
Planets in Solar Return Report for:

Robert Downey Jr.

April 4, 1965

1:10 PM

Manhattan, New York

Solar Return calculated for:

April 4, 2018

7:15:57 AM

Malibu, California

***** INTRODUCTION TO SOLAR RETURNS AND THEIR INTERPRETATION *****

What is a Solar Return Chart?

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 pass ♦ until three months after your birthday. The old themes and issues which you have worked with for the year should begin to lose their importance just as the new solar return starts to manifest 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.

*** Astrological Data of Birth ***

The birth chart is a map of the positions of the planets at the time and place of birth. For the benefit of students of astrology, these positions and other technical information is listed below:

Sun	14 Ari 45	Neptune	19 Sco 31
Moon	19 Tau 12	Pluto	14 Vir 17
Mercury	21 Ari 12	Asc.	13 Leo 51
Venus	12 Ari 51	MC	3 Tau 36
Mars	10 Vir 12	2nd cusp	5 Vir 08
Jupiter	26 Tau 12	3rd cusp	1 Lib 19
Saturn	11 Pis 59	5th cusp	9 Sag 47
Uranus	11 Vir 30	6th cusp	14 Cap 13

Tropical Placidus Standard Time observed
 April 4, 1965 1:10 PM
 GMT: 18:10:00 Time Zone: 5 hours West
 Lat. and Long. of birth place: 40 N 46 73 W 59

Astrological Data of Solar Return:

Sun	14 Ari 45	Neptune	15 Pis 04
Moon	3 Sag 49	Pluto	21 Cap 12
Mercury	9 Ari 36	Asc.	27 Ari 19
Venus	5 Tau 24	MC	16 Cap 44
Mars	10 Cap 01	2nd cusp	29 Tau 53
Jupiter	22 Sco 09	3rd cusp	24 Gem 18
Saturn	9 Cap 00	5th cusp	11 Leo 39
Uranus	27 Ari 41	6th cusp	14 Vir 03

April 4, 2018 GMT: 14:15:57
Malibu, California 34 N 02 118 W 41

Aspects and orbs:

	<i>Sun and Moon only</i>	<i>All other planets</i>
Conj. :	8 Deg. 00 Min.	7 Deg. 00 Min.
Oppos. :	6 Deg. 00 Min.	6 Deg. 00
Square :	6 Deg. 00 Min.	6 Deg. 00 Min.
Trine :	6 Deg. 00 Min.	6 Deg. 00 Min.
Sextile:	5 Deg. 00 Min.	4 Deg. 00 Min.

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ELEMENTS, MODES, QUADRANTS, AND RETROGRADE PLANETS

Five or More Cardinal Planets

This can show a year with a tremendous amount of activity (which usually amounts to too much activity). You may expend your energy in several different directions by working on a number of projects. Each of these projects will be well-defined and equated with a personal need; however, you will feel torn between all the things you want or need to do. You are trying to do too much. If you overload yourself with too many activities, you will begin to procrastinate, miss deadlines and be forced into crisis management. Your nervous system will be taxed and you will begin to make impulsive decisions with little forethought. You need to be better organized. Perhaps you should finish one project before starting another, or you should seek assistance. If you must juggle a busy schedule, learn to streamline your routine and optimize your use of time and energy.

Zero or One Air Planet

The lack of air in a solar return chart is associated with several different manifestations, but basically only one underlying personality trait. It implies that rational thinking is not the major component of your decision-making process during this year. Depending on what other element is emphasized, you may be very practical (earth), emotional (water), or inspired (fire). Because of the lack of air, you might not be objective. A personal perspective will predominate. Without the lightness of the air quality, you might take life too seriously.

Charts with little or no air can also indicate a year of little forethought. You may be impulsive, jumping first, thinking later. You respond to external events in a reactive way rather than planning your moves, especially if the water element is prominent. These reactions may be unconscious knee-jerk reflexes rather than considered responses formulated after a clear perception and assessment of the situation.

This lack can indicate inexperience if you are involved in a new activity or unfamiliar situation. Hence, it follows that you do not have the experience or knowledge necessary for what you are trying to accomplish. For example, suppose you buy an older home that needs a lot of renovation and you've never done this type of work before. You will undoubtedly spend many hours reading books and consulting with experts as you renovate the house. You learn by trial and error. Sometimes you do things well the first time and sometimes you do them over. For this reason, you may feel intellectually incompetent. This is not meant to imply that you cannot be successful in your endeavors this year. You can be very successful, but usually this will occur through a process of trial and error.

It is also common to feel uninformed. In its worst manifestation, it is a feeling of stupidity. But in its best manifestation, it is a thirst for knowledge and the courage to take risks attempting new tasks. This is an excellent time to gather information about new fields of interest, or to attend school.

