

Solar Return Interpretation
The Tropical Zodiac

An Astrological Profile for:
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INTRODUCTION to SOLAR RETURNS

A solar return chart is a chart erected for the time that the transiting Sun returns to the position of the natal Sun. Approximately once every year the transiting Sun goes through the entire zodiac, every degree, minute, and second of each sign. When you are born, the Sun in your natal chart has a specific position in the zodiac. This position can be measured exactly. At some point in time during each subsequent year, the transiting Sun returns to this natal position, conjuncting your natal Sun. The date and time when the conjunction occurs down to the exact second of arc is the time of the solar return chart. A chart is then calculated for that date, using the time (of the transiting Sun's return to your natal Sun's position), and your location (longitude and latitude) at the time of the conjunction.

TROPICAL, PLACIDUS, NONPRECESSED SOLAR RETURN

There are many different types of solar return charts: tropical, sidereal, precessed, and nonprecessed. This report is based on research using tropical, Placidus or Koch, nonprecessed solar return charts. Interpretations are very similar to natal interpretations and this should make the material more understandable to both the professional and amateur astrologer.

SOLAR RETURN LOCATION

The solar return chart is generally calculated for your location at the time of the Sun's return. This may occur on your birthday, or the day before or after. During leap years, it sometimes occurs two days before your birthday. If you are going to be away or traveling near your birthday, calculate the time of the Sun's return before you leave so you can note your position the exact moment of the solar return.

You can also calculate the chart for your natal birth location even if you no longer live there. The natal location solar return chart is not as definitive as the relocation solar return, but it can give you good information. The natal location solar return is like a progressed or solar arc chart; you are born with it. Therefore, a natal solar return cannot and will not reflect any free will choices you might have made regarding where you live or where you are when the sun returns. It is a good chart, but it does not mirror the whole picture, especially if you have moved a great distance.

Some individuals prefer the chart calculated for their place of residence regardless of where they are located at the time of the Sun's return. This chart can be useful also, but again, it tends to be secondary to the chart of your actual location at the time of the Sun's return to its natal zodiacal position.

Some individuals relocate for a short period of time, usually about 24 hours, to adjust the house placements of the planets in the solar return. Those who calculate the chart for where they are at the time of the transiting Sun's conjunction to the natal position sometimes travel to other locations to change the yearly interpretation. The relocation adjusts the angles and cusps, orienting the planets into different houses. The zodiacal degrees and aspects of the planets remain the same, but because of the different planetary placements different areas of life are emphasized. The free will choice to make this adjustment seems to bring this chart closest to the truth.

PERIOD OF THE SOLAR RETURN'S SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the solar return runs birthday to birthday with a three month overlap at the beginning and end of each year. The symbolism of the new solar return can be felt as much as three months before the birthday by very intuitive people. Usually, at this time, one becomes aware of new directions, opportunities, and

problems. Many times there is even an event exactly three months before the birthday which triggers awareness and signals the beginning of the new solar return. This event is usually very much related to the new solar return and very much out of context with the old one. If you have plans to travel overseas during the three months before your birthday, do not look for the event in the old solar return even if you have been planning to take the trip all year. The old solar return will probably indicate the planning stage, but the new solar return will indicate the trip. The trip itself illustrates change, and since it occurs in the three months before your birthday, it will most likely be indicative of the new solar return chart.

On the other hand, the significance of the old solar return may not feel fully played out, but old themes and issues you have worked with for the year will begin to lose their importance as the new solar return manifests itself. As your attention naturally shifts to new themes and issues, previous concerns are phased out. This is especially true if you experience a sense of completion relevant to the old tasks. However, there are times when the old solar return drags on. If you are working on a major project for the year, it may be impossible to complete it within the one year time span. If you normally procrastinate and avoid making decisions, tasks associated with the old solar return can easily last past your birthday and into the first three months of the new solar return year. Unresolved issues carried over from year to year become stumbling blocks to further advancement and development. Individuals who consistently avoid facing the real issues in their lives accumulate major problems which are very difficult to handle.

The important thing to remember about solar returns, and life experiences in general, is that they are part of a cumulative process. The more attentive and productive you are this year, the greater your options next year. The less you accomplish now, the more limited you will feel as time goes by. Unlike transits which can seem disconnected and singular, solar returns are closely aligned and can easily be viewed as building blocks, one upon the other, year after year. For this reason, each year becomes important and each task has a history and a future. The rhythmic pattern of the solar return helps us to see this.

The main transitional month for the change from the old solar return to the new solar return is the month directly preceding the birthday. Issues related to the old solar return are resolved at this time unless they drag on (as explained above), or they are part of the new solar return as well. Issues related to the new solar return become more pressing during this transitional month and are certainly full blown by the birthdate. Sometimes the new solar return simply gains strength during the three months before your birthday and sometimes it comes in with a bang on or near your birthday. Rarely does it happen that a solar return chart starts to change manifestation later in the year. Themes in the chart usually persist for the entire year, but once in a great while one new theme will appear later than expected. In every case, the new theme can be seen in the solar return chart, yet it lay there inactive for some unknown reason. An external event is the triggering mechanism used to activate this inert awareness, and the event generally occurs within the three months following the birthday. It can be hypothesized that unconscious factors help to avoid full involvement with this new issue until such time as it is associated with an external event of importance and thereafter becomes very obvious.

Planets conjunct a house cusp within a few degrees may be read in both houses. It is especially important to read outer planets in both houses since they eventually transit or retrograde into the other house, indicating dual or shifting concerns during

the year. The more planets that are in a solar return house, the more emphasized that area of life will be during the coming year, especially if the Sun is one of the planets present. Four or more planets in any one house indicate a strong need to be involved with those themes and issues. But the individual may become so focused on this one area of life that perception is distorted and these themes are overemphasized. He or she may not want to think about anything else or accomplish tasks in other areas. The overloaded house becomes a symbol for obsessive preoccupation or emotional overload.

WELL BALANCED MODES and ELEMENTS

When all of your elements and modes are balanced (meaning that there are no more than four planets and no less than two planets in any element or mode) this indicates that your thinking and actions are based on careful consideration of data from several sources of information. You are able to weigh physical, rational, emotional, and spiritual information when you are making decisions. You tend to be conservative rather than rash in making changes, even though you are open to change. At times you may be indecisive since you must take so much information into consideration; however, it is more likely that you will look at issues from all sides and not be overly influenced by any one personality factor.

LIBRA RISING

When the solar return Ascendant is in Libra, cooperating with others and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships result in a rewarding lifestyle. You prosper through associations, whether personal, romantic, or professional. You love exchanging ideas, and gravitate toward intense discussions in which you can argue either side. However, you alienate others when you argue incessantly, and make war, not peace. Learn to walk that fine line between competing with others and appeasing them. Balance in all things is the key to happiness.

INTRODUCTION to the SUN

The Sun is the most significant planet in the solar return chart. Its position by house shows the most emphasized area of life during the coming year, how and where you expend the greatest amount of energy. The house placement of the Sun is reflected in the interpretation of the other planets, and may be the motivating force behind their symbolism.

SUN in the 9TH HOUSE

☉ in 9th

The Sun in the 9th house of the solar return chart indicates the need to reassess beliefs. The 9th house is not limited to higher thoughts only, but includes all beliefs, mundane as well as philosophical, nonreligious as well as religious. This is also the house of prejudice, intolerance, and fanaticism. Beliefs that are erroneous, impractical or unsuitable need to be confronted and eliminated during the year.

Now is the time to reevaluate all beliefs, including those about yourself, your abilities, and relationships. If you have a long-standing belief in your ability to accomplish something difficult, this is the year to make the attempt. As you test your beliefs, one or more of them may prove to be a "misbelief" or misconception. Not all will be accurate or valuable. True beliefs must be proven so they can be built upon. They are the cornerstones of future actions. Misconceptions, on the other hand, can

have serious consequences. They distort your perception of reality and stunt your emotional and spiritual growth. They must be corrected so that evolution will resume.

The spiritual philosophy which is the guiding force behind your everyday actions should be grounded in practical application. You should be able to live comfortably with your beliefs without the pain of continuing disillusionment. Some spiritual philosophies are too idealistic and self-defeating, encouraging the individual to remain in situations which are psychologically unhealthy. Turning the other cheek when you are being abused makes no sense. Your spiritual and religious beliefs should lead you toward fulfillment and peace. Philosophies which do nothing to improve the Universe and lack realistic manifestations may be meaningless mental exercises. A focus on coping with continuing disappointment shortchanges the individual. Use this time to find a philosophy that improves your life and the lives of others.

This is also the time to practice what you preach. If you are not aware of the inconsistencies in your beliefs, the contradictions will manifest themselves in your behavior. Others will notice the discrepancy between what you say and what you do. If you are truly hypocritical, you will tend to attract situations which accentuate this conflict even more.

This is a wonderful time for learning. If you have been out of school and wish to continue your education, do so now. Professional refresher courses will help you next year when the Sun moves into the 6th house of work. You can study any topic during the year and courses do not have to be part of a formal education. Concentrated study is likely and you may do this on your own or within a structured environment. Those who have completed their education may prefer to lecture or teach. As an alternative, you might sell a book proposal with writing and editing taking most of the year.

The Sun in the 9th can also indicate extensive traveling. You are more likely to travel outside the country and overseas, especially if there are other 9th house placements. Experiencing other cultures should make you more tolerant of others and their belief systems.

SUN SQUARE OR OPPOSITE SATURN



Sun square or opposite Saturn in the solar return chart implies a sense of structure. Whether this structure becomes supportive or restrictive depends on the situation and the individual's ability to handle Saturnian issues in a positive manner. Saturn rules hard work. The productive characteristics associated with Saturn include persistence, patience, organization, stability, practicality, and realistic expectations. When the individual's behavior is consistent with these beneficial traits, progress and self-mastery result. When the individual shirks responsibility and bucks authority, circumstances can deteriorate into a stalemate situation in which no one wins. Saturn has been called "the tripper" planet. If you don't do things the right way, you can be tripped up until you get it right.

This is not meant to be a depressing time, but you must be realistic. Accurate perceptions of existing situations are essential to either accept or alter future expectations. For those anticipating fantastic or overly idealistic outcomes, reality can be too stark. Some individuals may feel depressed during the solar return year

either because their expectations were unrealistic or because they did not put in the necessary effort to manifest what was wanted and/or needed.

