

Solar Return Report

2013

Planets in Solar Return Report for:

Ellen DeGeneres

January 26, 1958

3:30 AM

Metairie, Louisiana



Solar Return calculated for:

January 25, 2013

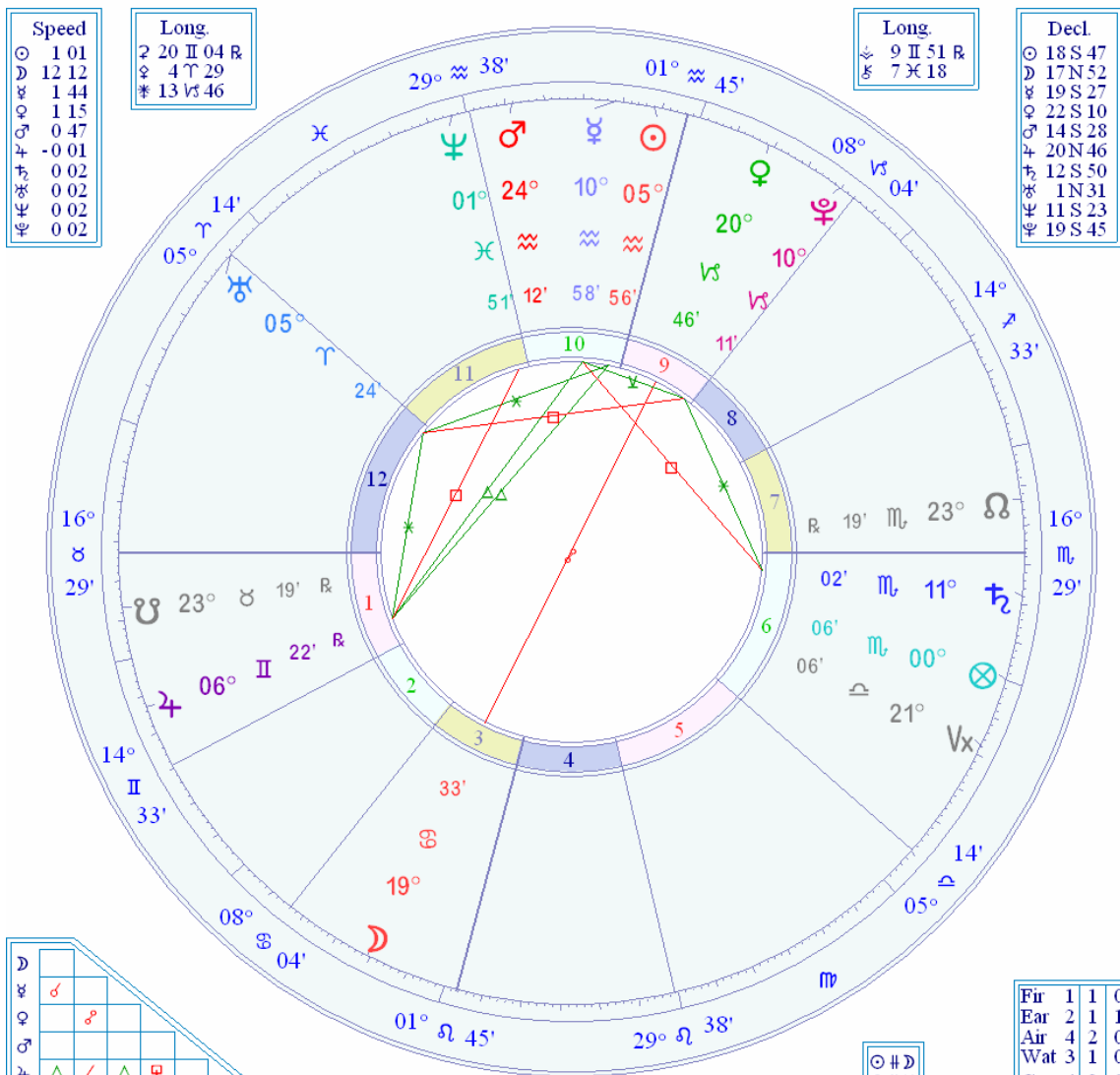
11:55:49 AM

Metairie, Louisiana

Ellen DeGeneres
Metairie, Louisiana
Time Zone: 6 hours West

January 25, 2013
29N59'02" 90W09'10"
Tropical Placidus
Solar Return for January 25, 2013 in Metairie, Louisiana

