15 AM and stays there till February 5 at 11:30 PM. Artistic projects may be favored particular for Capricorn rising sign (or Sun/Moon in Capricorn), and there is a focus on individual and national level on using artistic expression in more concrete ways, such as sculpting, or architectural building design. Taurus, Capricorn and Libra rising signs (or Sun/Moon in those) particularly will feel this influence. This is a good time to do the indoor painting, and interior design or remodeling in a home.

Rahu is in the constellation Cancer and stays there until March 6, 2019 at 9:02 PM.

This may bring in some tendency for requiring more emotional freedom and space. On a National level it could bring in some need for independence, even from countries which we regard as our allies. This position of Rahu may affect more people who are Cancer, Capricorn, and Sagittarius rising (or Sun /Moon in these signs). For Capricorn and Sagittarius rising signs it brings in some need for separation or independence in relationships.

Ketu is in the constellation Capricorn and stays there till March 6, 2019 at 9:02 PM. This position brings a spiritual inwardness to the sign Capricorn which most represents self-sufficiency and practicality. It also brings tendency for nonattachment and letting go in the area of relationships for people who are Cancer rising. This position of Ketu may be felt more by Capricorn, Cancer and Gemini rising signs (or Moon or Sun in such position).

OTHER PLANETARY POSITIONS:

Jupiter stays in Libra constellation. This position brings tendency to want to use knowledge and finances (Jupiter represents banking industry) for improving interpersonal relations. This position will affect people with Sagittarius and Pisces rising signs (or Sun/Moon in these signs). It could bring greater Divine wisdom blessings for people with Libra rising (or Sun/Moon in these signs), and new relations with teachers or men particularly for Aries rising (or Sun/Moon in these signs)

The position of **Jupiter** in Libra may for the USA bring in some Divine support of knowledge or dharma to financial and internal affairs. It also emphasizes issues of law for the country.

Saturn has moved into the Sagittarius constellation and will stay there the next two years. In Sagittarius Saturn represents purification of dharma or higher purpose. This position will affect more profoundly people with Sagittarius, Gemini, Capricorn and Aquarius rising signs (or Sun/Moon in these signs). For Sagittarius and Gemini rising signs (or Sun/ Moon in these signs it may be bringing more focus on personal needs as well as attention on relationship/ marriage. For the USA it represents purification of national expression of action as well as focus on stabilizing one's homeland.

SPECIAL VEDIC HOLIDAYS (as per Arizona /Pacific time-- times in January may differ in India as they there is a time zone difference. Please note also Vedic Holidays were based on Lunar days, not Solar days):

LORD SHIVA HOLIDAYS:

Shani Pradosh falls on the thirteenth lunar day in both the bright half and dark half of the Lunar cycle. This month Shani Pradosha is celebrated January 13 from 11:21 AM until January 14 at 2 PM as well as January 28 from 4:47 PM until January 29 1:22 PM.

Fasting and worship of Shiva on Shani Pradosh brings freedom from restrictions, removal of obstacles and troubles, and moksha or Enlightenment. Traditionally in the Vedic Tradition one takes a vow (vrata) to do 11 or 26 such Shani Pradosh worships.

January 8 from 3:16 AM until January 9 at 3:44 AM as well as January 24 from 3:46 AM until January 25 at 2:43 AM is Kala Bahairava Day (8th Lunar day each month), which celebrates the appearance of Kala Bhairava, a special aspect of Lord Shiva who appeared and cut off the fifth head of the Creator Brahma, leaving 4 heads facing different directions.

The real symbolism of this is that Creation has four directions but the fifth direction is the Transcendental Pure Consciousness which belongs to Shiva (Almighty God as Supreme Silence). On this day it is traditional for Shiva devotees to stay up all night in vigil and make offerings to Bhairava and Parvati (The Divine Feminine aspect of Almighty God) and also offer libations and oblations to their departed ancestors. Dogs are also offered treats as offerings.

Night of January 14-15 is monthly Shiva Ratri (Night of Shiva) during which time one honors Shiva (Almighty God). This is the Night of Shiva when it is customary to stay up all Night adoring the Supreme Being as Shiva, God as the Absolute Supreme Silent Self. It is said that on this Night the Absolute (Shiva) accepts the Creation as His own Nature--giving rise to the full awakening of Enlightenment as the Unity of Absolute and Relative.

The real meaning of staying up all night on Shiva Ratri evening is being awake perpetually in the state of Enlightenment/ God Realization. Also during this time, it is traditional to pour milk, honey, sugar ghee and other offerings over a Shiva Lingam while reciting the Yajur Veda hymns known as Rudra Pathe. It is also traditional to read excerpts from Holy Scriptures about Shiva. (See Shiva times above).

LORD VISHNU HOLIDAYS:

Jan. 11-12 is known as Shattila Ekadashi. This is a holy day to Lord Vishnu (Omnipresence of Love). If one fasts on this day, offers fruit to Narayana (Lord Vishnu), and stays up all night (meaning keep awareness on God) --it removes all sins according to Vedic tradition.