When the Sun is square or opposite Saturn, the root of problems, issues, or objections might lie with someone else. If objections are coming from a government agency or regulatory commission, you must meet standards or seek a waiver. There may or may not be reasons for delays, restrictions, or conflicts, but they can still plague you. Get through this time by appeasing reasonable demands. Unfortunately, requirements or expectations are not necessarily reasonable or rational. Still, accept responsibility for your own life situation and work with those limitations you cannot control or change. Into every life a little rain must fall and this might be your year. Complaining will only lead to frustration, isolation, and loneliness. Saturn has also been called "the great teacher." There is a lesson to be learned here even if it is not an easy lesson to address.

You must be both realistic and patient in assessing your options. Progress can occur, but it tends to occur slowly and involve careful planning, hard work, and discipline, so put in the effort. It is common to be involved with a major project or task during the year that requires your full attention. Focus on finding solutions to problems. Use your skills and talents in a productive manner or develop the expertise you need to succeed.

SUN SEXTILE or TRINE URANUS



The Sun sextile or trine Uranus in the solar return chart suggests that the individual is making changes. Changes are usually major and sweeping, though sometimes a series of small changes in rapid succession is needed for a shift to occur. Changes are usually self-initiated and directed, unless a persistent problem or internal restlessness is ignored. When you avoid the obvious need for change, matters can be taken out of your hands, in which case, you become the passive recipient of change.

Generally, change is a part of any solar return year that has the Sun sextile or trine Uranus. Since Uranus transits can last for two or more years, you may be at the beginning of the change this year or near the end. If the degree for Uranus is less than the degree for the Sun, Uranus by transit is applying to the Sun and the change is probably about to begin. If the degree for Uranus is higher than that of the Sun, Uranus by transit is separating from the Sun and the change might be nearing completion. If the Sun and Uranus are in similar degree, you are probably in the midst of change.

Changes usually correspond to welcomed and significant life developments such as a pregnancy and birth, a job transfer, relocation, or the beginning of a new relationship. The native gravitates toward excitement, freedom, and growth. This is a good time to be creative, inventive and original. You can recreate your life.

INTRODUCTION to the MOON

The solar return Moon seems to have two consistent themes throughout all of the houses. First and most simply, the Moon is associated with change and fluctuation according to its house position. Secondly, and probably more importantly, the Moon reflects the individual's emotional nature during the solar return year.

THE MOON AS AN EMOTIONAL INDICATOR

While we speak of the Moon as simply an indication of one's emotional nature, the

actual interpretation of the Moon is more complex than simple. The Moon is not just an indicator of feelings; one's emotional nature is a multidimensional conglomeration of feelings, temperament, needs, and unconscious responses. We cannot look at the Moon as one-sided; we must study its interpretation from a number of perspectives.

The Moon represents the individual's feelings regardless of whether or not they are expressed openly. The type of feelings you have during the year can be demonstrated by the Moon's sign, position, and aspects. The Moon's sign can be important even though the Moon has essentially only nineteen placements, because it is indicative of what the individual feels during the year and how he or she is most likely to exhibit those feelings.

The major difference between an individual's feelings and basic temperament is that feelings tend to make up one's basic temperament. The word temperament implies one's overall pattern of emotional response; it is an emotional factor that remains constant regardless of the circumstances. On the other hand, feelings imply a specific emotion in response to a particular event or situation. For example, moody people have emotional swings. Their feelings change depending whether or not they are experiencing happy or sad events; however, their proclivity toward emotional highs and lows remains constant regardless of their particular mood at any point in time. Despite feelings of joy or depression, they still have a moody disposition. The solar return Moon's sign is generally very descriptive of your emotional temperament. It can suggest an array of emotional characteristics including moodiness, sensitivity, coldness, or enthusiasm.

Emotional needs play a crucial role in the Moon's cycle of change and emotional maturation. As explained above, the Moon moves in an understandable pattern through the solar return. During each year, the individual knows certain emotional needs must be met in order to feel secure and fulfilled. These needs, which fluctuate from year to year, cause the individual to create the variety of situations necessary for emotional maturity.

CONSCIOUS or UNCONSCIOUS EMPHASIS

The Moon also signifies the unconscious experience. While Mercury's placement will suggest what the person is consciously thinking, the Moon's placement will suggest what the individual is experiencing on an unconscious level. Together, the Moon and Mercury (and sometimes also the Sun) symbolize the balance between conscious and the unconscious processes. We like to think that our decisions are based on the integration of rational and emotional information, but during any given solar return year, one process more than the other can influence our decisions, perceptions, and motivations. The focus of attention shifts to accommodate fluctuations in individual patterns of growth. There will be years when you lean more heavily on your emotional responses, tending to trust your instincts and follow your intuition. But there will be other years when you depend more on a logical assessment of your situation.

The emphasis on the unconscious usually indicates a year in which the native will be interested in fostering emotional connections and unconscious insights. Logic and factual information may not be meaningful within the context of present situations,

which will tend to be emotional. Example situations include (but are not limited to): involvement in counseling, therapy or self-help discussion groups; intense family situations (related to birth, child-rearing, sickness or death); and very nurturing social situations (e.g., communal living, helping the disabled, underprivileged or homeless). Emotional interactions and perceptions will naturally be more important if they are more likely to provide vital information needed to handle experiences during the coming year. An emphasis on the unconscious nature is conducive to emotional growth.

All forms of mental activity are associated with an emphasis on the conscious mind, including educational and informational activities. Teaching, learning, lecturing, and writing are several examples. An emphasis on the conscious mind is conducive to intellectual growth.

MOON in the 4TH HOUSE

☺ in 4th

A 4th house solar return Moon suggests an emphasis on two important areas: the physical home or domestic situation, and the emotional needs and perceptions of the individual. Usually these two major areas of concern parallel each other and changes manifesting in the home or home life are reflected in emotional changes the individual is experiencing internally. For example, if you do extensive remodeling of your home, it is likely you will also experience emotional disruption during the period of renovation. It can be argued that the emotional disruption is directly caused by the upheaval in the physical environment of the home; but, it is also possible that your emotional situation is changing rapidly and internal dissatisfaction actually caused the desire for renovation.

Perhaps a different example will illustrate this better. Whenever one moves into a new home, some amount of redecoration takes place. The priorities set at this time can be indicative of the individual's emotional climate. Those who are withdrawn or recovering from a difficult emotional trauma might decorate the master bedroom first. The master bedroom suite is probably the most private part of the home and is not always seen by a visitor. Yet it is viewed as the most restful room in the home, a protective inner sanctum that revitalizes energies. Establishing a priority of redoing this room first may reflect a desire to soothe injured feelings before all else. In this manner, internal emotional needs lead to external choices made in regard to the home.

You are apt to either change your place of residence or change something about your home when the Moon is in the 4th house of the solar return chart. You can purchase a new home and move, but it is just as likely that changes will occur within your existing home or domestic situation. For example, you could have a household member come or go during the year, perhaps a new roommate moving in, or a grown child moving out to a separate residence. Feeling "at home" becomes very important and you need to make changes in your home or lifestyle to attain this sense of comfort. Your aim will be to create a place of retreat reflecting your individual emotional style and needs. There are a number of different ways to do this and changes can be either physical or emotional, radical or minor.

Occasionally, domestic needs affect career goals. Interest in providing a

comfortable home environment may become a career concentration. It is possible to begin a career in real estate, home design or interior decoration during the year. Security issues related to your home or future retirement may lead you to plan a career move or to change your job.

Emotional feelings are the second major area of concern with the Moon in the 4th. Your emotional needs are stronger and more urgent at this time, probably because you are coping with an element of change or disruption. You are very aware of the understanding and emotional support you receive from others, or the lack thereof. You want to feel a strong emotional connection to those around you, and need greater intimacy. If others cannot or will not match your needs, you withdraw emotionally and physically from disappointing situations. You tend to be more protective of others and can draw dependent relationships during the year if you feel the need to mother or be mothered. If grown children are leaving home, it is possible to experience the empty nest syndrome. New mothers may experience postpartum blues. These feelings are all related to a maturing emotional nature and changing circumstances. Focusing on your own emotional needs at this time will help you to make the necessary adjustments.

Changes in your emotional circumstances can be more relative than actual. Your situation stays the same, but suddenly you have realizations which open your eyes to new possibilities and problems. Intuitively, you now sense much more than you are told. This ability can give you a wealth of new knowledge and insight, though you might be reluctant to trust it at first. What you sense intuitively may or may not be different from what you are told verbally. If there is a discrepancy, you'll feel torn in two directions and not know what to believe.

Extreme sensitivity to issues related to the home is common, and what actually transpires in the domestic environment, physically and/or emotionally, tends to affect you deeply. If you are in a very difficult situation and your home life is disrupted, it is possible to feel homeless with this placement, but for those who work with their feelings, there awaits a new sense of roots.

MOON SEXTILE or TRINE MERCURY



The Moon sextile or trine Mercury in the solar return indicates the integration of unconscious feelings with conscious thoughts. When these two avenues for information and analysis are working together, they form a great combination; the integrated psyche is a powerful tool for intellectual and creative endeavors. You will be able to understand the total picture from your rational assessment supported by your emotions and combined with intuitive insights. When the conscious and unconscious are working together, you are more likely to make good decisions which satisfy your physical, emotional, and mental criteria. In this way, the conscious mind can be used to direct unconscious feelings into creative projects. Channeling higher awareness can be therapeutic and productive.

You can actively seek out more information about your feelings and conscious motivations through discussions with others. The key to using this aspect positively is to balance and integrate conscious and unconscious input and work toward a complete unified sense of self.

MOON SQUARE or OPPOSITE VENUS



The Moon square or opposite Venus in the solar return chart can suggest a conflict between emotional security and financial considerations. Your monetary situation can be affected either positively or negatively by the lack of integration. For example, you might be ready to retire, but you still have college tuition to pay for your youngest child or debts to clear. You might be involved in a new and exciting relationship, but your partner does not handle money in a responsible manner and you are hesitant to commingle your funds. Problems can be major or they can be minor depending on your situation. Basically, your financial or relationship situation denoted by the house placement of Venus does not meet the emotional and domestic needs seen by the house placement of the Moon. The reverse is also true. The emotional, domestic, and familial needs seen through the house placement of the Moon are not financially supported. In addition, significant others and partners can object to your plans. The best option is to compromise or create a plan that will address these issues over time.

Financial stability is also affected by domestic conditions. Moving, pregnancy, birth, and education are common events that affect the amount of money earned and spent. Occasionally this aspect can show a time when you are financially dependent on others or society for support for one of the reasons mentioned above.