11:55:49 AM
Standard Time

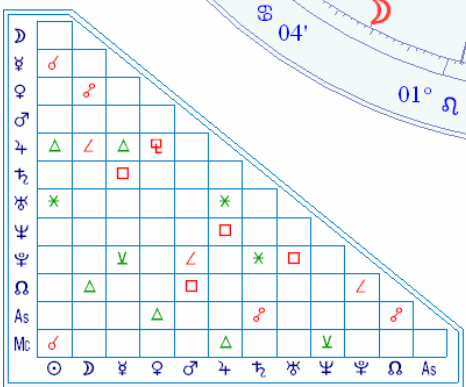


Speed
☉ 1 01
☽ 12 12
♁ 1 44
♂ 1 15
♀ 0 47
♃ -0 01
♄ 0 02
♅ 0 02
♆ 0 02
♇ 0 02
♈ 0 02

Long.
♃ 20 II 04 R
♄ 4 IV 29
♅ 13 V 46

Long.
♃ 9 II 51 R
♄ 7 III 18

Decl.
☉ 18 S 47
☽ 17 N 52
♁ 19 S 27
♂ 22 S 10
♀ 14 S 28
♃ 20 N 46
♄ 12 S 50
♅ 1 N 31
♆ 11 S 23
♇ 19 S 45



Mean Moon's Node	22 M 17
Part of Fortune (day)	0 M 06
Part of Spirit (day)	2 ♄ 51
Vertex	21 ♈ 06
Equatorial Asc.	6 ♈ 20
Sidereal Time	20:16:01
G.M.T.	17:55:49
Delta t (ET-UT)	0:01:08
Lahiri Ayan.	24°02'38"
Moon's Phase	Gibbous

☉ # D
☽ # M
♁ # III
♂ # IV
♀ # V
♃ # VI
♄ # VII
♅ # VIII
♆ # IX
♇ # X

Fir	1	1	0
Ear	2	1	1
Air	4	2	0
Wat	3	1	0
Car	4	2	0
Fix	4	0	1
Mut	2	3	0
P	A	A	S
L	A	S	C
A	T	A	R
N	E	R	E
E	R	N	D
T			

	Speed	Decl.
☉	-0 04	27 N 01
☽	0 19	14 S 00
♁	0 22	13 S 04
♂	-0 00	19 N 20
♀	0 03	4 S 04

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

What is a Solar Return Chart?

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

Tropical, Placidus, Nonprecessed Solar Return

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

Solar Return Location

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

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

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

Some individuals relocate for a short period of time, usually about 24 hours, to adjust the house placements of the planets in the solar return. Those who calculate the

chart for where they are at the time of the transiting Sun's conjunction to the natal position sometimes travel to other locations to change the yearly interpretation. The relocation adjusts the angles and cusps, orienting the planets into different houses. The zodiacal degrees and aspects of the planets remain the same, but because of the different planetary placements different areas of life are emphasized. The free will choice to make this adjustment seems to bring this chart closest to the truth.

Period of the Solar Return's Significance

The significance of the solar return runs birthday to birthday with a three month overlap at the beginning and end of each year. The symbolism of the new solar return can be felt as much as three months before the birthday by very intuitive people. Usually, at this time, one becomes aware of new directions, opportunities, and problems. Many times there is even an event exactly three months before the birthday which triggers awareness and signals the beginning of the new solar return. This event is usually very much related to the new solar return and very much out of context with the old one. If you have plans to travel overseas during the three months before your birthday, do not look for the event in the old solar return even if you have been planning to take the trip all year. The old solar return will probably indicate the planning stage, but the new solar return will indicate the trip. The trip itself illustrates change, and since it occurs in the three months before your birthday, it will most likely be indicative of the new solar return chart.

On the other hand, the significance of the old solar return may not feel 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	5	Aqu	56	Neptune	4	Sco	45
Moon	17	Ari	25	Pluto	1	Vir	41
Mercury	13	Cap	56	Asc.	14	Sag	55
Venus	9	Aqu	54	MC	27	Vir	18
Mars	24	Sag	02	2nd cusp	16	Cap	56
Jupiter	1	Sco	02	3rd cusp	22	Aqu	24
Saturn	22	Sag	07	5th cusp	27	Ari	26
Uranus	9	Leo	47	6th cusp	22	Tau	33

Tropical Placidus Standard Time observed
January 26, 1958 3:30 AM
GMT: 09:30:00 Time Zone: 6 hours West
Lat. and Long. of birth place: 29 N 59 02 90 W 09 10

Astrological Data of Solar Return:

Sun	5	Aqu	56	Neptune	1	Pis	51
Moon	19	Can	33	Pluto	10	Cap	11
Mercury	10	Aqu	58	Asc.	16	Tau	29
Venus	20	Cap	46	MC	1	Aqu	45
Mars	24	Aqu	12	2nd cusp	14	Gem	33
Jupiter	6	Gem	22	3rd cusp	8	Can	04
Saturn	11	Sco	02	5th cusp	29	Leo	38
Uranus	5	Ari	24	6th cusp	5	Lib	14

January 25, 2013 GMT: 17:55:49
Metairie, Louisiana 29 N 59 02 90 W 09 10

Aspects and orbs:

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

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ELEMENTS, MODES, QUADRANTS, AND RETROGRADE PLANETS

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.

