

Solar Return Interpretation

The Tropical Zodiac

An Astrological Profile for:
Donald Trump - 2020/2021

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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.

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERIC EMPHASIS

When nine or all of the planets in the solar return chart are above the horizon, this suggests that you are more interested in external manifestation and achievement than you are in internal processes. This is true even if the planets are mostly in the 8th or 12th house. When the planets are in the 8th, the emphasis is on change. Granted these changes are brought about by an increased perception, but still the emphasis is on external modifications in life-style and the need to gain power over one's situation. When most of the planets are in the 12th house, the emphasis is on a yearlong project which can lead to recognition in the following year. The project is generally a product of personal integration; however, the external manifestation is still noteworthy.

This is a time when you want to succeed in a tangible external way which is measurable and obvious to others. You evaluate your success by what others think of you and are less satisfied with subjective appreciation. Peer pressure influences you, and you can feel compelled to modify your personality, or behave in a certain manner. This is even true of 11th house placements where the two themes, one of individuality and the other of peer pressure, play off each other. What feelings and thoughts you do have may be controlled or lost in a flurry of activity as you strive for external achievement. The focus of attention is on what you can do and accomplish and not on how you feel about yourself internally. This is a good time to acquire objective information while testing your abilities to succeed in an external way.

Since you might devalue your own subjective thoughts and opinions this year, it is possible that you will seek advice from others rather than using your own head. You may even believe everything you are told, and can be deceived easily. Hollow goals built upon the expectations of others rather than personal fulfillment are possible if you lose touch with your own emotional roots and spiritual purpose. In extreme cases, this southern emphasis could denote the workaholic who sacrifices everything for success.

But if you consciously remember your roots, this can be a very productive time, one in which you use information and feelings to achieve goals that were formulated when many of the planets were in the northern hemisphere. This is a time for action, the counterpart to the planning stage. You may not need to focus inward at this time if you already have a solid inner base for the activity you are involved in now.

FIVE or more MUTABLE PLANETS

The more planets you have in the mutable signs, the more likely you are to be involved in changing circumstances. This is a year when you are better able to recognize subtle fluctuations in your situation as they occur. You are also aware of major changes as they occur little by little. Major transitions are anticipated long before they occur; consequently, you are able to adapt and prepare. Think of this as ad-libbing

life. New developments and information necessitate constant reassessments and adjustments to your situation; therefore, this may not be the best time to come up with a master plan of how things should proceed. It will be much easier to handle daily issues as they arise, keeping a future goal or direction in mind. The key to handling changes at this time may be learning to ride the waves and make the adjustments necessary to stay on top of the situation.

There is a greater tendency to accept and adapt to changes as they occur than to initiate new changes yourself. Many times changes that other people are making or have made in the recent past directly affect your life. In some situations, you may feel that you have little freedom of choice and must adapt to surroundings that are different from those you have been used to in the past. At times, changes may be severe enough to cause anxiety, nervous upsets, and stress, and you should remember to take time for relaxation techniques.

ZERO or ONE FIRE PLANET

A lack of fire can signal the need to work with your present possibilities and immediate issues. You may not have time for long-range plans because everyday needs must be met. For example, if you have just entered the armed services, you will be involved with training for most of the year. Where your skills will take you once you are discharged will not be a concern. Now is the time to deal realistically with mundane issues needing your attention. Focus on the here and now rather than tomorrow. It is difficult to be inspired and creative with your life when your basic needs are so important. This is a good time to handle those basics and form a firm foundation.

You may not feel inspired. For some individuals, this is a year of disillusionment, lost enthusiasm, and depletion of energy. If your philosophy is not consistent with your experience or is impractical, you must give up false hopes. If you have strong philosophical beliefs, test them in real life situations to see their practical application. If you have plans for the future, stop dreaming, and start working. Get out of your head and into action. If you have no dream for the future, use this time to get your feet on the ground, and things in order. Your last dream may have been unrealistic, and now you are in a time meant for gaining experience and knowledge. Working with what is feasible will give you the sense of stability needed before you choose a new direction for the future.

CANCER RISING

When the solar return Ascendant is in Cancer, what you feel is more important than what you think. Sensitivity and intuition increase, and so to your involvement in emotional situations. The driving force is to feel connected to family, friends, and a home base. Interactions with women are important and enlightening. Problems you encounter result from being too sensitive and emotional. Co-dependent situations can drain you while worry leads to mood swings. Under these conditions, decisions will not be rational or effective.

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 11TH HOUSE

☉ in 11th

Capricorn and the 10th house are associated with the laws and rules that are written for the masses. These laws structure society as a whole. Aquarius and the 11th house rule the personal reassessment of those laws, their meaning and application on an individualized level. Conscientious objection and a disregard for societal norms are also Aquarian themes. The 11th house in the solar return chart is the house of "Why not?" Why not have an affair? Why not start your own business? Why not sail around the world alone? Why not, why not, why not! The sky is the limit.

When your Sun is in this house, you must personally accept or reject all rules that affect your life. Rules are questioned, and either broken or found to have great personal validity. Morality and ethics are subject to personal scrutiny. You must decide what is right for you, your life situation and the people around you. This testing of rules and laws can be a mental exercise that lasts all year or it can be a difficult struggle involving strong urges. Those individuals with strong Uranian themes in their charts are more likely to act out. Those with strong Saturnian themes in their charts are less likely to act out but more likely to be upset by the review process. This is because strange thoughts can be associated with the Sun in the 11th house. These are not conservative, practical thoughts but wild crazy urges sometimes lacking a basis in reality. If you are not aware of the purpose for this process, you may be frightened by your own erratic thinking.

The important task for this year is to weaken Saturnian restrictions that are outdated and inhibit your growth potential. Next year your Sun moves to the 8th house where many changes will occur. The Sun in the 11th house indicates the need to prepare for these changes by reviewing meaningless patterns of behavior. By the end of the year, you should develop a personal code of behavior that makes sense within the context of your situation and allows you to make necessary changes.

The 11th house is also the house of future goals and hopes. This is the year to activate goals, or at least determine if they are realistic, practical or suitable as a future endeavor. Some dreams will survive the test, while others may not. Begin to work on those goals which are feasible and worthy of your attention.

Freedom is a major issue, and the amount of freedom you experience in your life will either rise or fall. If you have been feeling suppressed and limited, this will be your year to break those restrictions. You may actually forsake your former code of conduct or pattern of behavior. For this reason, the married individual is affair-prone, especially if there are also placements in the 5th house. Friends may become lovers and lovers are friends and it becomes difficult to draw lines between the two. This is as true for single people as it is for those who are married. It is also possible that your freedom is seriously restricted as you strive to meet your goals or fulfill your dreams. Children and babies can be the fulfillment of a dream but at the same time, they do limit your freedom.