If you are planning on pursuing an emotionally fulfilling goal, you will have to consider your financial situation before making any changes. Whether or not your goal is feasible at this time depends on how much money you have set aside. You might have to compromise your present income and take a pay cut to enter a more rewarding field. Ultimately, your salary will increase if you are successful in your new endeavors.

MOON SEXTILE or TRINE JUPITER



Moon sextile or trine Jupiter in the solar return indicates a positive outlook on life. This can be a year of happiness and contentment. You should be optimistic about the future and your potential for success. Use your talents and abilities to advance professionally or evolve spiritually. Expansion into new areas is advantageous. The house placement of Jupiter should indicate where expansion is likely to occur.

Your ability to express your feelings within a significant relationship is important to your own emotional growth, and also to the growth of the relationship. Jupiter symbolizes your ability to expand and the Moon symbolizes your feeling nature. Together in aspect, they emphasize the process of sharing emotions, having those emotions understood, and growing from the interchange. Expansion through emotional interchange and relatedness is the key. For example, if you are involved in counseling, this exchange is crucial to the therapeutic process. If you are involved in a serious relationship, sharing your feelings is necessary for the development of greater intimacy.

It is important to convey serious emotions as well as cheerful feelings, especially if you are in a situation where candidly expressing your feelings could motivate others. For instance, if you are working on a humanitarian project and you need volunteers, your ability to inspire others with your honest portrayal of the situation will help your cause.

INTRODUCTION to MERCURY

Mercury has two basic interpretations in the solar return chart: it symbolizes what

you are thinking about and your mental condition during the coming year.

What you are actually thinking about is shown by the solar return house placement of Mercury. The important thing to remember about Mercury's placement is that it is indicative of a mental exercise only. Alone in a house, Mercury can show mental preoccupation without psychological pain or physical consequences. It suggests the ability to make decisions only, and may not be a clear indication of action in any particular area. Mercury's aspects to the other planets indicate how information is gathered, assimilated and integrated into attitudes that persist for most of the year. How easily this is accomplished, and in what manner, is suggested by the aspects themselves.

Conditioning is noted by solar return aspects to Mercury. Squares and oppositions to Mercury indicate possible sources of tension and conflict. If Mercury is in an air sign, (Gemini, Libra, or Aquarius), rational thought processes are emphasized. If Mercury is in a water sign, (Cancer, Scorpio, or Pisces), strong emotional factors influence thinking. If Mercury is in an earth sign, (Taurus, Virgo, or Capricorn), the tendency is to be practical. If Mercury is in a fire sign, (Aries, Leo, or Sagittarius), the individual is motivated by self-interest, passion, philosophy, or spirituality. When assessing the conditioning of Mercury, it is also important to note the sign and conditioning for the Moon and whether the Moon is in an air or water sign. This will help you determine if the thinking process or emotions are dominant during the year and if integration is possible.

MERCURY in the 9TH HOUSE

♿ in 9th

A 9th house solar return Mercury suggests an intense learning situation. You may return to school or continue your education in one form or another during the coming year. Education may involve a formal teacher-classroom setting; or you may study independently or take a correspondence course. Topics are diverse and not necessarily limited to a college curriculum. It is the keen interest and the concentrated study that usually characterize Mercury in the 9th house, not the topic of interest or classroom attendance. Even those who study on their own tend to be very interested or even obsessed with a specific topic.

It is also possible that you are the teacher rather than the student. If so, you are probably just starting out in the profession or need to rework your lesson plans. Your interest in the subject matter is usually high and you make a conscious effort to present the information enthusiastically. Unenthusiastic teachers with this placement may need to go back to school and recapture the thrill of learning for themselves. They may also need to reassess their beliefs concerning the teaching profession.

Teachers will not be the only ones reassessing their beliefs in regard to their reality. Everyone with a 9th house Mercury will be involved in this reevaluation process and all types of beliefs will be evaluated. The 9th house rules mundane beliefs as well as philosophical. Misconceptions, prejudices, and unrealistic expectations fall under the rulership of the 9th. If you are involved in a difficult situation and you have any planets in the 9th house of your solar return chart, you may have misconceptions that are contributing to your problems or complicating the issues. Mercury in the 9th indicates that the assimilation of new information may help you to deal with these problems or issues. What you learn from your educational pursuits may directly apply to your present situation. This is the time to use your

education to reassess your beliefs and philosophy of life. Situations you are involved in will naturally stimulate philosophical adjustments, but you can foster this reevaluation process by actively seeking information directly related to present situations or issues.

If you have written a book or plan to write a book, this may be a good time for you to approach a publisher or contact a literary agent. Communication with those in the publishing business can help you with your project. Generally, though, publishing itself is indicated by more than the placement of Mercury in the 9th house. Usually the Sun in the 9th or a 9th house stellium is more indicative of publishing. If you view your book as a career achievement, placements in the 10th may suggest publication.

This is also the case with traveling. Mercury in the 9th by itself does not generally imply travel. A 9th house stellium, Venus or Jupiter are more likely to do so, especially if you are looking for indications of foreign travel. Moon in the 9th may indicate living overseas for a period of time or visiting foreign relatives.

MERCURY SEXTILE or TRINE JUPITER

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While Mercury-Saturn aspects are associated with pessimism, Mercury-Jupiter aspects suggest optimism and confidence. You may look forward to the future with great enthusiasm. You believe anything is possible and you are willing to work to make it happen. This is a good time to expand your business, deepen your knowledge, travel, or experience different cultures and belief systems. Those individuals who are middle aged or older might be drawn to philosophical and religious studies. It is important to practice what you preach. Say what you believe and believe what you say. Be generous with your time and knowledge. This is a good time to expand your mind. Return to school, join a discussion group, or study on your own.

MERCURY SQUARE or OPPOSITE NEPTUNE

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Mercury square or opposite Neptune in the solar return chart can indicate that important factual information you receive during the year may be partial, inaccurate, or vague. Sometimes secrecy and deception play a role. Your normal points of reference for evaluating information may be changing. Without adequate facts, you may be left hanging for most of the year. It may be impossible for you to make a decision at this time or to evaluate your circumstances. You may be easily confused or misled, especially if the information you receive is inconsistent or incomplete. In older individuals, confusion may actually be senility. Neptune's most negative interpretation is a loss of mental capabilities through drug and alcohol use or abuse. This tends to be an uncommon manifestation that is more closely associated with an individual pattern of consistent negative behavior. Most people will not fall into this trap.

This is not the time for detailed, factual information and left-brain processes. You may be more in touch with compassion, creativity, and spirituality than rational thought. Your sensitivity to subtlety increases and you acquire information through intuitive insights. Dealing with subtle experiences can lead to uncertainty and confusion. Increased intuitive awareness can precede the ability to weigh this information for its accuracy. It is sometimes difficult to discriminate between what is really intuitive or psychic and what is more closely akin to worry, fear, or false hope. Seeking practical applications for idealistic concepts and inspirations common with

this combination can also cause stress.

Put your trust in the Universe during times of uncertainty. Focus on compassion rather than a search for mundane truth. Inconsistencies and confusion may not be resolved this year. Understand that in the end, all will be known. Be gentle with yourself when you are not as focused and detail-oriented as you used to be. Focus instead on right-brain, creative, artistic, intuitive, and spiritual processes.

INTRODUCTION to VENUS

Venus is the key to understanding your relationships and financial situation for the solar return year. Many times these two areas go hand in hand; financial security tends to be coupled with secure relationships while financial difficulties are more likely to occur when close relationships are strained. Although this correlation is common, it is not the rule, and interpretations for finances and relationships should always be viewed separately. When assessing Venus in the chart, evaluate Venus twice, first with respect to the other relationship factors in the solar return and then with respect to the other monetary indicators. In this way, you can develop a clear picture of each area of concern.

Venus also indicates a need for comfort and it is informative to note what has preceded Venus in its present house position. If, during this year, Venus resides in a house which last year represented an area of conflict, Venus would imply an improvement in the conditions associated with that house and may indicate a healing process. Benefits commonly follow after much hard work. A Venus placement in the solar return chart following a more difficult placement during the previous year can indicate great reward. Your awareness of this possibility may encourage you to work harder in more problematic areas since you can see the rewards in the following year.

RELATIONSHIPS

Venus, by house, shows what relationships will be important during the coming year. For example, Venus in the 3rd house might indicate that relationships with neighbors or community involvement will be emphasized. With Venus in the 6th house, pleasant office conditions, and good co-worker relationships will be important. But the interpretation of relationships as they appear in the solar return chart involves more than an understanding of Venus' house placement. Look at the 5th and the 7th houses, especially if you are interested in a love relationship. The more planets in these houses, particularly the 7th house, the greater the need to relate on a one-to-one basis. Generally, the 5th house shows sexual affairs, while the 7th house indicates a greater commitment (though not necessarily marriage). Clandestine affairs or secret relationships are more likely to occur when Venus and/or the Moon appear in the 12th house.

One fact about marriage and the solar return chart is surprising. The solar return is not necessarily a good indicator of a marriage during the year. The beginning of a relationship might be easily seen, but the marriage itself is more likely to be reflected in other techniques. On the other hand, postponement of a marriage or the refusal to make a commitment can be easily seen with Saturn, Uranus or Neptune in the 7th house.

FINANCES

Venus also relates to money and finances, and can be used to evaluate these circumstances for the coming solar return year. The house placement for Venus may indicate how you are most likely to generate income. This is sometimes true, but not always. Venus in the 9th implies a teaching salary, but if you don't teach, the emphasis will be on your beliefs concerning relationships. Don't stretch your economic interpretation of Venus' house placement. If the house position applies, the situation will be obvious. If the house position does not seem to apply to finances in particular, Venus will be more consistent with relationship situations during the year.

For finances, it is perhaps more important to look at the planetary placements in the 2nd, 6th, 10th, and 11th houses, especially if you are interested in the amount of money you will be able to earn by employment. The 2nd house is the primary money house, but it also gives indications of spending practices. Any planets in the 2nd can reflect your salary and/or your spending practices (regardless of how much money you earn); it is always possible to spend more than you make or make more than you spend.

VENUS in the 7TH HOUSE

♀ in 7th

A 7th house Venus emphasizes the importance of relating positively to others. This usually applies specifically to your relationship with one particular individual (such as a spouse or business partner), but may apply to others in general. Relationships can improve or deteriorate during the year, depending on your abilities and the situations involved. Effective relating is important to the task at hand, and your ability to foster and sustain good relationships affects your ability to succeed and prosper. For example, if you seek to form a business partnership during the year, your ability to get along with your future partner would have a direct beneficial or detrimental effect on the success of the business.

