

SOLAR RETURN READING FOR AMANDA

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Amanda: 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 passé 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	9 Lib 18	Neptune	25 Lib 11
Moon	15 Sag 03	Pluto	26 Leo 02
Mercury	4 Sco 31	Asc.	0 Ari 56
Venus	21 Sco 43	MC	0 Cap 33
Mars	18 Cap 37	2nd cusp	9 Tau 52
Jupiter	26 Can 50	3rd cusp	7 Gem 35
Saturn	8 Sco 14	5th cusp	23 Can 37
Uranus	27 Can 16	6th cusp	21 Leo 36

Private Info was here

Astrological Data of Solar Return:

Sun	9 Lib 18	Neptune	26 Aqu 15
Moon	27 Can 49	Pluto	2 Cap 53
Mercury	28 Vir 11	Asc.	24 Lib 14
Venus	12 Sco 38	MC	26 Can 41
Mars	11 Sco 58	2nd cusp	22 Sco 38

Jupiter 26 Pis 56
Saturn 7 Lib 56
Uranus 28 Pis 10

3rd cusp 23 Sag 46
5th cusp 29 Aqu 13
6th cusp 28 Pis 49

Private Info was here

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.

ELEMENTS, MODES, QUADRANTS, AND RETROGRADE PLANETS

Zero or One Fire Planet

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

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

Five or More Water Planets

The emphasis on water in your solar return is related to an increase in unconscious impulses and psychological factors. You may be more psychic or intuitive, but some negative psychological traits such as fears, phobias, dependencies, obsessions, and compulsions may pop into your behavioral repertoire. These need not cause you discomfort, but you will have a tendency to react to life from a feeling level rather than from a clear avenue of conscious thought. This is a good time to work with your feelings and create a stronger bond of nurturing and caring with others.

You are apt to be more sensitive to emotional stimuli this year. A very positive manifestation would be a love relationship. Your feelings for family, parents, children, and friends may be more poignant. But a preponderance of water can also symbolize an overwhelming emotional nature. You can lead with your heart, refuse to see things logically, and ignore your own best advice. There is a tendency to be more anxious or worried. If you feel overwhelmed by your own emotions and the problems of others, this is an excellent time to see a counselor.

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.

Amanda 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.

Amanda, 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 Aspects Saturn

Sun-Saturn aspects in the solar return chart tend to imply a sense of structure. Whether this structure becomes supportive or restrictive is up to the individual's ability to handle Saturnian issues in a positive manner. This is not meant to be a depressing time, but it does entail stark realism. Accurate perceptions of existing situations are essential to either accepting or changing future expectations. The refusal to accept responsibility for one's own life situation or to work within obvious limitations can lead to frustration, isolation, and loneliness. Limitations are not an essential characteristic of Saturnian aspects, but denote a need to be more realistic and patient. Changes are slow and involve careful planning, hard work, and discipline. Many times a major project is being worked on for most of the year.

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 10th house:

The Moon in the 10th house suggests changes in career, or professional tasks you are asked to perform. While the Moon in the 6th house can indicate minor changes in working conditions, the Moon in the 10th house generally implies changes that are far more significant, either in the

immediate future or several years down the road. Minor changes can occur and may involve shifting positions or departments within the same company, but it is more likely that this shift includes important changes in your job tasks. For example, a secretary accustomed to working on a typewriter was asked to do secretarial work on a new computer. Eventually, this individual went on to a career in word-processing because of this experience.

Changes occurring during the year can be very beneficial. This is a good time to focus on career development and take advantage of professional opportunities as they arise. Many times your reputation plays a key role in the professional events of the year. Everything you do at work will be more public this year. If you perform well, you will receive the recognition you deserve; but if you perform poorly, your mistakes will be very noticeable.

Job security can be an important issue and you may feel that your position is threatened in some way. The company you work for could be having financial difficulties, or conditions within the company might seem unstable. The Moon is less apt to indicate that you lose your job or are laid-off; serious job changes are more likely to be suggested by Saturn or Uranus in the 10th house. However, firings and layoffs can and have occurred while the Moon was in the 10th house. Usually the individuals involved were controversial figures who were unpopular, and had acquired a negative reputation. As a rule, most changes are directly or indirectly within your control. Even those who lose their jobs play a role in their own misfortune.

The Moon can indicate public recognition as well as recognition within the company. You can have more contact with the public than previously. You could move to a position involving public service, relations or communication. For some individuals, the Moon in the 10th house indicates notoriety and a public reputation. The publicity can be either good or bad. This is a good time to focus on your dealings with the public and to use the media positively. If you are a politician, you can develop a following. If you are a salesperson, you can key in on the wants and needs of your customers. Emotional intuitiveness can serve you well in your dealings with the public at large.

Moon Aspects Uranus

Probably the most common activity associated with a Moon-Uranus aspect in a solar return chart is moving from one home to another. You may move yourself, or help someone either move in or out of your home. Domestic changes are likely. Usually, a certain amount of disruption transpires in the home. Expect breaks in your daily routine and habits. Most likely, relationships are also changing. You could be involved in a new relationship, or an old one may be going through a period of transition or separation. Either you or your partner initiates these changes.

