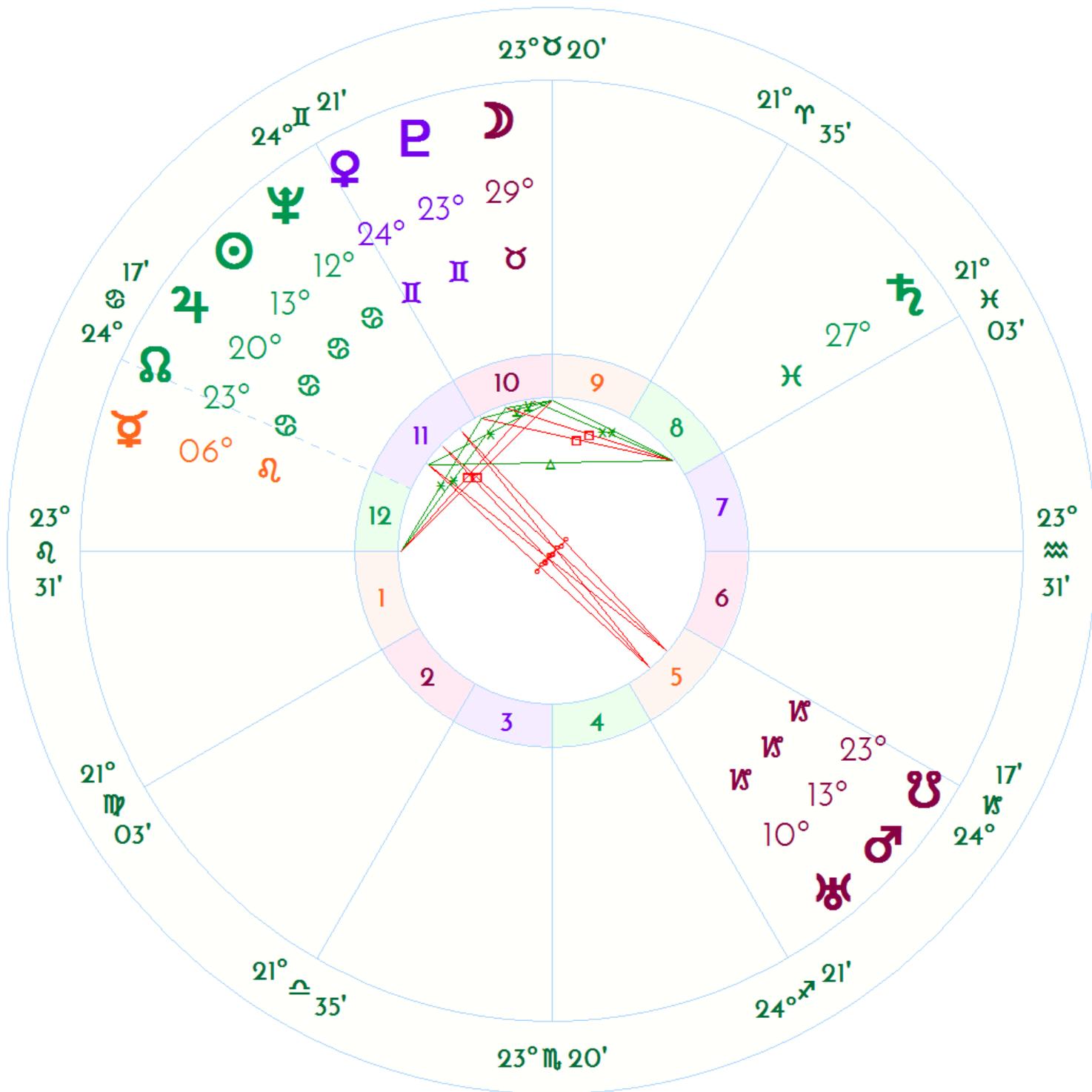




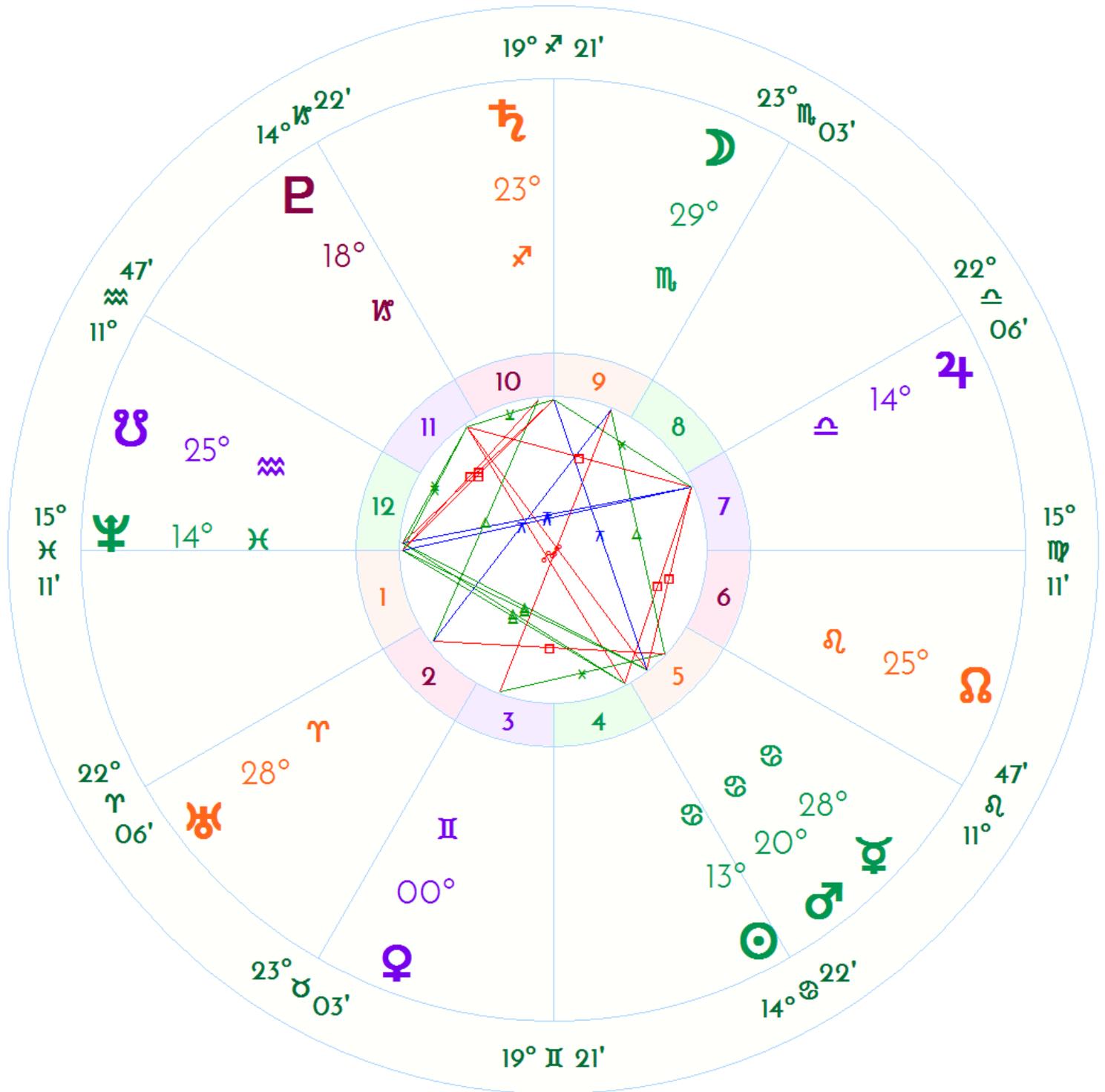
MY  
BIRTHDAY  
REPORT



**Frida Kahlo**  
NATAL CHART

July 6, 1907  
8:30 AM  
Coyoacan, Mexico  
19 N 20 99 W 10

Local Mean Time  
Time Zone: 0 hours West  
Tropical Placidus



## Frida Kahlo

Solar Return for July 4, 2017 in Coyoacan, Mexico

July 4, 2017  
 11:56:46 PM  
 Coyoacan, Mexico  
 19 N 20 99 W 10

Daylight Saving Time  
 Time Zone: 6 hours West  
 Tropical Placidus



\*\*\*\*\*

Planets in Solar Return Report for:

Frida Kahlo

July 6, 1907

8:30 AM

Coyoacan, Mexico

\*\*\*\*\*

Solar Return calculated for:

July 4, 2017

11:56:46 PM

Coyoacan, Mexico

\*\*\*\*\*

AstroFix | The Blog of an Astrology Addict

astrofix.net | michelle@astrofix.net

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

## WHAT IS A SOLAR RETURN CHART?

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

date, using the time (of the transiting Sun's return to your natal Sun's position), and your location (longitude and latitude) at the time of the conjunction.

