

Astro-Forecast for 2021

Here is this year's astro-forecast, a round up and distillation of what some of my favorite astrologers are saying about 2021. Special thanks to Cara James, Aepril Schaile, and Chani Nicholas.

If last year was the end of an era, this year is the beginning of the next one. As such, it's still a big transition year. All this talk about "going back to normal," is looking the wrong direction - there's no going back, we can only go forward. We will need to be brave and innovative, using magic and imagination to shape a future that looks like justice. It will be a year of challenges, but the overall energy is more open and hopeful than last year's constriction and calamity.

As I have mentioned, the Saturn-Jupiter conjunction in December kicked off a new 20-year cycle as well as a new 200-year cycle of these planets meeting in Air signs. One of the big themes of the year is the shift from Earth-focused energy to Air-focused energy. Think about what you know about the elements. They each have their strengths and weaknesses, they each have areas they rule as well as correspondences. Some of the events of the last 200 years have some obvious earth connotations: • an emphasis on physical senses and concrete facts leading to breakthroughs in science and industry • a colonization spree in America, Africa, and Asia as western nations forcibly stole land from indigenous populations • tension between exploitation and care for the bodies of laborers, with the abolition of slavery and the rise of labor unions • mining and other exploitation of the Earth's resources... perhaps you can think of more examples?

Now we are moving into Air signs, and Aquarius will be the focus of the next year, with Saturn and Jupiter spending time there. Air signs tend to be interested in communication and ideas, thoughts and learning, the atmosphere, and flight... what other air associations come to mind? Aquarius is a sign that can step back from society in order to see the big picture. It's interested in complex systems and making changes that will benefit humanity in the long run. Ruled by Uranus, it wants to innovate, disrupt, and reorganize, and it couldn't care less about tradition. Aquarius is sometimes called "the rebel," and as we have seen, radicalism can be a good thing or a bad thing depending on your motives and methods. Although it's also called "the humanitarian," sometimes it can be too distant and unable to connect with actual humans on a personal level. The internet was born under Aquarius, and so were these people: Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Galileo, Franklin Roosevelt, Rosa Parks, Charles Dickens, James Joyce, Susan B. Anthony, Toni Morrison, and Oprah Winfrey. If your sun or rising sign or other important planets are in Aquarius (or Leo, Scorpio, or Taurus) this will be a year of major change and growth for you.

Another big theme of this year will be a recurring square between Saturn, planet of laws, boundaries, and regulations, and Uranus, planet of rebellion, freedom, and sudden change. The squares will be exact on Feb. 17th, June 15th, and Dec. 24th, but the friction will be felt all year. Squares create a dynamic tension, requiring us to take action that honors both parties, but they usually feel difficult and uncomfortable. It may highlight the differences between what we want and what we have, going "back to normal" vs "forging ahead," wanting to open businesses then needing to lock down again, and between independence and responsibility. We may find creative solutions, such as new global systems or organizations dedicated to fighting the interlocking crises of covid, climate change, and inequality.

Uranus, the "Great Awakener," continues to bring its rebellious energy to Taurus, sign of the body and the Earth. We may have more natural disasters and climate crises to contend with. We might also see more women in leadership, changes in our financial institutions, food and water scarcity, and a reckoning with our stewardship of the earth.

There will be several eclipses this year along the Gemini - Sagittarius axis. These will be portals, moments of change and revelation. Both signs are interested in education and ideas. Gemini (increasing energy/north node, solar eclipse 6/10) is detail-oriented and curious, traveling locally, learning in school, communication, duality, and rumors. Sagittarius (decreasing energy/south node - 5/26 lunar and 12/3 solar) is more interested in global travel, philosophy, finding the Truth, and big-picture thinking. We will also have a lunar eclipse in Taurus 11/19, reckoning with what we value.

Most of the energy this year is in Air and Earth signs with some Fire mixed in. There is almost no Water in the chart, which might make it difficult for us to go with the flow and stay connected to our emotions. Neptune is the only planet in a Water sign most of the year, hanging out in dreamy Pisces. This placement could help us access our intuition, especially through trance and dreamwork. It can also tend to get a little too far from facts and reality, straying into fantasy and delusion and fake news.

Jupiter will also make a foray into Pisces, a sign it traditionally rules, from 5/13 to 7/28. This could be a time when things feel a bit easier and move more smoothly. We might feel like we have more spaciousness and ease in our lives, and find it easier to connect to our faith and spirituality. On the other hand, it could lead to increased fear and confusion, as well as pressure on, or revelations about, water and oceans.

Mercury retrogrades three times in Air signs (see table for details). The mis-communications and techno-glitches will be especially highlighted in these retrogrades. You'll want to begin being cautious with conversations and contracts a week or so before each one as Mercury passes through its pre-retrograde shadow.

So what does this mean for us? Here are a few key things to keep in mind this year: Embrace the new! If something feels Earth-y or traditional, it's on its way out, but if it feels Air-y and innovative, that's the energy coming in. We will continue to deal with lockdowns and restrictions this year, though they will be probably be less oppressive and constant. We can expect more clashes between individualism and collectivism, as well as more energy towards changing the structures that are not working for our society. Tending to and staying connected with our emotions is critical, but without letting them cloud our judgement (i.e. believing in something just because it elicits an emotional response). Finally, think of yourself as a "citizen of the world," looking 7 generations ahead when making life decisions.

Some Important Dates:

Jan. 30 - Feb. 20	Mercury retrograde	26° - 11° Aquarius
Feb. 17	Saturn square Uranus	7° Aquarius & Taurus
May 26	Lunar Eclipse, full moon	5° Sagittarius
May 29 - June 22	Mercury retrograde	24° - 16° Gemini
May 10	Solar eclipse, new moon	19° Gemini
May 13 - July 28	Jupiter in Pisces 0° - 2°	(Retrograde Jun. 20 - Oct. 17)
May 14	Saturn square Uranus	14° Aquarius & Taurus
Aug. 19, 21 - Jan. 1, 22	Uranus retrograde	14° - 10° Taurus
Sep. 26 - Oct. 18	Mercury retrograde	25° - 10° Libra
Nov. 19	Lunar Eclipse, full moon Venus trine Uranus	27° Taurus 12° Capricorn - Taurus
Dec. 3	Solar eclipse, new moon	12° Sagittarius
Dec. 11 & Dec. 25	Venus conjunct Pluto	25° Capricorn
Dec. 19 - Jan 1, 22	Venus retrograde	26° - 31° Capricorn
Dec. 23	Saturn square Uranus	11° Aquarius & Taurus