Strong attractions are possible at this time, but this is not the most common manifestation. If you feel you are caught in an emotional rut, changes are more likely to occur. The external changes you experience in relationships are the direct result of internal restlessness. It stands to reason that if your situation and emotional needs change, you will be faced with new issues and problems, and be required to develop new ways of expressing yourself emotionally. This is one way to break inhibitions. The involvement in new situations will accentuate your ability or

inability to handle emotions and relationships in a positive way. At the very worst, emotional control will be difficult and feelings will be erratic. You may be overwhelmed one day and detached or cool the next. You could say or do things without really considering the emotional consequences, but then, this might free you up to make necessary changes quickly and easily.

Moon Aspects Jupiter

Moon in aspect to Jupiter suggests that your ability to express your feelings within a significant relationship is important to your own emotional growth during the year, and also to the growth of the relationship. Jupiter symbolizes your ability to expand and the Moon symbolizes your feeling nature. Together in aspect, they emphasize the process of sharing emotions, having those emotions understood, and growing from the interchange. For example, if you are involved in counseling, this exchange is crucial to the therapeutic process. If you are involved in a serious relationship, sharing your feelings is very important for the development of greater intimacy. Problems expressing your feelings or reaching a level of understanding will cause emotional stagnation and eventually strain your relationships.

Some real or imagined barrier to expressing feelings can exist with this aspect, and it is important that you break through this barrier and be understood if emotional growth is to occur. Sometimes the barrier is really no problem at all, but a wonderful opportunity for openness. Expansion through emotional interchange and relatedness is the key. It can come about by overcoming barriers or creating rewarding opportunities.

Moon-Jupiter aspects sometimes imply overwhelming emotions. You do best with objective feedback from others. Your perception may be distorted if you keep your feelings isolated. It is just as important for you to convey cheerful emotions as serious feelings, especially if you are in a situation where enthusiasm could motivate others. For instance, if you are working on a humanitarian project and you need volunteers, your ability to inspire others with your enthusiasm will help your cause.

Moon Aspects Mercury

Moon-Mercury aspects emphasize the need for integration of unconscious feelings with conscious thoughts. If 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 combined with intuitive insight. When the conscious and unconscious are working together, you are more likely to make good decisions which satisfy your emotional needs. The conscious mind can be used to channel unconscious feelings into creative projects. Channeling can also be very therapeutic.

You can actively seek out more information about your feelings and motivations through discussions. But when the conscious and the unconscious function separately, the native experiences two distinct and contradictory pieces of information. It is often difficult to make decisions since you arrive at two mutually exclusive conclusions. You could consciously override or suppress your feelings and emotional needs. On the other hand, you may react

without thinking. The key to using this aspect positively is to balance and integrate conscious and unconscious input and work toward a complete sense of self.

MERCURY IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

Mercury has two basic interpretations in the solar return chart: it symbolizes both your mental condition during the coming year and what you are thinking about. The first task involved in understanding Mercury's interpretation is to evaluate the indicators for mental conditioning and the possible sources of tension.

Mercury in 11th house (within 3 degree orb of 12th house)

The 10th house rules laws and standards established by society to govern groups of people. Because they were prepared for the masses, they may not fit all individual situations or meet individual needs. The 11th house rules laws and standards established by the individual after reevaluating society's restrictions and regulations in light of personal experience. With this Mercury placement, you will probably question social restrictions in an attempt to personalize limitations and understand their usefulness in your present situation. It is possible that your needs as an individual conflict with society's expectations. For example, if you are involved in a very difficult marriage and you are attracted to someone new, you might toy with the idea of having an affair. Pressure and needs relevant to your personal situation may contradict social restrictions. Because Mercury usually relates to a mental exercise, it is not necessary that you actually transgress social norms or experience compromising situations. Your reassessment may consist of a continuing intellectual or theoretical debate running through your mind for most of the year. But it is essential that you question the rules by which you live your daily life, and that you develop a new personal code of ethics.

The 11th house also emphasizes group needs versus individual needs. Therefore it is common for the individual to be involved with a group or social situation which focuses on balancing these two energies. You may be involved in a group because you are more likely to attain goals through a combined effort than working independently. You may need to share thoughts and experiences with others and establish new goals for the future. The group you are involved in may be primarily intellectual or social, but it is also possible that the group is working toward a common goal. Communication among group members or the discussion of pressing issues may be an important part of the group efforts. Mercury in the 11th house may indicate self-help groups, although these groups are more closely associated with the Moon or Mars in the 11th, especially if Mercury is squared by a planet in the 1st house.

Some organized groups tend to support group needs and goals over the needs of the individual. The individual may feel compromised in this situation. For example, a new collective business group hired a full-time advertising person to promote their business. They needed to hold down expenses since finances were limited. The person creating and placing the ads believed in the group efforts, but he needed to live off the salary received. In this case, the group goal of holding down expenses was not consistent with the individual's need to earn a good salary and provide a valuable service. The balance of individual needs versus group needs is usually emphasized in some way when Mercury is in the 11th house.

A question of personal freedom underlies the issues of Mercury in the 11th house. Whether you are dealing with friends, groups or society at large, the amount of individual freedom you enjoy is controlled to a certain degree by the relationships you have. You must accept certain restrictions and considerations so that your behavior does not impinge on the rights and freedoms of others. Therefore issues related to monogamy in a relationship or loyalty among friends may be important.

Since this is a decisive year for goals, the process of questioning established norms is particularly important. This is a time when you should be open to the new ideas and directions so necessary to the formulation of future goals. The questioning process opens your mind to original ways of thinking and frees you from unnecessary restrictions. The reevaluation process also helps you distinguish practical goals from unrealistic dreams. Mercury in the 11th house can suggest that you are able to justify theoretically your need for freedom from pointless restraint in order to pursue new goals for the future.