When the Sun is in the 11th house (the 2nd of the 10th), it is probable that your

income will increase. Last year, if your Sun was in the 2nd house, you decided how much you were worth in the labor market. This year you set out to earn that much or at least increase your income. There is the possibility of advancement or promotion.

Group interaction will be important and this is a good time to experience or observe group dynamics. You are more apt to perceive subtle shifts in power within the group, or more obvious power struggles between members. You may or may not actively participate in these struggles yourself, but you will be aware of the power individual members possess and also the power the group possesses as a unit. Your experience can be mostly passive (in which case you will tend to go along with the crowd), or more aggressive (you strive for a position of influence). If you are interested in a cause or project, you should be able to harness group energy to accomplish the task at hand if your intentions are honorable. This is a good time to experience your own power and ego as expressed through a group. But if you waste this time on mindless infighting, all victories will be hollow.

And finally, the Sun in the 11th house relates to developing and also fading friendships. Those friends who did not treat you with respect last year are no longer around. New friends that you attract should be more appreciative. Relationships are less intense than the one-on-one partnerships of the 7th or 5th house, but no less meaningful. You can have in-depth but intermittent encounters with several friends or many superficial acquaintances. This year you are learning to express yourself to a variety of people and consequently your circle of friends expands. Both new and old friendships might be instrumental in the achievement of your goals.

SUN SQUARE or OPPOSITE the MOON



The Sun square or opposite the Moon in the solar return chart indicates incompatibility between external and internal goals, or a disagreement between the conscious and unconscious levels. You may experience this disparity within yourself or in regard to another person or outside situation. This may be a minor inconvenience or a major conflict.

The most common theme revolves around career goals (Sun) versus home and family (Moon). These two areas of life can conflict with each other or compete for your attention. Domestic responsibilities might disrupt your work schedule or career moves might disrupt your family. Your public reputation can thwart your ambitions. What you want consciously tends to be different from what you need emotionally. This disparity is also seen in relationships. Security needs may dictate emotional situations. You might stay in a difficult relationship because you are afraid to leave and fend for yourself. Your intuition might be telling you something totally different from what your partner is saying.

There appears to be a mental split when the Sun is square or opposite the Moon in the solar return. What is important is that you address this split and begin to balance diverse needs and perspectives to make the best decisions possible and to take the most appropriate action.

SUN SQUARE or OPPOSITE MARS



Mars symbolizes the energy necessary for successful accomplishment. When Mars is square or opposite the Sun, the project you are working on will require a great deal of effort for successful completion. Personal or professional achievement can come at a

cost. If you have workaholic tendencies, your schedule might strain your relationships or impact your health. Moderation is needed, but unfortunately, with the square and opposition of Sun to Mars, you might be driven by outside influences and authority figures to produce quickly or beyond reasonable limits.

Relationships can be conflicted or competitive. Too much focus on self-interest makes for tense relations. Others may view you as competitive rather than a team player. If you have the ability to motivate others in a positive and productive way, this may be your best course of action.

Learn to deal with aggression, conflict, and anger in an effective rather than detrimental way. You may be stressed out and under the gun regarding tasks and responsibilities. Do not take it out on others. Think before you act. Handle negative situations positively with an eye toward fair play and productive changes. Defend your actions and decisions if need be. Defend others when you see injustice. Be an advocate, but remain calm and rational. If you let your temper flare, things can only get worse.

Less spiritual themes associated with Sun square or opposite Mars involve self-destructive urges. Prolonged anger creates blockages which waste energy in a cycle of negative emotions that have no real purpose or goal. It is better to direct efforts and also frustration into positive endeavors.

SUN SQUARE or OPPOSITE NEPTUNE



The Sun square or opposite Neptune indicates that the native is growing more sensitive on a number of levels and this can have both positive and negative implications. The sensitivity is meant to facilitate spiritual development. Insights and a sense of connection to others can foster compassion and forgiveness; however, some individuals will find the increased sensitivity overwhelming and confusing.

The more positive manifestations include growing less concerned with selfish interests and more involved with helping those in need. An emotional connection is made to the plight of others as well as an intellectual awareness. This leads to greater concern for others and a better understanding of relationships. The increased sensitivity also results in newfound intuitive ability. Intuitive insights can augment decision-making ability. Solutions to problems arise spontaneously and the native is more apt to avoid pitfalls.

Some individuals will be confronted with their own human frailty or that of someone close. Sensitivity leads to stress on an emotional level and sometimes on the physical level in the form of allergies. Being less egotistical can result in an unstructured personality which seems to lack control, certainty, and direction. The individual can be confused and forgetful on a daily mundane basis, or confused and uncertain regarding future goals. The most negative manifestations lead to escapism through alcohol, drug abuse, martyrdom, dependency on others, and savior-victim type relationships. On the other hand, the native with this aspect in the solar return might be related to someone with any of these problems. Trying to heal someone who does not want to be healed will be challenging. The desire has to come from the addicted or wounded individual first and foremost.

It is important to keep in mind that the increased sensitivity experienced has a higher purpose and is meant to improve life for you and for others. You can do something positive with the insights and emotions you are experiencing.

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 9TH HOUSE

☾ in 9th

The 9th house is the house of beliefs: religious, philosophical and mundane. The Moon placed in this house suggests a good time to reevaluate all beliefs in light of practical applications to daily situations. We think of the Moon as representative of common everyday experiences and domestic influences; therefore, your beliefs must now pass the test of useful application. Personal philosophy should help you cope with everyday situations and issues facing you. Higher knowledge and beliefs must be consistent with what is most practical and efficient on a mundane level. There might be times during the year when you feel you cannot reconcile higher knowledge with practical experience. What you believe does not help you with the decisions you must make. Discrepancies like these point out useless beliefs and the need for review. Emotional feedback from everyday situations and interactions with others will help you to find out which beliefs are working on a mundane level, and which ones leave you feeling vulnerable to life's pressures.

Your old beliefs may be outdated. Beliefs can grow stagnant from a lack of review, and you must keep your philosophy current and consistent with your pattern of personal growth. Beliefs are sometimes carried over from someone else's system. Don't accept higher knowledge, religious or philosophical, blindly; what others espouse may or may not fit your needs. You will find that some enlightened thoughts are not helpful when it comes to functioning on the mundane, everyday level. They do not translate into practical rules to live by. Your philosophy must apply to your everyday circumstances. Review beliefs and personalize those which have meaning within the context of your own life.