THE ASCENDING SIGN IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

Solar Return Ascendant Taurus :

When the solar return Ascendant is in Taurus, stability and harmony are the keys to success. You thrive when you are financially secure and you will work hard to maintain or achieve this goal. Affectionate and loving relationships are part of your stability network. Though slow moving, you possess great stamina. You get into trouble when you start thinking about yourself and not others, or become miserly with your resources. Stubbornness does not benefit you and leads to stalemate conditions. Be practical; stick with what works.

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 10th house:

If you want a strong career year, this is it. The Sun in the 10th house places a strong emphasis on all career endeavors. This is a good time to push for advancement and work toward greater career fulfillment. You are more likely to make major career decisions or be recognized for professional achievements at this time. You are also more likely to be reprimanded for professional misconduct. The reputation you have developed in the past catches up with you and it can be good or bad depending on what you have or have not accomplished and your methods along the way.

If you have positive feelings about your job and have worked hard all along, push for advancement. If you have negative feelings about your job, do not let them threaten professional goals. You are better off changing jobs or starting your own business than staying in a job you hate. If you choose to remain in a difficult situation, you will find work too taxing, physically, mentally, or spiritually. Personal needs will begin to conflict with the job requirements and you will feel pulled between home, work, and relationships.

If there are aspects into the 1st house, your personality quirks might not lend themselves to career tasks, thereby threatening advancement. You can handle these conflicting feelings positively by integrating your career with your personal needs and balancing all the areas of your life.

With the Sun in the 10th house, you have a lot of control over the direction of your professional life and also the direction of your life in general. Since the 10th is the house of destiny, you can make decisions about where you are headed for the next set of years. Pick a new path or life direction. Normally the focus of attention shifts to a new area of major concern, and this focus of attention persists for several years. Changes usually relate to or affect your career, but not necessarily.

Authority issues are strong at this time. If you are the authority figure at work, you should be very mindful of managerial techniques and concepts. Your professional success is directly tied in with your ability to lead and motivate those under your control. If you are not the person in charge, then you must learn to please those who are. They are the ones who recognize and reward your hard work.

If you are self-employed, success will come from your ability to perform well and please the public. In any of these situations, how well you cope with career tasks will

determine the measure of success you achieve by year's end. Your interest in learning and mastering effective business techniques at this time will help you improve your chances for success.

Your parents can influence your decisions either positively or negatively, especially if you still see them as authority figures. If you consider either your father and/or your mother an authority in your field of interest, go to them for advice. You may make decisions in spite of them, especially if you feel the need to break any authoritarian hold they might have over you. This is the time to determine your own future. You are the final authority. Great opportunities wait for those who are prepared to meet the challenge and take responsibility for their decisions.

Sun Sextile Uranus

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

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

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

Sun Square Saturn

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

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

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

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

Sun Trine Jupiter

The major task associated with the Sun sextile or trine Jupiter in the solar return chart is expansion of the personality into new areas of experience and expertise. This expansion should be consistent with the individual's philosophical beliefs, spiritual goals, and career aspirations. Beneficial opportunities are associated with Jupiter sextile or trine the Sun; however, there is no guarantee of a positive return. You may have to create your own opportunities, augment the possibilities through enthusiasm, or take a risk to manifest the best results.

The main danger noted with the Sun sextile or trine to Jupiter is a tendency toward excessive behavior and a refusal to curb personal needs and desires in consideration of others. Excessive behavior can be associated with workaholic tendencies, spending practices, diet, health habits, or any other activity. A refusal to curb personal needs can overwhelm partners and family members who have their own preferences. Remember to keep a sense of balance.

Sun Conjunct Mercury

The Sun conjunct Mercury indicates that the intellectual mind is actively involved in the implementation of goals represented by the Sun's solar return house placement. Reading,

writing, studying, and communication in all forms will be important along with the decision-making process.

THE MOON IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

The Moon as an Emotional Indicator

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

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

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

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

Conscious or Unconscious Emphasis

The Moon also signifies the unconscious experience. While Mercury's placement will suggest what the person is consciously thinking, the Moon's placement will suggest

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

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

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

Solar Return Moon in 3rd house:

The Moon in the 3rd house is a sign that emotional influences compete or unite with rational thoughts for decision-making power. The interplay between these two levels of thought, the conscious and the unconscious levels, is key to the pattern of growth. If you depend too much on the conscious level, you might be trying to suppress or analyze your feelings before they are even apparent. This will not work. Feelings just are, and must be appreciated as they exist before symbols emerge and they can be understood. On the other hand, you may feel more ruled by unconscious urges than clear-headed rationalism. Within this scenario, feelings overwhelm common sense and burst into the open when you least expect it. Freudian slips are possible despite your conscious efforts for restraint, and you inadvertently say things that were better left unsaid. Although these comments honestly reflect your true feelings, they go too far and reveal more than is in your best interest or the best interest of others.