Mercury within 3 degree orb of 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 Aspects Pluto

Pluto aspecting Mercury in the solar return chart may indicate that your conscious mind is very aware of unconscious material and psychological complexes. This awareness may originate from naturally occurring insights into human behavior or educational pursuits. You are better able to perceive what is unspoken or hidden. Motivations will be clearer to you even when they are not stated. Manipulations and psychological games will also be more obvious. Most likely this awareness will not be one-sided. You will be as aware of your own unconscious nature as you are of psychological complexes in others. Resurfacing unconscious material can spill over into everyday consciousness and distorting perceptions and thinking patterns.

If you are involved in repetitious verbal battles over ideology, preAmance, or intolerance, realize that these confrontations are related to your own psychological tendencies. They are not the sole product of other minds. Being very aware of these psychological forces can be stressful, especially if you know more than you are capable of handling. This is an excellent time for counseling, should you feel the need. The implication here is that knowledge is power, and specifically in this case, it is knowledge about the unconscious mind which conveys power to those who are aware of it and able to gain insights from it. This information is as valuable as intellectual facts gained from school. The more you understand about the unconscious, the more you are able to control your own impulses or resist the manipulative behavior of others. Although initially this increased psychological awareness may be stressful in itself, the understanding and control you achieve in the end can actually lead to stress reduction.

Mercury Aspects Uranus

Uranus-Mercury aspects suggest that you are open to new ideas which may take the form of new information you are learning or new concepts you are developing yourself. These aspects can show great creativity since they imply that the individual is able to approach problems from many different angles and is not locked into one structured way of thinking. Use this time to be innovative and original. Brainstorm with others. But, because your mind is somewhat unstructured, your ability to think clearly may be interrupted by erratic impulses and an inability to concentrate over any length of time. New information may be more exciting than reorganizing what you already know. If you must work on a major project that requires sustained mental energy, take frequent breaks.

There is the possibility that you will subject yourself to psychologically stressful situations during the year. Increased nervousness, anxiety, and irrational thinking may be directly related to these stressful situations. Question the necessity for excessive tension in your life. If possible, withdraw from those situations that tax your mental and physical health. You may want to practice relaxation techniques and avoid stimulants. Work on calming and nurturing your nervous system.

Mercury Aspects Jupiter

While Saturn-Mercury aspects are associated with pessimism, Jupiter, on the other hand, can imply optimism, and confidence. You may look forward to the future with great enthusiasm. But what you believe to be possible may differ from your actual experience. Optimism can lead to miscalculations and poor decisions if you overestimate your chances for success or underestimate the amount of time you will require to complete a task. Overscheduling is directly related to this inability to foresee possible future difficulties. You might assume that tasks are quite simple, when in fact they are very difficult. You may not be able to honor deadlines and promises you have made if they are unrealistic. The tendency is to overwhelm yourself with too many tasks or projects, too many details to remember. Stress results from these miscalculations.

For some, stress may also result from a lack of congruity between more philosophical beliefs (ruled by Jupiter) and daily experience (ruled by Mercury). You might find it difficult to believe what you see and hear. Situations you are involved in can directly conflict with long-held philosophical, ethical, and religious beliefs. You may not now practice what you once preached. Very narrow minds will steadfastly hold on to basic beliefs which are contradicted by personal experience. These individuals will be unable to make the philosophical adjustments necessary to accommodate new information. Do not allow intolerance and hypocrisy to limit your possibilities. This is a good time to expand your mind. Return to school, join a discussion group or study on your own.

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 Aspects Mars

Mars-Venus aspects in a solar return chart imply that actions either support or conflict with a relationship's needs. It is important for partners to be supportive of each other's actions and to appreciate what is being done. For example, a couple combined their efforts and totally redecorated an investment property they owned. Each partner contributed his or her own talents and abilities. Their individual efforts complemented each other and got the job done.

Actions can be either conflicted or supportive. Relationships that are faltering to begin with become combative involvements in which the participants undermine independent or joint efforts and fight over money. Sexual attraction and satisfaction are important factors in both new and established relationships and contribute to or detract from their success or failure. Financial cuts are possible, but it is more likely that you must hustle for the money you do receive. The harder you work, the more you are likely to earn.

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 1st house:

This is a year when you seem to have more energy, especially if you do your own thing and enjoy what you are doing. You can get an earlier start, last longer, and work harder. For those who are interested in body work, this is a great time for physical exercise. You could have more energy than you can easily contain and it is to your advantage to work it off in a variety of ways, both physically and intellectually. The energy surge should also be channeled into practical projects. You have the ability to conceive of a plan and independently complete a task. Most likely, the task you choose to work on requires much personal initiative and self-motivation.

This is the year to get in touch with your unique drive for accomplishment. Ego fulfillment and self-interest are important at this time since personal needs are more pressing and demand your attention. You could accomplish a lot if you focus on these needs and allow activities to develop naturally. Much good can eventually arise from your desire to meet and fulfill present and future personal goals. For example, one individual started his own business with Mars in the 1st house with Saturn. He was able to channel his physical energy and organizational ability into a productive accomplishment which required many hours on the job. By the end of the year, he was totally self-sufficient and able to enjoy a very independent life-style. Before quitting his former job, he was very angry and frustrated, but the positive use of his feeling of job dissatisfaction led to the new career.