Mercury is retrograde

Mercury is usually retrograde in the solar return chart every six years. When Mercury is retrograde, it is time to be introspective, especially about those things related to Mercury's house placement. You should be doing a lot of your own thinking and learning rather than depending on others. Integrate previously acquired information into your own individualized mind-set. Think of your mind as an overloaded cabinet or closet seriously in need of filing and organization. It is time to process. You probably already know everything you need to know to handle a certain life situation. If you continue to depend on others for advice, you will find conversations meaningless within the context of your own intellectual needs and experience. Be aware that your mental processes are not very receptive to new information at this time. Your mind is like a cup that is filled to the brim. Any additional knowledge spills over and is lost. Work toward integrating what you already know.

You can experience this retrogradation as a certainty that you know you are right and only you can make the best decisions concerning your own future. What others tell you might clash with what you already know and you could tend to disregard their comments. You may be right, but the danger is that you may be wrong. You can be so in tune with your own thoughts that you are totally on the mark; then again, you might be totally off the beam. Take the time to reorganize information by focusing inward. You might find that your own opinions, thoughts, and decisions truly work best for you. But be aware of the feedback others give you, which may be particularly valuable if you have missed the mark.

Secretiveness is also associated with Mercury retrograde. There is a tendency to withhold information and sometimes lie. Generally, there are two major reasons for doing this: one is that you really do have secrets which need to be kept; the other is that expressing your opinions or thoughts openly causes tension in your relationships. Retrograde Mercury is associated with biting your tongue and swallowing your own words in order to keep peace. Your true opinions may not emerge until the start of the next solar return.

This time is excellent for putting your thoughts down on paper and writing original material. You will be able to see things differently when your thoughts are written down and this is a good way to get organized. Old opinions and beliefs may be outdated so you need to reassess your thinking, reformulate ideas, and shed new light on a subject area.

THE ASCENDING SIGN IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

Generally speaking, the ascending sign in the solar return chart is read the same way as the ascending sign in the natal chart. The personality characteristics innate to the zodiacal placement will come through in the solar return. Those activities ruled by the natural house of the ascending sign may also be prominent. Personality changes might be subtle, but can give you a sense of direction for the coming year. Think of it as a style change. Fashions may change from one season to the next. Though you are the same person, your appearance and mannerism shift. The same is true of the solar return Ascendant. This is your chance to work with the best that each Ascending sign has to offer.

Solar Return Ascendant Aries :

When the solar return Ascendant is in Aries, you have a pioneering spirit that encourages creativity and originality. You have your own unique style, ideas, and goals. A beginner's mind allows you to see solutions and options others miss. You start each day with great enthusiasm and excess energy. The danger is that you can have blinders on and steamroll over others to get the job done. It is not "my way or the highway" thinking; you are just oblivious. If you work well into the night, remember to let others rest.

THE SUN IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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 12th house:

The Sun in the 12th house indicates that this is a behind-the-scenes year for you unless the Sun is close to the Ascendent. This is not a year in which you will seek to be noticed. Recognition is more likely to come next year and you can be noticed then for something you accomplish now. Socially, you will tend to be quiet, more withdrawn and preoccupied with internal thoughts or projects.

It is time for the important task of organizing information you have collected while the Sun was in the other cadent houses. Consequently, you will need time alone for reflection and introspection. You may daydream and fantasize a lot, or spend time contemplating your existence and the meaning of life. A religious theme is common, but all information is reorganized and not just data with a philosophical or religious theme. You will tend to keep your thoughts and feelings to yourself since they are usually only partially formed or partially understood for most of the year. You tend to be tolerant of different beliefs and will not push your incomplete opinions onto others.

Yearlong goals and projects are often a direct result of the reorganization process. This is usually not the year for short-term success. You should be preparing for the future at least one year ahead. This is not to say that this is a wasted year; this is an excellent Sun placement for those who are working on a long-term project and do not expect to be rewarded or praised until they complete the task at hand. Generally, the fruits of their labor will not be evident until the start of the next solar return year. If the Sun should go to the 10th house the following year, this would be the time of career recognition and praise. If the Sun should fall into the 9th, this could be a time for publication. Authors who write their books with the Sun in the 12th house often present them to publishers as the Sun moves into the 9th.

If you are working, you may find it difficult to gain recognition now for the work that you are doing. Again, you might have to wait until next year when you complete a long-term project. But some individuals with this Sun placement work in a back room forgotten by management. They rarely deal with the public on a regular basis unless they are a voice over the telephone. The work they produce is unsigned and anonymous. A good example of this kind of work situation would be the publication of a newsletter that does not carry your name as writer or editor. You may hope to finally receive the recognition you deserve in the following year, but if you have your doubts, you might consider switching jobs.

