

Princess Diana

Solar Return
Tuesday, July 1, 1997
1:31:26 PM CED
Paris, France
48N41 / 2E20
Tropical Koch True Node

Princess Diana

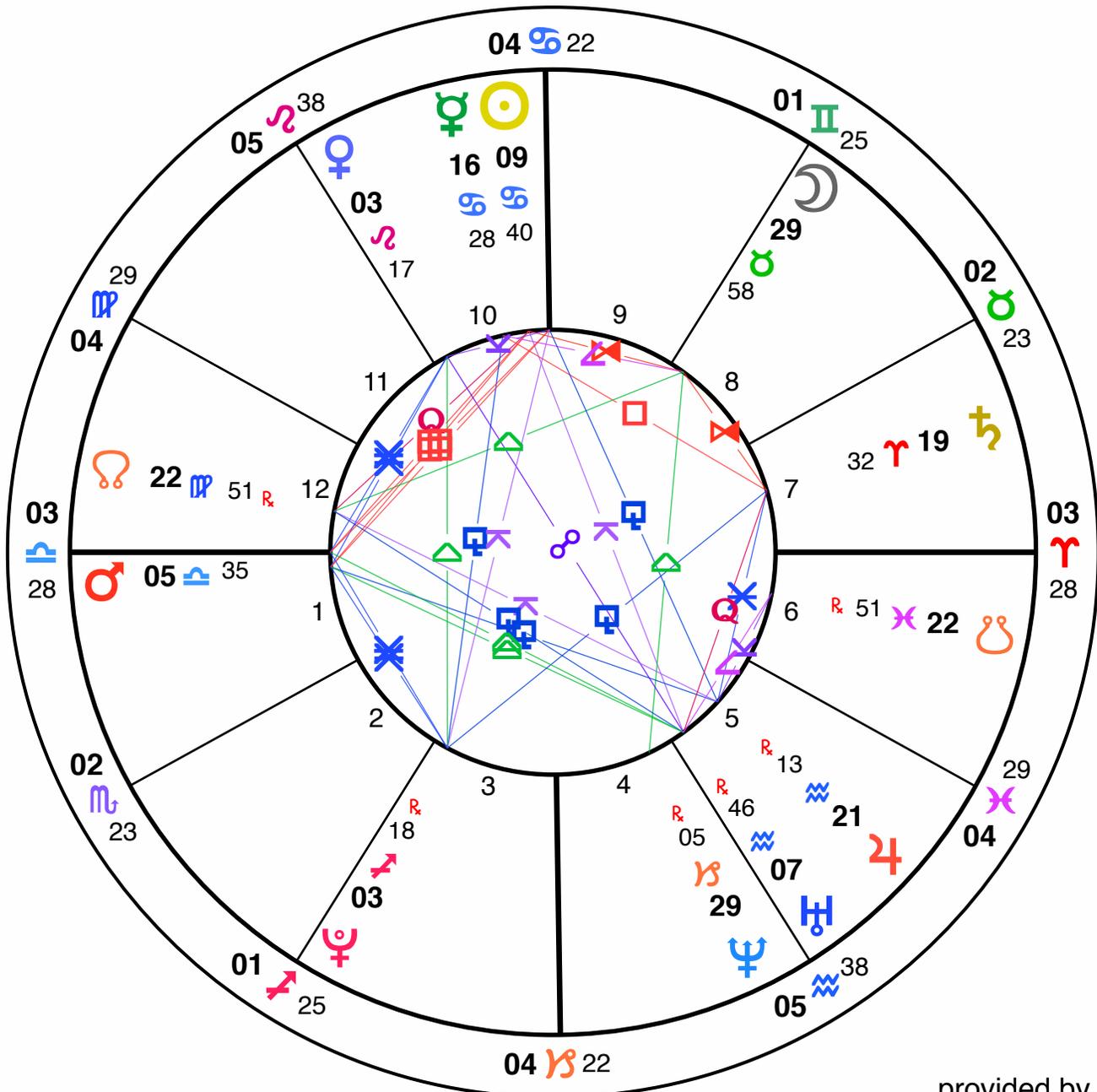
Natal Chart
Saturday, July 1, 1961
7:45:00 PM GMD
Sandringham, England
52N50 / 0E30
Tropical Koch True Node

Solar Return Interpretation

The Tropical Zodiac

Psychic Eye Astrology Analysis

Princess Diana



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Psychic Eye Book Shops

818.906.8263

Princess Diana (SR)

