



PLANETS IN SOLAR RETURN REPORT FOR:

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

July 30, 1947

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Graz, Austria

SOLAR RETURN CALCULATED FOR:

July 29, 2010

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Sacramento, CA

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Evolving Door Astrology

www.EvolvingDoor.ca

ask.wendy@evolvingdoor.ca

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.

ASTROLOGICAL DATA OF NATAL CHART:

Sun	6	Leo	05	Neptune	8	Lib	27
Moon	3	Cap	31	Pluto	12	Leo	46
Mercury	18	Can	03	Asc.	19	Can	07
Venus	26	Can	22	MC	24	Pis	22
Mars	20	Gem	06	2nd cusp	6	Leo	37
Jupiter	18	Sco	00	3rd cusp	27	Leo	12
Saturn	11	Leo	35	5th cusp	1	Sco	22
Uranus	24	Gem	30	6th cusp	13	Sag	48

Tropical Placidus Daylight Time observed
July 30, 1947 4:10 AM
GMT: 02:10:00 Time Zone: 1 hours East
Lat. and Long. of birth place: 47 N 05 15 E 27

ASTROLOGICAL DATA OF SOLAR RETURN:

Sun	6	Leo	05	Neptune	27	Aqu	53
Moon	11	Pis	31	Pluto	3	Cap	18
Mercury	1	Vir	52	Asc.	9	Tau	59
Venus	20	Vir	41	MC	23	Cap	33
Mars	29	Vir	35	2nd cusp	9	Gem	31
Jupiter	3	Ari	21	3rd cusp	1	Can	58
Saturn	0	Lib	38	5th cusp	18	Leo	48
Uranus	0	Ari	22	6th cusp	23	Vir	30

July 29, 2010 GMT: 07:20:11
Sacramento 38 N 34 121 W 29

Aspects and orbs:

Conjunction: 7 Deg. 0 Min.
Opposition : 6 Deg. 0 Min.
Square : 6 Deg. 0 Min.
Trine : 6 Deg. 0 Min.
Sextile : 4 Deg. 0 Min.

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:

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 ASPECTS URANUS

Uranus aspecting the Sun suggests that the individual desires to make changes, possibly in rapid succession. Generally, any solar return year that has a major Uranus-Sun aspect also has a corresponding significant life change or development such as a pregnancy or birth, career or job transfer, relocation, illness, etc. Changes tend to be more disruptive and less controllable when they involve a conjunction, square or opposition aspect, but all aspects can ultimately indicate beneficial changes. Issues involving boredom versus originality, or creativity and freedom versus restriction, are common.

SUN ASPECTS JUPITER

Although Jupiter transits a new sign every year, Sun-Jupiter aspects do not occur in every solar return chart. The major task associated with Sun-Jupiter aspects is expansion of the personality into new areas of expertise. Hopefully, this expansion will be consistent with the individual's philosophical beliefs and spiritual goals. Jupiter's sign may be significant in some way, though usually it is the house placement that is important. For example, Jupiter in Capricorn can suggest a preoccupation with materialism. If Jupiter is also in the 4th house of the solar return chart, the individual may be looking to buy a bigger house in a more prestigious neighborhood. The main danger associated with this planet is a tendency toward excessive behavior and a refusal to curb personal needs and desires in consideration of others. Beneficial opportunities are associated with Jupiter; however, there is no guarantee of a positive return. You can augment the possibilities through enthusiasm.

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 11TH HOUSE:

The Moon in the 11th house suggests that you have a dream or goal you are working toward. This goal should be personally fulfilling and rewarding, when and if completed. Major tasks started during this year generally involve personal commitment to a project, idea or belief. You should be your own motivator, and many times you will be working alone. The goal need not necessarily be humanitarian or idealistic. Teenagers trying to pick a college or career can have this placement. They gather the pertinent information and make choices according to their needs.