If you are a housewife with children, you may prefer to spend more time at home. A demanding domestic situation will cause you to retreat from extra commitments and a hectic social schedule. You might have a major project you are working to complete, such as redecorating your home, but more simply, the demands of your family and children can be overwhelming. Numerous responsibilities will drain your energy and time alone helps you to recuperate.

This is also the year of the "closet personality." People will wonder where you have been and what you are up to since you will tend not to be self-disclosing. Perhaps your reputation is

clouded. You might feel egoless. You are less likely to make demands on others and more likely to accept things passively, even though it is unusual for you to act this way. You can ignore feelings, thoughts or even desires for the sake of another person, especially if that person is in need. Negatively, you may be trying to bite your tongue and keep peace rather than defend yourself or say what is on your mind. If you are consciously trying to hide something, you can be secretive and deceiving, but it is also possible that others actively deceive you. It is more usual to be confused than deceptive or deceived; more positive to be enlightened than disillusioned.

This might be a year when you are involved with the sick or disabled. The individual with Sun in the 12th is usually a good Samaritan. He or she spends time helping those who are incapacitated or confined, visiting friends, neighbors or relatives in the hospital. Compassion increases this year, but it is better to help those who are truly in need than those who refuse to respond or take responsibility for themselves. Beware of the savior-victim syndrome. This is a very negative manifestation resulting from intense involvement with alcoholics, drug addicts, or mentally unstable people. You may think you can help them, and they may look to you for assistance, but as the year progresses you see that they are slipping back into their old patterns and you feel drained, used and disillusioned. Steer clear of these kinds of people in personal relationships and use your compassion to direct them toward professional therapists. Working with these kinds of individuals professionally, however, may be very fulfilling for you.

This is a year that can be unstructured and Neptunian. Your goals and philosophy may evolve slowly as the year goes on; consequently, it will not be to your advantage to structure and plan your schedule far in advance. Some individuals will feel that they have little control over situations because the needs of others overwhelm their own needs and they are easily sidetracked. Some will not have good control over their minds either. Those individuals who were counseling candidates before the year begins usually find this to be a very difficult year. Mental afflictions and neurosis are possible for those who do not seek counseling when they need it.

Healthy individuals may notice more anxiety and nervousness as unconscious patterns surface and create difficulties. You might be phobic, worried, indecisive, less confident, or less assertive. If you are already in therapy and have been for a while, this is the time when you begin to see previously hidden patterns of behavior. You are able to put everything together and long-term issues finally become resolved.

It is important that you get proper rest and nourishment. When the Sun is in the 12th house, you may be more easily drained physically and emotionally. You need time alone for contemplation and planning; illness is one way to get it. This is more likely to happen if you are overwhelmed by numerous responsibilities which you do not allow yourself to avoid. Learn to say no. Time spent alone in reflection can give you a renewed sense of faith in the Universe and a new sense of dedication to the role you play in its creation and evolution.

Sun Square Saturn

Sun square or opposite Saturn in the solar return chart implies a sense of structure. Whether

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

This is not meant to be a depressing time, but you must be realistic. Accurate perceptions of existing situations are essential to either accept or alter future expectations. For those anticipating fantastic or overly idealistic outcomes, reality can be too stark. Some individuals may feel depressed during the solar return year either because their expectations were unrealistic or because they did not put in the necessary effort to manifest what was wanted and/or needed.

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

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

Sun Square 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 Conjunct Mercury

The Sun conjunct Mercury indicates that the intellectual mind is actively involved in the implementation of goals represented by the Sun's solar return house placement. Reading, writing, studying, and communication in all forms will be important along with the decision-making process.

THE MOON IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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.

Solar Return Moon in 8th house:

The 8th house is the house of acute awareness of emotional forces and psychological powers. Nearly all of this awareness will result from a newfound ability to spontaneously perceive information on these subtle levels rather than from a rational analysis of any situation. It is the intense awareness of unconscious emotional and psychological issues that forces conscious insight into human behavior. These realizations can be upsetting and you may end up seeing or knowing more than you care to see or know. Acute awareness is also associated with the Sun in the solar return 8th house, but with the Moon here you are more apt to be emotionally involved with the people and issues concerned. It is likely that someone in your immediate family or circle of friends needs counseling. During the year, you grow more aware of your own emotional needs and psychological forces and you also learn to recognize these influences in others.

It is very likely that you will study some psychology during the year, but you may become aware of psychological influences naturally without any education. Initial insights can come from associating with mentally disturbed people. The intensity of their psychological abnormality is fascinating, yet frightening. It is common to have an 8th house solar return Moon if you are a professional therapist or astrologer just starting to counsel others. Disturbed individuals need not play an important role in your life and may be mere acquaintances. They are not the real focus of your realizations, they are merely the catalyst.