Precessed Solar Return

July 2, 1997

2:13:24 AM CED

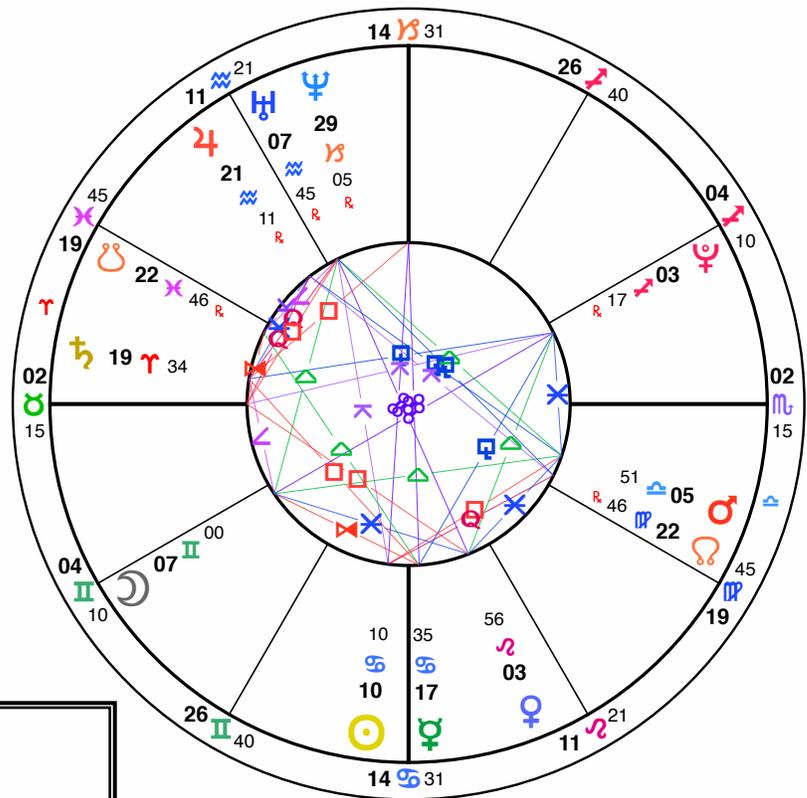
Paris, France

48N41 / 2E20

July 2, 1997

12:13:24 AM GMT

Tropical Koch True Node



House Cusps

10th 14 ♏ 31 1st 02 ♍ 15
 11th 11 ♎ 21 2nd 04 ♌ 10
 12th 19 ♋ 45 3rd 26 ♌ 40

Personal Points

R.A.M.C. 285 46

Medium Coeli 14 ♏ 31 Co Ascendant 27 ♐ 00
 Ascendant 02 ♍ 15 Polar Ascendant 11 ♎ 30
 Vertex 12 ♎ 26 Equatorial Ascendant 17 ♐ 06

Long. Lat. Decl. R.A.

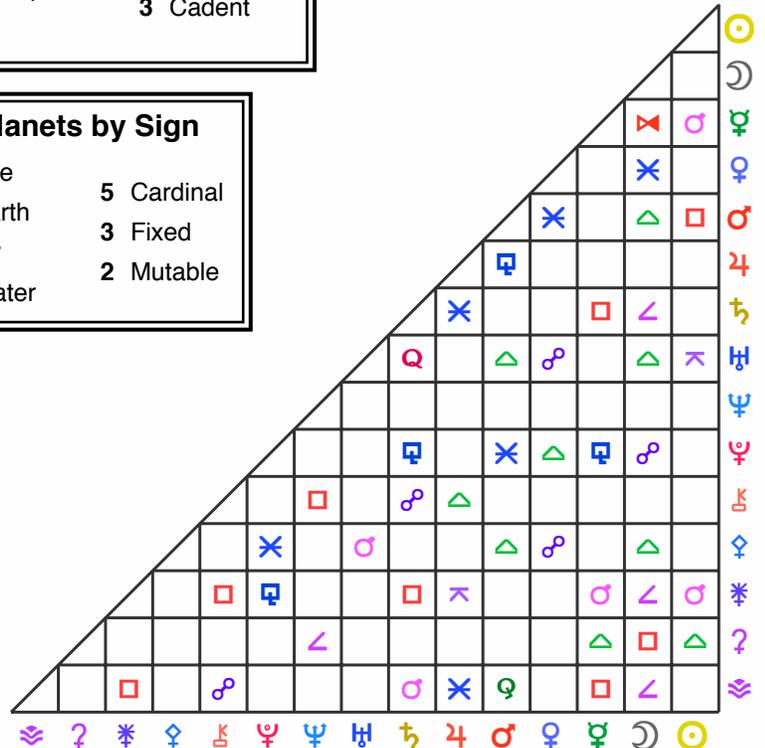
☉	10 ♍ 10 ⁰⁴	00 S00	23 N03	101 04
☾	07 ♌ 00	04 S51	16 N42	066 01
♁	17 ♍ 35	01 N45	24 N01	109 18
♂	03 ♌ 56	01 N35	20 N49	126 39
♄	05 ♎ 51	00 N08	02 S13	185 25
♃	21 ♎ 11 ^R	00 S51	15 S15	323 51
♅	19 ♐ 34	02 S25	05 N25	018 59
♁	07 ♎ 45 ^R	00 S38	18 S57	310 20
♁	29 ♏ 05 ^R	00 N25	19 S56	301 08
♁	03 ♏ 17 ^R	12 N49	08 S13	243 43
♁	25 ♎ 44	00 N22	09 S36	204 00
♁	01 ♎ 21 ^R	41 N51	21 N03	294 32
♁	19 ♍ 52	07 S24	14 N39	110 23
♁	13 ♋ 50	12 S01	17 S25	349 55
♁	21 ♐ 20	06 S53	01 N56	022 17
♁	02 ♍ 15	00 N00	12 N15	030 04
♁	14 ♏ 31	00 N00	22 S39	285 46
♁	True 22 ♏ 46 ^R	Mean 23 ♏ 25 ^R		

Planets by House

0 Life 5 Angular
 4 Substance 2 Succedent
 3 Relationships 3 Cadent
 3 Endings

Planets by Sign

3 Fire 5 Cardinal
 1 Earth 3 Fixed
 4 Air 2 Mutable
 2 Water



Solar Return Interpretation

The Tropical Zodiac

Psychic Eye Astrology Analysis

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INTRODUCTION to SOLAR RETURNS