## TROPICAL, PLACIDUS, NONPRECESSED SOLAR RETURN

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

## SOLAR RETURN LOCATION

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

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

a great distance.

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

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

## PERIOD OF THE SOLAR RETURN'S SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the solar return runs birthday to birthday with a three month overlap at the beginning and end of each year. The symbolism of the new solar return can be felt as much as three months before the birthday by very intuitive people. Usually, at this time, one becomes aware of new directions, opportunities, and problems. Many times there is even an event exactly three months before the birthday which triggers awareness and signals the beginning of the new solar return. This event is usually very much related to the new solar return and very much out of context with the old one. If you have plans to travel overseas during the three months before your birthday, do not look for the event in the old solar return even if you have

been planning to take the trip all year. The old solar return will probably indicate the planning stage, but the new solar return will indicate the trip. The trip itself illustrates change, and since it occurs in the three months before your birthday, it will most likely be indicative of the new solar return chart.

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

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

The main transitional month for the change from the old solar return to the new solar return is the month directly preceding the birthday. Issues related to the old solar return are resolved at this time unless they drag on (as explained above), or they are part of the new solar

return as well. Issues related to the new solar return become more pressing during this transitional month and are certainly full blown by the birthdate. Sometimes the new solar return simply gains strength during the three months before your birthday and sometimes it comes in with a bang on or near your birthday. Rarely does it happen that a solar return chart starts to change manifestation later in the year. Themes in the chart usually persist for the entire year, but once in a great while one new theme will appear later than expected. In every case, the new theme can be seen in the solar return chart, yet it lay there inactive for some unknown reason. An external event is the triggering mechanism used to activate this inert awareness, and the event generally occurs within the three months following the birthday. It can be hypothesized that unconscious factors help to avoid full involvement with this new issue until such time as it is associated with an external event of importance and thereafter becomes very obvious.

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

\*\*\* Astrological Data of Birth \*\*\*

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

Sun	13	Can	23	Neptune	12	Can	24
Moon	29	Tau	43	Pluto	23	Gem	45
Mercury	6	Leo	20	Asc.	23	Leo	31
Venus	24	Gem	20	MC	23	Tau	20
Mars	13	Cap	24	2nd cusp	21	Vir	03
Jupiter	20	Can	26	3rd cusp	21	Lib	35
Saturn	27	Pis	27	5th cusp	24	Sag	21
Uranus	10	Cap	37	6th cusp	24	Cap	17

**Tropical Placidus Local Time observed**

**July 6, 1907 8:30 AM**

**GMT: 15:06:40 Time Zone: 0 hours West**

**Lat. and Long. of birth place: 19 N 20 99 W 10**

**Astrological Data of Solar Return:**

Sun	13	Can	23	Neptune	14	Pis	10
Moon	29	Sco	55	Pluto	18	Cap	15
Mercury	28	Can	30	Asc.	15	Pis	11
Venus	0	Gem	13	MC	19	Sag	21
Mars	20	Can	05	2nd cusp	22	Ari	06
Jupiter	14	Lib	10	3rd cusp	23	Tau	03
Saturn	23	Sag	06	5th cusp	14	Can	22
Uranus	28	Ari	11	6th cusp	11	Leo	47

July 4, 2017 GMT: 04:56:46

Coyoacan, Mexico 19 N 20 99 W 10

Aspects and orbs:

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

**Copyright information:**

**Report and Text © Copyright Mary Shea and Cosmic Patterns Software, Inc.**

**The content of this report is protected by Copyright law.**

**By purchasing this report you agree to comply with this Copyright.**

## ELEMENTS, MODES, QUADRANTS, AND RETROGRADE PLANETS

### FIVE OR MORE CARDINAL PLANETS

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

## ZERO OR ONE FIXED PLANET

When fixed planets are lacking in the solar return chart, you may feel the need to initiate major changes and take greater risks. You will tend to welcome changes that come your way and actually see change as the natural way to improve your life situation. You have a desire for new experiences and can make major commitments to previously untried life-styles. You might move a great distance, have a first child, get married, or experience a similar major transition. An element of insecurity or a lack of attention to security needs is associated with this modal lack. There is a tendency to jump now and think later. Your resistance to change may be so low that you lack stability during this time and make some changes unnecessarily. Use this year to be open to new possibilities. Prepare for times of great change by planning ahead.

## ZERO OR ONE EARTH PLANET

While the preponderance of earth is generally associated with attention to financial matters, the lack of earth is more closely associated with financial limitations. Implied is a lack of money, through a loss of income, mismanagement, or self-imposed limitations. If you usually

have money problems, then the lack of earth in the solar return chart can indicate increasing or continuing economic difficulties during the coming year. You may find that you have reached your credit limit and can no longer spend money without planning. You will not necessarily have employment problems also, though sometimes that is the case. The lack of earth in the solar return chart suggests a lack of attention to financial concerns which can eventually lead to significant debt and overextension.

On the other hand, this is an excellent time to budget. Those individuals who are able to set their own limits use this time to become artificially poor and live on less money than earned. The lack of earth can indicate the desire to impose a strict system for saving money toward a large purchase such as a down payment on a home. In this case, the monetary pinch comes from your own savings program and not a lack of real funds or impinging debts. You can channel your money into various projects and expenses, leaving less to play with. If you are very concerned with your future financial security, vow to do something about it now.

For some individuals, the lack of money will not be a problem. You can place a greater emphasis on intangibles and therefore money is not a top priority. The quality of life is more important than the current financial state. If you are unhappy with your job, this is a good time to quit since career satisfaction will be more important to you than the salary you are paid. You are capable of living on less.

## FIVE OR MORE WATER PLANETS

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

thought. This is a good time to work with your feelings and create a stronger bond of nurturing and caring with others.

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

## THE ASCENDING SIGN IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

SOLAR RETURN ASCENDANT PISCES :

When the solar return Ascendant is in Pisces, emotions, intuition, creativity, and spirituality are all interconnected. You need to find a fulfilling outlet for your feelings through service, art, or mysticism. You are sensitive to the moods and troubles of others. This can fill you with empathy and compassion, or make you a sucker for a sad song. Though a dreamer, you can be impractical and not necessarily able to manifest your dreams. Don't let indecision, uncertainty, or confusion run your life. Even if it all becomes overwhelming, look for solutions, not an escape.

## THE SUN IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

### SUN IN 4TH HOUSE (WITHIN 3 DEGREE ORB OF 5TH HOUSE)

The Sun in the 4th house is basically concerned with finding a physical, emotional, and spiritual home or niche. There is a special place for everyone in the Universe, a place that reflects their spiritual purpose and fulfills their emotional/physical needs, a niche that defines, directs, and supports. It is the place where you function at your best while feeling protected and encouraged by your environment. On a physical level, this niche is a warm and comfortable home. On the emotional level, it is a supportive relationship, and spiritually, it is a fulfilling

purpose or goal. With the Sun in the solar return 4th house, you need to find that niche on the physical, emotional, and spiritual levels. This is a time for grounding your existence with purpose and establishing the roots that will support you in the years ahead.