You need to become more aware of the psychological influences affecting you and your immediate relationships. Intense realizations associated with bizarre personalities will give way to insights into subtle manipulations and power plays. Eventually, psychological realizations can occur during the simplest interactions with others. If you are caught in an emotional power struggle, it will become more obvious how you and/or others manipulate rather than state clearly what you need. Psychological complexes and hurt feelings complicate relationships and make it more difficult to discuss problems rationally. Unconscious feelings may undermine conscious decisions. Ambivalence is common. Obsessive-compulsive behavior, jealousy, guilt, unexplained anger, and helplessness are frequently clues that something is wrong.

Recognizing and understanding your own psychological idiosyncrasies will give you great power over your own life. Insights into your defensive reactions will help you overcome barriers to intimacy. Increased intimacy is especially important since superficial relationships and superficial discussions will not suit you this year. You need to be able to talk at length and in depth about what you are feeling and perceiving. It is during these discussions that initial realizations are triggered and later confirmed. It is also during these discussions that you formulate and express new behavioral patterns that sidestep psychological inadequacies.

Emotional situations tend to be more complicated and intense. Issues are no longer black or white, good or bad. Decisions are less straightforward, especially if you feel responsible for the well-being of others. For example, if you have children and were offered a transfer to another

state, you would not make this decision without careful consideration. On one hand, the move may improve your career possibilities, but on the other hand, the move could have a great impact on your children. You must consider the emotional or psychological ramifications of your decisions since they are more likely to affect others.

If partners or family members are moody or unstable, you may have to think before you speak if you want to avoid upsetting responses. You may be in a delicate position requiring great diplomacy and tact. Others can interpret what you say incorrectly or overreact. You will be dealing with intense feelings and may expect others to involve you in very emotional circumstances. If you counsel others professionally, it will be easier for you to control these situations. If these situations are appearing in your personal life, you can deal with them effectively on your own or seek advice.

Increased intuitive accuracy will encourage your reliance on this mode of perception. Psychic and intuitive realizations grow stronger, but may seem less controllable. Even if you do not consider yourself psychic, this is a good time to trust your hunches, but if you are psychologically stressed, you may be less able to distinguish true psychic impulses from fears and anxieties. If this is the case, you should reserve judgment until your powers of discrimination grow stronger.

The Moon in the 8th house can show changing shared resources or economic dependency. If you share funds with your spouse or some other person, the amount of money you receive will change either positively or negatively. On the other hand, your own personal resources are more likely to decrease in comparison. The reduction need not be much, but you are more likely to feel like a dependent rather than an economic equal. There could be very valid reasons for this. For example, you may be on pregnancy leave or attending school. Financial power struggles are possible. You and your partner or someone else may fight over how to handle money or pay bills. These arguments might be very emotional and further complicated by unresolved psychological issues. Clarity and a willingness to discuss needs will help you to reach positive compromises. The Moon in the 8th house also indicates a change in indebtedness. Debts either go up or down but they rarely stay the same.

Moon Trine Mercury

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

You can actively seek out more information about your feelings and conscious motivations

through discussions with others. The key to using this aspect positively is to balance and integrate conscious and unconscious input and work toward a complete unified sense of self.

MERCURY IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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.

Solar Return Mercury in 12th house:

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 Square to Saturn

Mercury square or opposite Saturn suggests a pessimistic outlook on life, and for a few, this might indicate depression. Saturn is associated with realistic perceptions. For those who have

built their lives around fantasy, these perceptions may be too stark or too structured. They may not want to see life as it really is, or they may not know ways to change it. The inability to seek alternative solutions to problems is the origin of much of the stress associated with Mercury square or opposite Saturn. The need for restructuring is evident. Keep after problems until they are solved. Work through frustrations and the objections of others. Problem solving is needed. Producing tangible results by the end of the solar return year can be rewarding.

Learning is associated with Mercury-Saturn aspects and some individuals will seek a formal education while others will rely on reading and personal investigation. Thought processes are directed toward organizing information into structures that are more understandable, practical, and realistic. All forms of organized communication are emphasized, including writing and teaching. Occasionally a feeling of stupidity prompts the need to study a topic in greater depth. The material might be challenging. This is a good time to work on the completion of a major project. You have the ability to channel mental energy into constructive pursuits, even to the point of forcing yourself to finish a difficult and boring task.

Life is organized in such a way that decisions and changes are taken seriously. Choices may be studied in depth before decisions are made. For some, there will be no good and clear choice. Dilemma situations can plague Mercury-Saturn combinations. It is likely that at least one major decision will be made during the year. Sometimes this decision is made under stress and usually it involves great responsibility. For these reasons, you will tend to be conservative. You are looking for changes that produce greater stability, not chaos.