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

TROPICAL, PLACIDUS, NONPRECESSED SOLAR RETURN

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

SOLAR RETURN LOCATION

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

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

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

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

PERIOD OF THE SOLAR RETURN'S SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

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

The main transitional month for the change from the old solar return to the new solar return is the month directly preceding the birthday. Issues related to the old solar return are resolved at this time unless they drag on (as explained above), or they are part of the new solar return as well. Issues related to the new solar return become more pressing during this transitional month and are certainly full blown by the birthdate. Sometimes the new solar return simply gains strength during the three months before your birthday and sometimes it comes in with a bang on or near your birthday. Rarely does it happen that a solar return chart starts to change manifestation later in the year. Themes in the chart usually persist for the entire year, but once in a great while one new theme will appear later than expected. In every case, the new theme can be seen in the solar return

chart, yet it lay there inactive for some unknown reason. An external event is the triggering mechanism used to activate this inert awareness, and the event generally occurs within the three months following the birthday. It can be hypothesized that unconscious factors help to avoid full involvement with this new issue until such time as it is associated with an external event of importance and thereafter becomes very obvious.

Planets conjunct a house cusp within a few degrees may be read in both houses. It is especially important to read outer planets in both houses since they eventually transit or retrograde into the other house, indicating dual or shifting concerns during the year. The more planets that are in a solar return house, the more emphasized that area of life will be during the coming year, especially if the Sun is one of the planets present. Four or more planets in any one house indicate a strong need to be involved with those themes and issues. But the individual may become so focused on this one area of life that perception is distorted and these themes are overemphasized. He or she may not want to think about anything else or accomplish tasks in other areas. The overloaded house becomes a symbol for obsessive preoccupation or emotional overload.

FIVE or more CARDINAL PLANETS

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

ZERO or ONE MUTABLE PLANET

The lack of mutable planets implies that you are less willing to adapt to other people or situations. You have a strong desire to be yourself and refuse to modify your personality or change your plans for others. Instead, you may expect others to adapt to your needs and idiosyncrasies. If there are conflicts, you feel others should be the ones to compromise or take corrective action. This is probably not realistic or fair to all involved. More positively, you will be able to focus on a goal or task with a single-mindedness that will help you see things to completion.

LIBRA RISING

When the solar return Ascendant is in Libra, cooperating with others and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships result in a rewarding lifestyle. You prosper through associations, whether personal, romantic, or professional. You love exchanging ideas, and gravitate toward intense discussions in which you can argue either side.

However, you alienate others when you argue incessantly, and make war, not peace. Learn to walk that fine line between competing with others and appeasing them. Balance in all things is the key to happiness.

INTRODUCTION to the SUN

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

SUN in the 10TH HOUSE

☉ in 10th

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 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.

SUN SQUARE or OPPOSITE MARS



Mars symbolizes the energy necessary for successful accomplishment. When Mars is square or opposite the Sun, the project you are working on will require a great deal of effort for successful completion. Personal or professional achievement can come at a cost. If you have workaholic tendencies, your schedule might strain your relationships or impact your health. Moderation is needed, but unfortunately, with the square and opposition of Sun to Mars, you might be driven by outside influences and authority figures to produce quickly or beyond reasonable limits.

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION to the MOON

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

THE MOON AS AN EMOTIONAL INDICATOR

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

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

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

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

CONSCIOUS or UNCONSCIOUS EMPHASIS

The Moon also signifies the unconscious experience. While Mercury's placement will

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

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

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

MOON in the 8TH HOUSE

☾ in 8th

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

It is very likely that you will study some psychology during the year, but you may become aware of psychological influences naturally without any education. Initial insights can come from associating with mentally disturbed people. The intensity of their psychological abnormality is fascinating, yet frightening. It is common to have an 8th

house solar return Moon if you are a professional therapist or astrologer just starting to counsel others. Disturbed individuals need not play an important role in your life and may be mere acquaintances. They are not the real focus of your realizations, they are merely the catalyst.

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

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

Emotional situations tend to be more complicated and intense. Issues are no longer black or white, good or bad. Decisions are less straightforward, especially if you feel responsible for the well-being of others. For example, if you have children and were offered a transfer to another state, you would not make this decision without careful consideration. On one hand, the move may improve your career possibilities, but on the other hand, the move could have a great impact on your children. You must consider the emotional or psychological ramifications of your decisions since they are more likely to affect others.

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

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

The Moon in the 8th house can show changing shared resources or economic

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

MOON SEXTILE or TRINE VENUS



The Moon sextile or trine Venus suggests emotional security and domestic issues are tied to relationships and financial considerations. This can be a pleasant time for relationships depending on the house placement of the Moon and Venus. The house placement for Venus in the solar return chart can indicate where the support and benefit is coming from. The house placement for the Moon shows the emotional need or response.

When these two planets are sextile or trine, your monetary situation will tend to be positive, unless there are other limiting aspects seen in the chart. You should have enough earnings or money to pay for life's necessities and feel secure. You may have extra funds for savings, investments, and discretionary spending. Financial stability is 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 for support for one of the reasons mentioned above.

If you are planning on pursuing an emotionally fulfilling career goal, consider your financial situation before making changes. Whether or not your goal is feasible at this time depends on how much money you have set aside or the support you get from others. You might take a pay cut to enter a more rewarding field, but ultimately, your salary will increase if you are successful in your new endeavors. Follow your heart and you will make money.