Finding the physical niche means finding or constructing a home that is a comfortable place of revitalization. Your pleasures are simple and center around whatever you call home, but it is not uncommon for "home" to become unsuitable during the solar return year. Your needs have changed and you must now make some adjustments in your surroundings. With only the Sun in the 4th house, you probably only want to redecorate or reorganize your home situation. Those individuals with Uranus or Pluto also in the 4th house may want to make sweeping changes that tend to involve greater disruption.

The search for a home on the physical level leads many people to purchase new homes or fix up their old ones. They need to have a physical place of retreat in order to replenish their energy. The physical niche is crucial since it is the beginning base of operation which goes on to support both the emotional and spiritual levels. The external emphasis on purchasing or repairing a home reflects the internal emotional need for a supportive environment. If you examine your living or working environment now, you will discover that there is something which physically impairs your future goals. In most instances, there is a need for a private place for thinking, working or studying. This need for space is important and must be satisfied if you are to build a multilevel supportive environment which will augment your future abilities. Work begins with the physical home. Watch the symbolism of what you are doing to the physical home. As you are satisfying physical external needs, correlations can be drawn to improvements occurring on the emotional and spiritual levels.

The Sun in the 4th house is also focused on the emotional level. This is a very strong position for individuals seeking emotional satisfaction and fulfillment. For this reason, you will tend to be more vocal about your feelings of loneliness and lack of emotional support from friends, family, co-workers, and bosses. You will also be more appreciative of the support these

people give you. Loneliness may be the result of delayed grief. You may grieve for those who have died or left even though the separation occurred several years before. The Sun in the 4th is meant to be a time of emotional healing; it may not be a year for personal achievement, independence or assertiveness if you are more concerned about emotional fulfillment and interconnections with others. Gains can be made internally rather than externally.

Family involvement grows and this is a good time to improve or renew relationships with estranged family members. Resolve old resentments which clog up the emotional nature, making it more difficult to express positive feelings. This process of emotional housecleaning may involve reevaluating your childhood and your relationship with your mother and father. Your memories during this time may not be especially pleasant; working to give yourself the emotional support you will need in the future can involve reconciling past conflicts. If you still cannot get what you need emotionally from your relatives, then you will seek comfort elsewhere and grow apart.

Dependency issues are common. An increased need for physical or emotional support can evolve into an obvious dependency. You may be physically or emotionally dependent on someone else as a result of real or imagined limitations. Those individuals who are already emotionally unstable can regress and exhibit childlike characteristics. This is a very negative and, fortunately, very rare manifestation.

You may feel physically and emotionally abandoned by your parents, and their lack of support becomes an issue. They would feel that your demands are too great; you would say their help is nonexistent. On the other hand, you might be asked to give your support to others. Sometimes grown children or elderly parents turn to you for assistance if they are emotionally drained or physically weakened themselves and greatly in need of help. It is good to remember that we all have different needs at different times. They wax and wane according to our spiritual, emotional, and physical diet.

Usually the Sun in the 4th moves to the 1st house in the following solar return year, so now is a good time to practice using your emotional and intuitive processes in a positive way. They are important sources of information, essential to your growth. If you get in touch with your emotional-intuitive nature, you will learn to trust the information you receive. Gradually, as the year moves on, you will become aware of factual or physical evidence supporting your intuitive impressions. You need to break through emotional fears and begin to work positively with your insights so that your intuitive feelings will flow easily. Next year when your Sun moves to the 1st house, you will have a good information base for independent action and personal assertiveness.

And finally, you must find a spiritual niche in this world. Everyone is here for a purpose. Your spiritual purpose may be renewed, clarified, or changed at this time. You need to redefine what your higher purpose will be in the coming years, and how you can best serve the needs of the Universe. You will be guided in your search by what makes you feel fulfilled. This is why emotions are so important this year-they put you in touch with your spiritual purpose. Next year (when the Sun will probably be in the 1st house), and the following year (when the Sun will most likely be in the 10th house), you will be involved with expressing yourself more assertively to the world. With a clear sense of spiritual direction, a strong intuitive nature, and a supportive environment, confidence will be maintained and growth will occur easily. You will use the supportive physical environment, emotional connections and spiritual goals you establish this year to back up your efforts in those years to come.

### SUN WITHIN 3 DEGREE ORB OF 5TH HOUSE

The Sun in the 5th house emphasizes the need to express yourself more fully. When the Sun is in the 1st house you try to find out who you are, but when the Sun is in the 5th house, you know who you are, and have a stronger-than-usual urge for expression. Having your Sun in this house can mean watching your personality bloom. This is a wonderful position for those who

have been compromised in the past and now feel the need to be more assertive. The outer expression of your personality should become more useful to your future goals and also more consistent with your inner qualities. "To thine own self be true," should be the motto for this placement. But keep in mind also the desire to maintain relationships with others. Although self-expression may disrupt relationships somewhat, the purpose of this placement is to foster good relationships while increasing your self-expression.

Self-expression can take several forms, some of which are artistic and most of which are creative. Artistic pursuits include painting, writing, poetry, and music; however, you may concentrate on a more mundane project such as creating your own lesson plans, developing your own business style or founding your own nursery school. The medium for self-expression is not important, it is the self-expression itself which is creative, and it need not necessarily be artistic.

The Sun in the 5th house can also show a strong involvement with children; if you are a parent, they may be the major focus of your attention. If you have a tendency to express yourself through your children, you must be careful not to dominate their lives. On the other hand, this can be a rewarding time, one in which you are very proud of your children and their achievements.

There is always the possibility of romance with this placement, and if a relationship occurs it is usually very exciting. Sexual attractions play a major role in determining to whom you are drawn. Romantic interchanges and affairs are likely. This can be a heart-pounding infatuation at its best, but remember that the 5th house rules unbounded relationships rather than marriage. Although you may discuss marriage with your newfound love, it is very unlikely that you will tie the knot this year.

Because the 5th house is also the house of speculation, you are more likely to take risks this year. You do not necessarily gamble or speculate (though you may), but you are willing to bet

on your own abilities. The chances you take may or may not involve money, but you are open to asserting yourself and trying new things. You readily risk failure because of a desire to stretch the boundaries of self-expression.

## SUN OPPOSITION PLUTO

Pluto is a slow moving planet and transits last for a number of consecutive years. Pluto square or opposite the Sun will appear in several solar returns. The most important interpretation associated with this aspect is an increased awareness of how people get, maintain, and use power to reach goals, or to control self or others. For some individuals, this is a time to study psychology; however, many will notice examples of obsessive, compulsive, phobic, or manipulative behaviors regardless of educational background. Unconscious needs are intensified and life can become more complicated. Learning to deal with life on a deeper level is the hallmark of the Plutonian consciousness.

Negatively, awareness can come through conflicts and struggle. Power usage in confrontations and everyday situations will become more obvious, but even subtle shifts in power will be evident to you as you learn to recognize psychological motivations and manipulations. Awareness is more important than the struggle itself though significant conflicts can arise. It is the awareness which gives you a greater ability to change your own life. This is meant to be a time of empowerment, but only if you understand the hidden forces emanating from the unconscious.

Positively, awareness can come through ambition and self-control. Professional advancement and public recognition are possible depending on the career. Set goals and focus on achievement to connect with the true potential for this year. Profound changes are possible, both professionally and personally. This can be a turning point in your life. Make it count.

## SUN TRINE NEPTUNE

The Sun sextile or trine Neptune indicates that the native is growing more sensitive on a number of levels. The sensitivity is meant to facilitate spiritual development. Insights and a sense of connection to others can foster compassion and forgiveness; however, some individuals might find the increased sensitivity overwhelming and confusing.

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

Some individuals will equate greater sensitivity to greater vulnerability since they are likely to be confronted with their own human frailty or that of someone close. Sensitivity can lead to stress on an emotional level and sometimes on the physical level in the form of allergies. Being less egotistical can result in an unstructured personality which seems to lack certainty and direction. The individual can be confused or forgetful about mundane tasks or future goals. The most negative and rare manifestations lead to escapism through alcohol, drug abuse, martyrdom, dependency on others, and savior-victim type relationships.