Mercury Square to Mars

Mercury square or opposite Mars in the solar return chart implies assertive ability, but at their worst, these aspects can suggest aggressiveness and great anger. Ongoing conflicts and daily confrontations may occur with very negative manifestations. Those with strong tempers may have trouble controlling their anger. In the heat of the moment, they will say things without thinking about the consequences.

Old unconscious anger and resentment may fuel present conflicts. You may not be fighting for what you believe is right in this situation; instead you fight because you have been wronged in the past. Focusing on angry thoughts and acting out conflicts can be a terrible waste of a good mind.

Mercury-Mars aspects suggest 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 exciting and self-perpetuating even if you study alone. Mercury-Mars aspects show that thoughts can be put into action. Get motivated. Use this time to accomplish many things. Let your experiences teach you along the way.

What is great for the learning process may not be so advantageous when making decisions. The speed normally associated with Mars may indicate that you are impulsive and quick to jump to conclusions. You may not weigh options carefully or research situations thoroughly. Instead,

you can choose to handle circumstances with gut-level reactions rather than considered responses.

VENUS IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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.

Solar Return Venus in 1st house:

Venus in the 1st house is usually indicative of a gentle demeanor. You would not wish to hurt anyone's feelings over transgressions that have occurred in the past, nor for intrusions occurring in the present. It is common to be nonaggressive and even nonassertive with this placement, depending on Mars. Your gentle and nonassertive manner can leave you open to the demands of others. If this is the case, your attention is divided between your needs and the needs of those you are involved with.

As much as you wish to assist others, part of your focus should be centered on meeting your own needs, and protecting your own interests from outside influences. You need free time and energy in order to "do your own thing." For this reason, Venus in the 1st house is associated with self-protection and balance. You may need to learn to protect your own interests from the intrusions, opinions, and demands of others.

The most common form of self-protection associated with this placement is withdrawal from contact with others. You spend more time alone during the year for one reason or another. You probably like being alone and feel you are your own best company. You do not want to give up personal needs and interests just to be with others. Aloneness may be a simple matter of changing environment. Graduates leaving a college dormitory and living alone for the first time might have this placement, as well as individuals engaged or married, yet separated from their loved ones.

Aloneness may alternate with a strong emphasis on relationships, indicating a seesaw, all-or-nothing life-style during the year. But usually "aloneness" carries more meaning and greater importance than merely being by yourself. You may need time alone to take care of your

own interests. For example, a new writer needed more time alone to write an intense novel. She enjoyed working with the fantasy she was creating. Her time alone was used to foster a creative and productive working environment. During the year she tended to avoid superficial and unnecessary social contacts.

Another individual was plagued by the demands of several neighbors. She was home during the day and constantly called upon for help. She did not mind helping others, but her nonassertive personality allowed the demands to become excessive and eventually she had little time to herself. Her neighbors took advantage of her, asking her to do things they would normally do for themselves. She began to leave her phone off the hook and pretend to be out when someone came to the door. She used aloneness as an escape.

The reasons you want to be alone should be indicated by the rest of the solar return chart. You may be running from a situation you find difficult to control or to a situation you wish to create. There are individuals who are able to defend their own interests successfully without escaping. These individuals are more likely to be alone because aloneness has innate value during the year. Nonassertive individuals are more likely to see withdrawal as a form of self-protection.

Benefits, money, and comforts are self-made during the year. Do not expect others to provide for you unless there are other indications in the solar return chart. This is generally not the time for obtaining from others, but rather a time to be good to yourself. You are able to advance through your own efforts, but to do this you must be more aware of your skills and more confident of your abilities. Your greatest opportunities are self-made, and your greatest achievements involve personal satisfaction.

Venus 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.

Venus Trine Mars

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

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

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

MARS IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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.

Solar Return Mars in 9th house:

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 Conjunct Saturn

Mars conjunct Saturn in the solar return chart implies a need for well-planned activity which is strongly based on a realistic assessment of the situation. If you are involved in a major project, personality characteristics such as discipline, perseverance, and organizational ability may be needed for the hard work ahead. This is a good time to work toward completing long-term goals, especially if you appreciate the amount of effort that is involved. You are able to accomplish according to your strengths and acquired skills. Those who are able to work within structures and institutions can be highly productive. Future plans are a direct extension of past events, issues, and experience. Nothing is given and everything must be earned.