MOON SEXTILE or TRINE MARS



When the Moon is sextile or trine Mars in the solar return chart, you have the option of acting on your emotions in a meaningful and fulfilling way. You are able to express your feelings clearly through the things you do and the causes you support. Actions are associated with the solar return house placement of Mars, while the feelings motivating action are related to the house placement of the Moon.

The Moon sextile or trine Mars combination is not necessarily difficult, nor must it involve your personal life. It can refer to professional endeavors. Ambition reflects the energy of this combination. Use this year to empower your career goals. On the other hand, this aspect might be a call to action. You can be motivated to respond when

affected emotionally by what you see. If you are upset by conditions in a poor section of town, you might volunteer your services at a local soup kitchen. The unpleasantness you feel compels you to look at your surroundings more closely and work to correct or improve conditions.

Though Moon-Mars aspects tend to indicate situations which are a mixed blessing, you are more likely to integrate feelings and actions with the sextile and trine aspects. In this case, ambivalence is less likely to arise. You are more apt to solve problems, create alternatives, and pursue opportunities.

MOON SEXTILE or TRINE URANUS



Probably the most common theme associated with the Moon sextile or trine Uranus in a solar return chart is moving from one home to another. You may move yourself, or help someone move in or out of your home such as your parents or a grown child. Domestic changes are likely as well as structural change to the house itself. Renovations and additions to the home are seen with this aspect. Expect breaks in your daily routine and habits. This pattern of daily disorganization might last all year.

Relationships are also changing. You could be attracted to someone and involved in a new and exciting relationship. On the other hand, an old one may be going through a period of renewal or change. Relationships might appear less stable because of a major transition your partner is making. He or she may switch careers, need to travel for business, be required to upgrade skills, or experience a lifestyle change such as retirement.

If you feel you are caught in an emotional rut, it is time for a transformation. The external changes you either experience or initiate in relationships, family, or home can be a direct result of internal restlessness you may or may not be sensing. It stands to reason that if your emotional needs shift, you should begin to deal directly with issues and problems while welcoming opportunities. The best approach is to develop new and creative ways of expressing yourself. This is one way to break through any resistance or hesitation in regard to change. The process may not be smooth, but the results can be rewarding.

MOON SEXTILE or TRINE NEPTUNE



Moon sextile or trine to Neptune in the solar return chart can show increased sensitivity to life's subtleties. While Moon-Pluto aspects show a greater insight into psychological influences, manipulative games, and a need for self-control, Moon sextile or trine to Neptune indicates a greater sensitivity to feelings and needs that are not expressed openly yet bind us all. There is a spiritual, intuitive dynamic associated with Moon-Neptune aspects that can be inspirational and guiding during the year.

Moon sextile or trine Neptune aspects symbolize intuitive insights, spiritual ideals, and one's greater sensitivity to the commonalities we share. We all suffer from human frailty; Neptune symbolizes our ability to identify with others, view their missteps with forgiveness, and see their failings as well as our own. True understanding supersedes any judgmental attitudes and paves the way for a meaningful exchange. As compassion grows, spiritual development occurs.

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

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

Self-sacrifice does not necessarily mean martyrdom. Moon-Neptune aspects in the solar return indicate that you are able to help others because you truly understand their situation. You are also able to handle emotional uncertainty. You accept relationships which are not clearly defined, and you are able to give without a guarantee of return. Going with the flow means accepting insecurity as a natural by-product of your situation. With Moon-Neptune aspects in your solar return chart, you need to be able to function during times of uncertainty and handle the insecurities that go with them. You need to trust that in the end, everything will be for the best.

MOON SQUARE or OPPOSITE PLUTO



The Moon square or opposite Pluto implies an emotional make-up which is complicated by unconscious psychological influences. Emotions may be tainted or seasoned by events or complexes from the past, and you could be reliving a former happening in an immediate situation. Feelings seem more volatile, intense, stressful, or even overwhelming. Reasoning can be based on emotional factors and simply defy logic.

Relationships are likely to be affected and psychological influences will distort communications. You may be in close contact with someone who is not always rational. In extreme cases, the other person needs counseling. This is a good time to become more aware of manipulations and psychological games. You may merely perceive these influences or you may be directly involved, playing either manipulator or manipulated.

Moon square or opposite Pluto at its worst implies emotional power struggles for control. The solar return house placement for Pluto can indicate where the struggle originates and possibly what the struggle is about. For example, if Pluto is in the 2nd house of money, the struggle might be in regard to expenditures. If the Moon squares from the 5th house of children, the issue might be how much to spend on the children. Providing for children can be a real financial challenge, but suppose you feel guilty about being a divorced parent with limited resources. If you overcompensate with extravagant purchases, you are going beyond the children's needs or even wishes. This is not about the children, this is about negative emotions you are struggling with that are now dictating your choices. This power struggle may not look like an internal unconscious struggle to you. You may project the power struggle outward and see your

children as demanding. Look at the solar return house placement for both the Moon and Pluto to understand the dynamics of any power struggle. Both internal and external struggles over money, sex, and power are possible with this aspect. You may think you are struggling with another person, but perhaps you are only struggling with yourself. If so, consider ways to empower yourself.

On the other hand, the struggle can be external. Someone might be attempting to control, manipulate, or blackmail you. Manipulation and emotional blackmail only work if you allow another person to have control over some portion of your life. As soon as you begin to control yourself and take responsibility for your own well-being, manipulators tend to lose power. There are better ways to handle this situation, look for them.