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

## SUN SQUARE JUPITER

The major task associated with the Sun square or opposite Jupiter in the solar return chart is expansion of the personality into new areas of experience and expertise. This expansion should be consistent with the individual's philosophical beliefs, spiritual goals, and career aspirations, but this is not always the case. The main danger noted with the Sun square or opposite Jupiter is a tendency toward excessive behavior and a refusal to curb personal needs and desires in consideration of others.

Excessive behavior can be associated with workaholic tendencies, spending practices, diet, health habits, or any other activity. A refusal to curb personal needs overwhelms partners and family members who have their own preferences. It is important to maintain a sense of balance with these aspects. Beneficial opportunities are associated with Jupiter aspects; however, there is no guarantee of a positive return. You may have to create your own opportunities, augment the possibilities through enthusiasm, or take a risk to manifest the best results.

## SUN CONJUNCT MARS

Mars symbolizes the energy necessary for successful accomplishment. When Mars is conjunct the Sun, work on a project that requires a great deal of effort to complete. Success can come in the form of personal or professional achievement, especially if it involves original and creative work. First time projects or ambitious endeavors are also appropriate.

Relationships might be conflicted or competitive. You need to balance self-centered drives with the needs of others. When the Sun and Mars are conjunct, they can indicate considerable self-interest, and perhaps even a selfish attitude. Too much emphasis on self makes for tense relations. Others may view you as competitive when you should be a team player. You can motivate others in a positive and productive way, and that may be the 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 conjunct 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.

## THE MOON IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

## THE MOON AS AN EMOTIONAL INDICATOR

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

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

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

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

## CONSCIOUS OR UNCONSCIOUS EMPHASIS

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

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

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

### SOLAR RETURN MOON IN 9TH HOUSE:

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

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

You could be asked to explain your beliefs in public, or teach, or write a book. In some way, you might be called upon to explain your beliefs. This is a good time to practice what you preach or make adjustments in the sermon. This is the key to utilizing the review process. Practice helps you formulate a philosophy that fits your everyday life. You retain what works and discard what does not. Through this testing process, you can develop a philosophy that works for you spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

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

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

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

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

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

## MOON OPPOSITION VENUS

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

Financial stability is also affected by domestic conditions. Moving, pregnancy, birth, and education are common events that affect the amount of money earned and spent.

Occasionally this aspect can show a time when you are financially dependent on others or society for support for one of the reasons mentioned above.

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

## MOON TRINE MERCURY

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

You can actively seek out more information about your feelings and conscious motivations through discussions with others. The key to using this aspect positively is to balance and integrate conscious and unconscious input and work toward a complete unified sense of self.

## MERCURY IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

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

SOLAR RETURN MERCURY IN 5TH HOUSE:

A 5th house Mercury can indicate an increased interest in creative pursuits. This is a good time to express yourself artistically or creatively. Writing articles or books, composing music or poetry, painting, or sculpting will channel your self-expression into artistic media. You are not necessarily any more creative this year than you were last year, but you have a stronger need for self-expression. The key here is to find some positive way to use your mental abilities in expressing yourself more fully. You do not have to be artistic to do this. Generally it is the expression itself that is more important than the means. There are many mundane media. You may plan out the landscaping around your house; you may create lesson plans for a course you are teaching; you may start a newsletter concerning something that you believe in passionately. Failure to find a good forum may mean that you risk becoming very opinionated and domineering in your personal relationships. Being pushy is a poor substitute for creative self-expression, and the desire to dominate others should be consciously avoided.

Your thoughts may center around romance and sexual encounters. If you are involved in a strong infatuation this year, you may find it difficult to concentrate on work and studies. Romantic preoccupation is possible. You may spend a lot of time analyzing the positive and negative qualities of this interaction. Relationships formed at this time are more likely to have good verbal rapport. Intellectual stimulation and communication may play central roles in your attraction to this person. However, this does not guarantee a good emotional relationship, only that the two of you will find it easy to talk and exchange ideas.

If you are a parent, this is a good time to focus on communication with your children. Situations involving your children will make you more aware of their mental health, educational needs and intellectual functioning. You may need to make decisions concerning their future. If they are older, you will have to let them make their own decisions; however, this does not mean that you cannot offer an opinion.

## MERCURY SQUARE TO URANUS

When Mercury is square or opposite Uranus in the solar return chart, you might be subjected to psychologically stressful situations. Increased nervousness, anxiety, and irrational thinking may be directly related to these taxing circumstances. Question the necessity for excessive tension in your life. If possible, withdraw from those situations that strain your mental and physical health.

Stress is also caused by continuing disruptive changes in the information received. Startling facts and shocking realizations are possible according to the house placement for Mercury and Uranus. The stream of shifting information impedes the decision-making process. Thinking tends to flip-flop with each modification. Opinions expressed may require a future retraction. The task is to think before you speak and only make decision after a thorough investigation.

The good news is that this can be a creative time if you approach problems from several different angles and do not get locked into one structured way of thinking. Use this time to be innovative and original. Brainstorm with others and channel insights into practical applications. Because your mind can be unstructured, your ability to think clearly may be interrupted by erratic impulses and an inability to concentrate over any length of time. New information and ideas might be more exciting than reorganizing what you already know. If you must work on a major project that requires sustained mental energy, take frequent breaks. Work on calming and nurturing your nervous system. You may want to practice relaxation techniques and avoid stimulants.

## MERCURY SEXTILE VENUS

When Mercury is sextile Venus in the solar return chart, you are more apt to have confidence in your decisions and intellectual capabilities. This is a wonderful time to be in school or to take a course since learning is likely to be an enjoyable experience. You may also make

great progress in what most people consider to be a difficult topic or subject even if you have had trouble with in the past. Facts can be easier to comprehend during this time and the information you receive should be applicable to your present needs or skills.

Your verbal tactics include good negotiation skills. Develop a soft style for expressing your needs and getting what you want. Learn to compromise and generate win-win solutions to problems. By doing so, you will be able to retain an inner peacefulness and a relaxed state of mind.

This is a good time to cash in on money-making ideas or save money by following a financial plan. Your ideas might generate funds for you personally or for your company. Your ideas might also help you save money by cutting expenses or streamlining operations. Resources are not likely to be spent freely, but according to a plan, and with a goal in mind.

## VENUS IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

## RELATIONSHIPS

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

One fact about marriage and the solar return chart is surprising. The solar return is not necessarily a good indicator of a marriage during the year. The beginning of a relationship

might be easily seen, but the marriage itself is more likely to be reflected in other techniques. On the other hand, postponement of a marriage or the refusal to make a commitment can be easily seen with Saturn, Uranus or Neptune in the 7th house.

## FINANCES

Venus also relates to money and finances, and can be used to evaluate these circumstances for the coming solar return year. The house placement for Venus may indicate how you are most likely to generate income. This is sometimes true, but not always. Venus in the 9th implies a teaching salary, but if you don't teach, the emphasis will be on your beliefs concerning relationships. Don't stretch your economic interpretation of Venus' house placement. If the house position applies, the situation will be obvious. If the house position does not seem to apply to finances in particular, Venus will be more consistent with relationship situations during the year.

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

### SOLAR RETURN VENUS IN 3RD HOUSE:

Venus in the 3rd house of the solar return emphasizes all forms of communication, both verbal and written. Your ability to express yourself coherently is important to the activities of

the year. Others will listen and respond to what you have to say; therefore your communication patterns need to be clear and concise. For example, one individual organized and wrote a correspondence course during the year Venus was in the 3rd house of the solar return chart. This person's ability to write well was crucial to the success of the task at hand. But one does not have to be involved in a major project to need good communication skills. Effective negotiating techniques are useful in many everyday situations, both business and personal. The ability to make your point quickly, easily, and clearly can give you the edge when mediating a dispute or bargaining for what you want. At other times, being diplomatic may be more advantageous. If you feel the need for improvement, you may want to take a course in communication skills, but for those who are experiencing problems of a personal nature, it is more common to attend counseling sessions, especially when the communication and negotiation of needs are the major topics of discussion.