It is true that the seeds sown this year tend to reflect self-interest, but the goal may not be selfish at all. The intent is to apply energy toward self-actualization, and in doing so the ego is able to foster new projects and develop strengths which were previously unrealized. You should feel good about personal application and hard work as long as you don't overtax yourself and your energy is not drained away by conflict, or by too many diverse interests.

Despite your high level of energy, you can attempt to do too many things at one time. Time is limited and handling several activities adequately will be difficult. The conflicts you experience with others naturally push you toward functioning on your own (which may be the ultimate goal of this placement), but it is to your advantage to balance all the needs in your life. Failure to recognize personal needs while overemphasizing the needs of others can lead to much anger. Selfish preoccupation can lead to conflict.

Anger in any form is certainly an issue during the year. This is not the time for passivity, and you should be more vocal about what you want. If you feel compelled to defend your rights, you can do this without alienating others. Persistent anger is a negative manifestation and a misuse of energy. You can become your own worst enemy by either abusing others (in the name of anger and self-defense) or allowing yourself to be exploited (self-destruction). In either case, anger drains away your stamina and prevents you from being more productive. It undermines

your ability to accomplish. Although your anger is aroused more quickly this year, it is important to handle conflicts effectively. Use assertiveness to take corrective action and then channel your energy in more positive ways.

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.

Jupiter in 5th house (within 3 degree orb of 6th house)

The overall interpretation of Jupiter in the 5th house is expanded self-expression. There are a number of ways you might seek to manifest this growth. Most people begin by letting their inner personalities show more in daily-life situations, but then go on to branch out into new fields of interest. For example, one woman took flying lessons and learned to love flying. She subsequently took a job selling airplanes at a small local airport. She left a job in a family-run business which had always stripped her of time and energy. For her, flying became the symbol of her own breaking away. Being free to express yourself naturally is an issue with this placement, and you will tend to seek out those situations which allow for greater latitude and fewer restrictions. Then, as you grow to express yourself more and more during the year, you not only gain self-understanding, but you also learn to accept who you are as a person.

Artistic endeavors and creative or inventive pursuits can help to foster the externalization of inner traits and the expansion of personal expression. This is the time to experiment with new techniques and media. The freedom and risks associated with a new creative endeavor parallel the freedom and risks in an evolving and expanding personal expression.

The possibility of a love relationship exists with Jupiter in the 5th house and this is another way individuals seek greater freedom. You may be attracted to those who are already free themselves and can therefore help you to become freer to grow into new areas. Sometimes the focus of growth is not in a specific field of interest, but a pervasive desire to be free of inhibitions. Youth can be a factor in the attraction, though not always. Relationships may or may not be sexual in nature, but ethical-moral or spiritual concerns commonly affect your involvement, and monogamy or loyalty to one person might be the issue. Regardless of sexual involvement, the moral right to free self-expression takes precedence. No one has the right to control and stifle another's personal or artistic creativity, and those individuals caught in a restrictive partnership are more likely to look for a way out and somebody to assist in their escape. Spiritual connections between lovers could enhance the attraction and love, regardless of whether or not both have an interest in the spiritual realm. Relationships sometimes function on this level with one or both lovers intuitively understanding the other, and one or both generating philosophical insights and concepts leading to a spiritual connection.

Children also require greater freedom and this can be the year they go off to daycare, school, camp or college. This change affords parents more free time as well. If you have experienced difficulties relating to your children in the past, conditions may improve this year and it is a good time to open up the lines of communication. Large expenses associated with educating or supporting your children are possible, and one might wish to save for this expenditure if it is anticipated. Your children have some very positive opportunities and they should be encouraged to apply for scholarships and awards, or to place themselves in positions for advancement or recognition. This interpretation is contingent on their age, qualifications, and field of expertise.

Jupiter within 3 degree orb of 6th house

Generally, your job tends to get both easier and more enjoyable while Jupiter is in the 6th

house. How this comes about varies. Working conditions can improve and good co-worker relationships are possible. Friendly interchanges with clients, customers, fellow employees, and the cultivation of a helpful attitude could prove very beneficial to you personally and the general climate of the office. During the year, physical as well as attitudinal changes specific to the environment can enhance your surroundings, making them more pleasurable. For instance, your office might become smoke-free, you might move to a bigger or nicer location, or new procedures could streamline your workload.

You function at your best when you are given the freedom to handle tasks in your own way and at your own speed. Flexible schedules might be instituted, allowing you to set your own hours. This flexibility may arise because of your position, seniority, or changes in office policy. You may want to take time off or cut back on hours, which should not be a problem unless Jupiter is heavily aspected, implying a complicated situation. With this placement, the workload is often shared with co-workers who cover for you while you are gone. It is also possible that the job situation is such that you can easily take time off. You might need to do this to handle other pressing responsibilities.

Job benefits, incentives or awards are possible with this placement, and you can benefit directly or indirectly from your position as either boss or employee. Rewards can be monetary, as in a promotion or raise, or otherwise (e.g., travel). Opportunities arise for advancement or on-the-job training. Watch for these and take advantage of them.

The daily running of the office either competes with or contributes to career goals. The problem here is that you will not be pushed to complete long-term projects and daily short-term projects will interfere. Motivation is a problem when a laissez-faire attitude exists.