Moon square or opposite Pluto does not have to involve difficult circumstances. Writers, counselors, psychology students, or those whose work depends on their ability to understand human nature tend to have Moon-Pluto contacts in their solar returns during important years. It is the awareness of the psychological and emotional influences underlying the struggle which is significant and not the struggle itself. Knowledge brings power. Use this time to become aware of how unconscious drives affect your life.

INTRODUCTION to MERCURY

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

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

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

MERCURY in the 10TH HOUSE

☿ in 10th

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 or OPPOSITE SATURN

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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.

INTRODUCTION to VENUS

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

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

RELATIONSHIPS

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

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

FINANCES

Venus also relates to money and finances, and can be used to evaluate these circumstances for the coming solar return year. The house placement for Venus may indicate how you are most likely to generate income. This is sometimes true, but not

always. Venus in the 9th implies a teaching salary, but if you don't teach, the emphasis will be on your beliefs concerning relationships. Don't stretch your economic interpretation of Venus' house placement. If the house position applies, the situation will be obvious. If the house position does not seem to apply to finances in particular, Venus will be more consistent with relationship situations during the year.

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

VENUS in the 10TH HOUSE

♀ in 10th

Venus emphasizes the importance of good relationships according to its house placement in the solar return chart. When Venus is in the 10th house, the focus of attention is on relating to authority figures. If you are still young, these authority figures will be your parents and school officials, but if you have reached the age of employment, the interpretation will most likely apply to your employers. This is a good time to foster a personal relationship with your boss; besides making working conditions more pleasant, it can help your career. During the year, who you know will be as important as what you are capable of doing. Your relationship with a boss will probably be strictly business. A few individuals have been able to "sleep" their way to the top, but generally relationships without professional effort or business talent will not get very far.

The greatest success stories come from those who were able to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with their superior while maintaining high performance. The relationship becomes mutually beneficial when your productivity is enhanced by the personal attention and guidance you receive from your boss, while at the same time your boss's ability to motivate you and other employees is increased by the personal commitment you make to his or her business plan. For some, the mutually beneficial relationship grows to become a mentor-employee involvement which can further your career goals for many years to come, since personal endorsements normally carry a lot of weight. Advancement can come more easily with this Venus placement and this kind of situation. Your employers will be as interested in developing your abilities as you are in getting ahead, so take advantage of this opportunity.

Model yourself after those who are already very successful in your chosen career. Seek career guidance from those you work for. Learn to be a team player in the business world. This is a good time to develop your negotiating skills. Sway others to support your proposals and make compromises work to your advantage.

The 10th house is the house of destiny or long-term influences which become milestones in your personal history. Venus here is associated with making choices that are important to either your career, your destiny, or both. Options are not always career-related, though generally this is the case. You will probably have the opportunity to make an important choice during the coming year. This is a good time to decide to

attend college, change professions, become self-employed, relocate to a different state or even a different country. Enterprises you begin now could benefit you greatly in both the near and distant future.

The down side of Venus in the 10th house is the inconsistency of the interpretation. Although Venus can show advancements and success, no planet guarantees a benefic or malefic interpretation. The manifestation is always based on your ability to handle your drives, and the action you ultimately take. This is especially true with Venus in the 10th house; a lot depends on your ability to get along with your superiors. Professional success tends to come more easily with Venus in the 10th, but when no work is involved, it may not come at all. Relocation may pull you out of an established, successful position. Personality preferences may make you uncomfortable with your present position. You may not like your boss, or you may prefer self-employment to your nine-to-five job.

VENUS SEXTILE or TRINE MARS



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

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

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

VENUS SQUARE or OPPOSITE URANUS



Venus square or opposite Uranus in the solar return chart usually denotes changes in relationships. For some people, this can mean a sudden attraction and the excitement of a new love. Involvements may be very strong, very quick, but may not have staying power. Loose associations are more common. Friends become lovers and some love relationships seem more like friendships. Occasionally, relationships and attractions are less than conventional. Affairs between or with married individuals, homosexual contacts, and long-distance romances are possible.

A general mood of disruption may permeate all partnerships, whether old or new, personal or professional. Difficult relationships may end or become on-again, off-again challenging involvements. For those in a healthy relationship, changes will occur within the relationship itself and do not indicate a break in ties or a loss of commitment. One or the other partner may have a desire for greater freedom and openness for one reason or another.

For some people, the changes involve a loss of comfort and stability, but a gain in newness and excitement. For example, the birth of a child brings both disruption and excitement to the new parents. Gone is the relaxing comfort of a stable schedule; expectations and behavioral patterns which were once taken for granted may now be nonexistent. New patterns must emerge, but while the necessary adjustments are being made, the continuing disruption can cause difficulties and temporary distancing between the people involved. Any strong change can cause this disruption in established relationship patterns. Separation and divorce is possible, but not the norm. Other situations that lead to disruption include relocation, retirement, travel, and changes in the number of people living in the home.

Financial changes are also likely to occur with Venus square or opposite Uranus. You may decide to stop working or you may have to go out and get a job. You might be hit with unexpected, large expenses. The amount of money available to you is likely to change or fluctuate, causing stress. If you are working on a commission or incentive basis, or involved in a profit-sharing plan at work, don't count on the funds until you receive them. Be fiscally conservative and plan for a rainy day.