You could be asked to explain your beliefs in public, or teach, or write a book. In some way, you might be called upon to explain your beliefs. This is a good time to practice what you preach or make adjustments in the sermon. This is the key to

utilizing the review process. Practice helps you formulate a philosophy that fits your everyday life. You retain what works and discard what does not. Through this testing process, you can develop a philosophy that works for you spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Because the Moon is in the 9th house, what you give and get out of relationships will be very important. Our beliefs set the tone for our interactions with others, and our responses to daily situations. For example, a common Christian belief is that one should turn the other cheek if offended, assaulted, etc. While this might be good advice for some situations, it may not be helpful all the time or in your particular situation. If you are being repeatedly abused, verbally or physically, without resistance, it might be time to develop a new tactic. A religion/philosophy which encourages you to remain in an abusive situation is questionable and should be reevaluated.

Your beliefs about relationships regulate the demands and expectations you have in a relationship. Your life is at least partially structured by your beliefs. If you think that all men are users, then you will tend to draw individuals who confirm your expectations. This is a good time to review your beliefs about others and relationships. It is likely that some beliefs will be changed and modified as you begin to work towards a more successful philosophy.

You may be involved in a legal matter during the year, and consequently become more familiar with the legal system and the judiciary process. You may consult a lawyer or you might be involved in a court case as a plaintiff, defendant, witness or jury member. You may be interested enough to follow a particularly fascinating court case. Legal matters are not necessarily strongly emphasized. The most common manifestation is seeing a lawyer during the year.

You may return to school or take a course during the coming year. Topics may be academic, recreational or artistic. On the other hand, you could be teaching rather than studying. Teaching may help you ground your spiritual thoughts. Certain topics require examples and applications from real life to be understood.

Travel is also a possibility with the Moon in the 9th house. Usually the more planets in the 9th house, the more likely you are to travel. Travel can be to a foreign country but you may only do extensive traveling within this country. It is also possible that you commute regularly and over a fair distance for your job or for other reasons. Increased travel time may occur without foreign travel per se.

MOON CONJUNCT MARS



The Moon conjunct Mars implies involvement in a situation which is emotionally uncomfortable yet rewarding, a mixed blessing. The energies represented here suggest working at cross-purposes and you may have ambivalent feelings about your circumstances. An example might be the experience of trying to comfort a sick baby. You know the baby is sick and does not feel well so you do everything you can to comfort the poor child. But at the same time, you become very frustrated if nothing you do seems to stop the screaming. At that point, stress is competing with concern and mixed feelings arise.

Mars in aspect to the Moon is very suggestive of contradictory emotions. The Moon

symbolizes our nurturing qualities and emotional nature. Mars, on the other hand, symbolizes our independence and assertiveness. The basic interpretations for these two planets are so different they tend to remain separate like oil and water. They represent two sides of the coin or different perspectives on one situation. This dynamic arises according to the house placement of the Moon and Mars.

For instance, if the Moon and Mars are in the 11th house of friends, a situation involving mixed emotions might be saying good-bye to a good friend because one of you is moving. If you are the person left behind, you may feel happy for your friend, but still sad about your loss. If you are the person moving, you may be excited about the move, yet sorry to be leaving. The purpose of these mixed feelings is to call attention to your own emotional needs (Moon) and take appropriate action accordingly (Mars). The mother of the fussy infant may need to take five minutes away from the baby to cope with stress. The person who is moving or left behind may need to concentrate on maintaining the friendship even after relocation.

Moon conjunct Mars suggests that emotional situations are not simple and usually involve a strange combination of contradictory emotions. It can also indicate that you might act in a way that detracts from your own sense of security and emotional well-being, thereby creating stress. Perhaps you find it difficult to express any emotion other than anger. You might be angry with yourself and inhibit meaningful emotional exchanges. Or, you could gravitate towards situations that are not emotionally healthy.

The Moon conjunct to Mars is not necessarily difficult, nor must it involve your personal life. It can refer to professional endeavors or social activism. You can be motivated to act because you are affected emotionally by what you see. If you are upset by conditions in the poor section of town, you might volunteer your services at a local soup kitchen. The unpleasantness you feel compels you to look at your surroundings more closely and work to correct or improve conditions.

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.

MOON CONJUNCT NEPTUNE



Moon conjunct to Neptune in the solar return chart can show increased sensitivity to

life's subtleties. While Moon-Pluto contacts show greater insight into psychological influences, manipulative games, and a need for self-control, Moon-Neptune contacts indicate a greater sensitivity to feelings and needs that are not expressed openly, yet bind us all. There are both positive and negative manifestations suggested by Neptune conjunct to the Moon.

Negatively, you can be misinformed or even lied to, especially if someone is actively trying to deceive you. However, it is more likely that you will deceive yourself when there is someone important in your life who you do not truly want to understand. This person may be a family member or someone you are emotionally involved with. The Moon-Neptune house position in the solar return will give you a clue in regard to where deception, confusion, or uncertainty lies. If someone's actions mystify you making you feel the relationship is insecure, it's likely that you do not have a realistic perception of this person. Perhaps you do not want to know the truth. The truth might be more threatening than mystery so you allow the situation to remain clouded and do not challenge inconsistencies. Since much is left unsaid and assumed, you might fill in the gaps with your expectations rather than realistic assessments. Disillusionment is always built on dreams rather than truth. You may not see things as they are, only as you hope they would be. This continuing lack of accurate information leads to further confusion and fantasy, and is compounded by emotional estrangement. You may not be in touch with what you feel. Anxiety and excessive worry can be signals that your perceptions are not an accurate reflection of reality. It is perhaps fair to say that intuitive insights reflect truth and are never meant to augment expectations. This may represent a misuse of this newfound sensitivity.

Moon conjunct Neptune symbolizes intuitive insights, spiritual ideals, and one's sensitivity to the commonalities we share. We all suffer from human frailty; Neptune symbolizes our ability to identify with others, and see their failings as well as our own. True understanding supersedes any judgmental attitudes and paves the way for a meaningful exchange. Idealism and putting others on a pedestal diminish realistic achievements which might have been accomplished in spite of human weakness. Unrealistic expectations are defenses used to avoid facing transgressions and humanness we do not wish to see.

Positively, Moon-Neptune aspects imply connections; connections to each other and to the Universe. We can foster and improve these connections by understanding, accepting, and helping each other progress as a whole toward a better existence. This is a good time to accept people as they are, weaknesses and all. You will probably be involved in situations which give you the opportunity to increase your understanding or insight into others. As long as you do not make demands or have unrealistic expectations, you should be able to retain honest emotional contacts with those around you.