Health improves as long as you do not overindulge or make excessive demands on your body. The possibility of your health improving is most noticeable immediately following a difficult year punctuated by health problems. New or old difficulties arising during the year are generally directly associated with present or past overindulgences. Excesses of all kinds are a danger, even sudden and excessive exercising since you may push yourself to the point of injury. Included also are alcoholic and dietary excesses. Because of the tendency toward overeating, you can gain weight, but it is just as likely, and perhaps even more so initially, to try to eat a nutritious well-balanced diet. This is the time to pay more attention to what you are eating. Becoming mindful and better informed will make you an educated consumer. Since Jupiter rules higher education, you may be less likely to eat junk food and more likely to eat foods that are good for you.

Unfortunately, Jupiter's negative manifestation is the inability to exist for long in a state of moderation. Jupiter in the 6th is a perfect set-up for "yo-yo" dieting. You may lose a lot of weight, only to gain it all back if you have not assimilated the knowledge which originally created the loss. It is knowledge that supports your most positive actions and establishes a sense of balance and moderation leading to good health. Creating natural limits through educated responses to stimuli is the task of this placement.

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 12th house:

Saturn in the 12th house implies the presence of unconscious blockages which must be overcome. Failure to overcome these inhibitions will lead to limitations in what would usually be considered normal activity. The emotions governing these limitations are fear and guilt, and breaking free generally involves much anxiety. You must face your own fears before you can go on with the maturation process, since presently they prevent you from branching out and taking

risks when you should develop greater freedom of movement. Frequent fear issues include, but are not limited to: fears of not being loved or being rejected; fears of inadequacy with a constant need for reassurance; fears concerning sexual performance or orientation; and fears of losing control or being overpowered. Many times the fear-producing issue is ill-defined and ill-founded, but supported by self-defeating attitudes, free-floating anxiety, and heightened vulnerability. For these reasons, fears associated with psychic impressions are not unheard of.

Guilt is the other most common unconscious restriction. There may be certain things you will do, or other things you will not do, simply because of the guilt you will feel one way or the other. If you are being controlled by guilt and do not investigate or understand these feelings, you will continue to feel forced to behave in certain ways. For example, a middle-aged woman who lived with and cared for her elderly mother found she was both tied down and drained by her mother's constant need for care and attention. But she repeatedly refused to seek out a part-time nurse or companion to stay with her mother while she pursued her own interests. Every time she left her mother with other family members, she would return to find the older woman somewhat disoriented and confused. She would interpret this disorientation as her own fault and feel guilty for leaving. Eventually, she became totally tied down by her mother's unconscious signals for attention.

Saturn in the 12th is the astrological equivalent of a responsibility vacuum cleaner. There is the tendency to feel responsible (and subsequently guilty) for everything that goes wrong. You will tend not to delegate authority easily and will try to do everything yourself, perfectly, all the time. In short, you overcompensate for real or imagined shortcomings. Only by facing your fears and confronting your feelings of guilt can you begin to live a more normal life-style.

There is a lack of "reality presence" with the placement of Saturn in this house. Saturn rules reality, but here in the 12th house (normally ruled by Neptune) reality seems to lose some of its clarity. Truth is more elusive. The fears, guilt, and unconscious inhibitions normally associated with this placement are partly caused by an inability to discern what is real and what is fantasy. Here there is no objective or even subjective reality, only vague impressions of what is presumed to be real. This makes the going tough. Without a clear base to work from, it becomes easier to worry about future possibilities and past mistakes. Consequently, fears and guilt tend to prosper and grow at this time.

The main goal of this house placement is to come in contact with the weaker, more irrational parts of your personality which inhibit your progress. This is easier to do if you are in the process of being thwarted or feeling afraid. Only by experiencing the frustration and fear inherent in the conflict, will you actively seek ways to overcome the blockages and resolve the associated issues or problems, so life can begin to return to normal. It is to your advantage to move toward the fear rather than retreat. Investigate the issues which seem to block your progress. Look for alternatives. The tendency is to miss the obvious or not understand what is normal under the given conditions. Only by discussing your situation with others and looking for new options can you alleviate the pressure. Unfortunately, you will be doing this while feeling your most vulnerable. But you must analyze your behavior and question those actions that you do not understand. Fear and guilt are sure signals that you need to investigate unconscious blockages and make adjustments in the way you are living and handling issues.

Saturn in the 12th can also show strong obligations that cannot be avoided, or the need to become responsible for someone less fortunate. Couples with newborn babies and children with elderly parents to care for frequently have this placement. Family members in need must be cared for, but friends in trouble or those less fortunate can also be the object of your concern. The need to behave in a responsible manner includes the desire to care for someone who is unable to be responsible for him or herself or needs to be saved from a difficult situation. Occasionally, the person you are most concerned about is hospitalized during the year. The need to care and the need to face a fear are usually intertwined in some way. Sometimes, the person you care most for is the person you fear. If so, by giving, you receive; by protecting, you become less vulnerable; by reaching out, you cross the bridge from fear to understanding.

If Saturn is in the 12th house, but close to the Ascendant, tasks and responsibilities will tend to become stronger and more visible as Saturn crosses the Ascendant by transit and moves into the 1st house.

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.