VENUS SQUARE or OPPOSITE NEPTUNE

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If you are already involved in a stable emotional relationship, Venus square or opposite Neptune in the solar return chart may be more relevant to financial concerns than romantic interests. Financial circumstances will exhibit a degree of uncertainty noted by the house placement of Neptune. You may be unemployed for part of the year or less sure of where the next dollar is coming from. Hand to mouth economics is possible. A break from work can be a leave of absence without pay, but there are other reasons for financial uncertainty. You can be self-employed or have an income based on commissions, incentives or profit-sharing; your hours may fluctuate or you might work on an "on-call" basis. Under these conditions, you will be unsure of the amount of your pay until the check arrives.

Changing circumstances also affect the amount of money available, (e.g., relocation, divorce, illness, large purchases, or major sales), and it is impossible to predict the effect these changes will have, especially if several variables are involved. For example, if you must sell your home and relocate to a different state, you will not know the final sale price for your present home, how much a new home will cost, how much you will be able to earn at your new job, and how expensive it will be to live in the area. You must be careful with your funds until the figures are worked out. If you are expecting money from others in the form of a loan, gift, or inheritance, you will not be sure how much you will receive or when you will receive it. If you are taking a financial risk, you can't be sure that things will work out. Regardless whether or not financial uncertainty is job-related, monetary uncertainty exists in some form.

Venus square or opposite Neptune can also be relevant to understanding your relationships during the coming year. Significant emotional relationships can be very spiritual and compassionate, or very confusing. The ability to be self-sacrificing is seen with this aspect, but then, so too is the ability to be martyred. You may neglect your own needs. Don't get caught trying to save someone from alcohol or drug addiction who does

not want to be saved.

If you are not already married, you or your partner may not wish to make an external commitment at this time. New or less stable love relationships tend to lack definition. In any relationship, your partner's intentions may be unclear or actions contradictory. He or she may come and go, appear and disappear, say one thing and do another. One minute you know you are loved and the next minute you are not sure. It's difficult to know where you stand. While in this limbo, the relationship remains suspended in time, without a guaranteed future or a present reality. No relationship comes with guarantees, but with Venus-Neptune contacts insecurity can be even more evident.

Because of the lack of clarity inherent in relationships, idealization and distortion occur, making partners seem too good to be true. Aggrandizement of this sort can only lead to disappointment and disillusionment. A persistent sense of confusion and insecurity can cause you to misinterpret what is actually occurring, especially when one or both partners are ambivalent or deceptive. In difficult relationships there will be lies to contend with. Clandestine and secret relationships are possible and lead to the biggest lies.

VENUS SEXTILE or TRINE PLUTO



Venus sextile or trine to Pluto in the solar return chart can show emotional involvements and beneficial financial situations. New relationships can be especially compelling, and like the moth to the flame, you are drawn to particular individuals without understanding why. Unconscious forces can play a major role in this type of relationship. You may discover that you have met the perfect mate, but in the beginning, a perceived loss of control might be disconcerting, especially if a persistent sense of vulnerability becomes coupled with a growing need for intimacy.

In both new and old relationships, Venus sextile or trine to Pluto can indicate considerable emotional growth, but you must develop a good understanding of unconscious urges. Awareness of barriers to intimacy might be crucial to the success of the relationship. If problems develop, consider individual or couples counseling.

Power can be an issue in both intimate and casual relationships. Individuals who learn to trust, compromise, and share power see their relationships deepen and strengthen. Power issues turn to mutual empowerment. Accommodating the emotional needs of others breeds increased understanding.

Financially, Venus sextile or trine to Pluto indicates strong financial changes or beneficial monetary arrangements. Salary adjustments, both positive and negative, are common and may be the result of a career move, relocation, leave without pay, cutback in hours, or retirement. Ambition can cause your salary to rise dramatically, especially if your earnings are based on commissions or profit-sharing. Those who are self-employed also experience fluctuations in earnings. In some situations, your financial status may depend on the resources of others who may or may not be generous.

The emphasis here is on personal power in relationships and power over your own financial situation. By gaining insight into your behavior and the behavior of others, you can master both areas of concern.

INTRODUCTION to MARS

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

Mars, by its very nature, denotes the spark of initiation and self-motivation. Original pursuits, independent actions and new projects are fostered during the year and are typically associated with those areas of life denoted by the house placement of Mars. Because of the new endeavors and the enthusiasm generated, these areas then become the focus of energy use as the level of activity increases and you begin to feel driven to work, accomplish, and complete. Sometimes ambition and competitiveness augment the need to excel, but an energetic attitude can flow without these personality traits since self-motivation tends to spring naturally from an inner source.

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

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

action would suit your purposes better. As you focus on negative situations and gain understanding, you can begin to funnel your energies into the most positive manifestations.

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

Mars as an indicator of sexuality is not consistent with the interpretation for every house position. There is the possibility that sexual intrigue can apply to the situations denoted by any of the planet's placements, but the connection is not always obvious. Themes of initiation, high energy output, anger, and aggression appear more consistently. For example, Mars in the 10th may mean a sexual attraction between you and your boss, but it is more likely for you to be extremely active in career endeavors. Your boss can be a prime motivator toward career success or he could actually be very offensive and thwart your efforts. Note the aspects between Mars and your other personal planets for further information. The sexual implications of Mars seem more obvious in the relational houses, but then individual differences apply. Sexual fulfillment is directly related to the appropriateness of sexual activity given the particular situation and any restraints or inhibitions involved.