You may actually care for someone who is ill or disabled, or you could simply care for another person more than you care for yourself and your own welfare. Moon conjunct to Neptune can be a sign of self-sacrifice. It is common to see this aspect in the charts of new mothers. The demands of caring for an infant involve a certain amount of self-sacrifice. If you work full-time to put your spouse through school, you might also have this aspect.

Self-sacrifice does not necessarily mean martyrdom. When the Moon is conjunct Neptune in the solar return, you are able to help others because you truly understand their situation. You are also able to handle emotional uncertainty. You accept relationships which are not clearly defined, and you are able to give without a

guarantee of return. Going with the flow means accepting insecurity as a natural by-product of your situation. When the Moon is conjunct Neptune in your solar return chart, you need to be able to function during times of uncertainty and handle the insecurities that go with them. Trust that things can work out for the best in the end.

MOON SEXTILE or TRINE PLUTO



The Moon sextile or trine to Pluto implies insight into one's own emotional nature and unconscious. Even if you are psychologically healthy, emotions may be tainted or seasoned by events or complexes from the past. You could be reliving a former happening in an immediate situation. The nature of this connection and revelation is meant to be healing. This is a time of renewal and growth. By being observant and psychologically aware, you can gain insight into issues affecting you and peel away layers of debris from the past. Relationships are likely to be affected by this process of revelation and your new awareness. Clearing complexes can open you to relating with greater intimacy. Sharing your insights can deepen your connections. This is a good time to endeavor to empower yourself and others.

In the process of gaining insight and psychological awareness, you can also learn to deal with manipulators and their attempts at manipulation. You need not be a victim. Emotional blackmail and manipulation only work if you allow another person to have control over some portion of your life. As soon as you begin to control yourself and take responsibility for your own well-being, manipulators lose all power.

The Moon sextile or trine to Pluto can be very beneficial to writers, counselors, psychology students or those whose career depends on their ability to understand human nature. In the end, it is the awareness of psychological and emotional influences which is significant. Knowledge brings power.

A very pleasant reason for being so intense and emotional is an involvement in a new and exciting romantic relationship. All relationships, even those which are established, are subject to change and new insight. Domestic situations are also in the process of changing. Moving or planning to move is possible. Children or parents may move in or out, or you might welcome a new baby home. Should you remain in the same location, you can renovate or add to your existing house.

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 12TH HOUSE

☿ in 12th

Mercury in the 12th house indicates that you are probably not outspoken this year. You keep your opinions, thoughts and feelings to yourself. You also keep secrets. You may be spending more time alone, lost in your own thoughts. This is a time for the development of new ideas and the understanding and organization of what you have already learned. Consequently, you may not be sure of exactly what you want to say or how to say it. Unfortunately, you may not be saying some of the things that need to be said. Mercury in the 12th house is associated with keeping quiet to preserve peace. You may find that when you do express yourself, it causes an argument. So, it seems easier to compromise before the argument starts, and just bite your tongue to begin with. You may not verbalize your true thoughts, even when you should. If you are caught in a lie, even one which was perpetrated by others, you may not correct the situation by telling the truth as you know it.

This is a good time to be reflective and introspective rather than just withholding. This can be a very religious or spiritual placement for Mercury. Meditation, quiet reflection and spiritual studies are important and may give you a greater understanding of the Universe and your place within the Universal plan. But the concept of the "big picture" is applicable to all information and not just that which is spiritual in nature. You have accumulated much information in recent years which now needs to be organized into accessible and practical knowledge. Let's use an analogy as an example. If you are an astrology student, you spend many years learning astrological techniques. These techniques provide you with different bits of information. At some point you will need to learn to organize these pieces of information into a chart interpretation. This is the difference between "cook-book" astrological facts and understanding the individual's personality by interpreting the whole chart. There is a leap of consciousness described here that transforms separate facts into cohesive knowledge. One is able to see the major themes or "gestalt" of the natal chart. Mercury in the 12th can denote this leap of consciousness from facts to knowledge, and from knowledge to wisdom. It represents the organization and assimilation of data necessary for true learning. Private study and personal research can help you with this process, but inner thoughts should be your focus of attention. This can be a good position for the writer, artist, or anyone beginning a long-term project which will involve much contemplation. Do not waste all this inner energy on daydreaming and fantasizing; use this time to deepen your understanding of what you have learned.

The review and organization of information is not limited to factual data only. Unconscious impressions, feelings and intuitive insights will also be important. The 12th house seems to relate to the integration of all forms of existing information, whether on the conscious or unconscious level. If there is a conflict between what you are thinking rationally and what you are feeling emotionally, the integration process may be more difficult and you will probably experience some anxiety. This lack of continuity

may be due to your avoidance of certain issues and feelings in the past. But it can also be caused by inaccurate information you are receiving at the present time. A very negative manifestation is that someone is lying to you or purposely misleading you. Your task during the year is to resolve any conflicts between feelings and conscious thoughts and become an integrated whole.

If your mind does not have a strong inner or outer focus this year, you could experience mental problems in the form of phobias, compulsions, obsessions, jealousy, and anxiety. Free-floating anxiety (generalized fear) is the more common difficulty. Those who were counseling candidates before Mercury was placed in the solar return 12th house are not likely to improve on their own this year. If you are already experiencing problems, this is a time for therapy. The emphasis should be on integrating unconscious and conscious energies. Wisely channeled, you can use this time to intelligently evaluate unconscious insights in the light of previously gathered information. Together the two sources, the conscious and the unconscious levels, can provide you with a wealth of information organized into a body of knowledge.

MERCURY SEXTILE or TRINE MARS

♀ △ ♂

Mercury sextile or trine Mars suggests an active thought process. This can be a time when great mental energy is expended in a search for knowledge. Your mind should be quick and alert, though not necessarily highly retentive. Learning can be very exciting and self-perpetuating even if you study alone.

What is great for the learning process may not be so advantageous when making decisions. The speed normally associated with Mars might indicate that you are impulsive and quick to jump to conclusions. Weighing your options carefully and researching situations thoroughly can help you make considered responses.

Mercury sextile or trine Mars implies the ability to be assertive when necessary. You are not angry or aggressive, but you do hold your ground. You know what you want and you are able to go after it. Thoughts are channeled into concrete actions. You are motivated to accomplish what you say you intend to do.