Uranus in 5th house (within 3 degree orb of 6th house)

While Uranus is in the 5th house, you want to be able to express yourself freely. You may need to function independently of peer pressure and relationship demands in order to do this. Your personality style is changing and you may take on more Aquarian characteristics. It is only through the change, and the freedom and independence that foster it, that the uniqueness of the individual can emerge. You must limit the influence of others to search for the identity within. It is important that you use this time to be your own person, one of a kind. You do not want to pattern yourself or your behavior after someone else. You can have something different to contribute to the environment.

This is not to say that others will find the transition from the "old you" to the "new you" easy. Depending on the restrictions and expectations others place on you (and which you allow to exist), this can be a difficult year or a very easy one. The changes in self-expression might cause conflicts with significant others if they do not believe in what you are trying to accomplish or who you are trying to become. These people will need reassurance.

If you feel very limited and restricted by others, you might think you have to be very rebellious and contrary to break their hold. Generally, assertive independence is all that is required. You need not contribute to the conflict. This is the year you will want to change old personality habits that are inhibiting self-expression. Be mindful of the ways you compare or contrast to others and pay special attention to the ways in which you are different. Differences matter this year and they mark growth. Allow yourself the freedom to flow with those distinctions which make you a unique human being.

This can be a very creative year, especially if you are already involved in an artistic field, but creativity need not be limited to artistic endeavors. Uranus represents the genius, the innovator, the inventor and the individualist. This is a time when strong individualism enhances the ability for original thought. You grow to see things differently as the year progresses and it is most likely that you will have to deal with a creative problem or issue in a new way. The more you allow your mind to float free, the greater your ability to think up new ideas. This is a great placement for the free thinker, writer, student researcher, artist or craftsperson.

The only difficulty associated with creativity and this Uranus placement is the tendency to go through a short frustrating period of transition. Most likely, there will come a time during the year when blockages occur because the creative style is in such a state of flux. These blockages are not permanent, but serve as a signal that creative shifts are now taking place and there can be a transition to a much higher level of attainment in artistry for those who understand the

transformation and go with the new energy fearlessly. Do not be dismayed by this development. Go with the flow and trust that new skills await those who can progress. A prolonged blockage shows a resistance to new forms of expression waiting to be born. Adjustments may take a while, but they are worth the effort.

Sudden attractions are possible during the year, but not the norm. On-again, off-again episodes, either in a new unbonded relationship or an existing one, are common. The person you are involved with might not be dependable, could live in another area, or might be unable to make a greater commitment at this time. Relationship breaks, for one reason or another, are likely, and in general, the relationship will not run smoothly. You will not settle into the "boy meets high school sweetheart and dates high school sweetheart exclusively" routine. Who you are attracted to may surprise you. Potential lovers may be very different from those you have responded to in the past. They could be free-spirited individuals, having few restraints. These people are probably representative of your own need for freedom of self-expression.

If you are attracted to someone who is very conservative and limiting, perhaps you find it necessary to rage against the limits. Fear-of-freedom issues are likely. Either way, whether you pick someone far out or very straight, you tend to draw those who are an extreme of some personality trait you are trying to cope with. Unbonded relationships this year are not only erratic, they also tend to be mismatched pairings. Even when two very similar people get together, the emphasis will be on forming a unique relationship which in some way breaks relating patterns of the past.

If you have children living at home, they will be more independent, unpredictable, disruptive or unusual during the year. This can be a time when they are experiencing great changes in their lives and these changes can be unsettling. The most common change involves relocation. Either your family moves, or others move away, leaving your child without a best friend. New schools, puberty, and additions to the family are some of the other changes affecting children and their behavior. Any change can put pressure on kids to adjust, and Uranus in the 5th house usually signals a period of adjustment. As your children make their way through the transition, you will be less able to predict their responses. For this reason, it may be wise to keep a close watch over their activities, especially if they are young. They may be ready for greater independence, but still in need of your assistance and advice.

Disruptions can come in the form of behavior problems or minor illnesses. If they are stressed, children are less likely to "perform" and more likely to act out or become sick (colds, ear infections, and flu are common for young children). Expect schedule changes. Realize that disruptions of any kind show a need for more attention from you. Although you may be less patient at these times, understanding and a calm attitude will work more to your advantage.

Unusual learning characteristics in children can require special attention at school. Your children might need individualized educational assistance in one or more areas, such as a remedial or gifted course. Those parents with older children will notice a strong push for independence. Those who are still living at home may decide to move out and those who are already on their own may move away. Only in very negative situations will grown children be very disruptive or erratic. The real need is for the child to establish an independent and unique

identity.

Uranus within 3 degree orb of 6th house

Uranus in the 6th house can show a job change during the year or a change in working conditions. Changes could be either self-initiated or beyond your control. Temporary working positions or breaks in employment are possible. For example, one woman worked for a nonprofit organization. Her salary was paid for by a government grant and when the grant money ran out, she was let go, only to return when new funds came in. If you are presently working for someone other than yourself and dissatisfied with your job, now is the time to investigate new placements. You can change companies entirely, but it is possible simply to transfer to another office under your present employer. Some individuals will ask to work on independent projects of their own choosing, or go one step further and create their own businesses, becoming self-employed.

If you maintain your old job, changes in your daily routine are likely and can involve relocation of the office, temporary change of duty station (travel), new office procedures, or the installation of new computer equipment. During the period of transition, simple procedures become very complicated and normal operations will be disrupted. In very negative situations, especially those involving conflict and even sabotage, work can come to a standstill.