A love of learning is also shown by Venus in the 3rd house. This is a good time to return to school or sign up for a course. If you have been apprehensive in the past about finishing your education or going on for a higher degree, this is a good time to start. It may be easier for you to adjust now since you look forward to learning new things. If you do your best work, academic honors are possible during the year.

Social contacts with neighbors are increasing and you may meet or socialize with a greater number of local people. Superficial familiarity with many neighbors is more common than in-depth relating to a few. The emphasis here is not necessarily on creating new and long-lasting friendships, but acquiring new acquaintances. In keeping with this trend, you may join the neighborhood coffee klatch or community association. My favorite example for a 3rd house solar return Venus is a teenaged girl who took her first job at a local neighborhood library. She not only met many of her neighbors, she also began to date a few. Your urge to meet and communicate with your neighbors can be motivated by a neighborhood problem. Socialization may be secondary to involvement in an organized community effort or public service.

## MARS IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

During the year, activities may be specifically tied to your ability or inability to be assertive.

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

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

Aggression is a distortion of assertiveness. Assertion is the defense and maintenance of your own rights; aggression is the infringement or attack on the rights of others. Anger is most likely the motivation for the attack, although psychological idiosyncrasies may provide other motivations (of which fear is the main culprit). All acts of aggression, by their very nature, should produce anger in the person attacked, though some individuals, because of their own psychological nature, respond in other ways. Where you find Mars by house position indicates

where you are most likely to meet the aggressor during the coming year. Either you will have to deal with a hostile person in the environment or you will be confronted with your own acts of aggression. If you are able to meet your own needs through assertion and you know your own rights while conscientiously defending them, you are less likely to be the aggressor or allow aggressive actions to arise in others. You should be able to strike a balance between your needs, and rights, and the needs and rights of others. In this way, you maintain your position relative to the environment. But regardless of how fair you are in your dealings with others, you may still have to defend your own rights.

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

### SOLAR RETURN MARS IN 5TH HOUSE:

Mars in the 5th house indicates a more assertive style of self-expression. This may be most evident in creative projects, but it can also manifest in the personality. You are less likely to practice self-restraint and more likely to take risks. You are willing to go out on a limb with a new train of thought. You gain confidence by trying new things, although in the beginning your confidence tends to be fragile. This is a time when you can state what you want and go after

what you need. You are direct and concise with a no-nonsense style that lets you be who you want to be. You refuse to surrender your right to freedom of self-expression, and if someone is attempting to suppress your ideas or restrict your movements (regardless of their motives), you will fight back. For example, an astrology student with this placement consistently refused to give up her studies when her fundamentalist parents objected. Despite their feelings, she could not be swayed. You are very aware of the personality's need for self-preservation and integrity. If someone is a threat, malicious or otherwise, you are ready to defend yourself. If you are involved in a continuing conflict, you will be willing to take the offensive if the situation warrants it. Some may think you are too pushy, and perhaps you are if you need to be reminded of the rights of others. Use this energy for creative endeavors and free self-expression. Do not focus on dominating or controlling others (especially children and lovers).

It is not especially common to start a love relationship during the year, but if you do, the relationship can be very exciting and based on a strong sexual attraction. Desire and passion are most likely evoked by the person you are seeing, and these feelings play an important role in the relationship choices you make. Romance may not be as important as the electrifying energy that passes between the two of you when you are together. But there is no guarantee that a relationship will be all passion and no conflict; in fact, the fire that heats up your passion can also heat up your temper. In addition to the strong attraction, there is also a need for self-defense and unrestricted self-expression as discussed above. How do you defend yourself against a strong passion which is essentially an invisible power difficult to control? How do you maintain unrestricted self-expression when you are strongly involved with another person? Conflicts in relationships are common since couples will feel both the pull of attraction and the push for expression, or the desire for merger balanced by the need for freedom. Learning to maintain some measure of self-control and self-expression while in a relationship is the key to this placement.

If you are a parent, your children may be pushing for new levels of independence, regardless of their age. One-year-olds go from crawling to running, toddlers enter the terrible

twos, older children start school, teenagers learn to drive, get that first job, leave home to attend college, or start living on their own. The task they are working on is not as important as the reaction it causes in you. Basically, you are not ready for the changes and may disapprove of the choices they are making or the behavior they are exhibiting while out of your sight. Children appear more disruptive during this period of transition, but you are also less patient. They are probably coping with new situations, abilities, and problems. The newness builds stress and they are easily frustrated. You, in turn, wish they would return to their old pattern of behavior which seems more settled and less taxing.

If your children are younger, they may disobey you, but if they are older, they will not only disagree with you, they will argue with you. They are probably intelligent enough to point out all the flaws and discrepancies in your restrictions and disciplinary tactics. Don't be surprised when they confront you with a logical attack on these inconsistencies. This exchange forces you to further define your position on any one issue and enables the child to push for change and freedom consistent with his or her real or imagined level of maturity. You, however, may not see it that way and attribute most of the tension to simple parent-child confrontations. These minor conflicts tend to be aggravating, but easier to handle than the well-planned, persistently orchestrated debate put on by some teenagers.

For those more creative individuals, this is a time for original work in new areas of expertise. You should be willing to take artistic risks with your creations. If you are an artisan, experiment with new products or designs. If you are a writer, try a new style or genre. Innovations are important, and you can receive constructive criticism over your new approach. You should be ready to defend or explain your choices, but also use the information to refine your technique.

## MARS OPPOSITION PLUTO

When Mars is in difficult aspect to Pluto, you are more likely to be involved in a conflict. The conflict might arise between two areas of your life or between you and another person. For example, you might wish to start an exercise routine for health reasons, but constant job-related travel makes this very difficult. Or, your needs and wants can conflict with those of another. Where you wish to take action, shown by the solar return house placement of Mars, is complicated or thwarted by situations or people associated with the solar return house placement of Pluto. Integration or compromise is possible, but not easily accomplished.

Psychological issues arise as actions are not truly conscious or planned out. There is an acute awareness of unconscious motivations in both yourself and others. Compulsions and obsessions, healthy or not, are common. In very negative situations, phobias can develop. Psychological complexes are indigenous to the scenarios you are involved in during the year and can color perceptions. The psychological influences affecting you can spring unsolicited from your own unconscious, but are more likely to arise from your encounters with another. Generally, you must deal with this person regularly, and he or she may or may not be totally rational. You may or may not be totally rational either. Reacting from the gut level can become the standard mode of operation for those who do not work toward a greater understanding of these forces. It takes a strong and insightful person to see clearly and deal directly with problems.

Control issues are likely during this time, and some individuals get locked into power struggles. In this type of situation, you are both able to manipulate others and you are subject to manipulation yourself. Surreptitious actions or underhanded maneuvers are possible. Empower yourself by staying on track and true to your principles. Do not let another's tactics lower your sights. Rather than battling with someone else, you can instead (or also) be locked into a power struggle with yourself. One man was seriously hurt by a past relationship. He recognized the need to deal with unconscious anger and develop a philosophy for handling future anger-producing situations. During the year, he met and was compulsively drawn to a new relationship. The loss of control over the inhibitions to intimacy frightened him.

Consequently, the scene was set and the interplay between the unconscious obsession to resolve anger issues and the fear of being hurt again dominated the involvement for much of the year. Efforts to consciously control yourself will be thwarted until you gain insight into the problem at hand. The man was both irresistibly drawn and frightened by the attraction until he began to resolve issues from the original relationship and heal. This cleared the way for a more meaningful interchange.

Understanding psychological forces and learning to work with them rather than against them can lead to productive encounters and personal empowerment. Use insights into the unconscious to break bad habits and negative attitudes, or to resolve conflicts with others. The goal is not to compete or struggle, but to ascertain the best and most logical options. 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 advantageous change can begin.

## MARS TRINE NEPTUNE

While Mars-Pluto aspects imply actions that are unconsciously motivated, Mars-Neptune aspects indicate actions which have no obvious motivation at all, or which involve a great deal of uncertainty as to direction and goal. When Mars is sextile or trine to Neptune, running on faith and intuition is more likely to pay off despite the uncertainty, than when Mars is conjunct, square or opposed to Neptune. You can dream big and realize your dreams in some situations.