It is to your advantage to sharpen your negotiating skills and learn to compromise when the situation calls for it, regardless of the type of relationship you are involved in. Realize that you can allow your own personal needs to be superseded by your partner's demands, wishes or expectations. If your spouse is being transferred to another state, he or she may ask you to follow despite your own personal situation or preferences. Your wishes can be superseded by the needs of the relationship, but in the final analysis, the move may prove positive for you both.

This year, you can benefit directly from your associations with others, perhaps more so than if you tried to go it alone. A new writer worked closely with a literary agent to gain the writing contract of her choice while Venus was in the 7th house. She listened and responded to her agent's suggestions about the first draft of the manuscript. Because the two developed a good working relationship based on respect for each other's opinions, the manuscript was improved and the writer ultimately benefited greatly. This is an excellent time to ask for favors and assistance from others. You tend to reap what you have sown.

Negatively, Venus in the 7th house can indicate that you allow a relationship to suppress your individual identity, restrict your personal freedom and tax you unnecessarily. You placate your partner and bend over backwards to please him or her, rather than relate as an equal. You may feel torn between satisfying your own needs and those of the person you are involved with, especially if there are

oppositions between Venus and planets in the 1st house.

In an extreme case, the relationship becomes more important than self-preservation and you allow your needs and energy to be drained away. When this occurs, subservience replaces relating, acquiescence replaces compromise, control replaces respect, and you begin to feel that it is your job to keep someone else happy. A young female administrative assistant at a local charity spent more time fulfilling her employer's personal needs than concentrating on her own charity work. She was in a precarious position and since he had the power to fire her, she allowed her own needs to go unmet. Focusing on the cooperative interpretation of this placement will help one avoid the pitfalls.

VENUS SEXTILE or TRINE MARS

♀ ✕ ♂

Venus sextile or trine to Mars in a solar return chart implies that actions are supported by significant others and compatible with relationship needs. Partners tend to sanction each other's actions and appreciate what is being done. For example, a couple might combine their efforts to totally redecorate an investment property they own. Each partner would contribute his or her talents and abilities to the design and work together to implement the plan. Their individual efforts would complement each other to get the job done.

Sexual attraction and satisfaction are important factors in both new and established relationships and contribute to the success of any coupling. Compatibility increases when Venus is sextile or trine Mars and desire is heightened. The attractive, feminine personality aspects are balanced by the assertive, masculine personality aspects.

Finances might improve during the year because of a renewed commitment to the career and earning potential. It is also possible that actions taken foster a better and wider response from clientele. The harder you work, the more you are likely to earn and the more successful you will be.

INTRODUCTION to MARS

The planet Mars represents an outward thrust of energy in a solar return chart. It is an active energy geared toward producing an external manifestation brought about through interchanges with the environment. The arrow on the symbol for Mars illustrates this outward thrust and movement. The interplay with the environment and the area of greatest energy expenditure are shown by the aspects to Mars and its house placement. There can be a number of ways in which the outward thrust of energy and activity manifests in the external environment. Positive manifestations implied by Mars include self-motivation, independent action, initiation of new projects, assertiveness, fulfilling sexual encounters, and original or pioneering creations. But anger, aggression, and sexual abuses represent negative and wasteful expenditures. Energy lost in negative exchanges cannot be used productively.

Mars, by its very nature, denotes the spark of initiation and self-motivation. Original pursuits, independent actions and new projects are fostered during the year and are typically associated with those areas of life denoted by the house placement of Mars. Because of the new endeavors and the enthusiasm generated, these areas then become the focus of energy use as the level of activity increases and you begin to feel driven to work, accomplish, and complete. Sometimes ambition and competitiveness augment the need to excel, but an energetic attitude can flow

without these personality traits since self-motivation tends to spring naturally from an inner source.

During the year, activities may be specifically tied to your ability or inability to be assertive. In its most positive manifestation, the planet Mars denotes an active force. Except for a few of the more subtle interpretations for Mars, the implication is an external thrust which affects other people, places, things or circumstances. For example, if you install a home office, you make a change in your living situation. If you start your own business, you do, in effect, change the environment. If you insist on control over your own finances, you create a more independent relationship style. In each of these cases, you are the individual initiating the activity and asserting your own needs which are essential to the task at hand. The inability to be assertive can only lead to frustrated desires and anger. Your efforts will be thwarted until you make adjustments in your thinking. When extreme frustration occurs, more energy is expended toward being angry than working toward correcting the problem.

The house position of Mars and its aspects to the other solar return planets provide information about the circumstances which will trigger angry responses in you. Anger may arise from a number of different circumstances, including, but not limited to, frustration at the inability to fulfill your own needs, aggression from others, stressful surroundings or unconscious resentment that has not been resolved. Anger is a signal that your attitude and/or environment need to change. Energy lost to anger cannot be used creatively. Anger that stimulates creative action can be recouped. Your task for the year will be to learn to deal effectively with these anger-producing situations. Do not allow anger to be triggered when insight coupled with assertiveness, tact or corrective action would suit your purposes better. As you focus on negative situations and gain understanding, you can begin to funnel your energies into the most positive manifestations.

Aggression is a distortion of assertiveness. Assertion is the defense and maintenance of your own rights; aggression is the infringement or attack on the rights of others. Anger is most likely the motivation for the attack, although psychological idiosyncrasies may provide other motivations (of which fear is the main culprit). All acts of aggression, by their very nature, should produce anger in the person attacked, though some individuals, because of their own psychological nature, respond in other ways. Where you find Mars by house position indicates where you are most likely to meet the aggressor during the coming year. Either you will have to deal with a hostile person in the environment or you will be confronted with your own acts of aggression. If you are able to meet your own needs through assertion and you know your own rights while conscientiously defending them, you are less likely to be the aggressor or allow aggressive actions to arise in others. You should be able to strike a balance between your needs, and rights, and the needs and rights of others. In this way, you maintain your position relative to the environment. But regardless of how fair you are in your dealings with others, you may still have to defend your own rights.

Mars as an indicator of sexuality is not consistent with the interpretation for every house position. There is the possibility that sexual intrigue can apply to the situations denoted by any of the planet's placements, but the connection is not always obvious.

Themes of initiation, high energy output, anger, and aggression appear more consistently. For example, Mars in the 10th may mean a sexual attraction between you and your boss, but it is more likely for you to be extremely active in career endeavors. Your boss can be a prime motivator toward career success or he could actually be very offensive and thwart your efforts. Note the aspects between Mars and your other personal planets for further information. The sexual implications of Mars seem more obvious in the relational houses, but then individual differences apply. Sexual fulfillment is directly related to the appropriateness of sexual activity given the particular situation and any restraints or inhibitions involved.

MARS in the 9TH HOUSE

♂ in 9th

This year you will identify strongly with your religious, philosophical, and ethical beliefs, and this is a good time to actively pursue further investigations in these areas. Round-table discussions of these topics lead to a clearer understanding of issues and possible implications. Spiritual concerns and dilemmas may be especially important during the coming year. Learn to share your thoughts rather than force issues. Support your words with actions and work for those causes you believe in. Motivate others with the strength of your conviction. Your commitment can be inspirational. Positively, this is a time when you can become a strong proponent of truth and justice; but, negatively, you may be prejudiced or intolerant of the beliefs of others if you use your convictions to assume a holier-than-thou stance. There is no guarantee your beliefs will be beneficial to your spiritual growth or to those you come in contact with.

The 9th house is the house of all beliefs, not just those that are philosophical in nature. With Mars in this house, if you believe you have been wronged in the past, you will tend to take an offensive rather than neutral position regarding similar issues, events or relationships. Anger could be inherent to your belief system, making you feel duty-bound to correct past situations or eliminate the possibility of recurrence. If you work in the humanitarian field, you can fight for the rights of underprivileged people rather than brood over a personal problem. Mars in the 9th is noted for soapbox warfare (standing on a soap box and pleading with the masses to end this deplorable situation). But the difficulty with this placement is the very negative manifestation which allows the individual to justify offensiveness in personal matters. Inequities in the past should not become an excuse for inequities in the present. A strong defense is more appropriate to this placement than a strong offense (as long as the defense is not an impenetrable fortress).

During the year, review your responses to anger-producing situations and consider ways to express anger in a more constructive manner. You need to learn to cope effectively with certain common or recurring situations in your life. You may not be able to control these difficult situations completely, but you are able to control your reactions. Choose a course of action which provides you with a good response while not escalating the problem. Now is the time to develop a game plan for handling anger-producing events, especially if you presently find it difficult to cope. Your anger might have been ineffectual in the past. Jumping up and down and screaming is generally ineffective. So is total retreat. Learning to express anger intelligently is an important task to be mastered during the year.

The 9th house is also the house of travel. With Mars in this house, you tend to take quick and perhaps nerve-wracking trips. Most likely, you may not be able to relax while traveling, and problems with weather, travel connections, and accommodations are possible. That does not mean that you can't enjoy traveling, but you should be careful not to pack too much into each trip. If you are very careless or angry, it is possible to have a minor accident while traveling, but this will probably occur only in very difficult, careless or angry situations.

The mind can be very active, and consequently, this is a good time to be self-taught. You can motivate yourself to gain knowledge while studying on your own. You should be involved in some intellectual pursuit, either alone or with others, be it school, teaching, lecturing, learning, etc. This is not the year to let your mind lie idle. Do research and find your own truth. Actively acquire information and organize it according to your beliefs.

INTRODUCTION to JUPITER

Jupiter has a number of possible interpretations in the solar return chart and any or all of the following meanings can manifest according to house position. First and foremost, Jupiter tends to imply a benefic event associated with its placement. How these benefits come about and the area of life affected are usually shown by the house position.

All opportunities will probably involve expansion into new areas of activity. The primary function of the Jupiter principle is to expand beyond the scope of previous experience. One is not to remain in a static condition; growth is not only implied, but expected. Jupiter's slow and consistent movement through the zodiac implies the steady growth needed to advance.

One of the most common activities associated with growth and expansion is the pursuit of an education. The impetus to learn is closely associated with any push to grow and our definition of learning in this case is not limited to a structured environment (school), but can include self-teaching and life-experience training. Although education is not always a consideration for every Jupiter house placement, it can be considered to have an impact on any of the houses.

Areas of expansion can easily become areas of excess and this is a problem with Jupiter. Growth can be uncontrolled and purposeless, dwarfing any push for real attainment or benefit. For example, overeating may supplant a desire for nutritious food when Jupiter is in the 6th house. The weight gain takes the place of education. Already existing situations associated with any house placement of Jupiter may boil over if extreme limitations were previously the norm. This is especially true when emotions overwhelm the individual after a long period of emotional suppression. Any Jupiter placement can signal a false god. One or more activities associated with Jupiter's house may be emphasized to such a degree that a distortion of perception results, creating the false god.