Scheduling changes are also possible during the year. Your office adopts a flexible or rotating schedule, and you might be able to set your own hours. If there is no change in your job at all, work can become very nerve-racking, tedious and stressful, particularly if you are restless and need a change of pace. You will be easily bored with repetitious tasks and needless restrictions. If all goes well, any change in your job will involve a variety of tasks and greater freedom. You need a position that gives you a new challenge, coupled with a changing schedule and the freedom to work to your potential.

Trying to stay at the same job doing the same thing in the same way will create stress. Changes are not only likely, but necessary for progress to occur. Until adjustments are accomplished and your office streamlined and better organized, your normal workday can be constantly disrupted by little crises. This is also true if you own your own business. You should be contemplating adjustments which will eventually lead to a more efficiently run business. The disruptions may occur during the period of transition to the new procedures or may actually prompt the procedure changes.

All this stress and tension at work can affect your health if you do not protect yourself. Your physical and emotional well-being is directly tied into your job situation and should be watched carefully, especially during a time of stress. Learn relaxation techniques and use them to rid your body of tension at the end of the day. Do not bring work or problems home with you. You need your free time for recuperation. Cut back on caffeine drinks and take stress-preventative vitamins when necessary. Most importantly, correct those job situations which are the most stressful.

Health habits tend to be erratic during the year, and consequently, you may experience sporadic health problems. A lot depends on age. Generally the younger and healthier you are, the less likely you are to be sick. Tensions at work are the most likely cause of stress-related

illnesses. Work demands can disrupt health routines, especially if you must travel for your job or work crazy hours. Wide variations in your eating habits (including rapid weight losses or gains) can occur. Stressful work habits or rotating sleeping patterns are not in your best interest. Practice moderation in all things. This is a good time to change your health regimen consciously in order to foster a healthier body.

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.

Neptune in 4th house (within 3 degree orb of 5th house)

Uncertainty is connected with the home or your living quarters, and you may not be certain where you will be living in the future or who will be living with you. Issues involving relocation are common. Either you yourself or the person/s you are living with might be considering a job-related move. In all likelihood, the exact destination or date of departure is not set. Also, the number of people going along might be questionable for a period of time. On the other hand, if you and your live-ins are happy with your employment situations, you could decide to look for a new residence in the area. Since there is no pressure to move immediately, you can look, but still feel unsure as to when or even whether you will move. House construction can be delayed indefinitely if you plan to build. Those who stay put might have family members coming or going during the year, causing confusion regarding who will be living with whom, and when. This is especially true if you have college-aged or recently divorced children or elderly parents. If any of these people are in a situation of need, they can come and go during the year without a lot of notification. These and other circumstances surrounding your living arrangements leave you with uncertain domestic plans during the coming year. It is most likely that major changes will not be a reality until the final three months of the solar return year.

You can have a family member requesting assistance at this time. Physical, financial, and emotional needs are possible. Issues are not necessarily serious; for example, you can help a relative build a new home or care for an infant. Use this time to share with family members. Compassion is increased, and one relative in particular could depend on you for support and encouragement. During the year, an older person might become forgetful, especially if he or she is at an age when senility is a problem. Medications can slow the thinking and physical vitality. Drug side effects should be considered if there is an appreciable change in his or her personality. If substance abuse is already occurring, confusion will be more noticeable at this time. Adults with elderly parents could consider having them move in either temporarily or permanently. Retirement communities, nursing homes or visiting nurses are other options. If you are caring for an older relative, indecisiveness and a wait-and-see attitude are common. It takes time to pick a course of action. In some way, either the health or mental capacity of a family member can directly affect you and any major decisions you must make. Uncertainty surrounding this family member leaves you without a clear personal direction or goal since you cannot be sure how much assistance he or she will need in the future.

Domestic uncertainty is usually coupled with a lack of emotional definition. Your feelings may not be clear to you, especially if the Moon is not strong in the solar return or has a

conflicted interpretation. Emotional dilemmas can divide your feelings between two or more options. If you are dealing with a very withdrawn family member, you might not understand exactly what is going on. Misunderstandings and confusion persist; clear information is not available. For some, emotional clarity will not be important. The tendency is to offer assistance regardless of feelings. Emotions are generally on outflow, not intake, and the needs of others supersede your own. Self-sacrifice is possible if you have mixed feelings about someone who is in great need of assistance, but don't let situations become so lopsided or negative that they become detrimental to your own well-being.

Neptune implies increased spiritual attunement to your sense of purpose here on the earth plane by first washing away preconceived notions so that new sensitivities can be felt. Increased compassion in the home and for family members helps to establish a new code of behavior. The roots of this new code are in a spiritual identification with higher forces brought about by newfound sensitivity. The first manifestation of this new code is in the home, but spiritual insights defined now may be expanded to other areas of life as Neptune moves on.

Neptune within 3 degree orb of 5th house

Spiritual concepts of unity among all human beings can soften the way you express yourself. A gentler involvement with the world is warranted at this time. As with all Neptune placements, higher principles are seeking a practical application in the real world. An increased sensitivity to specific situations, and uncertainty or confusion associated with actions or thoughts, tend to signal this infusion. While Neptune is in the solar return 5th house, spiritual concepts which are already understood need to find a mode of expression. Principles of Universal love can be expanded upon through compassionate interactions with lovers, children and others. Working with creative and artistic projects can also heighten your awareness. What is needed is an evolution in self-expression toward a more spiritual and insightful manifestation. Inconsistencies between the self and the Higher Self must be eliminated. You cannot believe one thing spiritually, yet express something else to others. The self (external expression) must be one with the Higher Self (spiritual ideal).