The key to working with this placement is understanding the need for conscious and unconscious appreciation, integration, and consensus. This is not the time to depend totally on either conscious thoughts or feelings. It is the integration of the two levels of understanding which is most informative. Emotions will be the basis of learning, but once feelings have reached the surface, it is most insightful to understand them within the

context of the total experience, both rational and emotional. For example, if you attend group therapy sessions during the year, you will focus on the psychological meaning of what is being said rather than the actual physical details. However, once the emotions have risen to the surface repeatedly, patterns of response will be intellectually understood.

The combination of an emotional planet in a rational house can also indicate that you get mixed messages. You may not be exactly sure when you are thinking and when you are responding from the gut level. You may even be of two minds, especially regarding a relationship. Your heart tells you one thing while your mind tells you another. Competition, rather than integration, is possible in those who do not work towards comprehension. Positively, this is a strong combination for those who yearn to integrate feelings and thoughts, and experience life as multidimensional yet whole. If you are a writer, artist, psychologist, counselor or holistic practitioner, the placement of the Moon in the 3rd house can indicate that you experience the conscious and unconscious mind as a unit working together. The artist can use creative projects to explore and understand emotional themes. If you are a counselor or involved in therapy yourself, you can use the conscious mind to decipher and interpret unconscious messages. Used wisely, mixed messages can lead to great insight.

You can become a more public personality, especially in your own neighborhood or area of expertise. For example, one individual with the Moon in the 3rd house of the solar return had been working for a large organization. He then started his own business and began pushing his own products. He was lifted from the obscurity of the company to a more public position. What you do and say will become more noticeable this year. Your demeanor and presentation are important. You can make a lasting impression on those who see or hear you in a public capacity. You may even be a role model for others. Therefore it is important that you maintain a good public image and reputation.

Neighborhood selection is important to those who are thinking of purchasing a home. If you are already settled, this is a good time to become more involved with your neighbors and community associations.

Moon Opposition Venus

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

partners can object to your plans. The best option is to compromise or create a plan that will address these issues over time.

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

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

MERCURY IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

Mercury has two basic interpretations in the solar return chart: it symbolizes what you are thinking about and your mental condition during the coming year.

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

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

Solar Return Mercury in 10th house:

Mercury in the 10th house is associated with decisions that will channel the direction of your life over the next few years. During the year, you will be asked to make choices that will affect your immediate and distant future. Decisions may be career-related and directly involve your present job or professional goals. You might decide to attend school or take a refresher course. On-the-job training and work-related travel are

also a possibility. On the other hand, decisions might pertain to major life transitions without an emphasis on career. Important decisions such as marriage, leaving home or moving to another country can be indicated by Mercury in the 10th house. People who decide to change their life-styles totally can have this placement.

Professionally, this can be a good time to communicate with your superiors. Networking can further your advancement. Make business connections now and plan for future career developments. You may have ideas that would improve business or streamline office procedure. These creative ideas can play a crucial role in career developments over the next year. If you are already in a position of authority or willing to accept more responsibility, you might be asked to play a greater role in the decision-making process at your place of employment. If you are not in a position to change office routines where necessary, work may become more tedious. Tasks may be predominantly detail-oriented or repetitive and involve a great deal of paperwork.

Mercury Square to Saturn

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

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

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

Mercury Trine Jupiter

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

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 9th house:

With Venus in the 9th house, your beliefs about intimate relationships are being tested. You must support your intimate partnership with a philosophical concept of what that relationship is about and why it exists. Gut reactions and unconscious responses will now seem inappropriate. Relationships are no longer simple boy-meets-girl encounters. They are a crucial part of your present life situation, and issues concerning them need to be examined. One relationship in particular, usually, but not necessarily the marriage, must be validated as a worthy and understandable association.

It seems strange that Venus in the 9th house might be associated with relationship difficulties, but this is often the case. Perhaps one tends to dream the impossible dream and yearn for more than is reasonable. If you have this placement, you will naturally tend to review your immediate intimate involvements. You will consider your initial attraction, pains and joys through your years together, and your present feeling of fulfillment, anger or sadness. What you discover may reaffirm your commitment, or make you realize that your relationship is not living up to your expectations. (Expectation, as it is used here, is really a synonym for belief.)