MERCURY SEXTILE or TRINE URANUS

♀ ✕ ♅

Mercury sextile or trine Uranus in the solar return chart suggests that you are open to new ideas which may take the form of information you are learning or concepts you are developing yourself. This aspect can indicate great creativity since it implies that the individual is able to approach problems from many different angles and is not locked into one structured way of thinking. Use this time to be innovative and original. Brainstorm with others. Because your mind is somewhat unstructured, your ability to think clearly may be interrupted by creative insights and erratic impulses. When working on a major project that requires sustained mental energy, take frequent breaks. Work on calming and nurturing your nervous system while cultivating creativity.

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 11TH HOUSE

♀ in 11th

An 11th house solar return Venus indicates you are more likely to be involved in friendships and associations with a number of people rather than in-depth relationships with only a few individuals. Your relationship style leans more heavily toward detached, less intimate forms of relating. If you are not presently involved in an intimate relationship, it is unlikely that you will form one during this solar return period. You are more apt to be friendly with a variety of people than fulfilled by any single relationship. This placement can be associated with "playing the field." Even if you do have your eye on one particular individual, he or she may not be ready to make any kind of commitment at this time.

If you are already married or involved in a stable intimate relationship, you may want to make new acquaintances by socializing with groups of people. The focus will be on expanding your circle of friends and creating new interests. Personal freedom may be an issue and you and your partner can make changes which will increase your freedom and flexibility. If your marriage or steady relationship is strong, these changes will not have a disruptive effect. But if your relationship is weak and you question your loyalty to one person or feel very restricted by your present partnership, the push for freedom can lead to strong attractions to other people.

The 11th is the house of "why not?" and issues and conflicts related to monogamy are common. You may be tempted by an opportunity for an affair. How friendly you actually get with others is your decision. Sex is not necessarily a requirement for the variety of experiences and excitement you seek with this placement, but it may suit your needs during this time. Weak marriages can break down. Friends tend to become lovers while lovers become friends, and your ability to make a distinction becomes clouded.

Your friends can be very helpful and great sources of strength. You may depend on your friends to help you achieve your goals during the year. One woman, who started a small business, called on her friends to fill in when she needed extra hands for short periods of time. This is a good year to foster helping friendships and to network within your community. You can do this for either business or personal reasons.

You may join an organized group or attend regularly scheduled social functions. Going to meetings can fulfill two needs, giving you a wide range of social contacts while also expanding your interests. Group involvement can be mutually beneficial, as there is room for give and take with this placement. Interactions can provide you with opportunities for personal growth or professional advancement. You may see group interaction as a way of implementing your goals. This may or may not be the case, but group members are likely to be supportive.

This can be a good time to seek a promotion or raise. The 11th house is the money house for the 10th of career. You may be rewarded for your hard work, but don't expect something for nothing. If Venus is in the 11th without strong Saturnian aspects or placements in the 10th or 11th, the promotion is more likely to involve money only, but with a Saturnian motif, you are more apt to accept extra responsibility along with the salary increase.

VENUS RETROGRADE

Of the eight placements Venus has in the solar return chart, one is usually consistently retrograde, though irregularities occur. Venus retrograde indicates a time of comparison and contrast. Your increased ability to distinguish and value inner qualities separate from external situations signals an opportunity to compare and contrast the importance of each. Relationships, finances, and priorities should all be reassessed on the basis of the inner qualities they exhibit in comparison to the external pleasure or stress that they generate. Your focus on internal values will tend to overshadow your need for external manifestation; consequently, you will make adjustments in your pursuit of materialistic and external goals.

Relationships are always more important for the love you give and receive than the external trappings; however, this issue will become more evident during this year. You may be in love with a special person who treats you wonderfully, but refuses to consider marriage. If you were attracted to this person because of his or her inner qualities, it is important to appreciate your feelings for one another, and not get hung up on the legalization process. During this year you will tend to assess relationships you see or experience for the inner and outer qualities which they possess or lack. You can always find others who have the external trappings you desire without genuine caring. (Example: a verbally abusive marriage.)

External, artificial indicators of affection are meaningless. It is the inner and sometimes less apparent qualities that are important. Your attention to this issue will make the incongruity more obvious to you. Part of this discernment process can involve frustration with personal involvements which do not conform to your external expectations of what a relationship or partner should be. Love does not necessarily occur in neat little storybook packages, and frustration results from close attention to external storybook details which cannot truly satisfy internal needs. Outer limitations stress the importance of inner beauty. Because third parties may not easily see the qualities that you appreciate in your loved one, they may criticize your choice. Their criticism will encourage you to further define the inner beauty that attracts you. Those relationships which possess no redeeming inner qualities will seem void and unfulfilling. They can be discarded regardless of the external advantages they supply.

Values must be more closely attuned to the individual's aesthetic appreciation and therefore may be less consistent with societal preferences and standards. One can see unique beauty in what might appear ordinary to others. Your taste in material objects might depend on the emotional qualities associated with those objects. Price or status is unimportant.

Venus retrograde symbolizes an emphasis on the quality of life over the desire for financial gain. The money you earn should not be as important as the quality of your working environment and your satisfaction while on the job. Focusing on your inner need for contentment and fulfillment allows you to let go of a large salary, and search for an enjoyable employment position even though it may involve a pay cut. If you continue to work at a stressful job because of the pay, you may be very unhappy. Materialism will not bring you true happiness this year or any year. If you must remain in a stressful job, develop a strong belief in yourself and your abilities. Set goals that are rewarding and doable. Do not focus on your inability to perform at your best when conditions are at their worst. Some work environments are dysfunctional. Financially,

this is generally a time to be conservative with funds. You cannot make good decisions about the quality of your life if you are more concerned with your monetary situation.

Social contacts and involvement in social activities are not emphasized while Venus is retrograde in the solar return. You need more time to focus inward and may withdraw from some or all social functions because you welcome the time alone. You might no longer enjoy these functions, or you might realize that certain social relationships are too difficult and unrewarding to maintain. For those individuals who require counseling, this can be a time of isolation. Withdrawal is common with Venus retrograde, but generally any time alone can be put to good use. You could want to be alone with one special person.

VENUS SEXTILE or TRINE SATURN



Venus sextile or trine Saturn in the solar return chart suggests stability in relationships and in finances. Healthy relationships can strengthen and show a renewed sense of commitment by both partners. The acceptance of more responsibility with or for each other is common. Marriage, raising children, and purchasing homes together are three common events that reflect this change. The relationship gains stability because of a new definition of purpose and intent. Partners are able to pull together, organize, and plan for the future.

Partners who love each other and are committed, but experience the need for change and adjustment, might do well to give each other space, understanding, and support. The distance can foster individual expression and achievement. For example, if you or your spouse wants to go back to school for a higher degree, time must be set aside for classes and study.