Humanitarian pursuits are sometimes associated with this combination since very spiritual endeavors emanate from a source which is not readily apparent. This is a good time to volunteer your time and efforts for a cause or charity. You can be more sensitive to the needs of others this year. You also want your actions to have meaning and purpose. Mundane considerations might seem unimportant in light of higher pursuits. A sense of fulfillment comes

from unselfish actions.

Mars sextile or trine to Neptune indicates the ability to function despite a degree of uncertainty that colors your actions. There can be reasons for this. Perhaps results are unimportant and it is the thought that counts. Though the odds might be stacked against you, you still wish to proceed. The fact that you care and act has more meaning and impact than the results. Even if you were to fail, you feel your efforts will either inspire others to join your cause, to work on their own projects, or to succeed where you failed. Your job is to get the ball rolling. No matter what, some good will come from your efforts.

Mars sextile or trine to Neptune can also relate to everyday events. Careful planning is generally not feasible, but you can attract the resources and assistance you need. Follow your intuition and the string of opportunities as they arise. Though rumors abound at work and your job is uncertain, you will probably be alright. Matters will work out in your favor. Situations might be in limbo for a while, but can move forward. Uncertainty either works to your advantage or works out in the end. No harm; no foul. Still, be ready with alternate plans. Improvise your way to success if necessary.

If you need secrecy for your endeavors, this is a good time to prevent the left hand from knowing what the right hand is doing.

## MARS SQUARE TO JUPITER

Actions which directly support or contradict belief systems are associated with Mars-Jupiter aspects in the solar return chart. Personal ethics and morals may be transgressed or respected, depending on the practicality of the belief, the individual's personality traits, and the amount of conflict and stress experienced. Actions and beliefs are more likely to conflict with the square and opposition aspect. This is a time when you are acutely aware of the role beliefs play in

controlling or directing behavior. Actions are commonly categorized as right or wrong, while specific relationships are believed to be beneficial and supportive, or detrimental and thwarting.

The danger with this combination is that you can behave in a manner which is ultimately not to your benefit, compromising your belief system through hypocritical actions. Compounding this problem is the tendency to overschedule activities while in the midst of a dilemma. You must manage your time in the most effective manner and still make choices which reflect your beliefs and priorities. Long-term goals must be weighed against short-term advantages. The exact interpretation of these issues relates to the positions of Mars and Jupiter in the solar return chart. The action desired or taken is shown by the house placement of Mars and the belief system, benefit, or area of heavy activity is implied by the house placement of Jupiter. The aspect between the two signals the relationship existing between the dual messages and the possible conflict.

The tendency toward excess and the need for moderation is another theme associated with Mars square or opposite Jupiter. There are varying degrees of excessive behavior. You might simply overschedule activities, overindulge, or exceed your spending limits. On the other hand, you might be a fanatic or addict.

The task of this Mars-Jupiter aspect is to resolve ethical, moral or philosophical dilemmas and live in balance and with moderation. To do this you must discriminate between what is an impractical belief, given your behavior, and what is a hypocritical action, given your beliefs. Furthermore, you must prioritize your activities, avoid extremes, and take advantage of the opportunities you are given. If you can do all this, you can benefit.

## JUPITER IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SOLAR RETURN JUPITER IN 7TH HOUSE:

The best phrase to describe Jupiter in the 7th house is, "Ask and you shall receive." Others naturally come to your aid, giving more assistance and support than you expected or even thought you needed. If you are in a difficult situation, others readily offer to help. This can occur without asking, but the possibilities become even stronger if you not only recognize and foster the help available to you, but also ask specifically for what you need. Somebody may be in the perfect position to actualize your goals, and partnerships of this nature enable you to accomplish together what you would not have attempted alone. Help may be either tangible or intangible. Under the best possible circumstances, you benefit directly or indirectly from others in more ways than one. For example, if you are married, you benefit through your spouse since what he or she receives trickles down to you.

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

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

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

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

## SATURN IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

Saturn rules reality and the reality of any given situation is that we are all ultimately responsible for creating our own lives. The responses and choices we make to any given situation, together with the fears we avoid, form the backbone for our pattern of living. Only when we accept the responsibility for creating our own fate can we be freed from the necessity of living it. Only when we face our fears can we live unafraid. Saturn is the key to this change in orientation. It is the ultimate reality, the ultimate fear, the karmic avenger, and ruler of the universal laws of nature. It is through Saturn's house placement that we come face to face with ourselves, the structures, and limitations of reality, and the laws we must live by.

Growth is a complex process, occurring in a variety of ways. Saturnian growth begins by recognizing the existing structures we have incorporated into our lives, and possibly, the frustration or limitation caused by this edifice. It seems strange to talk about growth in terms of limitation, but astrologically Saturn rules structures which are at one point protective and at

other times restrictive. Like the lobster or crab which sheds an outgrown, protective, hard shell in order to grow, individuals must periodically shed old structures grown restrictive with time. As with the crustaceans, the shedding process may be slow and laborious, followed by a period of extreme vulnerability until the new shell has formed and hardened into a protective structure. We often complacently mistake familiarity for security. We assume we'll be safe as long as we stick with the same old routine and keep doing what we've been doing all along. But what was once protective and safe eventually ends up inhibiting our evolutionary cycle of growth. Sometimes, only our frustration with things as they are awakens us to the need for change.

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

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

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

exercise. Hard work and facing the issues head on will get you where you want to go. Wishful thinking will not.

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

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

Facing your fears concerning success or failure is ultimately what Saturn is all about. At this point, you are very aware of the reality of your situation, and you have a list of options for the future, not all of which may work. You understand your own contribution to the situation and what you must do in order to move toward a resolution. You have seen your own shortcomings and become aware of your darker side. You comprehend the laws of nature relative to your situation and know everything is earned in this case, nothing is given, and nothing is guaranteed by the Universe. You now realize that you must stick your nose out and take a calculated risk. In order to progress, you must face your fears, and move toward your

nightmare rather than back away. It is only by passing through a period of vulnerability that one can break out of a protective, yet restrictive structure and progress into a more suitable environment. You give up the security of the familiar and step into the unknown.

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

### SOLAR RETURN SATURN IN 10TH HOUSE:

Saturn in the 10th house is equated with career breaks and limitations, some of which are very positive. It is true you can either lose your job or give up your present position during the solar return year, but this turn of events may be desirable. For some individuals, especially for those who are older, this placement signals retirement or leaving the job market entirely. For career mothers, choices focus on quitting work to raise children or continuing work while juggling two demanding schedules. If you have clearly defined personal and professional goals, you need not have any trouble with this placement.

For most people, Saturn in the 10th shows an old career closing down and a job move to something new. Rather than a break in your career, there is a break in your professional momentum. You lose skills and experience while moving from one job, company, or profession

to another. In your new position, you must start from scratch. You will be working with new techniques and concepts, and at first, minor duties will take longer and appear more difficult. It takes time to get back into the swing of things, and during your orientation period, you can feel underqualified or inept. Frustration comes from not knowing what to do and the tendency toward making mistakes, which is common for newcomers.

If you quit your present job to become self-employed at this time, you may go down several dead ends before you develop, establish and maintain a routine and clientele. If you are creating a job from nothing, you are starting from scratch. The same is true if you are self-employed and must relocate. Success in a new position takes time and effort, but it can be done by those who work hard. The rewards will be clearer at the end of the year as the old chart fades away.

If you are comfortable with your present position and have always been a hard worker, you may be asked to take on more responsibility at this time. The natural tendency with this placement is to assume personal responsibility in the career area. A promotion to a managerial position or an increased workload are two ways to do this.