Normally there is a perceived internal or external threat to your main relationship which triggers this review process. Your relationship may not be fulfilling, or you or your partner may be interested in someone else. Sometimes the threat is serious, many times it

is not; occasionally it is imagined. It may be only coincidental to the review process. The planets aspecting Venus and the houses they reside in or rule may indicate the issues involved. The main goal for this placement is to establish realistic philosophical and moral guidelines consistent with your intimate experiences and needs. During this period, you might also formulate ethical codes of conduct with regard to professional business partnerships. These guidelines will help you better understand your present involvements while also setting up conduct standards for the future.

As your beliefs evolve, you may need help sorting through the changes. For this reason, many individuals join a religious or philosophical discussion group during the year. The group may not discuss relationships per se, but the discussions will help you focus on the important issues.

You are also more likely to take a course during the year, and the course might be relevant to the issues you are faced with. Educational pursuits may focus on religious or philosophical topics, new-age concepts or relationships themselves. If you attend a formal school, your relationships with professors, students, and fellow classmates should be warm and sociable, extending beyond the classroom experience. Benefits derived from your studies may be material, intellectual, emotional or spiritual. Academic awards and recognition are possible for those who do their best work, regardless of whether you are the student or the teacher.

You should travel this year since you will be fascinated by foreign places, cultures, and people. Travel overseas may be particularly enjoyable. If you do business with those overseas, foreign partnerships can be pleasant and profitable. If you cannot travel, study foreign customs, try out various ethnic foods and visit ethnic neighborhoods. Romance with a foreigner is possible.

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 10th house:

Mars in the 10th house suggests an aggressive business style or energetic attitude towards career tasks. Many times the individual with this placement realizes that he or she must work harder during the coming year either to get ahead or stay ahead. Competition from other businesses or co-workers can provide the impetus towards greater productivity, but many times the individual is only in competition with himself or herself. There may or may not be a specific change in the work environment that indicates this need to switch into high gear. Internal signals are as likely as external motivations.

This is a good time to focus on career ambitions and use the energy surge for both immediate career goals and long-term developments. During the year, you should take the initiative and capitalize on your ability to be self-motivating. Projects that require originality, independent work and/or aggressive action are suited to your style. Try new techniques, tools and directions. Use this time to initiate a project or start your own business. Professional success can result from independent efforts, and as a rule, you will prefer working alone. Specific situations which are consistent with this interpretation include: working on a commission basis and trying to land the "big deal"; attracting new clients, particularly those requiring active pursuit; and starting a new business or relocating an old one to a new area, since you must hustle to make things work, break even or move ahead.

Those who cannot find a positive outlet for this energy surge will feel frustrated with their present employer or career responsibilities. If you are not self-employed, or do not have the freedom to work independently, clashes with authority figures are likely. In some instances you can be motivated by your boss's demands, but generally, tension between you and upper management can build into a stressful situation for one reason or another. High pressure situations and workaholic tendencies are associated with this placement and if your boss is too demanding, your workload can be overwhelming or even impossible. You can accomplish a lot this year, but do not do so at the expense of your mental or physical health. Do not allow workaholic tendencies to prevent you from

going on vacation. It is important that you practice relaxation techniques and take time off. It is also important to learn to control, deflect or address tension-producing issues.

In very negative situations, the stress at work is exacerbated by unreasonable or difficult authority figures. It would be best if you could work alone, since you may not like working for, with, or under anyone. The natural creative energies will be more evident if the motivation is internalized and allowed to flourish, but this is not always the case. If you must deal daily with an argumentative boss, you need to look at your professional priorities and reassess your options.

In the most positive manifestation, energy is expended toward professional achievement, but if the road to success is blocked, extreme frustration will follow. Making job or attitude changes can be the only way to open doors to more positive opportunities.

Although the 10th house is associated with career choices, this is also the house of the destiny path. New personal directions are possible while Mars is placed here, regardless of whether or not these new directions are directly tied into career choices. Occasionally this placement shows that you are able to go on in life alone. This is particular true for those individuals in the midst of a divorce. The ability to function independently while pursuing a course of action which can have a major effect on the life path is an interpretation consistent with Mars in the 10th house of the solar return chart.

JUPITER IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

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

Areas of expansion can easily become areas of excess and this is a problem with Jupiter. Growth can be uncontrolled and purposeless, dwarfing any push for real attainment or benefit. For example, overeating may supplant a desire for nutritious food

when Jupiter is in the 6th house. The weight gain takes the place of education. Already existing situations associated with any house placement of Jupiter may boil over if extreme limitations were previously the norm. This is especially true when emotions overwhelm the individual after a long period of emotional suppression. Any Jupiter placement can signal a false god. One or more activities associated with Jupiter's house may be emphasized to such a degree that a distortion of perception results, creating the false god.

