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Astrology: Should we look to January 2021 for renewal & resurrection ?

For a new beginning of
good fortune, healing and
prosperity swan the new

Text: May Sim



Ah, January 2021. The time for new beginnings and new year's resolutions. In the wake of a somewhat tumultuous 2020 for so many, this new year period comes with hopes of renewal and resurrection, recovery and settling down to a new norm. So, when an astrologer like me is asked: “Is January 2021 an astronomical new beginning?”, I think it might be useful to share three insights that astrology offers when thinking about a new start.

First up, January has no special meaning in astrology — it is a day like any other. Indeed, the concept of a ‘new year’ is completely man-made and any significance of its association with ‘new beginnings’ are completely attributed by humans.

Having said this, there are some specific components in the study of astrology that relate to the concept of a new start. These do not relate to any specific birth chart but are three different perspectives that astrologers use to think about new chapters in our life. Understanding these different astrological concepts and what they mean for your good fortune and prosperity in the future will help you to make

What it means: The new year is not new, more a continuation of fresh renewal

Planets move in an orbital motion around the Sun. Depending on the planet, this takes place over as little as 88 days (Mercury) or in excess of 200 years (Pluto). Earth, of course, does the full orbit in about 365 days, or one earth year.

When a planet completes a full orbit, returning to its original position, astrologers refer to this as a 'return'. It's regarded as a completion of a lap in a relay race, much like how we run laps on a running track. The 'new beginning' occurs when the planet embarks on a new cycle.

This kind of rebirth isn't — strictly speaking — new. It occurs as part of a longer-term, ongoing project. While all the core characteristics of the planet remain exactly the same, the renewal and resurrection in January also carries the baggage and wear-and-tear of all experiences accumulated in previous cycles (so this year's return must have been pretty darn draggy!). What a planetary return and its new cycle offer is an opportunity for us to do things differently with consideration for all existing factors.

This first way of thinking about new beginnings, literally, *is* the new year. We do this on the first day of January because that's when the Sun returns to the same position to begin a new cycle.

Insight #2

Astrological concept: The 1st Archetype

What it means: A completely new beginning

Astrology is a language and its symbolism is based on a system that consists of 12 archetypes, which are 12 different perspectives and approaches known as 'concepts'. To be clear, archetypes are not months. They don't occur throughout the year. Archetypes are part of the human psyche, like sensitivity, aggression, imagination etc, and they are traditionally numbered from 1 to 12, and we as humans flit between them. It's important to note that only The 1st Archetype and The 8th Archetype are relevant to new beginnings.

The 1st Archetype is associated with the sign Aries, the planet Mars and the 1st house of the astrological chart. The new beginnings of the first archetype do not come with any baggage — it's as if a completely new story is written on a blank page, like a child saying its first words or drawing a picture for the first time, inspired only by the impulse to create.

It's fair to say that 2021 is a completely different ball game from every other year. 22 Dec 2020 was the beginning of the [Air Era](#), a 140-year period in which 20-year-interval great conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn are in air signs with no interruptions.

This date is significant as being the day that ended the previous 178 years when the Jupiter-Saturn great conjunctions were all in earth signs, and the world was preoccupied with concepts of the earth element: money, prestige, production, profit, materialism, to name a few. The Air Era is significantly different in

2020 may have been hideous, but as 2021 is believed to mark the beginning of the Air Era, we should expect to see the rise of completely new technologies that have no precedent. We already see the signs of this 1st archetype new beginnings in the form of the rise of entrepreneurship and very young people creating exciting new ventures with no work experience whatsoever. Isn't it interesting that one of the top headlines to hit the world right after the new Air Era began last December was that Elon Musk is the new #1 richest man in the world? And that he's most known for his unprecedented mission to take humanity to ... Mars?

Besides breakthroughs in technology, the new beginnings of the 1st archetype also manifest as a focus on self-definition and a new perspective of the world. People will learn to see things through the eyes of a new-born child, but also with potentially negative characteristics of the sign Aries and planet Mars, such as extreme competitiveness, violence, anger and self-centredness.

For those of us getting involved in that fresh wave of human development, the new start is exciting and full of possibilities, but also comes with apprehension, since the definition of this type of renewal is provided with no guidance since there is no precedent to learn from. You can only proceed by trial and error.

Insight #3

Astrological concept: The 8th Archetype

What it means: Death and Rebirth

Not all of us have the luxury of a completely new beginning. One of the reasons why 2020 was such a difficult year for so many is because they experienced a disintegration of life as they know it. Security mechanisms like an office to go to, an income, a family unit and group activities they depended on were suspended. This year is then seen by these people as a time to pick up the pieces and learn to live again by new rules.

The 8th archetype in astrology — represented by the sign Scorpio, the planet Pluto and the 8th astrological house — is commonly associated with death, threats, crisis and endings. For this reason, the 8th archetype is feared and has an understandably terrible reputation.

Many do not realise that the 8th archetype also offers rebirth, transformation and the opportunity for resurrection. It comes with definite baggage, a host of negative and destructive emotions, and an endless number of people who have suffered tough times.

I suspect the new year's resolutions of 2021 are

into accepting a new beginning through circumstances beyond their control. Much like how the metaphorical Death shows up at your door, and you don't get a say in the outcome.

The true rebirth of the 8th archetype lies in acceptance, but also in the ability to see this process as being part of a bigger picture. The 8th archetype, after all, isn't even the last of the archetypes, for all this talk of death and endings. There is life after the 8th archetype if you can see beyond survival of the self and can contribute in new and meaningful ways. Those who can see this become people who are described as 'transformative'.

Which one is your new beginning?

As January 1 has no special meaning in astrology, we have complete agency to decide if we would like to have a new beginning, and if so, which type we want to embark on. Whichever type of reawakening you experience, January 2021 will have set your course for the rest of the coming year. All three paths lead to rewarding adventures, fraught with risks, but which all promise a life worth living for.

About the author

May Sim is a professional astrologer with 17 years' experience, and the founder of [Selfstrology Academy](#) based in Singapore. She is a great advocate of self-understanding, personal transformation, and living a life of purpose and contribution.

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