Financially, this is a good time to plan for the future and budget. You might be working with less cash during the year, but only because you choose to conserve money and build savings. Perhaps you wish to purchase a home or new car. You need to know how much money you have and where it all goes. Some may experience a decrease in funds. These are the people who quit their jobs, cut back on hours, become self-employed, or experience a dramatic change in their life-style which would naturally affect funds available.

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.

MARS SEXTILE or TRINE JUPITER

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Actions which directly support or contradict belief systems are associated with Mars-Jupiter aspects in the solar return chart. Jupiter rules beliefs and philosophy while Mars rules actions. When Mars is sextile or trine Jupiter, personal ethics and morals tend to be respected and acted on accordingly, though this is not always the case. Regardless, you are acutely aware of the role your beliefs play in controlling or directing behavior.

The task associated with Mars sextile or trine Jupiter is to seek moderation in all things and behave in a manner that is consistent with your ethical, moral, or philosophical beliefs. To do this, you may have to discriminate between what is an impractical belief, given your behavior, and what is a hypocritical action, given your beliefs. The greatest success comes from the choices you make which truly reflect your beliefs and priorities. Your beliefs are reflected in the solar return house placement for Jupiter. The actions you wish to take are reflected in the house placement for Mars.

Because Jupiter is known as the greater benefic planet, when Mars is sextile or trine Jupiter, reward, recognition, advancement, expansion, and benefit are possible. Take advantage of opportunities as they arise and even create opportunities for yourself. Expect success. Luck is on your side.

MARS CONJUNCT NEPTUNE

♂ ♂ ♆

While Mars-Pluto aspects imply actions that are unconsciously motivated, Mars-Neptune aspects indicate actions which have no obvious motivation at all, or which involve a great deal of uncertainty as to direction and goal. Actions may be an act of faith or totally aimless. Humanitarian pursuits are sometimes associated with this combination since very spiritual endeavors emanate from a source which is not readily apparent. However, the more likely interpretation for this combination is an uncertainty as to future direction or results. Careful planning is generally not feasible. During the year, you cannot be sure your actions will pan out as expected since there are no guarantees given for your efforts. Job security may be an issue. As an illustration, suppose you wish to run a shelter for injured animals in your backyard and need the approval of the zoning board. You can proceed with your investigations into the matter before the zoning change comes through, but you cannot be sure your efforts will succeed until the final vote. You must trust that situations will work out in your favor.

Mars conjunct to Neptune indicates the ability to function despite a degree of uncertainty that colors your actions. You can run on intuition and faith. If you are correct in your assumptions of eventual success, everything will work out positively; but, if you idealize your actions or situation and miscalculate the results, you will feel disillusioned when you find that your efforts are for naught. Misguided endeavors are possible with Mars conjunct Neptune in the solar return chart; therefore you must carefully consider your purposes and actions during the year. Be ready with an alternate plan if matters do not progress the way you want them to.

Uncertainty and confusion seem to go hand in hand with this combination and contradictory statements are possible. It is easy for others to misinterpret your actions when your direction is not clear and your plans nonexistent. It is also easy for you to stray from your original purpose when goals are not clearly defined. The best option is to work from a place of inspiration. You and others can benefit from good intentions even if the project fails.

If you need secrecy for your endeavors, this is a good time to prevent the left hand from knowing what the right hand is doing. But if you need to be consistent and productive, seek constructive criticism from others and don't stray from the path.

MARS SEXTILE or TRINE PLUTO



When Mars is sextile or trine to Pluto, you need to empower yourself and others by changing the way you expend your energy. Assume and exercise the power you are being given. Do not be afraid to advance. Ambition, correctly focused, is an asset. This year, you are more likely to be the solution than the problem, so be proactive and direct in regard to issues facing you and opportunities arising. This can be your time to shine.

Be psychologically aware of the unconscious influences manifesting in yourself and others. These forces can work to your advantage. Set career goals and strive to succeed. Use healthy compulsions and obsessions to get the job done. Avoid entanglements and conflicts by bringing out the best in others despite their idiosyncrasies and failings. Enlist others' help and empower their goals as well as your own. Streamline and simplify tasks and procedures. Work with what you have available in the most positive way.

Control issues are possible, but don't get locked into power struggles. Use your head to handle situations diplomatically. Avoid complications. Be like water running downhill. You do not need to steam roll over others, you simply need to keep going. Momentum breeds success. Know all the options and avenues available to you. If one door closes, look for another way out. Learn to out maneuver rather than manipulate.

Understanding psychological forces and learning to work with them rather than against them can help you avoid complications and lead to productive encounters. Face your fears and use insights to take corrective action. The ability to comprehend new knowledge fostered by the unconscious leads to new power over your own actions and the situations you are involved in. It is at this point that realistic progress can be made.

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 7TH HOUSE

4 in 7th

The best phrase to describe Jupiter in the 7th house is, "Ask and you shall receive." Others naturally come to your aid, giving more assistance and support than you expected or even thought you needed. If you are in a difficult situation, others readily offer to help. This can occur without asking, but the possibilities become even stronger if you not only recognize and foster the help available to you, but also ask specifically for what you need. Somebody may be in the perfect position to actualize your goals,

and partnerships of this nature enable you to accomplish together what you would not have attempted alone. Help may be either tangible or intangible. Under the best possible circumstances, you benefit directly or indirectly from others in more ways than one. For example, if you are married, you benefit through your spouse since what he or she receives trickles down to you.

Individuals offer their insight into your problems or situation, and you progress through what another knows or has learned. The objective view helps you to see and interpret life more clearly. Usually the message is encouraging. Exchanging knowledge is important with this placement, but this is not all that is exchanged.

Relationships can improve; good marriages become better. If you have had a problem relating in the past, this interpretation is particularly apparent. Difficult marital problems tend to be resolved, especially if professional help is sought (individual or marital counseling). Under therapeutic conditions, those you are involved with become more apt to listen to your complaints and make concessions. Perhaps you are also more insightful and better able to explain your position. Great strides can be made because something suddenly clicks in your consciousness, adjusting your pattern for intimacy. Regardless of your marital situation, good relationships with a variety of people in a variety of situations could exist. If you are able to create a climate of compatibility and harmony, your success in any endeavor during the year can be augmented by cooperation with others. If you are unable to work with others, you will lose out on this experience of mutual gain.