Perhaps excesses are directly and proportionately related to suppressed urges. We now zoom ahead where we previously lagged behind, making up for lost time. The overwhelming impetus enables us to grow and expand at a rapid pace. The task is to avoid restricting this growth, while staying in control. The best option is one of channeled and structured enthusiasm.

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

Solar Return Jupiter in 1st house:

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

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

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

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

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

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 6th house:

Saturn in the 6th house can indicate a health strain. However, depending upon your age and general body condition, you may or may not experience a health problem. Reassessing your health and work habits is a positive way to use this placement and may be crucial to continuing good health. Minor health problems such as colds and sore throats are likely if you overtax your body, but as a rule, most health problems will arise from long-term abuse, chronic problems, severe dietary deficiencies, or work-related stress. Immediate changes can lead to improvements. For example, a long-time cigarette smoker stopped smoking after she experienced trouble breathing. She suddenly realized how precarious her health had become from the continuous abuse. Saturn rules reality and the reality of her situation became very clear to her. She needed to stop smoking immediately or run the risk of developing a serious health problem.

If you are having chronic health problems, these problems may be aggravated or initiated by your involvement in certain circumstances. A nurse with chronic back problems realized that lifting sick patients aggravated her condition, and as she got older, she could no longer afford to jeopardize her health for the sake of a paycheck. Other careers or even other assignments within the nursing profession could be just as profitable.

Severe deficiencies are associated with poor nutritional habits. Many people with this Saturn placement go on very strict diets which are not nutritionally sound. The tendency is to eliminate certain foods or meals from the menu entirely rather than cut down on intake. The goal is to lose weight (and this is commonly done during the year), but poor eating habits are often established in the process. The diet one tends to choose, by its very nature, seeks to distort your eating habits rather than focus on balanced nutrition. Examples of these kinds of diets are those which concentrate on eating one particular food or food group. It is true that you can lose weight by not eating certain foods, but you would be better off cutting out unnecessary food substances such as caffeine, sugar, fats, and red meats rather than those food substances which make good nutritional sense. Artificial restrictions which do not suit your body's needs can tax your health.

The best way to develop a personal diet is to become aware of your body's health from the inside out. Watch what you eat and how it makes you feel. Eat only those foods which make you feel good. Develop an exercise program that makes you feel more alive without taxing the system. Saturn represents a teacher and a taskmaster. You can teach yourself good health habits by realistically observing what makes you feel good and what makes you feel bad and making adjustments accordingly.

Stress-related health problems can also be traced to working conditions and co-worker relationships. Most commonly, the individual in poor health who does not fit into any of the three categories mentioned above hates his or her present job and/or is under too much pressure to perform. Responsibilities may be overwhelming and schedules too taxing. The job description itself may include tasks which are difficult, if not impossible, for the employee to accomplish without creating a health strain. Personal feelings about fellow co-workers, partners and bosses can also cause nervousness and/or physical stress. (For example, office love affairs and employee conflicts frequently lead to stress.)

Again, Saturn placed in the 6th house of health signals the need to deal realistically with job-related problems. If you hate your job, find another. You can start from scratch in a new position, new company or new career. If you prefer to stay with your present job, institute changes that will make tasks easier to accomplish. If you are in a position of authority, delegate responsibilities to others. A good manager knows how to develop the employee potential under his or her care. Use the talents of others wisely while reducing the amount of work you must handle personally.

Regardless of your level of authority, systematize and structure office procedures under your control to make daily routines easier to accomplish. Use the suggestion box to point out problem areas and possible solutions. If you feel restricted at work, realize that the restrictions are meant to make you aware of the problem areas. If you find your job tedious and boring, you may be wasting your talents and need to move on.

Promotions are likely if you have performed well in the past and can handle extra responsibility. A teenager with this placement may decide to enter the job market since he or she is now mature enough to behave in a professional manner. He or she may instead refuse to find a job at all. (Saturn can also be associated with unemployment in rare situations.) Regardless of the teenager's decision, the issue will arise. If you love your job and naturally work hard, you can become a workaholic during the year and spend many hours working overtime. Moderation is suggested. Remember, health is an issue. If you cannot regulate the amount of time you spend working, then your health will. For good health, structure your diet, habits, and work with a realistic respect for your body, its needs, and limitations.

URANUS IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

different paths are reflected in fluctuating external conditions. Long overdue, yet still avoided changes, tend to manifest in the environment as disruption caused by others, or by neglected areas of attention.