That's the good news. The bad news is that your efforts might be thwarted every inch of the way. If you are not ready, if you do not perform in a skilled manner, or put in an honest effort, you will be delayed. In fact, you can be delayed for reasons totally beyond your control and the reasons do not have to be rational or reasonable. Frustrations are common with this combination and seem to arise from the inability to understand which options are available and what problems need to be addressed. Saturn conjunct Mars is like trying to drive a car with the brakes on.

As you strive to succeed in any endeavor, you have to maintain an awareness of societal structures, norms, and institutions. Certain requirements will be expected of you as a member of society. For instance, if you wish to borrow money to purchase your first home, you must deal with a bank or mortgage company and meet their requirements for loan customers. This is a good time to cut back on activities if a realistic reassessment of your feelings and life situation tells you to do so. For instance, if you are a young mother wishing to quit work because you have small children, budgeting finances will be a must. Careful planning can make things possible. Saturn rules reality and practicality. It is not enough to be organized; your plans cannot be implemented if they are unrealistic or impractical. You need to be thorough when you plan.

Limitations may be built into the situation noted by the solar return house placement of Mars and Saturn. Or problems might be personified by a difficult individual. You either have to work with the restraints or deal with a difficult person. In the most negative situation, you could feel like your life is on hold for much of the year.

Freedom can be limited if liberties have been taken in the past. If you have overspent your budget and have now incurred serious debt, your options will be restricted during the coming

year. You, yourself, may decide to limit your expenditures or you may have no other choice but to cut back. If actions are not well planned in the present, or have not been well planned in the past, restrictions, delays, and frustrations are likely to become the norm.

JUPITER IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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.

Solar Return Jupiter in 7th house:

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.

SATURN IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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.

Solar Return Saturn in 9th house:

Saturn in the 9th house is associated with learning in one form or another. Commonly it can signify a formal education in an established university or college, but learning may instead involve an evening class or correspondence course. As a rule, the course of study is established rather than self-taught. Those who wish to continue their formal education on a high school, college or graduate level tend to experience some minor delays or impediments along the way.

For example, one man who was employed full-time in a newly established office felt he could not start his degree program until he had organized his daily work schedule. After six months, when the office routines became easier to handle, he was able to start school without feeling pressured by job demands.

Perfectionism is associated with the need to learn and individuals look forward to attending school when the time is right. They want to be able to devote their full attention to course work and are willing to wait until outside issues are handled. The delaying characteristic for this placement is especially true if Saturn is placed in the 9th house near the 10th house cusp, and it transits by direct motion out of the 9th during the solar return year. Those who do not wish to enter a degree program may take individual courses to suit their needs, but even these courses will tend to be very structured.

On the other hand, some individuals would rather teach than study with this placement. If this is your goal, you must organize your notes into lesson plans. You can experience some frustration until you have structured your thoughts into a well-defined body of knowledge. Those who have already taught in recent years need to reassess their ability to continue teaching, given certain newly developing situations and possible impediments.

The 9th house is also the house of our beliefs, whether philosophical, religious, or mundane. This is a time when you may realize a conflict between what you believe now or have been led to believe in the past, and what you are experiencing in the present. A relationship, activity or professional endeavor you are currently involved in may specifically contradict what you once thought to be true. This situation will continually test your beliefs until you come to conclusions which are more consistent with reality. This conflict can occur on a higher level of thought as readily as it might relate to more common beliefs. Most frequently, it will encompass and affect both. Inconsistencies which exemplify and fuel your awareness of the conflict constantly arise from everyday situations.

Insight can come from the simplest exchange. The extent to which these insights have ramifications on either higher or mundane thoughts is directly related to the individual's level of consciousness and ability to focus on multidimensional issues. For example, a nurse practitioner dealing with mostly low-income elderly patients in a clinic environment was surprised to learn that doctors who prescribed medicine for high blood pressure and heart disease frequently neglected to counsel these individuals about the positive effect of dietary control regarding these two illnesses. The nurse practitioner had a strong background and belief in the holistic field and found this lack of attention to the whole individual upsetting, counterproductive and not in keeping with the Hippocratic Oath.

In another example, a lay person who regularly participated as a church assistant doing charity work aimed at helping the poor began to question the pastor's allocation of funds to various projects. Money was being diverted to finance the pastor's need for comfort. This individual spent much of the year pondering his faith, his allegiance to his pastor, and his belief in what the church stood for.

Hypocrisy seems to keynote this Saturn placement. You are acutely aware of what others espouse and whether or not they practice what they preach. You are also acutely aware of those philosophies and beliefs which differ greatly from your own. These philosophical inconsistencies and differences are to help you discriminate what is real and true for your own life path. You must verify your current and developing beliefs within the context of daily experiences and immediate life situations.