Perhaps excesses are directly and proportionately related to suppressed urges. We now zoom ahead where we previously lagged behind, making up for lost time. The overwhelming impetus enables us to grow and expand at a rapid pace. The task is to

avoid restricting this growth, while staying in control. The best option is one of channeled and structured enthusiasm.

A question of ethics and morals is often associated with the house placement of Jupiter. Unlike Saturn, which is more representative of societal structures and expectations, Jupiter implies the need for a philosophical (or sometimes religious) consistency between what you are doing physically and what you believe you should be doing ethically or morally. The underlying belief is always at the center of any conflict, not the external expectation. Jupiter by house indicates a desire to review those beliefs commanding a strong influence over one's philosophy of life and code of behavior. Current beliefs may be limiting future growth or freedom. Within this perspective, hypocrisy and moral dilemmas are more commonly a problem than the frustration associated with Saturnian external laws.

JUPITER in the 1ST HOUSE

4 in 1st

Jupiter in the 1st house implies that personal needs and attributes are becoming increasingly important and future growth may depend on the recognition of these qualities. The potential for personal success and progress during this year is great, but only for those individuals who are convinced that they are worthy of the time and effort necessary for self-development. First evaluate your assets. You cannot begin to fully implement or promote assets you do not recognize and appreciate. Self-appreciation fosters self-confidence, which is crucial to the process of initiating and developing opportunities.

Secondly, an understanding of personal needs is important since you will not fulfill needs you ignore or consider inconsequential. The urge toward self-development arises from an awareness of what you have to offer others and what is needed in return. Self-interest is the cornerstone of achievement during the year. You must believe in yourself, your abilities and your future in order to tap into the opportunities associated with this placement. Those who hang back for fear of appearing self-centered or egotistical will miss the chance to become fully motivated toward success. Now is the time to expand your horizons and test your capabilities by tackling new and more difficult projects. Believe in yourself enough to allow new experiences to stretch the limits of your expertise. Optimism, when not extreme or unwarranted, pays off.

The most important task associated with this placement is the creation of opportunities. During the year, opportunities and benefits must be self-made; they will not fall in your lap. You must actively cultivate the situation or job you want in order to attain it. This is not the year to expect a lot of outside help. You must rely on your own wits to foster an opportunity for yourself which would not have existed if not for your efforts. Obviously you will not do this without some measure of self-confidence. This is why the reassessment of assets and needs is so crucial. For example, one individual created an exercise program in her home for neighbors and friends. She needed to shape up and she was able to draw upon her background (asset) to devise a program for herself and others. Many benefited from her enthusiasm and push for self-improvement. None of this would have happened without her motivation.

Freedom is an issue with this placement. You cannot remain confined if you are to grow beyond personal boundaries. Personality expansion depends on freedom of movement. If you have been tied down in the past, this can be the year when freedom comes automatically. For example, your youngest child may enter school, freeing your days for new pursuits. But if Jupiter is heavily aspected, you may have to push for greater freedom since your attention is divided among several different areas. Selfishness, real or imagined, may be an issue.

You can let this time slip by. It is only through your own efforts that opportunities will materialize and success will be realized. No one will push you to achieve. But if you do pass, you are likely to miss a chance for personal growth and reward, since the tendency is for things to turn out much better than expected. If there is a spiritual emphasis associated with this placement, it lies in the implication that self-help leads to Universal assistance. Trusting in your own abilities while allowing a sense of spiritual purpose to guide you can make things happen. This is a time when beliefs about yourself and higher forces in the spiritual realm can be easily implemented in practical everyday situations. Call it a spiritual tail wind. Don't just believe; act on those beliefs and behave in a manner that is consistent with your spiritual purpose.

INTRODUCTION to SATURN

Saturn rules reality and the reality of any given situation is that we are all ultimately responsible for creating our own lives. The responses and choices we make to any given situation, together with the fears we avoid, form the backbone for our pattern of living. Only when we accept the responsibility for creating our own fate can we be freed from the necessity of living it. Only when we face our fears can we live unafraid. Saturn is the key to this change in orientation. It is the ultimate reality, the ultimate fear, the karmic avenger, and ruler of the universal laws of nature. It is through Saturn's house placement that we come face to face with ourselves, the structures, and limitations of reality, and the laws we must live by.

Growth is a complex process, occurring in a variety of ways. Saturnian growth begins by recognizing the existing structures we have incorporated into our lives, and possibly, the frustration or limitation caused by this edifice. It seems strange to talk about growth in terms of limitation, but astrologically Saturn rules structures which are at one point protective and at other times restrictive. Like the lobster or crab which sheds an outgrown, protective, hard shell in order to grow, individuals must periodically shed old structures grown restrictive with time. As with the crustaceans, the shedding process may be slow and laborious, followed by a period of extreme vulnerability until the new shell has formed and hardened into a protective structure. We often complacently mistake familiarity for security. We assume we'll be safe as long as we stick with the same old routine and keep doing what we've been doing all along. But what was once protective and safe eventually ends up inhibiting our evolutionary cycle of growth. Sometimes, only our frustration with things as they are awakens us to the need for change.

The movement of Saturn through the solar return chart coincides with an awareness of structure. Sometimes this awareness is associated with frustration, and the accentuation of restrictions now blocking evolution. It is through this realization process and frustration that we first become aware of the need to grow beyond our

present structures. Therefore, the first step in the Saturnian process toward growth is recognizing structures, frustrations, and limitations imposed by our present patterns of living, particularly in those areas of life signified by Saturn's house placement in the solar return.

The second step toward growth is reassessment of the situation. A review of the facts yields further information, options, and understanding. Only by defining the inhibitors to the evolutionary cycle can we move toward resolution and continued growth. Self-criticism and constructive feedback from others may be appropriate at this time.

It is during the reassessment process that the reality of our situation becomes more obvious, as well as the laws by which we are governed. To succeed, we must deal with life realistically. We cannot twist nature to our own liking, nor can we expect others to compensate for our deficiencies and fears by solving our problems. Saturn rules the naked truth devoid of magical thinking. We must live within the laws of nature to succeed and survive. If you hate your job, quit. Do not wait for an act of God to find a new job. If you want to complete a major project, work on it. It is the only way it will get done. If you want to lose weight, diet, and exercise. Hard work and facing the issues head on will get you where you want to go. Wishful thinking will not.

These issues are all totally within your range of control and you are free to act upon them, but other problems may not be yours to control. You cannot make your husband stop drinking; you can only change the way you handle the situation. You cannot change hypocrisy in others; you can only reassess your own beliefs. During the reassessment process, develop realistic options which could feasibly lead to a resolution of the problem or to a change in the way you handle the problem. Successful solutions are those which are practical and realistic -that is, they conform to the laws of nature.

Once you understand the problem and the options available, you must assume responsibility for the outcome. Each man or woman contributes to his or her own fate. As the partial creator of any problem, you also have some control over the solution. But assuming responsibility for your present situation can be more threatening than blaming others. Some prefer to buck the system (defy the laws of nature) and complain, rather than take action. Remember, familiarity breeds a false sense of security and many prefer to hang on to their restrictions rather than venture into the unknown. They learn to live with their frustration rather than grow beyond it. Consciously making a decision implies assuming responsibility for your success or failure.

Facing your fears concerning success or failure is ultimately what Saturn is all about. At this point, you are very aware of the reality of your situation, and you have a list of options for the future, not all of which may work. You understand your own contribution to the situation and what you must do in order to move toward a resolution. You have seen your own shortcomings and become aware of your darker side. You comprehend the laws of nature relative to your situation and know everything is earned in this case, nothing is given, and nothing is guaranteed by the Universe. You now realize that you must stick your nose out and take a calculated

risk. In order to progress, you must face your fears, and move toward your nightmare rather than back away. It is only by passing through a period of vulnerability that one can break out of a protective, yet restrictive structure and progress into a more suitable environment. You give up the security of the familiar and step into the unknown.

The test of any solution is that it works. Even chronic problems need to be solved and not just cosmetically concealed. Success requires much hard work and the systematic testing of solutions until the correct combination is found. Consequently, success may not come easily. If the first solution does not work, you must go on to test another and another. Thus with each failure begins a new cycle of awareness and reassessment, ultimately leading to a well-deserved success. There is plenty of room for hard work, discipline, and perseverance in the area of life indicated by Saturn's house placement. Eventually, every area of life will be touched by the need for reassessment and resolution. Chances are the time for reevaluation coincides with Saturn's placement in a particular house of the solar return. In that area of life, you must go above and beyond what is normally expected.

SATURN in the 3RD HOUSE

♄ in 3rd

Saturn in the 3rd house indicates a year of much study or mental work. You take your studies seriously and knowledge is probably crucial to what you hope to accomplish in the future. This is an excellent time to concentrate on difficult mental tasks or complex topics of interest. You can be involved in a major project or course requiring concentration, persistence, organization, and many hours of work. Typical commitments include taking a course, organizing community projects, formulating new ways of thinking for yourself and others, writing a book or paper, studying for qualifying examinations, or consulting with others on a regular basis in order to gather new information and insights.

You may finish your endeavor during the year, but if Saturn falls in the 1st house of the solar return chart next birthday (which is most likely to happen), your work will probably require another year's effort. (Saturn in the 1st house is commonly associated with the completion of a long-term project and is a good placement for those interested in focusing on a major achievement.) Your mind is constantly at work and it is best to choose a positive focus. If you are studying, learning or working on a major mental task, you will be less likely to feel depressed or anxious. You need a strong mental focus this year to use up excess mental energy.

Major decisions usually arise during the year when Saturn is placed in the 3rd house of the solar return chart. Responsibility to yourself and for another person is commonly a factor in the decision-making process. You may be making a decision for two and not just for yourself alone. Dilemmas are common since your needs may directly conflict with the needs of your counterpart. Reality assessment is crucial. You must realistically weigh and evaluate all the intricacies of your situation and actively search for options. Options are important, but unfortunately, looking for new possibilities is an insight most people tend to miss when dealing with tough issues and this Saturn placement. Rigidity of thought is a common flaw. Your accurate evaluation clears the way for the most successful resolution of your problem, even when there can be no clear-cut success. If you are mentally stressed by the problems you must solve or the decisions you must make, it might be in your best interest to discuss issues with someone who is impartial and not threatening. Seeing a counselor

at this time can help you to do this. Your insight should be increased through the interchange.