You might have to work toward your goal despite much opposition and lack of assistance from family members. For example, a woman with the Moon in the 11th started her own cottage industry despite her husband's insecurity and messages of doom. Opposition to your goal can be a blessing in disguise if the tension increases your conviction and dedication to the task at hand. It can be a motivating force that pushes you onward. This is a good time to accomplish something that is truly your own. The Moon in the 11th implies personal goals. Therefore, it is very important that you reassess your present and future goals to determine if they are truly the product of your own needs and desires. Do they have great personal value to you as an individual, and will they be emotionally fulfilling when completed?

You may draw closer to friends during this time while becoming more detached from your family. This is especially true if family members object to your future goals or present situation. The Moon in the 11th suggests that you develop closer bonds in what are normally more detached relationships. Friends become family and you are more apt to confide in them. They, in turn, are more likely to help you with your project than your own family. If you are at an age when peer groups are especially important, you will depend heavily on the opinions and support of friends. There could be a logical reason for this. For example, if you are selecting a college or job, other teenagers should know a lot about schools and work programs. Information acquired from other students or through the grapevine is most helpful. In this case, the dependency and close contact with friends are important to the task at hand.

New patterns of closeness and independence evolve during the year and some vacillation may occur in all relationships. The basic interpretation for the Moon does not blend easily with that of the 11th house. The Moon is emotional and dependency-oriented while the 11th house is detached and independent. The lack of common ground can suggest a

freedom-closeness conflict. You may be at a critical time period for your emotional maturation when you are about to take a big step toward greater independence. You could be planning to go away to school, live on your own, become self-employed or self-supporting. As much as you welcome the move toward greater independence, you will also be anxious, hence the frequent revisions in your plans.

Your sense of attachment to others will also fluctuate and you may experience some relationship issues. You may not be able to depend on significant others in your life for one reason or another. They may not be dependable or supportive, or you may not want their assistance. It is difficult to actively seek out nurturing situations while at the same time struggling to establish your independence. You can experience this freedom-closeness dilemma as relationship conflicts which seem to alternate between restriction and abandonment. Reassuring others of your love can ease these growing pains. Realize that if you appear unpredictable, others will feel threatened by your need for independence. Or this struggle might be completely reversed. You may be moving toward greater intimacy. If you have been on your own for a long time and you are now romantically involved, you could fear giving up your independence and committing to a permanent relationship. The dilemma is the same, only the situation is changed.

This placement is associated with all kinds of groups, but group meetings and activities will tend to be emotionally charged. Positively, you might be very concerned with an injustice or cause. The emotional impact of the group's efforts is a motivating force. Negatively, conflicts break out among members. Emotional and psychological factors within the group tend to complicate gatherings. This is an excellent time to join a therapy or self-help group. The Moon suggests emotional attachments within a detached setting, and you can spend a lot of time discussing your problems with your friends or group members. Whatever the situation, the goal is to share feelings. The give and take needed in relationships this year works well within support group situations where camaraderie occurs in a somewhat detached setting. In this type of group setting, you are able to experience strong emotions without being weighed down by emotional responsibility, a good combination for the individual with a freedom-closeness dilemma.

MERCURY IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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 ASPECTS PLUTO

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

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

MERCURY ASPECTS NEPTUNE

Neptune in aspect to Mercury in the solar return chart suggests working with the less clearly defined psychological drives such as compassion, creativity, and spirituality. Your sensitivity to subtle emotional connections among all people increases your concern for certain individuals in particular and humanity as a whole. You are able to acquire information through intuitive and psychic insights. Dealing with these subtle themes can lead to some uncertainty and confusion in the thinking process. Increased intuitive or psychic awareness can precede the ability to weigh this information for its accuracy. It is sometimes difficult to discriminate between what is really

psychic and what is more closely akin to worry, fear, or false hope. It is also difficult to find practical applications for idealistic concepts and inspirations which are represented by this combination. Therefore, stress can sometimes be associated with the more spiritual manifestations of Neptune-Mercury aspects.