Sometimes personal benefits are not realized because of the overwhelming emphasis on the partner's needs to the exclusion of your own. In negative situations, personal needs are not only dwarfed, but drowned out completely by the interests of another. Relationships can be so excessive that one goes overboard in an attempt to please. Even what initially appears to be a benefit can negate your self-interest and ultimately fulfill your partner's requirements only. Within this context, benefits cannot be considered all good. For example, if your spouse is offered a position overseas, you may be thrilled about the possibility of living in a foreign country, but you may be forced to give up a lot in order to go. You need to assess the effect leaving has on your long-term goals. You may be able to set aside your personal needs for one or two years time in order to benefit from a new experience coming to you directly through the spouse. But instead, it may be difficult, if not impossible, for you to leave at this time.

Any opportunity can be a mixed blessing, and the lines of stress might be denoted in the solar return chart by the aspects to Jupiter in the 7th house. The balance is very delicate. You may benefit greatly or feel overwhelmed by circumstances that are not your own or are inconsistent with your needs for fulfillment. One must control the swing of the pendulum. In the worst-case scenario, you will not be aware your own needs are being overrun. It is at this time that someone will step forward and make an observation that will change your perspective, if you are willing to listen.

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 7TH HOUSE

♄ in 7th

Saturn in the 7th house indicates that close personal relationships are defined, limited or structured in order to establish a greater degree of safety and security. For those dating and not married, usually the relationship is defined as not ready for marriage during this solar return year. Although this can be a time of great commitment for those who are already married, there is generally a lack of commitment or a need for delay with those who have not yet tied the knot.

Relationship limitations can be either natural or artificial. Natural limitations are inherent in the situation while artificial restrictions are imposed by one partner or the

other. Inherent limitations include living in different areas of the country, scheduling problems, and basic socio-economic or character differences. The time you spend together may be restricted by work, distance, parents or other circumstances. Aspects to the other houses may give you some clue as to the source of these restrictions. This is not the year of the free-flowing, easy-going relationship, since an important partnership will be reassessed and structured during this time.

The hallmark of this placement is realism. You must deal realistically with a relationship in order to develop a sense of security and safety. You must see your partner as a real person with human frailties and needs and then address those issues. Most significant relationships will have an issue which must be handled successfully if the relationship is to prosper and grow. For example, one extravagant young woman was dismayed at her boyfriend's present state of poverty. He had just graduated from law school, but had not yet become established in the world. She wanted to marry him, but did not want to be poor. (Those who are used to spending \$200.00 on panty hose rarely have a sense of monetary restraint.) She began to see realistically what life would be like married to a young lawyer and she subsequently sought options and changes within herself that would resolve this issue rather than destroy the relationship. It also became obvious to her that the young lawyer would need to put in extra hours during his first few years with the law firm and the woman would need to occupy her time alone with her own pursuits until they could be together in the evenings.

The need to realistically structure a relationship so that certain tasks can be accomplished is common with this placement. The overall goal of future safety and security is a motivating force behind this process. During the AIDS crisis, a homosexual male with this placement curtailed his barhopping and also began to limit and structure his continuing involvements in the interest of safety and security.

Basic personality differences between partners seem stronger during this year, and depression or pessimism can be a problem. This is one of the more negative manifestations of Saturn in the 7th. Generally, those who are depressed are the butt of much criticism. But by far the most negative manifestation is a blatant refusal to love and share. Artificial limitations can be set by one partner or the other; usually this occurs only in the less viable relationships. The inability to build a trusting and safe relationship leads to a denial of commitment and severe restrictions; eventually the relationship may dissolve. Limitations are walls meant to insure the security of one of the individuals while compromising the partner's needs and relationship goals.

Usually the lack of commitment is a two-way street, but you may not see it that way. In the beginning, you may compensate for the lack of commitment by deliberately lowering your expectations and lessening your demands. You may limit your own behavior in an attempt to comply with your partner's restrictions, thinking that if you acted in a certain way (either by saying or not saying, doing or not doing), the relationship would survive. You accept the limitations imposed. If the relationship is basically a good one, you will outlast the difficulty. But if you continue to support an abusive partnership, you only fool yourself into thinking half a relationship is better than none. Relationships that severely restrict your expression are not in your best interest. Use this time to reassess your involvements. Recognize restrictions and evaluate their source and necessity. Ask yourself, "Is the relationship worth this, or is there another way to handle the situation?"

Saturn in the 7th house indicates your awareness of humanity and the difficulties inherent in associations with others. Relationships involve a certain amount of

discipline, obligation, and responsibility. Much of this will fall within the normal give-and-take of relating, as long as you do not stay in partnerships which are excessively difficult or detrimental to your psychological health.

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 10th house shows that professional changes are likely to occur. In most instances these changes are major and involve a switch from one career to another or from company-oriented employment to self-employment. You will tend to be restless during the year. Professional freedom is usually an issue and you will not submit quietly to authority figures, especially if they are unpredictable or if the main emphasis seems to be on restriction of goals and frustration of success. If this is your situation, you will undoubtedly rock the boat.

You need to function as independently as possible for your creative urges to flow. If you are unhappy with your boss, transfer to another department or office location. If you are unhappy with your present job, find a new one. If you are unhappy with your present profession, jump careers entirely and start out in a totally new field, especially if Saturn is also in the 10th house. Consider becoming self-employed since you have the need and ability to function independently. Breaks in employment usually mark the period of transition. You may decide to stop work entirely or retire. There is an outside chance you may be fired unexpectedly from your present job if your performance is inadequate or if the company undergoes reorganization/merger.

Those who do not make major career changes might feel restless at work, and easily bored with repetitive tasks or distracted by disruptions. Use this time to integrate new ideas and systems into your daily procedures. You need a variety of tasks or a change of pace. There are many ways to incorporate change into the office routine and there is always room for improvement. You might become aware of numerous and continuing daily disruptions which prevent you from functioning at your best. Distractions can draw you away from your true purpose or job description. The entire office may need reorganization and management will usually welcome constructive criticism and enlightened input. Don't be afraid to make suggestions meant to streamline office procedures for greater efficiency. Extenuating circumstances may make it difficult for you to plan out your day. The most common situation along this line is business relocation or renovation. If your office is preparing for a move, setting up shop in new quarters or rearranging old ones, it may be tough to adhere to a schedule and plan out your days in advance. Another possibility is an office agitator who regularly disrupts those trying to do their job.

If you are not working at this time, you can still make major changes, usually in your life direction. Decisions may not be made quickly and easily and the tendency is to be erratic. Major life-style changes may be considered including divorce, separation, or major relocations, possibly overseas. You may move away from your parents or they may relocate to a retirement community in the "Sun Belt." If you are still living at home with your folks, you may disagree with their authority over you, especially if you are of age and need greater freedom. Demonstrating your maturity is the quickest road to independence.

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.