MARS in the 1ST HOUSE

♂ in 1st

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

This is the year to get in touch with your unique drive for accomplishment. Ego fulfillment and self-interest are important at this time since personal needs are more

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

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

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

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

MARS SEXTILE or TRINE URANUS

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Mars sextile or trine Uranus can be very creative. This will be an exciting year for those open to change. It is time to move on in a good way. Something better is calling and waiting in the wings. Changes are usually self-initiated, or associated with arising opportunities. Changes range from a constant stream of minor adjustments to sweeping transformations and can be beneficial. The energy patterns are shifting and you do not want to be tied down to a boring routine or passé situation. Whatever is new is inviting.

During the transitional stage, behavior patterns might be somewhat erratic, and on-again, off-again situations are not uncommon. Changes and the need for greater freedom can sometimes lead to sudden separations and broken relationship ties. Though transitions are stressful at the time, changes are advantageous in the long run. If freedom is an issue, any restriction will be met with assertiveness if not anger. Speed is essential,

and therefore, time delays are unlikely. Matters tend to move forward quickly.

Dangers normally associated with Mars-Uranus contacts do not commonly occur with the sextile and trine. Individuals seem to be more flexible with these aspects and situations are less stressful. There is no sense of urgency. Instead, change is motivated by creativity, insight, and opportunity. One can move forward with confidence. The climate for change is usually both relaxed and progressive.

If anger is not present, trauma in any form is unlikely. However, should anger exist, suppressed or expressed indiscriminately, accidents in some form might occur. The issue is not whether you allow the anger to seek expression: the issue is one of directing the energy into a creative and productive outcome. Sticking your head in the sand is not the answer and actually may be one of the worst things you could do. Remain aware of your frustrations and the options available for dealing with them. Be proactive. Make decisions. Initiate necessary changes. Don't wait for life to happen to you.

MARS SEXTILE or TRINE PLUTO



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

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION to JUPITER

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

All opportunities will probably involve expansion into new areas of activity. The

primary function of the Jupiter principle is to expand beyond the scope of previous experience. One is not to remain in a static condition; growth is not only implied, but expected. Jupiter's slow and consistent movement through the zodiac implies the steady growth needed to advance.

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

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

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

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

JUPITER in the 5TH HOUSE

4 in 5th

The overall interpretation of Jupiter in the 5th house is expanded self-expression. There are a number of ways you might seek to manifest this growth. Most people begin by letting their inner personalities show more in daily-life situations, but then go on to

branch out into new fields of interest. For example, one woman took flying lessons and learned to love flying. She subsequently took a job selling airplanes at a small local airport. She left a job in a family-run business which had always stripped her of time and energy. For her, flying became the symbol of her own breaking away. Being free to express yourself naturally is an issue with this placement, and you will tend to seek out those situations which allow for greater latitude and fewer restrictions. Then, as you grow to express yourself more and more during the year, you not only gain self-understanding, but you also learn to accept who you are as a person.

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION to SATURN

Saturn rules reality and the reality of any given situation is that we are all ultimately responsible for creating our own lives. The responses and choices we make to any given situation, together with the fears we avoid, form the backbone for our pattern of living. Only when we accept the responsibility for creating our own fate can we be freed from the necessity of living it. Only when we face our fears can we live unafraid. Saturn is the

key to this change in orientation. It is the ultimate reality, the ultimate fear, the karmic avenger, and ruler of the universal laws of nature. It is through Saturn's house placement that we come face to face with ourselves, the structures, and limitations of reality, and the laws we must live by.

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

The movement of Saturn through the solar return chart coincides with an awareness of structure. Sometimes this awareness is associated with frustration, and the accentuation of restrictions now blocking evolution. It is through this realization process and frustration that we first become aware of the need to grow beyond our present structures. Therefore, the first step in the Saturnian process toward growth is recognizing structures, frustrations, and limitations imposed by our present patterns of living, particularly in those areas of life signified by Saturn's house placement in the solar return.

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

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

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

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

Facing your fears concerning success or failure is ultimately what Saturn is all about. At this point, you are very aware of the reality of your situation, and you have a list of options for the future, not all of which may work. You understand your own contribution to the situation and what you must do in order to move toward a resolution. You have seen your own shortcomings and become aware of your darker side. You comprehend the laws of nature relative to your situation and know everything is earned in this case, nothing is given, and nothing is guaranteed by the Universe. You now realize that you must stick your nose out and take a calculated risk. In order to progress, you must face your fears, and move toward your nightmare rather than back away. It is only by passing through a period of vulnerability that one can break out of a protective, yet restrictive structure and progress into a more suitable environment. You give up the security of the familiar and step into the unknown.

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

SATURN in the 7TH HOUSE

♄ in 7th

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

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

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

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

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

Usually the lack of commitment is a two-way street, but you may not see it that way. In the beginning, you may compensate for the lack of commitment by deliberately

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

Saturn in the 7th house indicates your awareness of humanity and the difficulties inherent in associations with others. Relationships involve a certain amount of discipline, obligation, and responsibility. Much of this will fall within the normal give-and-take of relating, as long as you do not stay in partnerships which are excessively difficult or detrimental to your psychological health.

INTRODUCTION to URANUS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We learn as much from separation as we do from attraction when we define what we

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

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

URANUS in the 5TH HOUSE

♅ in 5th

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

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

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

This can be a very creative year, especially if you are already involved in an artistic

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

The only difficulty associated with creativity and this Uranus placement is the tendency to go through a short frustrating period of transition. Most likely, there will come a time during the year when blockages occur because the creative style is in such a state of flux. These blockages are not permanent, but serve as a signal that creative shifts are now taking place and there can be a transition to a much higher level of attainment in artistry for those who understand the transformation and go with the new energy fearlessly. Do not be dismayed by this development. Go with the flow and trust that new skills await those who can progress. A prolonged blockage shows a resistance to new forms of expression waiting to be born. Adjustments may take a while, but they are worth the effort.