Your inability to see positive solutions and options to your dilemma can lead to depression. Depression is sometimes associated with Saturn or Sun placements in the 3rd house of the solar return chart. (Severe depressions are more likely with the Sun.) Depression is the mind's way of calling attention to what needs to be corrected, decided and surmounted. Depression can lead to positive results when it is used as an early warning signal and learning tool. Life is a growth process and depression can indicate your inability to seek and find newer, more mature ways of handling situations. Depressed individuals need to begin to solve some of the problems they are faced with. They should do something-anything! They also need to get in touch with their feelings and learn to communicate those feelings effectively to others. Information blockages are likely and either you cannot or will not discuss things openly. Isolationism is commonly generated by the issue or problem you are facing. If you are unhappy with your present situation, it is time to face the problem and begin to make informed decisions. If you avoid issues and responsibility, your depression can grow deeper and become more obvious to others. You will seldom praise and often criticize; your speech will become caustic. Situations will seem hopeless. Your level of activity will slow down and eventually you will be perpetually tired. As you withdraw from others, effective communication will become extremely difficult, if not impossible, to maintain.

Everyday situations can become everyday hassles that get on your nerves. Common daily occurrences are more difficult to weather. It's the little things that bother you and seem more troublesome this year. What used to be simple is now more complex, and day-to-day things that need to be done take longer. For example, if you move to a foreign country and you do not speak the language very well, handling common chores such as shopping for food, cashing a check or going to the post office are laborious until you get the system down. Similar situations are associated with new babies, living in a dormitory or alone for the first time, moving to a new location and various other common life experiences.

Problems with siblings are possible during the coming year. You may have a problem relating directly to a family member, but it is more common to have a brother or sister with a problem or issue he or she needs to handle. The encouraging side of this Saturn placement and interpretation is that the problem is being confronted. Usually this is the year your brother or sister begins to handle a situation in a responsible manner. For example, if your sister is an alcoholic, and has been for years, she could decide to enter a rehabilitation program at this time. Your contribution during the year is to support her decision and help her in any way possible. You may wish to join a program which will help you to better understand her situation and your role in her successful treatment.

If your sibling refuses to confront the issues, this can be a time when you feel forced to act on his or her behalf or completely alienate yourself from the situation. Problems need not be very difficult and can be relatively minor with this Saturn placement. Productive siblings will not suddenly have major problems or behave totally out of character. The best predictor for the future is past experience. Problems which may arise will be consistent with your sibling's normal personality, and may mark a turning point in life. This is a time when your encouragement can be very supportive at a crucial passage.

INTRODUCTION to URANUS

Uranus is commonly seen as an indicator of change, and this is true for the solar return placements also. Conditions associated with the house position of Uranus are likely to evolve significantly over the year. Major changes or incessant fluctuations emerge as the pattern of manifestation, depending on how the individual copes with his or her situation and needs. Transformations may occur quickly and require a long period of adjustment, or progress slowly, possibly occurring late in the year and only after a long period of anticipation or restlessness. As a rule, most changes are expected, predicted, and initiated by the native him or herself. Many are carefully planned and well executed, involving a minimum of tension and anxiety. When working positively with the Uranian principle, the key is in the restlessness. Those who are very attuned to their own need for growth will feel the restlessness arising in outgrown situations and respond accordingly. They will welcome the opportunity for adjustment, and make all the necessary preparations for the coming change. They will not lock themselves into one particular situation or pattern of growth, but will allow changes and insights to develop and evolve naturally along the way.

Generally, it is only when the individual thwarts his or her own desires or tightly controls situations that tensions manifest in the form of anxiety and nervousness. This anxiety results from ambivalent feelings which develop in those who resist needed changes. These people get caught between their own fear of change and a strong desire for the very change being thwarted. An ambivalent mind-set takes over, one built on an approach to, and also an avoidance of, a set goal or change. Remember, Uranus is associated with conscious and unconscious choices for change. Its appearance somewhere in the native's solar return chart implies the area of life in which the individual desires to progress through change. When one is unable to face or effect needed and desired changes, the mind splits between two mutually exclusive goals and anxiety results. Eventually, the mental ambivalence and erratic commitments to two very different paths are reflected in fluctuating external conditions. Long overdue, yet still avoided changes, tend to manifest in the environment as disruption caused by others, or by neglected areas of attention.

Adding to the anxiety is a perceived loss of control over external situations. Eventually, the restlessness and tension rise to a feverish pitch until one finally agrees to make changes, or can no longer prevent their occurrence. When conditions reach this intensity, individuals usually make reactive changes, without careful consideration or adequate preparation. Sudden upheavals occur rather than welcomed transitions. If we would truly be in control of our own destiny, we should listen to the need for change and respond to the earliest hints of restlessness. We should give ourselves the freedom to work toward a conscious transition before a crisis arises.

Consistent with the desire for change is the need for freedom. You cannot maneuver if you are locked into a restrictive environment. Sometimes the push for freedom is a prerequisite for change. At other times, the change itself becomes the motivating force behind the process. Occasionally, both mechanisms are operating. For example, you may have to convince your boss to give you the freedom to make needed changes in the daily office routine; at the same time, the changes you make could streamline procedures, creating more leeway in your work schedule.

Freedom allows the process of change to occur smoothly. When we are functioning at our best and working positively with the Uranian concept, we move easily through a series of attractions, detachments and independent actions. We learn and grow from each of these encounters. While in the process of attraction, we are drawn to certain situations, persons or concepts. It is important to observe what experiences we are drawn to because they indicate conscious or unconscious needs and patterns of growth. By accepting different situations, interacting with different individuals, or listening to new ideas, we take in new information and learn to value various facets of life. We see that no one person, place or idea is perfect. The same is true of our existing circumstances, which we hold onto so tightly.

With this insight begins the period of detachment from those situations, persons, or concepts which restrict our growth or no longer have anything to teach us. We are able to step back and intellectually reassess our involvement and commitment. We can either choose to separate physically from difficult situations, or take the corrective action needed to adjust present circumstances to our needs.

Uranus does not always imply a complete and total separation. We are capable of detaching from the original attraction while still maintaining the experience, relationship, or train of thought. It is the independent action we ultimately take which defines the degree of separation.

We learn as much from separation as we do from attraction when we define what we don't like as well as what we do like. The changing environment, the comparisons and contrasts, accentuate what is important and what is not. One should remember that this process of change through attachment, detachment and independent action is ongoing, occurring on many different levels simultaneously. The process can be either quick, occurring numerous times in one day, or drawn out, requiring a year's time span. For example, suppose you are building a new home. This is a year-long project and during this time you will be drawn to many different construction plans, ideas, and subcontractors. But as you begin to work with the possibilities, you will accept, reject, or change options to suit your needs. This process takes place over months, but also simultaneously many times in one day.

The exposure to various ideas, situations and people stimulates creative thought through sudden insight into changing situations. All planets represent a creative process. Venus is the planet of creativity experienced through beauty, while Uranus is the process experienced through change. Because of the changing panorama of people, ideas, and situations, one becomes accustomed to looking at life from different perspectives. The multifaceted approach encourages the mind to create still newer ideas. In this way the individual begins to participate in the process of attachment, detachment and independent action by creating his or her own original options, and change becomes a process of perception, integrated into the pattern of growth.

URANUS in the 7TH HOUSE

♅ in 7th

The primary interpretation for Uranus in the 7th house focuses on changes to relationships. Depending upon what you are used to, relationships can change in a number of different ways. If you are not in a major relationship or have not been up

until this point, this can be a milestone year for you, one in which you change your style of relating and push for greater intimacy. Sudden attractions are possible and the person you have your eye on may be quite different from what you would normally expect. Attractions can be very exciting, but also unpredictable. Patterns of relating tend not to be soothing, but somewhat disruptive. It may be difficult for you to depend on the person you are involved with, since he or she will not want to be tied down at this time. Freedom is an issue for both of you and togetherness may be on-again, off-again. Marriage is probably not an option during this year, though you may live together.

Existing relationships may go through a period of transition because one of you wishes to make a major change or needs more freedom of movement. Usually the freedom to make a major change is sufficient, but sometimes the push is stronger. Although separation may be indicated by Uranus in the 7th house, it is more commonly associated with Uranus in the 4th house square to the Ascendant-Descendant axis. Separations in consciousness are frequent with Uranus in the 7th house. If your partner is working on a major project, he or she may seem detached and preoccupied, or extensive travel may be a job requirement, taking him or her away for part of the year. On the other hand, you might be the preoccupied or busy person. It is common to be separated for short periods of time for one reason or another. Perhaps one of you is married, lives out of town, or is busy with school, work or other activities. Changes directly affecting you can come through the spouse, lover, or business partner. For example, the person you are living with relocates and you must decide to move also or separate. It is also possible for you to instigate changes on your own.

In both new and old relationships, a lack of true intimacy is a frequent complaint. Connections might seem distant, commitments erratic. A conflict of interest is possible, especially if there are squares or oppositions to Uranus in the 7th house. It is normal to experience some relationship oscillation during the year. Changes sometimes necessitate a disruption of the intimacy routine and flow, but some couples move closer as they grant each other greater freedom of movement or expression. This is a time to become a friend to the person you are closest to. Distances will be more evident and serious in difficult relationships, but good relationships will survive and grow from the transition.

INTRODUCTION to NEPTUNE

Neptune is many things on many levels, but first and foremost it is the aspiration for a higher manifestation as opposed to a lower one. The distinctions between higher and lower influences are not limited to the spiritual plane alone, but can occur on the emotional, mental and physical levels also. At all times, it is up to the individual to steer his or her consciousness toward the highest manifestation possible. For example, Neptune on the spiritual level is associated with Universal Oneness, Karmic Laws, Ideals, God, and higher beliefs which form the backbone of spirituality. A strong sense of trust in God and the Universe supports the growth process on the spiritual level, but has ramifications on the other levels as well. Each level of experience supports and triggers the others. It is all the insights on all of the levels which eventually help us toward a more rewarding and fulfilling life-style. The lower manifestation of Neptune on the spiritual level is disillusionment with higher principles. Here the individual falls off the true path and becomes entangled in fanatical beliefs or outright fantasy. Spiritual despair rather than enlightenment is the result, and the

support needed for growth on all levels is thwarted.