Important factual information that you receive during the year may be partial, inaccurate, or vague. Sometimes secrecy and deception play a role. Your normal points of reference for evaluating information may be changing. Without adequate facts, you may be left hanging for most of the year. It may be impossible for you to make a decision at this time or to evaluate your circumstances. You may be easily confused or misled, especially if the information you receive is inconsistent or incomplete. In older individuals, confusion may actually be senility. Neptune's most negative interpretation is a loss of mental capabilities through drug and alcohol use or abuse. This tends to be an uncommon manifestation that is more closely associated with an individual pattern of consistent negative behavior. Most people will not fall into this trap.

Put your trust in the Universe during times of uncertainty. Focus on compassion rather than a search for mundane truth. Understand that in the end, all will be known. Be gentle with yourself when you are not as focused and detail-oriented as you used to be. Mercury-Neptune aspects can indicate a call to the right-brain, creative, artistic, intuitive, and spiritual processes. Go with the flow of consciousness and open to a whole new way of knowing and perceiving.

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.

VENUS IN 5TH HOUSE (WITHIN 3 DEGREE ORB OF 6TH HOUSE)

Venus in this house can be indicative of a love affair, especially if the Sun and/or Moon are also in the 5th. Generally, the more planets in the 5th house with Venus, the greater the possibility of romantic involvement. Although any 5th house relationship can lead to marriage eventually, for the present it will probably remain an affair. For those who are already married, these aspects and placements suggest that children or outside involvements disrupt your already existing relationship.

Venus in the 5th house does not always mean romance is imminent because this is also the house of self-expression and greater personality diversification. A positive evolutionary cycle of increasing self-confidence, coupled with increasing self-expression, is associated with this placement. It's a good time to gain confidence in your abilities while trying something totally new. This year can be very creative, productive, and encouraging. Self-expression is not limited to artistic endeavors; one individual founded a nursery school with Venus in the 5th house. The medium is not important. What is noteworthy is the growth in self-confidence that accompanies the increased self-expression.

This is a good year to spend extra time with your children and relate to them in a more positive way. If you have had difficulties with your children in the recent past, your relationship may improve during the coming year. Venus taken out of context and by itself can indicate improved conditions according to its house position. Children who have had problems with school, siblings, or adjustments to relocations and social situations, may appear to be making more progress during the year. It is also possible you are better able to understand their problems and take appropriate corrective action. This placement may be mutually beneficial for both parent and child. If you do not have children of your own, you may still be involved with children in one way or another.

VENUS WITHIN 3 DEGREE ORB OF 6TH HOUSE

You would think that Venus in the 6th house would be a sign of good health, and often this is true. It is possible to experience beneficial changes in wellness, diet, and exercise. Healthy individuals can make nutritional changes or establish exercise routines to maximize their energy and physical condition. If you have been ill, Venus may indicate a return to good health, or at least an improvement in your present condition. However, instead of an improvement, Venus can be associated with a tendency towards overindulgence and a susceptibility to its related diseases. The most common problems include, but are not limited to, weight gain, alcoholism, and skin problems. Women can have problems with the female organs. Perhaps the best strategy to use during the year is to practice those health routines which truly make you feel healthy.

The 6th house is also the house of work, and Venus placed here emphasizes the importance of good working relationships and a pleasant work environment. One relationship in particular might be especially important, and you may be romantically involved with a co-worker. All employees will want

to have cordial relations with their office mates, while managers will seek to find pleasant ways to motivate their staffs.

Regardless of your position, you can benefit from the use of negotiation techniques, tact, and diplomacy in office situations. Your physical work environment is as important as the emotional climate. Your productivity can be increased by beneficial changes in your daily routine. New machinery, such as a computer, may be brought in to facilitate your job; scheduling may be altered to fit your personal needs; nonsmokers may be moved to a smoke-free office; you may be given a raise; or your work could be noticed and appreciated. If Venus is heavily aspected, there will be both positive and negative qualities to your job. Issues will be more complicated, as illustrated by the emphasis in the solar return chart.