Established beliefs form the backbone of the decision-making process. Normally they are meant to have helpful, practical applications to issues, conflicts and situations we face. Those beliefs which dangle in mid-air without any substantiation are useless. Remember, the 9th house is also the house of prejudices, intolerance, and beliefs not based on fact. You could be overly critical of others and their beliefs, setting standards too high for anyone to reach. Saturn indicates that the weeding-out process has begun and a realistic reassessment of all beliefs is called for.

URANUS IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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.

Solar Return Uranus in 1st house:

Uranus in the 1st house of the solar return is usually indicative of strong and dramatic transitions. It is very likely that you will consider making a major change in your life-style, location or even appearance during the coming year. The transformations that arise from the restlessness associated with the 1st house Uranus can be far-reaching and affect many other areas of life. If you are aware of your own restlessness, you can not only welcome the coming changes, but initiate them yourself. This is meant to be an exciting time, though somewhat nerve-wracking. Generally, major changes are the norm, but occasionally minor changes suffice. Major changes include, but are not limited to, relocations across country or at least across state lines, life-style changes (divorce, living alone or out on your own, communal arrangements or living together, stopping work, starting work, or returning to school), and individual changes associated with personality characteristics or appearance (increased assertiveness, greater demands for independence, and a noticeable weight loss or gain).

You can expect a change of pace if your current life-style no longer meets your needs and you feel bored, restricted or restless. It's time for a fresh start and it is to your advantage to take

risks and make the necessary changes. Assess the solar return position of Saturn for an understanding of the kind of risk you are willing to take, and what realistic criteria must be met for you to make changes easily. If Saturn is prominent in the solar return chart, you are more apt to take calculated risks, planning your moves carefully rather than jumping into situations quickly. This should be reassuring to those individuals who find it more threatening to deal with Uranian impulses.

Most changes center around your need and ability to act independently. There is a strong desire for freedom of action and you perform not as a corporate player, but as a free agent. The activities you are involved in may require you to function separately, without the assistance or agreement of significant others. Some individuals seek or finalize a divorce during the year and sever existing ties completely. Others form new, exciting or unconventional relationships. Although you may be relationship-oriented, you may not necessarily be partnership-oriented. If other factors in the chart so indicate, an extramarital affair is possible, but this is certainly not the norm. The predominant need is to take action on your own and for your own sake. In at least one area of your life, you must make your own decisions and function as a separate unit. Nearly everyone can do this while still maintaining existing partnerships, but it is important that those you are involved with give you enough freedom to grow and change. Now is the time to get in touch with your own unique individuality, and to do this, you may have to act differently from others or differently from the way you have acted in the past, breaking old patterns of behavior. Realize that you will probably not adhere to your old standard of behavior. Those who are particularly Uranian may not adhere to social norms either. Personality experimentation is possible and can help get you moving.

Your behavior may get erratic or downright disruptive. If others around you are not adequately prepared for the changes you are making, they will see you as undependable, unpredictable or even out of control. Understand that others may see this whole process as lacking stability. Your concentration can be easily interrupted, and you may find it difficult to work consistently on a project, preferring to work during strong bursts of energy. Uranus does not represent a steady pattern of energy use, but an erratic pulse that moves in fits and starts toward growth and change. Move when the restless energy is there and rest when it is not. Work with the internal process and do not get trapped into a rigid schedule. Activities will not be well-planned since spontaneity seems to be the norm and plans you do formulate tend to get changed.

If you are really rut-bound and fear making any changes at all, the people around you will make the changes for you. Your life can become disrupted by others, especially if you are trying to remain the same while buffeted by the winds of change. Surprises and unexpected upheavals will be the norm as life gets unpredictable. This is a time for a flexible schedule. Own your own restlessness and welcome positive changes.

NEPTUNE IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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.

Solar Return Neptune in 12th house:

Neptune in the 12th indicates the possibility of confusion at the unconscious level. In some cases, this confusion leads to free-floating anxiety. During the year, inconsistencies exist between what you experience intuitively and what you are told by others. Glaring contradictions make it difficult to know what to believe. There is a question here of who is right. Learn to trust your own instincts and Higher Self, while suspending judgment for the time being. There are subtle forces at work and the object of this placement is to become more sensitized to less apparent energies. You are aided in this endeavor by discrepancies between what you are told and what you sense. These inconsistencies force you to see two separate, yet distinct pieces of information. If there were no contradiction, you would miss the more subtle message. Learn to be sensitive to what is left unsaid, yet do not confront others with your newfound truth. Discretion is needed. Also, do not become a detective sneaking around searching for confirmation. All will be made known to you. Time will eventually prove the information right or wrong. In the meantime, you can allow the two separate pieces of information to exist in your head for most of the year.