The same dichotomy of higher and lower is present on the emotional, mental and physical planes also. At the emotional level, the individual is capable of great compassion and sensitivity to others. This is a time when empathic understanding strengthens the bonds between loved ones. The lower manifestation of Neptune is a susceptibility to anxiety and worry. The sensitivity which is meant to foster true understanding instead heightens a sense of vulnerability to life, others and the future. There is no trust in God emanating from the spiritual level to support decisions. In negative situations, true understanding of others does not develop because the individual is too involved with personal feelings and issues to focus on others.

At the mental level, creativity and inspiration help to expand the individual's intellectual capacity. Neptune is more closely associated with the right brain than the left, and indicates the ability to let the mind float free to new and better insights. The lower manifestation is confusion and deception. What you are told is different from what you intuitively feel. Thoughts contradict insights and you are unable to comprehend the truth. There is no trust of the higher right brain inspirational or spiritual processes. Creativity is thwarted. Without an understanding of the big picture, mental energy is wasted through a lack of cohesiveness as one begins to focus on the insignificant, confusing details.

And finally, Neptune on the physical level is service to others. Principles which have filtered down from the various levels and have been understood in each of the higher manifestations begin to flow into daily practices on the mundane plane. There is a consistency; as above, so below. It is possible to physically manifest the spirituality to which you aspire. When only lower manifestations have filtered down to the physical level, confusion, disorganization and exhaustion are most apt to occur. You lack a total concept necessary to unify your actions and prioritize tasks according to their importance. Neptune at its highest level of manifestation on the physical plane is a direct reflection of the enlightened promise made at the spiritual level.

In all of the houses, either the higher or lower manifestations will be operating. The more the individual focuses on the higher energies, the more cohesive and insightful actions will become. The more the individual is sensitive to spiritual insight, the easier it will be to deal with issues on every plane. The unifying principles of the spiritual level and the higher manifestations combine to focus energy and understanding right on down the line.

NEPTUNE in the 5TH HOUSE

♆ in 5th

Spiritual concepts of unity among all human beings can soften the way you express yourself. A gentler involvement with the world is warranted at this time. As with all Neptune placements, higher principles are seeking a practical application in the real world. An increased sensitivity to specific situations, and uncertainty or confusion associated with actions or thoughts, tend to signal this infusion. While Neptune is in the solar return 5th house, spiritual concepts which are already understood need to find a mode of expression. Principles of Universal love can be expanded upon through compassionate interactions with lovers, children and others.

Working with creative and artistic projects can also heighten your awareness. What is needed is an evolution in self-expression toward a more spiritual and insightful manifestation. Inconsistencies between the self and the Higher Self must be eliminated. You cannot believe one thing spiritually, yet express something else to others. The self (external expression) must be one with the Higher Self (spiritual ideal).

As you gentle your approach to the world, you may not be sure what you wish to express or represent. Tentative self-expression is common during the transition period. Sometimes external changes in the social milieu trigger the shift, but often gentleness is brought on by an increased awareness of the way you interact. Careful consideration is warranted. How are you perceived by others? Do you reflect your spiritual beliefs? Do you allow your true self to come through, or do you hide behind a persona? Is someone questioning the way you express yourself or what you purport to represent?

Consistency is important. Ask yourself, "Am I real? Or do blockages keep me from expressing who I really am, or what I really feel?" During this time, others tend to point out your inconsistencies. Occasionally, they add to your tentativeness by giving you very negative messages which are not truly insightful. Self-discernment is a task associated with this placement and you must learn to discriminate between helpful insights and negative comments. The lack of certainty along the way allows for the development of the softer side of your personality by making you hesitant enough to reflect on the other person's perception of you and what you truly wish to impart. For this reason, it's important to view self-expression from the other side, seeing yourself as others see you. Confusion about your identity is likely to continue until you begin to manifest the spiritual directive you purport to understand.

Increased compassion and sensitivity to others will bring about positive changes in self-expression. Loving and nurturing relationships can lead to an evolution in consciousness. Nonsexual spiritual relationships are possible with this placement, though sexual involvement is not necessarily prohibited. Nonetheless, it is the spiritual love which is important. You can love someone dearly without any thought of return or commitment. Assurances will not be necessary, nor will they be forthcoming. A lack of definition tends to permeate love affairs while Neptune is in the solar return 5th. You can never be sure where the relationship is headed, and the future is often left hanging. Sometimes you are not even sure when you will see each other again. This is a time to let relationships simply "be" what they are meant to be. Real limitations may or may not exist. For example, your lover might be away much of the time or previously committed to someone else.

On the other hand, the lack of definition or commitment could be totally confusing to you. You may not understand your lover's reservations and a sense of vagueness or mystery could surround your interaction. Conversely, you might be the one to want to keep things loose. In any case, guarantees are not given. Part of the problem might be your tendency to idealize the person or romance you are involved with. If your judgment is clouded, lovers can appear more attractive, attentive, or spiritual than they really are. Eventually these misconceptions lead to disillusionment. In the most negative situations, you are attracted to someone because one of you needs

help and expects to be saved. Savior-victim relationships tend to be one-sided, with one person giving all while the other wants to receive.

If you have children, or deal with them daily, they can be a great source of insight and calmness. On the other hand, they might depend on you for direction, appearing lost when left to their own devices. This can be a time when children seem slightly out of character, acting up more than usual, especially at school. Or they might be extremely quiet. In either case, your extra sensitivity should be used to draw them out. Compassionate interchanges can help you to better understand them, their needs and their abilities. Spending quiet times with children can be mutually beneficial. This is a time when parents traditionally tend to sacrifice their own needs for the special needs of their children.

Increased sensitivity can also be channeled through creative or artistic projects, if you are so inclined. You might become aware of new subtleties in self-expression and design. New methods will focus on more delicate techniques. Aesthetic appreciation and insight also increase.

INTRODUCTION to PLUTO

In the solar return chart, the interpretation of Pluto includes an understanding of the issue of power and its various manifestations, which can be directed toward three different points of focus and through three different life processes. Complications are associated with all of these orientations and processes since each manifestation is multidimensional and complex, occurring not only on the physical level, but on the intellectual, emotional and spiritual levels as well. Within these complex situations, power can be focused on three different targets: the self, others, and/or circumstances. As a rule, the power to control oneself is mostly beneficial, the power to control others is mostly detrimental and the power to control situations varies according to the circumstances involved. By studying Pluto's house placement in the solar return chart, you can assess in which areas of life these control issues are most likely to arise. The scope and effects of the power issues are seen through the connections to other solar return planets.

Power also manifests through three different processes. One may choose sameness, elimination or transformation. When you choose to keep things the way they are, it is implied that there is some force urging you to change and you are resisting this force. A possible power struggle might ensue. When you choose elimination, you relinquish control over some facet of your life or refuse to have further contact. When you choose change, you may be either yielding to an outside power or actively seeking transformation of that which already exists. Let us explore the power orientations and processes further.

THREE DIFFERENT POINTS of FOCUS

Generally, the focal point of self is beneficial. As long as you are using Plutonian insights and techniques to control yourself, to own your own power and to further your own growth, the process will be a positive learning experience, unless you overcontrol yourself, succumbing to hair-shirt asceticism, taking self-denial to absurd extremes. The greater your awareness of yourself and Universal principles, the more

likely you are to make good decisions. You become the captain of your own destiny. Enlightenment leads to power and power leads to enlightenment as a rewarding cycle of manifestation is set in motion.

However, those who use psychological insights to control and block their own growth waste precious energy. They set up a negative pattern of stagnation wherein insights are not accepted as they are, but twisted to fit previously conceived notions about life and self. Rather than progressing through enlightenment, the individual uses insights as weapons against growth and understanding, opting for sameness despite new information. Contradictory realizations are not allowed to surface; instead they are either suppressed or misinterpreted. In very negative situations such as these, the power associated with increased Plutonian awareness and its creative potential is never realized.

The same thwarting of personal growth is evident when you shift your attention from self to the need to control others. By and large, this is not a good focal orientation. The symbolism of the planets exists in your consciousness so that you can grow and prosper from insight. Since growth begins at home, the main thrust of the focus should always be toward self, and it is generally unnecessary and also counterproductive to shift the emphasis to an external struggle. The most efficient use of power exists on the internal plane because it takes much less energy to control your own reactions than to seek power over someone else. Once power is removed from the inner self and used to control others, the effectiveness is reduced. Stalemated power struggles are particularly detrimental because they deplete resources. It is conceivable that there are life situations where it is essential to control another person. For example, children, disabled or elderly loved ones may not be able to make informed decisions. In these situations you might be asked or forced to wield power over another. You are meant to grow from all your experiences. Even in these instances, self-awareness and insight are crucial to the decisions you make. Start with yourself first, then work your way outward. Blaming others for your problems distorts the perception of self and the realization of your own personal involvement. Always be aware of the interactive process and the role you play in it. This internal perspective is of primary importance, much more so than the process of controlling someone else.

Trying to control life situations can lead to power struggles, but at some point in your life it may be essential to make a stand for the good of your own growth or that of world consciousness. Ultimately, it is much better for you to control yourself, but this is not always possible. Someone can be seeking to control you, your family or your livelihood. Certain injustices must be corrected for everyone to progress, and sometimes the only viable option is to work for change. Always be aware of the struggle you take on. It is usually easier to correct a situation than to convince your opponent he or she is wrong. It is easier to get forgiveness than permission. Go for the simplest task that gets the job done. For example, your office routine might be very inefficient and next to impossible to accomplish in a day's time. Perhaps you see where improvements can be made, but your immediate boss disagrees with you or thwarts your efforts. As long as you continue to try and convince your immediate boss of the need for change, you will get nowhere. If you can easily go over his or her head to a higher boss, this could be an effective way to handle the stalemate. Seek

the quickest solution to a problem if one is available. Do not get locked into long, drawn-out struggles if they are not necessary.

Ultimately, power struggles can have either beneficial or detrimental results, depending on your perspective. In the external environment, you may or may not win, assuming there can be a victor. More than likely, victory, if it comes, involves compromise for all involved. But the inner process of awakening one's own ability to effect a creative change in the environment is usually beneficial. You can make a difference. The creative potential associated with Pluto comes from a penetrating insight into the hidden worlds of the unconscious and an understanding of the Universal laws of Karma. Powerful insights should spring spontaneously from the situations associated with Pluto's placement in the solar return chart. Suddenly you can become aware of new forces, subtle and previously unnoticed, which seem to influence personal decisions and situations you are involved in. Once you have the insight, what you do with the information becomes crucial to the creative process.

The primary goal of the Plutonian process should be growth through awareness. Therefore it is essential, no matter what your focal orientation, to use information and insight gleaned from experiences to foster a new understanding of self and Universal principles. The main growth process begins and ends with the self.