This is traditionally known as the house of religious and philosophical beliefs. For those who are seeking to raise their consciousness through meditation, spiritual studies, prayer, or alternate realities, this can be a time of great enlightenment. A realization of God and the Christ-consciousness is possible. Mystical experiences occurring during the year could significantly change your understanding of yourself, the Universal Oneness and your purpose here on the earth plane. Strong realizations of this nature cannot be translated into words, and therefore may not be understood by others lacking the experience. This is a time when you move toward your own inner comprehension of God and the spirit of the law, while realizing that religion and the letter of the law are inferior attempts at definition and comprehension.

The danger with this placement is a tendency to be misguided. Because there is a movement from external standards (religion) to an internal realization (enlightenment), confusion and uncertainty may accompany the transition. You can be off track for a period of time and find it difficult to cope with philosophical and practical decisions. Mundane events and issues can test your new and old beliefs, pushing you toward further definition and understanding. Do not put your faith in a belief system which is totally unrealistic or impractical. Acute idealization is a problem, and unattainable expectations will inhibit your ability to function in the real world. If you push too hard for enlightenment, you will fall into the trap of focusing on the letter of the law while missing the spirit behind it; contradictions will arise. Others may be forcing you to pursue religious or philosophical systems which do not fit your needs or are inconsistent with your purpose. You are capable of being swayed by others.

The distinguishing criterion here seems to be one of understanding. If you can express a principle in words, but do not understand what you are saying, this principle is probably incorrect for you and your needs at this time. However, if you have captured the spirit of the principle within your understanding and know that it conforms to the Universal need for goodness, do not be alarmed by your inability to translate these insights into words. True understanding is, many times, beyond words. At the same time, principles and experiences which come through true enlightenment cannot be passed on to others who have not had the experience. Common ground for understanding will not exist. Grow to trust the inner process.

Others might be intolerant of your beliefs, or you of theirs. You must deal with your own misconceptions or with those of others. Occasionally you come in contact with fanatical beliefs, and in extreme cases victimization can occur. Harassment because of racial differences, sexual orientation, or ethnic and religious prejudice can occur. In extreme cases, the harassment leads to legal problems. Legal questions are likely to remain undecided for much of the year. If you are involved with foreigners, or if you are a foreigner in another land, cultural differences may lead to difficulties or intolerance. Misunderstandings are possible, especially if you do not understand each other's customs.

You may be thinking of attending school. If so, your course of study might be undecided. Perhaps the exact curriculum you need does not exist as a standard major, so you mix and match. You may be attending school only on a trial or probationary basis since you lack a clear understanding of your motives and goals. Financing for your education might be uncertain, leaving your continuing attendance up in the air. Another

alternative is that you do not matriculate at all, but only consider the possibility all year long. But this is a good time to study religion, philosophy, or holistic concepts. This field of study can be particularly helpful.

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 6TH HOUSE

♇ in 6th

Pluto in the 6th house of the solar return implies changes in both the daily work situation and personal health practices. Changes in physical health are also possible, but generally not as likely. In regard to employment, your work environment could change dramatically. The most common manifestation involves an office which either totally reorganizes (e.g., computerization), or moves to another location. This causes a great upheaval in the daily routine until everyone learns the new procedures, or figures out where everything is located. Preparation, implementation and resolution time may take almost a year. In lieu of this, you alone may change bosses, or departments, or be given a new assignment or job description. Daily working conditions are likely to become more complicated until the period of transition ends.

This is a good time to eliminate unnecessary daily tasks. Obsessive-compulsive tendencies may have you doing more work than is necessary. You can get hung up on details, or feel pressured to stay on the job longer than your normally scheduled hours. In these situations, work begins to have power over you, and you are no longer in control. You can become a workaholic this year if you are not mindful of the need to balance your workload. If you analyze your productivity, you may discover that your

time is not efficiently organized. Learn to streamline your day by creating more efficient daily routines. It is possible that tasks can be completed in less time and with less effort. Take corrective action in those problem areas. If you are self-employed, hire someone to help you with the clerical work so you can be free to work on other projects. If you are working for a company, develop a plan of action and present it to your employer or manager. This is a time when even the lowliest employee will seek some power within the work environment. Positive use of this desire can lead to improvements on the job.

Power in the workplace becomes an issue, and you can use personal power as a lever for success. For example, one employee with a wealth of valuable information negotiated a higher salary and a position of authority. He was then able to use his position and abilities to transform a failing business into a successful enterprise. On the more negative side, power struggles with co-workers or lower level managers are possible. Someone may have a lot of power over you, watching what you do, when, and how. You may feel like you must be on your guard. Backbiting, gossip, and underhanded manipulative tactics can be the norm if you choose to participate. Undercurrents and back-room maneuvers dictate policy. Sources of contention are difficult to discern or confront since nothing is ever truly out in the open. Power over your own schedule or working habits might be totally out of your control as you are forced to conform to inane rules. If you wish to quit, you are likely to do so. Differences of opinion, conflicts with authorities and disputes over the implementation of new ideas can make it impossible for you to continue in the same position. If, however, you choose to remain on a job you sincerely hate, be forewarned that health problems will most likely arise.

You are capable of having a lot of control over both your physical and psychological health; however, early in the year it may not seem so. Instead, you may be struck by how compulsive your habits have become. A few of you may be locked into serious addictions to alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes, but most will only experience the need to control a craving for a particular junk food, or a resistance to an exercise routine. During the year, poor health habits can be a problem, and usually these habits do not arise suddenly; rather, they are long-standing patterns which only now demand corrective attention. The push for control is indicated by Pluto's presence in the 6th house. This is a good time to make conscious, rather than unconscious, choices about health practices. You can break addictions or bad habits, especially if you also treat the underlying psychological issues.

It is important to understand that your state of health or disease is directly related to your psychological diet. The more you are in tune with your inner self, the better you will feel; the more you are in touch with your environment and the people around you, the more likely you are to feel emotionally nourished. A healthy emotional climate breeds a healthy mind and body. On the other hand, the greater the stress in the environment and the more you are suppressed or manipulated by others, the greater the chance of health problems arising. Emotional upsets can directly affect your health, especially if you are caught in "damned if you do and damned if you don't," no-win situations. The emotional diet is as important as the nutritional diet, and even though you take care of yourself physically, mental-emotional stress or abuse can make you ill. If you are in a difficult situation, consider these three options. You can walk away from unending conflicts or spiritually unhealthy environments. Secondly, recognize

psychological games and refuse to be manipulated. Protect your unconscious from damage. Thirdly, use relaxation techniques and spiritual insight to alleviate stress. Realize your power to grow healthy, both inside and out.