The inner self is not always right, though the Higher Self is; however, the Higher Self would never be preoccupied with the discovery of mundane proof. This is a sure sign that you are dealing with a fear rather than an intuitive insight. Anxiety is born of fear, while insight leads to enlightenment. Those who are obsessed with mundane truth must realize that neurosis is also associated with Neptune in the 12th house. Those who refuse to accept the truth they see, and consistently push for more proof, suffer great inner tension from suppressed information. Eventually, severe anxiety and even neurosis can ensue. True insight is used to develop understanding and compassion for others and is never used as an invasion of privacy. For this reason, the truth of the matter is not essential, only compassion and understanding are. These you can foster without all the facts.

Spiritual growth is very important at this time if you are to handle new information wisely. You need to develop a sense of trust in the Higher Self and God. It may be that you must subsist on trust for most of the year without any concrete proof or understanding until the year's end. The more you believe in yourself and the Higher forces, the easier this time of uncertainty will be. The most recent spiritual insight should be sufficient for the time being. Pushing immediately for further enlightenment leads to confusion and disillusionment. Wait until the time is right. While you are on the spiritual path, learn the value of not revealing everything you know or have experienced. Others may not be ready for inner truth and will be threatened by what you say. Unnecessary confrontations or challenges may ensue.

It is not enough to be materially successful; fulfillment is also important. Life situations tend to focus on inner satisfaction rather than immediate material attainment. Trusting in Divine

guidance leads you to fulfilling circumstances. If you have a strong spiritual sense of what you want to do, trust the Universe to provide you with the means to accomplish the task. An act of service may be required to get there.

PLUTO IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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.

Solar Return Pluto in 10th house:

Pluto in the 10th house is indicative of a strong career or destiny transition. Important decisions are made during the year, and these decisions will have a lasting effect. The tendency is to come to a fork in the road, and your psychological response to the options offered sets the pattern for future growth.

On a mundane level, most of the emphasis centers on a career push which may or may not involve a change in profession or employment. Some individuals change or lose jobs, while others forge ahead in their present positions, acquiring power and authority through promotion. Generally, changes are occurring on external and internal levels, so both job and attitudinal changes are likely. If you own and operate your own company, it is time to reassess your goals for the future, and the way you do business in the present. Certain practices or structures can

limit your future business needs. You might choose to expand, streamline or shut down.

Pluto rules births, and deaths, and complicated processes. Problems must be addressed, and whatever you plan to initiate, the transition will probably evolve over a year's time. If you are employed by others, you might wish to change jobs, especially if old professional pursuits are no longer fulfilling. On the other hand, you can instill new life into your old job. Introducing new concepts, tasks and philosophies to your manager or co-workers can lead to a changed job description, or future career possibilities. Ambition is implied by this placement, and advancement is possible for those who are willing to work for it, or are able to negotiate the corporate power structure. A compulsive push for success now will enable you to make career moves which propel you to a higher professional bracket. Use ambition to hang in there for the long haul and finish those long-term projects which are crucial to advancement.

Career difficulties are also associated with Pluto in the 10th house. Sometimes the push for success ends in a power struggle for advancement or a manipulative conflict for psychological supremacy. Controlling power is an issue here, and sometimes the emphasis is on a negative exploitation of position and authority. You can be the victim or the perpetrator; most likely you play both roles. An obsession with advancement breeds workaholic tendencies and an unhealthy working environment. Within this climate, power plays begin to take precedence over promotion as manipulative tactics disrupt normal business. Just as hard work and healthy ambition push you toward success, psychological complexes and power struggles can thwart your efforts. Within this arena of struggle, conflicts with an authority figure are possible, and not just those in the business world. Government officials, probation officers and sometimes parents fall into the authoritarian category. If you are in a middle management position, how you handle authority can be as important as how well you follow directions.

Power issues are not limited to the work environment, but will arise in all areas of life. The type of power you are attuned to will be representative of the area of awareness you are working on. Some will be made aware of physical force, others psychological control, still others will focus on spiritual power. Each level of insight can correspond to an awakening. Although the 10th house is the house of career, it is also the house of destiny, and of those issues and choices which will have a strong effect on the destiny path.

It is during this year that some are given a destiny choice. They may continue in their current pattern of growth and behavior, or they may make a leap in consciousness. There is a fork in the road and a decision to be made. You will not pass this way again. The opportunity is now and the only thing standing in the way is fear. Options are so far reaching that they produce remarkable changes which might force old situations and relationships to fall away or completely transform. The magnitude of the decision will not escape you. But the choice is there for those who wish to go on to greater things. The destiny change is made through the use and awareness of power on one level or another. A choice of this caliber can be made in the career arena where one learns to effectively use power in the business world, or the choice can be made in the personal arena. For some the choice concerns the use of spiritual power. Choices and the effective use of power affect the pattern of growth for many years to come.