THREE DIFFERENT PLUTONIAN PROCESSES

Plutonian power is associated with three different processes: keeping things the way they are, usually by resisting an internal or external force; changing the form of what already exists, i.e., transformation; or eliminating what is no longer useful or essential, a form of death. Any of these powers can be either beneficial or detrimental to the user or others involved. It is the purpose and intent of the process that is important.

The power to keep things the way they are can sometimes be an awakening to personal power. Implied here is a resistance to a force seeking change, and sometimes the intent of change is negative. The pressure can come from an external or internal source, and the changes desired may be either external or internal also. For example, if you are a recovering alcoholic facing a difficult life situation, you might feel the pressure to start drinking again. The pressure could come from your own wish to avoid major decisions, or from a person you are associating with.

In actuality the internal and external sources are really one and the same, a reflection of each other since internal needs draw external situations. In the situation given above, the individual seeks to remain a recovering alcoholic despite internal and external pressure. This is a positive goal and if attained, implies personal power. It is also beneficial to remain the same when others seek to control your actions and thwart free will. Pluto represents the insight necessary to perceive manipulative efforts as they arise and avoid ploys whenever possible.

In some instances, the power to remain the same can be a negative manifestation, actually causing the stagnation of growth. If you resist all new internal and external insights which would enhance your growth or cause you to make changes, little

progress will result. You will stall. When your purposes are not in keeping with Universal Good or personal benefit, you are more likely to be involved in a negative use of Plutonian power.

The process of elimination can be very cleansing, even though a symbolic death is involved. If you streamline your business or office procedures, letting go of compulsive and unnecessary activities, this is a death of sorts, but much to your benefit. So is a budgetary review which eliminates the fat from your spending practices and allows you to cut back on your work schedule. In more serious circumstances, perhaps all you can do is release a situation that is detrimental to your progress. Letting go can be a positive choice, but it might also be a negative one if you cut someone out of your life without resolving or releasing the conflict. If this is true in your case, avoiding persons or situations will consume your energy. Transformation is the process whereby a situation, thing or level of consciousness is changed into a new, and hopefully higher, manifestation. Careers, marriages and self-images can all be transformed for the better. Commonly, though, we think of the transformation process in terms of psychological insight and level of consciousness. Information from subtle sources or the unconscious is gradually or suddenly made available to either the rational mind or the Higher Self, and subsequently a change occurs on the mental, emotional or spiritual level. Information that was previously unavailable becomes understandable through the process of insight, and power is released through new awareness. This can be a very enlightening and beneficial transition, but naturally it is what you do with the information that is important. If intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth are triggered by the new awareness, the process continues to be positive; however, if instead you use your newfound insight to control others or block growth, you have used your knowledge in a negative way.

Misuse of the Plutonian process creates an inability to continue on the life path until issues are resolved and lessons are learned. Stagnation occurs as the individual fails to progress to the next level of comprehension or misinterprets the task at hand. Power struggles can be the cause of such stagnation, and should be taken on only after careful consideration of the issues and implications. Power struggles are expensive in terms of time and energy. Some are essential to growth, others are self-inflicted. Know the source. Ideally, if you avoid a conflict in Pluto's solar return house placement, you should have more resources available for higher awareness. Conflicts consume energy and sap the strength necessary for the ascent. Without opposition, one can move quickly when concentrating on insight and awareness. Barriers can be torn down and the connections among all things become apparent.

But a world without struggle is the ideal, and not necessarily the reality. Your situation may require that growth be attained through struggle. The resistance may stimulate your awareness and creativity. Real progress might only occur after the resolution of conflict or during respites in the battle. However, within a long-lasting, stalemated struggle, one is more likely to get caught in a circular argument going nowhere. Nonproductive battles can be avoided by those who work toward increased awareness.

PLUTO in the 4TH HOUSE

♄ in 4th

Pluto in the solar return 4th house is the single best indicator of moving from one

home to another. Uranus in the 4th house can also indicate relocation, but when Uranus is in the solar return 4th you are more likely to have changes or disruption within the domestic environment, particularly involving family members or roommates. Pluto, on the other hand, is more representative of moving from one home to another, or major renovations to the living structure itself along with a disorientation or upheaval that lasts for a period of one year. These are fine-line distinctions, and of course, variations will occur. If you purchase a home during this year, it may need a lot of work. Redecoration is likely, and the repair of unforeseen problems a possibility. It is in your best interest to have an engineer inspect any home you are seeking to purchase. Hidden or unanticipated difficulties can then be made known before any transaction takes place.

Relocation complications can arise for a number of reasons, though, and are not limited to repair problems. If you are building a new home, construction can take longer than expected. You may have to live in several temporary residences or stay with relatives for a period of time. Once you finally move in, you must decorate from scratch, purchasing everything an established home is already likely to have. Moves over great distances are very complicated in and of themselves, and generally require a full year's time for preparation and settling in. The hassles of adjusting to a new state, climate, culture, or environment can take the place of problems with the house structure itself.

Major renovations are also seen while Pluto is in the 4th house. These kinds of renovations necessarily cause a prolonged upheaval in the domestic situation. Large additions, modernizations, or construction which involves moving walls or piping is likely, and the disruption caused by the dust and building will probably last for most of the solar return year.

If you do not move or renovate, it is still likely that changes in the domestic situation will occur. Commonly, someone either moves in or out, and living arrangements must be adjusted accordingly. New situations will take a while to get used to. All changes involve the consideration of many different factors, and simple decisions are not likely. In addition, transitions are likely to be complicated by psychological issues, and may even be unconsciously motivated. For example, your mother moves in and you must make arrangements for her to get to the senior citizen center during the day. She is somewhat incapacitated and needs daytime care. She also requires a living space on one floor and you must rearrange rooms and put in a new bathroom for her use. Psychologically, you must make the adjustment from living alone to caring for an elderly parent. Certain childhood issues might arise as you search for new patterns of behavior.

It is true that complications and struggles are associated with domestic situations when Pluto is in the 4th house; however, the complications and struggles are inherent in the project or transition you wish to complete and not the planetary placement itself. This is a time when individuals naturally seem to choose to make major changes in their home and/or living style, and it is unlikely that a transformation of this caliber could be made quickly and easily, without some hassle.

The desire to make strong and sweeping changes in the physical home is

accompanied by corresponding emotional transformations. Sometimes the two manifestations are directly connected; sometimes they are totally separate; commonly, they are at least symbolically related. For example, during a long period of domestic upheaval, you could feel disconnected or not grounded, without a sense of "home," or a base for operations. If you are living with others, caught in a limbo between residences, you might be forced to subsist for a while without your own space, possessions, privacy, personal control, or sense of organization. You might feel stripped to the essence of your being, devoid of any external trappings, left to exist as you are, without the familiarity of what you own or can accomplish. Without the inner sanctum of your home for protection, you could feel exposed, and it is true that you are vulnerable to the idiosyncrasies of temporary housemates. Emotions are bound to fluctuate under such conditions. Old behavior patterns break down quickly as new patterns and coping mechanisms are necessitated by changing circumstances. In this way, Pluto in the 4th house usually indicates an emotionally unsettled time, as well as a physically unsettled time.

Sometimes this emotional upheaval can occur because of a coincidental physical change in another's situation, but a transition in the native's own consciousness is essential for growth. Suppose your parents decide to sell your childhood home and move out of state. If you are still attached to your parents' residence, you must make adjustments in your thinking. You can still visit your parents, but you can never go home again if the trip involves one particular building or location. Perhaps it is time for you to think of your own residence as "home."

When Pluto is in the 4th house, emotions are not only the motivating force behind physical changes, but also the end result. The purpose and desire associated with this placement is the need to establish an emotionally fulfilling environment, both on the internal and external planes. This is why moving or changes in the physical home (external) are as important as evolutionary growth in the feeling nature or unconscious (internal). The two levels of manifestation go hand in hand during the year, and you can be sure that if your physical surroundings are in a state of transition, corresponding changes are also affecting your emotional level.

By the same token, the inability to make wanted and needed external changes probably indicates the presence of internal blockages and external resistances. A search is underway to form stronger roots in the physical and emotional environment. Shallow connections will not do. One must either dig deeper or move on; reaffirm the commitment to the existing structure (renovation), or begin anew (move). The same process is occurring on the emotional level. Individuals must reaffirm a commitment to family members and roommates, or seek support elsewhere.

Unlike other 4th house placements which also indicate changes in the physical and emotional home, Pluto generally indicates that not only are changes long overdue, but there are also some inner and outer resistances which must be overcome to fully realize the internal potential in the external world. Consequently, a power struggle with oneself and others is likely, both before and during change, and the arena for this struggle takes place in the home and among family members. Conflicts arise when others do not want the same home environment you envision. In the best of circumstances, negotiation and compromise may be all that are necessary to resolve

differences. However, in some families the word "negotiation" is really a cover for manipulative tactics and controlling influences. Nothing is ever resolved, issues remain unsettled, and decisions are not finalized. Within this domestic milieu, the creative urge toward rootedness and its resultant manifestations on the physical and emotional planes are stifled before they can be realized. For this reason, you should consciously work to undo old, existing response patterns which allow others to psychologically control your emotional nature and rob you of its creative potential. Being emotionally controlled is generally synonymous with also being physically controlled, and therefore unable to create the home and home life you desire.

This is a good time to enter therapy, especially if unconscious manifestations (fear, guilt, negativity, power struggles, etc.) are blocking new and old commitments, or stifling your urge toward growth and change. Repetitive issues, unfulfilling emotional interchanges, and the inability to cope with your home and necessary changes signal the need to reassess response patterns for power leakages. During the year, heightened sensitivity will cause you to become aware of psychological games which rob you of personal power in the emotional arena. At this time, even an intellectual interest in psychology can give you great insight into domestic and familial patterns.

Because of the issue of creative emotional power and its manifestation on the physical plane, life seems more crucial, decisions more important, problems more complicated. Everything leads to something else and you have a vested interest in how matters finally turn out. Commonly, the meaning of life is discussed, and within this climate the issue of death arises, causing you to face the issue of your own mortality. There may be a death in the family during the year, but more often you are merely acquainted with someone your own age who must deal with a potentially life-threatening illness. His or her situation calls you to consider the possibility of your own death, and the reason for your existence. The interplay between the creative emotional nature and the issue of mortality leads you to understand the extent and limitations of your own power. One does not have control over death; all living things die. However, one does have power over the emotional response to death, and for that matter, all emotional responses. The need to direct your own emotions toward a rewarding and fulfilling expression is at the root of this Pluto placement.