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

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

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

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

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

We learn as much from separation as we do from attraction when we define what we don't like as well as what we do like. The changing environment, the comparisons and contrasts, accentuate what is important and what is not. One should remember that this

process of change through attachment, detachment and independent action is ongoing, occurring on many different levels simultaneously. The process can be either quick, occurring numerous times in one day, or drawn out, requiring a year's time span. For example, suppose you are building a new home. This is a year-long project and during this time you will be drawn to many different construction plans, ideas, and subcontractors. But as you begin to work with the possibilities, you will accept, reject, or change options to suit your needs. This process takes place over months, but also simultaneously many times in one day.

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

Solar Return Uranus in 12th house:

Uranus in the 12th house is the sign of the closet personality. During the year, your thoughts may be wild, but your outward demeanor remains conservative. Others will be unaware of what is really going on inside you, and usually something is going on. You have the ability to hide things. Private matters, internal thoughts or choices will not become public knowledge. A dichotomy exists between what you truly do or think, and what others are actually aware of. Distinctions may exist solely on the mental level or may also manifest into the physical realm. This is a time when you will tend to take liberties without anyone being aware of what is going on.

Generally, the fear of disapproval is common with this placement, and for one reason or another, you feel you must be on your guard. In all likelihood, you are involved in a new situation which is very different from what is normally expected of you. If you are not free to express yourself naturally and openly, you will do so secretly. Everything will tend to stay quiet unless Uranus transits across the solar return Ascendant during the year. If this occurs, you or someone else may wish the truth to be known. Difficult situations you might want to keep quiet usually involve sex-related activities such as initial sexual experiences, homosexual or bisexual preferences, affairs, birth control practices, or abortions. With this placement, matters of this nature are more likely to be handled secretly than openly.

Positive manifestations include the discovery of an unusual talent which you are just becoming aware of and are not ready to demonstrate. For example, if you find that you have psychic or artistic ability, you might be afraid to make your talent known before it is further developed. You choose to remain quiet about what you know or can do until a later date when you are ready to subject yourself to outside criticism.

Secrecy may lead to anxiety and nervousness over discovery. Furthermore, already existing negative feelings or fears will be made worse by the pressure of concealment. Thoughts and actions are such a break from your normal pattern that they appear to be irrational. Dilemmas cause you to flip-flop on important issues without understanding why. If you experience extreme psychological discomfort, see a counselor. Trying to survive in a vacuum can be frightening. Talking openly with a safe and understanding therapist will help you to assess objectively your situation and the choices available. On a positive level, you develop a deep faith in your own individuality, learning to trust your unique inner qualities which free you from the limitations of conformity.

NEPTUNE IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

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

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

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

Solar Return Neptune in 11th house:

This is a time when you can develop a spiritual bond with others. You grow more sensitive to the needs and fears of friends and can respond in a way which is both helpful and insightful. Even if certain friends are mere acquaintances now, intuitive bonds can be formed with those who are equal to this kind of exchange. Relationships transcend self-centered needs and become manifestations of a spiritual connection. It is the inner qualities which make a true friendship. Compassion and empathy play a major role in your involvements. Those you are closest to could need your assistance. Use this year to develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be a friend. Master the art of giving as well as receiving. The purpose of this placement is to discover who your friends really are. Some friendships will grow stronger because they meet your spiritual impressions of what a friend can and should be. Others may fall away as you see through their deceptive facade.

Unfortunately, some friends are not as sensitive or developed as you. Compassion and empathy are sometimes one-sided. You could be sensitive to your friend's needs while your own needs go unmet. Your friend might want something specific from you without much intent of return. In extreme cases, you are asked to play savior to a victim role. Your counterpart needs your assistance, but at the same time his or her actions appear purposeless, self-destructive or contradictory. These savior-victim relationships are particularly disappointing. Remember that each person needs to contribute to his or her own salvation. Disillusionment is most likely to occur if you idealize your friend's potential without understanding present limitations. Confusing behavior and interactions might also exist, and if so, misunderstandings are likely. If there is no intuitive bond between you two, then what is left unsaid is uncertain. Try to clear up misunderstandings as soon as they occur, but realize that you and your friend might now lack a common basis for understanding, each of you needing to head in an entirely different direction.

All of the above information can also apply to group interactions. This can be a great time to join a spiritual study group to further your own enlightenment. But also realize that groups may not always live up to your expectations.