Serious problems associated with this position occur when you refuse to assume any responsibility in your career or for problems on the job. Suppose you do not like your job but refuse to contemplate any changes. Limiting your career options in this way creates a strong feeling of frustration, restriction, and monotony. If your present job is unfulfilling and unrewarding, you will not be able to work to your potential. Perhaps you should quit rather than stagnate. Those who refuse to reassess career options and take responsibility for their own career decisions, or lack thereof, end up going nowhere while Saturn is in the house of destiny, career, and long-term patterns of growth. Individuals who make changes and start from scratch learn to work with job frustrations to structure a new professional environment. This is the goal whether you stay in your present position or move on. You must reassess where you are and where you are headed professionally. Map out the practical steps necessary for the journey.

## URANUS IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

Generally, it is only when the individual thwarts his or her own desires or tightly controls situations that tensions manifest in the form of anxiety and nervousness. This anxiety results from ambivalent feelings which develop in those who resist needed changes. These people get caught between their own fear of change and a strong desire for the very change being thwarted. An ambivalent mind-set takes over, one built on an approach to, and also an avoidance of, a set goal or change. Remember, Uranus is associated with conscious and

unconscious choices for change. Its appearance somewhere in the native's solar return chart implies the area of life in which the individual desires to progress through change. When one is unable to face or effect needed and desired changes, the mind splits between two mutually exclusive goals and anxiety results. Eventually, the mental ambivalence and erratic commitments to two very different paths are reflected in fluctuating external conditions. Long overdue, yet still avoided changes, tend to manifest in the environment as disruption caused by others, or by neglected areas of attention.

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

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

Freedom allows the process of change to occur smoothly. When we are functioning at our best and working positively with the Uranian concept, we move easily through a series of attractions, detachments and independent actions. We learn and grow from each of these encounters. While in the process of attraction, we are drawn to certain situations, persons or

concepts. It is important to observe what experiences we are drawn to because they indicate conscious or unconscious needs and patterns of growth. By accepting different situations, interacting with different individuals, or listening to new ideas, we take in new information and learn to value various facets of life. We see that no one person, place or idea is perfect. The same is true of our existing circumstances, which we hold onto so tightly.

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

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

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

The exposure to various ideas, situations and people stimulates creative thought through

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

### SOLAR RETURN URANUS IN 2ND HOUSE:

Uranus in the 2nd shows a change in your earning power and financial situation. Alterations can be major or minor, fluctuating or one-time single events. The adjustment can be either positive or negative, but both manifestations can occur at different times during the year. Positive interpretations include pay raises or large windfalls. Those who have not been working can find employment and those who have been doing volunteer work can now get paid for the work they do. Being self-employed or working on a commission or incentive basis is common with this placement. You might land that big account, exceed previous sales records, or successfully start or expand your own business during the year.

Negative interpretations include a total break in income because of either a job change, relocation, or leave of absence without pay (the most likely reason for this being maternity leave). Those who work steadily may receive or accept a pay cut. Some actually request a cutback in hours (and therefore pay) because of shifting goals or pressing personal needs. It is possible to give up a job with a very good income. Salespersons working on a commission basis may find it more difficult to sell products for one reason or another. Changes in earning power seem to be more closely associated with this placement than disruptive spending practices; however, impulse buying may be a problem for those with this tendency.

Economic change is easy to foresee with this Uranus placement, but it is difficult to note whether the changes will be positive or negative. The aspects to Uranus are not a true measure of the shift. One can earn more with difficult aspects and one can earn less with softer aspects. What is shown by the aspects is the individual's innate desire to foster a financial change and the other areas of life that will be affected. The best course of action is to prepare for a rainy day. It is better to practice financial restraint than assume more money than you have.

Uranus in the 2nd house also indicates that values and morals are changing. Non-materialistic attitudes are the norm. As a rule, inner fulfillment and personal satisfaction are more important than material possessions. Money itself does not matter unless the financial situation is dire. Possessions will not be important and this is a good time to unload useless things. During the year, you may not be interested in purchasing new items or replacing old ones. If you are not aware of your inner needs for emotional rather than material satisfaction, you may only experience the financially difficult side of this Uranus placement, especially if you repeatedly attempt to gain material wealth and acquire new things despite emotional considerations to the contrary.

Morals are also in a state of flux at this time. It is best to allow for review and change. Regardless of changes, you may deviate from your own code of behavior. Sometime during the year, you may be asked to defend your position if your actions or values conflict with the standards of others. This will give you an opportunity to better define your own priorities and standards.

## NEPTUNE IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

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

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

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

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

## NEPTUNE IN 12TH HOUSE (WITHIN 3 DEGREE ORB OF 1ST HOUSE)

Neptune in the 12th indicates the possibility of confusion at the unconscious level. In some cases, this confusion leads to free-floating anxiety. During the year, inconsistencies exist between what you experience intuitively and what you are told by others. Glaring contradictions make it difficult to know what to believe. There is a question here of who is right.

Learn to trust your own instincts and Higher Self, while suspending judgment for the time being. There are subtle forces at work and the object of this placement is to become more sensitized to less apparent energies. You are aided in this endeavor by discrepancies between what you are told and what you sense. These inconsistencies force you to see two separate, yet distinct pieces of information. If there were no contradiction, you would miss the more subtle message. Learn to be sensitive to what is left unsaid, yet do not confront others with your newfound truth. Discretion is needed. Also, do not become a detective sneaking around searching for confirmation. All will be made known to you. Time will eventually prove the information right or wrong. In the meantime, you can allow the two separate pieces of information to exist in your head for most of the year.

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

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

know or have experienced. Others may not be ready for inner truth and will be threatened by what you say. Unnecessary confrontations or challenges may ensue.

It is not enough to be materially successful; fulfillment is also important. Life situations tend to focus on inner satisfaction rather than immediate material attainment. Trusting in Divine guidance leads you to fulfilling circumstances. If you have a strong spiritual sense of what you want to do, trust the Universe to provide you with the means to accomplish the task. An act of service may be required to get there.

### NEPTUNE WITHIN 3 DEGREE ORB OF 1ST HOUSE

In its very highest manifestation, Neptune in the 1st house is associated with a renewed commitment of the self to a higher force or principle. This placement implies spirituality in being and in action. It is not enough to believe in higher forces—you must also act accordingly, practicing what you preach. During the year, the individual is seen as a part of the Universal Whole, possessing both personal insignificance and great spiritual importance at the same time. Insignificance occurs when the individual tries to stand alone. Self-centered needs and egotism are dwarfed in comparison to the spiritual process, and do not matter in the long run. If the will is not in keeping with the Divine purpose, it is limited and meaningless. Purely personal endeavors tend to get sidetracked before completion since the needs of others are more pressing, understandable, and important within the context of the Whole. For this reason, one tends to be egoless at this time, giving unselfishly to others and subjugating the self to a higher purpose.

Even though this is a time of personal insignificance, it is also a time of great spiritual importance for the individual. If you choose to view yourself and your soul within the realm of Universal consciousness, you will become aware of the role you play in the spiritual process and your ability to affect another soul's growth and potential. This is a time when you might

understand some truth others miss, and if you are willing to give unselfishly, you can be a beacon for those who are blind. Situations may be subtle or blatant, commitments passing or definitive. In less obvious interchanges, compassion is increased, and you naturally want to help others. You become the Good Samaritan giving your time and energy to those in need whether family, neighbors or friends. In blatant interchanges, there is a definite request followed by a firm commitment to a cause, task or individual. You know what you are getting into. Some will chose to help many; others, only one particular person. As a rule, the process of assisting others comes easily and naturally when there is an awareness of a principle higher than one's own ego. During these times of giving, you will be encouraged to grow spiritually. Tasks usually exceed previous understanding and capabilities, and you must rise to the occasion through further enlightenment.

Certain cautions are necessary. Be sure the person or people you assist respond to your help in one way or another. Either their condition should improve, or they should learn new patterns of behavior, possibly responding with love and kindness toward you or someone else. It is not essential that you personally receive a return. This placement is associated with selflessness and what you are doing may specifically require an unselfish act of love. However, don't repeatedly waste your energy when there is no improvement at all. There are exceptions to this rule. Certain conditions are degenerative by their very nature, and do not lend themselves to improvement. For example, you may be caring for a person with a debilitating or progressive illness.