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

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

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

need of your assistance and advice.

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

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

INTRODUCTION to NEPTUNE

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

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

At the mental level, creativity and inspiration help to expand the individual's intellectual capacity. Neptune is more closely associated with the right brain than the

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

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

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

NEPTUNE in the 4TH HOUSE

♆ in 4th

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

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION to PLUTO

In the solar return chart, the interpretation of Pluto includes an understanding of the issue of power and its various manifestations, which can be directed toward three different points of focus and through three different life processes. Complications are associated with all of these orientations and processes since each manifestation is multidimensional and complex, occurring not only on the physical level, but on the intellectual, emotional and spiritual levels as well. Within these complex situations,

power can be focused on three different targets: the self, others, and/or circumstances. As a rule, the power to control oneself is mostly beneficial, the power to control others is mostly detrimental and the power to control situations varies according to the circumstances involved. By studying Pluto's house placement in the solar return chart, you can assess in which areas of life these control issues are most likely to arise. The scope and effects of the power issues are seen through the connections to other solar return planets.

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

THREE DIFFERENT POINTS of FOCUS

Generally, the focal point of self is beneficial. As long as you are using Plutonian insights and techniques to control yourself, to own your own power and to further your own growth, the process will be a positive learning experience, unless you overcontrol yourself, succumbing to hair-shirt asceticism, taking self-denial to absurd extremes. The greater your awareness of yourself and Universal principles, the more likely you are to make good decisions. You become the captain of your own destiny. Enlightenment leads to power and power leads to enlightenment as a rewarding cycle of manifestation is set in motion.

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

The same thwarting of personal growth is evident when you shift your attention from self to the need to control others. By and large, this is not a good focal orientation. The symbolism of the planets exists in your consciousness so that you can grow and prosper from insight. Since growth begins at home, the main thrust of the focus should always be toward self, and it is generally unnecessary and also counterproductive to shift the emphasis to an external struggle. The most efficient use of power exists on the internal

plane because it takes much less energy to control your own reactions than to seek power over someone else. Once power is removed from the inner self and used to control others, the effectiveness is reduced. Stalemated power struggles are particularly detrimental because they deplete resources. It is conceivable that there are life situations where it is essential to control another person. For example, children, disabled or elderly loved ones may not be able to make informed decisions. In these situations you might be asked or forced to wield power over another. You are meant to grow from all your experiences. Even in these instances, self-awareness and insight are crucial to the decisions you make. Start with yourself first, then work your way outward. Blaming others for your problems distorts the perception of self and the realization of your own personal involvement. Always be aware of the interactive process and the role you play in it. This internal perspective is of primary importance, much more so than the process of controlling someone else.

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

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

The primary goal of the Plutonian process should be growth through awareness.

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

THREE DIFFERENT PLUTONIAN PROCESSES

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

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

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

In some instances, the power to remain the same can be a negative manifestation, actually causing the stagnation of growth. If you resist all new internal and external insights which would enhance your growth or cause you to make changes, little progress will result. You will stall. When your purposes are not in keeping with Universal Good or personal benefit, you are more likely to be involved in a negative use of Plutonian power.

The process of elimination can be very cleansing, even though a symbolic death is involved. If you streamline your business or office procedures, letting go of compulsive and unnecessary activities, this is a death of sorts, but much to your benefit. So is a budgetary review which eliminates the fat from your spending practices and allows you to cut back on your work schedule. In more serious circumstances, perhaps all you can do is release a situation that is detrimental to your progress. Letting go can be a positive choice, but it might also be a negative one if you cut someone out of your life without resolving or releasing the conflict. If this is true in your case, avoiding persons or situations will consume your energy. Transformation is the process whereby a situation,

thing or level of consciousness is changed into a new, and hopefully higher, manifestation. Careers, marriages and self-images can all be transformed for the better. Commonly, though, we think of the transformation process in terms of psychological insight and level of consciousness. Information from subtle sources or the unconscious is gradually or suddenly made available to either the rational mind or the Higher Self, and subsequently a change occurs on the mental, emotional or spiritual level. Information that was previously unavailable becomes understandable through the process of insight, and power is released through new awareness. This can be a very enlightening and beneficial transition, but naturally it is what you do with the information that is important. If intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth are triggered by the new awareness, the process continues to be positive; however, if instead you use your newfound insight to control others or block growth, you have used your knowledge in a negative way.

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

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

PLUTO in the 3RD HOUSE

♇ in 3rd

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

between what is actually said and body language or action taken by the person making the statement. Eventually one will become sensitized to most unconscious messages, whether obvious or not, consistent or inconsistent.

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

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

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

In manifestations involving conflict, manipulations associated with power struggles over intellectual concepts, behavior, or decisions might take place on a daily basis. Someone can be intolerant of your new ideas or obsessed with an antiquated line of reasoning. Negotiations and discussions will not be straightforward since unconscious complexes will complicate communications. Power plays and psychological ploys are

common. Gossip may be a problem and you must be mindful of your reputation. Spiteful comments, whether truthful or fictitious, can be used to undermine your effectiveness. It may be necessary for you to stubbornly adhere to your own convictions in order to prevail or survive.

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

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