The story of this is narrated by Lord Krishna. There once was a lady who worshipped God as Lord Vishnu with devotion. She also was charitable and gave her wealth to others. However, in all this she never gave food to anyone. To bless her the Lord as Vishnu appeared as a mendicant begging for food. The lady did not give him food but threw a lump of clay in his begging bowl. Later when the lady was meditating and entered the subtle

realms of Vishnu's heaven she saw a beautiful home build for her. But inside this Divine home there was no food or ornamentation. Lord Vishnu explained that He built this heavenly home for her from the clay offering she gave. But because she did not offer food the home was deprived of food and other good things.

Because the lady was a true devotee, Lord Vishnu told her that to rectify matters she needed to do the Shat tila (six sesame) worship on the Ekadashi (day of Vishnu). This consist in Six ways to use sesame (black and regular sesame seeds): to bath in water mixed with sesame, to apply paste of sesame to one's body, to eat sesame, to offer sesame to the Divine in a Vedic ceremony, to offer sesame seeds in charity, and to accept charitable gifts of sesame seeds. Once the lady did this, her spiritual body became radiant, and her home in the celestial became full of food, furniture and all riches. So it is suggested to remove all sins and create subtle blessings of Abundance, one not only fast this day but also make offerings of sesame seed as per the Shat tila instructions. (see days of Vishnu above).

In general, Ekadashis commemorate the day Lord Vishnu (God as Omnipresent Love) destroyed the demon Mura (Hence Vishnu is known as Murari). It was the female power or Shakti of Lord Vishnu that appeared to destroy the demon. Because the Shakti emerged on the 11th Lunar day She was called Ekadashi. The Shakti in the narration of the story asked Lord Vishnu to grant the boon that whosoever worships Vishnu (and his Shakti) on the 11th Lunar day, be granted freedom from sin.

January 26-27 is known as Jaya Ekadashi. It is a day holy to Lord Vishnu (God as omnipresent Love). It is also Holy to Shiva because this month called Magha is Holy to Him. So there are double blessings.

Jaya Ekadashi commemorates the power of this Ekadashi fasting vow to return the Gandharvan Malyavan's wife back to divine form rather than that of Rakshasa (demonic form). Malyavan was a celestial singer in the court of Indra-- and during his singing he lost the melody and key due to being infatuated with his new wife. Indra King of devas or Divine Beings cursed that his wife would turn to Rakshasa form. Through the blessing of knowledge of Rishi Narada, Malyavan performed the Ekadashi fast and was able through Grace of Lord Vishnu to restore his wife to original form.

Fasting and prayer on this Ekadashi is said to confer Moksha or Liberation. (See above for times of this day of Vishnu.)

SPECIAL BIRTHS OR TIMES:

January 7 is Vivekananda Jayanti, celebrating the birth of the great Indian Saint Vivekananda. Vivekananda was a disciple of Paramahansa Ramakrishna who was a great worshipper of Mother Divine as Kali at the Temple of Dakshineswar in Calcutta, India. Swami Vivekananda's great mission was to come to the United States and introduce the knowledge of Vedas, Yoga and meditation in the late 1900's. He spoke at the first World Parliament of Religions in the 1890's. He was the first great Yogi to introduce the West (America) to the wisdom of the East.

January 12 marks the birth of the great Spiritual Teacher Maharishi Mahesh Yogi who brought the full Light of Vedic Wisdom to the world. Maharishi popularized the Transcendental Meditation Program as a scientifically tested method of realizing higher states of consciousness culminating in full Enlightenment. Many consider his tireless work to raise planetary consciousness through the TM and TM Siddhi programs, as well as

reenlivenment of Ayur-Veda, Rig, Sama, Yajur and Atharva Vedas, together with applied knowledge of yagya, jyotish and Veda and Physiology as one of the greatest achievements in recorded history.

Special Celebration for India, land of the Vedas: January 26 is the 68th annual Republic Day for India. It is celebrated all over the country, with the most major parades taking place in Delhi. It celebrates the founding of the Indian Constitution in 1949 and its adoption in 1950--and typically is accompanied by hoisting of the Indian flag with military and cultural parades.

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year through Growth, Success and Fulfillment! May January 2018 bring you the fulfillment of your cherished desires! And the Year of 2018 bring perfection in your goals!

Please note: Personal Jyotish readings are available by Dr. Herzberger to address specific issues in a person's Vedic Chart, with opportunity to balance planetary energies through yagyas (Vedic ceremonies) that he performs.

Dr. Herzberger also has a team of some of the finest pundits of India (a number of whom are professors emeritus of yagya and Jyotish at Varanasi, India) that have chosen to work with him as per very specific yagya instructions. Upon request he also has done yagyas in synergy with his team.

Monica, Dr. Herzberger's sister, is also available to do intuitive readings. Monica has helped people with her direct clarity of spiritual insight. She is skilled in pinpointing the nature of specific times. You might enjoy reading her Lunar Calendar for the month on her and Dr. Herzberger's website.

Dr. Herzberger's website is www.jyotishcenter.com/

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