The manifestation of giving is meant to be helpful to the receiver, not draining for the giver. This is a year when you may be drawn to people in constant need, and in very negative interchanges when your help is not accepted, appreciated or effective, you will be drained. Do not become victimized by alcoholics, drug addicts or those who really require professional help, but refuse to seek it. Do not become so enamored of another person's problems that you close your eyes to your own welfare. It is possible to enter or remain in a situation which is personally difficult for you and has no easy ending or way out. You adapt so easily to those around you

that you might adapt yourself into a psychologically unhealthy situation. Maintain a sense of spiritual purpose. Regardless of your circumstances, whether you are involved in a positive or negative gift of love, push for insight and growth.

While you are focusing on higher thoughts, you may have more difficulty with personal direction. You may not always understand your own actions, and can feel confused, indecisive, or lacking in ego definition. Surefootedness and stubborn opinions are unlikely because you are easily swayed. Self-knowledge will be elusive as you continually discover previously unknown facets of your personality. Preferences and abilities are in a state of flux. Unfortunately, it may not be easy to relate to your own quirks, or see your own contribution to problems and issues. This is especially true if one is not working toward spiritual enlightenment. Instead, you can be evasive or deceiving, lying when pressured. If the future appears uncertain, this is a time to go with the flow of events even though you are not sure where it will lead. Perhaps you are choosing to wait for another person to make a move or decision and this contributes to your uncertainty.

In rare instances, drugs, alcohol or personality aberrations can be the cause of your confusion or weakened vitality. Ongoing addictions can be particularly detrimental this year since this is a time when your body would tend to be overly sensitive to all medications, even prescription drugs. For this reason, alternative medical treatments might be more beneficial.

When living on the higher Neptune level, confusion, indecision, and drug-related problems are unlikely. You are much more likely to act on intuition, instinctively flowing with the Higher Self.

## PLUTO IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

In the solar return chart, the interpretation of Pluto includes an understanding of the issue of power and its various manifestations, which can be directed toward three different points of focus and through three different life processes. Complications are associated with all of these orientations and processes since each manifestation is multidimensional and complex, occurring not only on the physical level, but on the intellectual, emotional and spiritual levels as well. Within these complex situations, power can be focused on three different targets: the self, others, and/or circumstances. As a rule, the power to control oneself is mostly beneficial, the power to control others is mostly detrimental and the power to control situations varies according to the circumstances involved. By studying Pluto's house placement in the solar return chart, you can assess in which areas of life these control issues are most likely to arise. The scope and effects of the power issues are seen through the connections to other solar return planets.

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

### THREE DIFFERENT POINTS OF FOCUS

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

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

The same thwarting of personal growth is evident when you shift your attention from self to the need to control others. By and large, this is not a good focal orientation. The symbolism of the planets exists in your consciousness so that you can grow and prosper from insight. Since growth begins at home, the main thrust of the focus should always be toward self, and it is generally unnecessary and also counterproductive to shift the emphasis to an external struggle. The most efficient use of power exists on the internal plane because it takes much less energy to control your own reactions than to seek power over someone else. Once power is removed from the inner self and used to control others, the effectiveness is reduced. Stalemated power struggles are particularly detrimental because they deplete resources. It is conceivable that there are life situations where it is essential to control another person. For example, children, disabled or elderly loved ones may not be able to make informed decisions. In these situations you might be asked or forced to wield power over another. You are meant to grow from all

your experiences. Even in these instances, self-awareness and insight are crucial to the decisions you make. Start with yourself first, then work your way outward. Blaming others for your problems distorts the perception of self and the realization of your own personal involvement. Always be aware of the interactive process and the role you play in it. This internal perspective is of primary importance, much more so than the process of controlling someone else.

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

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

new forces, subtle and previously unnoticed, which seem to influence personal decisions and situations you are involved in. Once you have the insight, what you do with the information becomes crucial to the creative process.

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

### THREE DIFFERENT PLUTONIAN PROCESSES

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

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

In actuality the internal and external sources are really one and the same, a reflection of

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

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

The process of elimination can be very cleansing, even though a symbolic death is involved. If you streamline your business or office procedures, letting go of compulsive and unnecessary activities, this is a death of sorts, but much to your benefit. So is a budgetary review which eliminates the fat from your spending practices and allows you to cut back on your work schedule. In more serious circumstances, perhaps all you can do is release a situation that is detrimental to your progress. Letting go can be a positive choice, but it might also be a negative one if you cut someone out of your life without resolving or releasing the conflict. If this is true in your case, avoiding persons or situations will consume your energy. Transformation is the process whereby a situation, thing or level of consciousness is changed into a new, and hopefully higher, manifestation. Careers, marriages and self-images can all be transformed for the better. Commonly, though, we think of the transformation process in terms of psychological insight and level of consciousness. Information from subtle sources or the unconscious is gradually or suddenly made available to either the rational mind or the Higher Self, and subsequently a change occurs on the mental, emotional or spiritual level. Information that was previously unavailable becomes understandable through the process of insight, and power is released through new awareness. This can be a very enlightening and beneficial transition, but naturally it is what you do with the information that is important. If intellectual, emotional and

spiritual growth are triggered by the new awareness, the process continues to be positive; however, if instead you use your newfound insight to control others or block growth, you have used your knowledge in a negative way.

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

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

### SOLAR RETURN PLUTO IN 11TH HOUSE:

Pluto in the 11th house commonly implies involvement in a group and the experience of power and transformation within this setting. You may be the leader or a follower, but in either case you must handle the issue of power as it relates to individual needs versus group needs. This can be a time when you accomplish more through group efforts than you do on your own.

On the other hand, you might feel that your goals are compromised by a shared effort. Individual differences between various members and the distinction between the needs of the one and the needs of the whole become more apparent. One can't always do it alone, just as one can't always be the corporate player. For this reason, group power struggles are likely, and not only do you witness the struggle, usually you are a part of the interplay within the hierarchy. Sometimes you are able to make your way, learning to handle power gracefully. Sometimes you feel the need to fight for what you believe in. Other times you choose to withdraw entirely. Situations can become very complicated and there are no easy answers to issues that arise.

Psychological influences affect group interaction, and for this reason they can have an intense transforming quality. If you can catch the moments of manipulation within the power plays, you can learn about yourself, others and group dynamics. Motivations are never totally altruistic, and one should look for the real reason certain events are occurring. Look within as well as without. Circumstances which make you feel out of control are especially important, for within them is a power leakage. Truly difficult situations can leave you feeling drained and emotionally overwhelmed. A more positive possibility for this placement could be joining a self-help or encounter group which engages in intense in-depth conversations meant to stimulate insight.

All of the above interpretations can apply to friends or one friend in particular, as well as to groups. A special friend who is willing to risk intimacy can have as strong an effect on you as an encounter group. Power struggles are also just as likely when expectations are involved. One woman depended on her friends to help her in a new business and this became an issue when they could not always show up. She sought to press them into service by equating support with loyalty.

Changes in goals commonly occur. As you develop new ones, old ones are given up. What was once feasible is no longer realistic; what is new shows great potential. Highly specific and very ambitious goals are possible, and this is the route many individuals take. The possibility of

never completing tasks is very real. Difficulties in attainment are associated with psychological blockages and power struggles. When this is the situation, life seems too difficult or complicated to allow for the formation or attainment of goals.

The urge to direct power at a specific goal can be shortsighted for those who are capable of more. The true wonder of this placement does not lie in the attainment of any goal, but rather in the process of individualization. A specific goal is finite; the recognition of your own ability to be different, an individual on your own terms, is infinite. Many use the specific attainable goal to initiate the process of awareness, but others tend to stop there without doing the real work that needs to be done. As long as you use power only for an attainable goal, you sell yourself short. You lose even more power if you allow yourself to get locked into a power struggle. You have the right to be your own person, so the freedom needed to manifest your individuality need not come from strife. It is already yours. Power struggles represent a need to establish an individual identity. Some can do this on their own; some only through the experience of otherness. Some work with; some work against. You choose the path of awareness, but the basic need is to recognize and develop the power that lies within your own individual differences.

\*\*\*\*\*