Early in the year, goals are not well formed. Even if you think they are, major adjustments are still likely. This placement is commonly associated with partial or uncertain goals. The tendency is to follow a whim without being sure of the final destination. Although you go with the flow, are you really sure where the flow is headed? Probably not! Sometimes the rug gets pulled out from under you and you are too busy with your immediate situation to sort out your future. For example, suppose you suddenly become unemployed or pregnant. Coping with your present situation will be your first priority before you start to reconsider your long-term goals. You cannot plan for the future until you settle things in the present. You can only anticipate the next step. Occasionally, an individual does not even realize a goal until the end of the year, but this should not stop you from working on it directly or indirectly for those 12 months. For example, if you return to school, you may be undecided as to your major. You have particular courses in mind, but you are not sure exactly how you will use the information professionally or what degree you wish to pursue. You are open to several different career possibilities. But you do take necessary courses all year and eventually the path becomes clearer. So reach for a goal even if you do not understand what your ultimate destination will be. Suspend judgment and proceed on a hunch. Many times the movement is toward a more spiritual manifestation. The quality of life is a major priority. This is a time when future plans grow more consistent with spiritual beliefs.

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 9th house:

An intense learning period can occur while Pluto is in the 9th house, and this is regardless of whether or not you are actually in school. Generally it is not the academic environment which is most notable, but the obsessive interest in one particular topic, and the philosophical shift which is caused by the influx of much new information. Like a good book you cannot put down, your newfound interest may cause you to skip work or neglect chores. Learning becomes both a time-consuming process and an overwhelming influence. Your belief system will be strongly affected by what you learn.

During the year, you can take a home-correspondence course, study on your own, or attend a formal school. Problems at school are possible and they can range from minor inconveniences to major difficulties. Those in a structured learning environment may have to cope with classroom disruption, or curriculum complications. The school building itself could be in the process of renovation. School policy changes could affect you or your course of study. Classes you want or need can fill up early, forcing you to take courses in a nonsequential order. Building renovations, policy changes and scheduling difficulties are usually minor inconveniences. More difficult problems involve the disruption of your ability to concentrate and do your best. You may be psychologically affected by circumstances at school which make it hard for you to study or respond rationally. For example, you may have very positive or negative feelings toward a particular professor which inhibit your ability to contribute to classroom discussions. The atmosphere in the dormitory is probably not conducive to study, and if you are used to more quiet a period of adjustment will be necessary. Your relationship with your roommate, boyfriend or girlfriend may break your concentration. If you disagree with school policy, you could choose to buck the system or become a disciplinary problem. All of these facts and more can influence your educational experience. For those who have been in a traditional school or college up until this time, this probably is the year you leave the academic environment for one reason or another.

If you are a teacher or lecturer, some of the above might apply. If you disagree with school administration policies, or if you are in the process of rewriting those policies yourself, your career might be affected. This is a time when you can be very forceful

concerning your beliefs, and your attitudes probably carry over into the professional arena.

Radical philosophical changes are likely, especially if your beliefs are directly challenged by someone during the coming year. Within an academic environment, you will be challenged by what you are learning. Within a social setting, interactions with people of different religions, cultures, or ethnic backgrounds will challenge your preconceived ideas and prejudices. Familiarity with these foreign customs or religious practices may be especially helpful in furthering your understanding of different lifestyles. But a philosophical confrontation is not essential for you to change. Even everyday life situations can directly contradict a long-held belief or perspective on life.

One factor consistent with this placement is that the effect on the belief system tends to be stronger and more noticeable if you are emotionally involved with the very person or people who cause this philosophical revision. The impact of an emotional or psychological connection makes the conversion, attack or insight much more effective. The new information you are learning can drastically change your beliefs and make you feel disoriented until you have adjusted your philosophy accordingly. Do not lose sight of self. Remember to maintain a personal perspective. Beliefs about yourself are just as likely to be affected as beliefs about others. Opinions you retain may have to be defended against the attacks of others. Challenges are meant to force you to review and solidify your position.

At issue here is a philosophy of life. Belief systems have a controlling influence on our behavior, and many times they form a basis for operation. To be at your best, you must be clear about what you believe, and beliefs must be an accurate representation of your reality. A constant interaction between your experience of the world and your understanding of that experience leads to a healthy philosophy. Feedback systems and constant review are important. If what you believe to be true is directly contradicted by your experience, and you still continue with the same mind-set, this could be a very difficult time for you. Tightly held misconceptions can eventually cause psychological abnormalities. Reality is a strict teacher.

Some individuals are more controlled by their philosophies than served by them. These people are subject to prejudicial attitudes and intolerance. Their belief systems have no continuing basis in reality and therefore they must close their minds to any new information or interaction which is contradictory. These people respond in an overbearing or belligerent manner because they cannot afford to listen. Fanatical tendencies are possible. The whole purpose of this Pluto placement is philosophical change brought about through new insight. Belief systems were meant to be dynamic in the first place, but dramatic shifts are likely during this year. If you can step back, listen and observe without preconceptions, much will be learned. Insight and wisdom can be gained by those who accept the challenge to either defend or revise beliefs, but the greatest advances are made by those who stop to listen first.