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

Consistency is important. Ask yourself, "Am I real? Or do blockages keep me from expressing who I really am, or what I really feel?" During this time, others tend to point out your inconsistencies. Occasionally, they add to your tentativeness by giving you very negative messages which are not truly insightful. Self-discernment is a task associated with this placement and you must learn to discriminate between helpful insights and negative comments. The lack of certainty along the way allows for the development of the softer side of your personality by making you hesitant enough to reflect on the other person's perception of you and what you truly

wish to impart. For this reason, it's important to view self-expression from the other side, seeing yourself as others see you. Confusion about your identity is likely to continue until you begin to manifest the spiritual directive you purport to understand.

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

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

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

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

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 3rd house:

The power of this placement lies with a psychological understanding of the workings of the unconscious mind as it relates to verbal communication. It is especially important to observe consistencies and inconsistencies between unconscious complexes and conscious thought patterns. Communication during the year is not intended to be one-dimensional, since what is meant is probably more important than what is said. Those who continue to focus their attention solely on conscious thought or word will lose insight into themselves, others, and what is really being communicated. New understanding gleaned from discussions is now meant to include psychological awareness. In order to grow and learn, one must begin to catch any discrepancies between what is actually said and body language or action taken by the person making the statement. Eventually one will become sensitized to most unconscious messages, whether obvious or not, consistent or inconsistent.

This is not the time to deal with superficial discussions of the cocktail party variety. You will need to talk at length and in depth about important and "gutsy" topics. It is during these conversations that the unconscious complexes are most likely to manifest. Since it is sometimes difficult to obtain objective insight during conversations with family members and friends, this might be a good time to see a counselor or join a support group.

Power lies in the underlying message which is meant to program the listener to respond in a particular way. Words have power; however, it does not lie in the words themselves, but rather in the total message that is meant to be expressed and responded to. Sometimes the words are meant to reinforce a message and at other times they are meant to directly contradict the intended message. In any case, power and understanding are gained every time communication is truly understood. Perhaps an example might make this concept clearer. Suppose you wish to travel alone for the first time in your life and you plan a long vacation overseas. Part of the purpose of your trip is to overcome your fear of being by yourself. Your roommate of many years may respond in several ways. If he or she is truly happy for you and wishes to see you grow in self-confidence and control, the verbal messages you receive will be very supportive and the body language consistent. If he or she feels neglected or angry about not being invited to come along, you can receive very negative messages about your trip. Manipulative tactics or even threats may be used. If he or she is not in touch with unconscious anger and disappointment, but verbally appears to be positive, supportive messages sprinkled with warnings and fears about traveling

alone may be the order of the day. In each of these possible scenarios, the underlying message conveyed by your roommate affects you psychologically by either augmenting or undoing unconscious complexes associated with independent travel and aloneness.

Fatedness can be a product of the unconscious mind. What you do not know or cannot face about yourself can control your behavior. Free-willed choices can result from the conscious, rational mind working with the unconscious mind to bring understanding and consistency to both facets of thought. Enlightenment leads to freedom of movement, and during this solar return year, power over destiny is closely associated with power of thought. Positive ways to increase your understanding of the unconscious include studying psychology (and body language), joining a discussion group, or regularly writing down your feelings and thoughts. Without this kind of focus, some individuals will still naturally move toward psychological awareness, but it may take an ongoing disagreement to do so. Practicing a positive technique may help you to avoid conflict altogether.

In manifestations involving conflict, manipulations associated with power struggles over intellectual concepts, behavior, or decisions might take place on a daily basis. Someone can be intolerant of your new ideas or obsessed with an antiquated line of reasoning. Negotiations and discussions will not be straightforward since unconscious complexes will complicate communications. Power plays and psychological ploys are common. Gossip may be a problem and you must be mindful of your reputation. Spiteful comments, whether truthful or fictitious, can be used to undermine your effectiveness. It may be necessary for you to stubbornly adhere to your own convictions in order to prevail or survive.

As the year progresses, it will be more and more obvious to you how the unconscious plays a role in everyday life situations. You will become aware of how you are being manipulated and how you, in turn, manage to manipulate others. The interpretation is not meant to appear one-sided and the manifestations of your own unconscious mind play a major role in the learning process. Personal complexes surface along with obsessive and/or compulsive tendencies. Although you are striving for a greater understanding of your own emotional and unconscious attitudes, at times you might feel more controlled by them than in control yourself. Major developments during the year might result from an unconscious need to undermine conscious decisions. Life may make a fated turn. It also becomes increasingly easier to dwell on one issue and allow it to rule your life, thoughts and moods. This is especially true if you are angry. Repressed anger can cause you to lash out at inappropriate times and for insignificant reasons, with reactions overtaking rational thoughts, fears dictating responses. A mind this receptive to stimuli may be so strongly influenced by another as to be subject to control by that person. This is why awareness of communication is so important if one is to retain power over self. In very negative situations, mental stability is questioned and therapy is indicated. Counseling intervention or consultation is common with this placement.

This is a great year for intense learning situations, even if the subject matter is not of a psychological or emotionally introspective nature. Any field of interest can stir a compulsive need to learn. During this period, you will not be satisfied with superficial explanations. You will strive to know and understand the underlying principles.