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 6TH HOUSE:

The ability to work independently or with a limited amount of supervision is shown by Mars in the 6th house. You can work entirely on your own or set up your own business, but independence can be relative. A medical laboratory student completed a yearlong internship with intense supervision and graduated to her first full-time job when Mars entered this house. During the coming year, her work no longer required constant verification; however, she continued to work in a large laboratory setting with others. If possible, it is better for you to work alone and/or be your own boss. You have the ability to be self-motivated and can initiate and complete projects without prompting.

Workaholic tendencies are likely, especially if you have deadlines to meet or if crises periodically occur. Compulsive work habits that are carried too far eventually begin to affect one's health negatively. On-the-job tension is possible for those who work too hard or find the working environment unpleasant. You could be easily angered or frustrated by your working conditions, co-workers or employer. Conflicts can ensue. A fellow who was used to a very professional environment found it difficult to adjust to the lackadaisical attitude of co-workers and managers when he changed jobs and began working at a new office. He was aghast to discover the poor quality of service being rendered to clients; consequently, the situation caused him great stress. If you are easily angered and frustrated by your work, make suggestions which will help to improve conditions for everyone. Complaining is associated with this placement, but it would be more advantageous to take the initiative for problem solving. If presented tactfully, your ideas can be accepted and may help to straighten out office difficulties or conflicts.

Caution is warranted when Mars is in the 6th house of health. If your health is slipping, start to reassess your habits, specifically looking for health practices or routines which are not good for you. It is not uncommon to find you are working against your own well-being. If you are presently healthy and follow a beneficial program of exercise and diet, you need not have any difficulty with this placement. Problems are more apparent when you are doing something you should not be

doing. Generally, negative patterns do not develop during the year, but only become more obvious. This is the time you begin to see the effect of these detrimental habits and possibly feel pressured to control your behavior. Basically healthy individuals are more likely to discover minor impediments which can easily be corrected. For example, one woman noticed that her cholesterol count was rising and realized she consistently ate foods high in fat content. Another realized she was overdosing her body with megavitamins.

Common minor problems include overeating, harmful dieting, consuming foods which upset the system (such as caffeine products, hot or spicy dishes, salty snacks, allergy-producing substances), failure to treat minor or chronic health problems, over-scheduling activities, and aggravating skeletal problems with strenuous activity or lifting.

Serious health problems are related to self-destructive habits which tend to be especially noticeable and threatening this year. The more serious threats to health correlate with the more excessive habits practiced over a long period of time (obesity; drug, alcohol or cigarette addictions; self-neglect or abuse; compulsive or stressful work habits; anorexia, bulimia, malnutrition, yo-yo dieting or other indiscretions). Surgery is possible during the year, especially those surgeries associated with infections (appendectomy and tonsillectomy), and those surgeries considered to be elective (sterilization, cosmetic, or corrective).

The purpose of this placement is to make you more aware of any detrimental habits you might have. Correcting the habit can alleviate the health problem. Learn to take better care of yourself. This is an excellent time to exercise your way to better health.

MARS ASPECTS PLUTO

When Mars is in aspect to Pluto, actions are not truly conscious or planned out. There is an acute awareness of the interplay between what appear to be directed activities and unconscious motivations. One does not just set career goals; one is driven to succeed. Compulsions and obsessions, healthy or not, are common since many psychological issues and complexes are indigenous to the scenarios you are involved in during the year. In very negative situations, phobias can develop. 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. 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.

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 subject to manipulation yourself. Surreptitious actions or underhanded maneuvers are also possible. Rather than battling with someone else, you can instead (or also) be locked into a power struggle with yourself. One man with Mars in the 9th house 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 the anger issues and 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. 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. Use insight to break bad habits and negative attitudes. 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 control over behavior begins.

MARS ASPECTS URANUS

Strong changes, usually self-initiated, are associated with Mars-Uranus aspects. Changes range from a constant stream of minor adjustments to dramatic and sweeping transformations. Either form can be beneficial or detrimental depending on individual differences and manifestation. The energy patterns are shifting and the individual no longer wants to be tied down to the same old routine. Something new or exciting is expected and encouraged. During the transitional stage, behavior patterns might be somewhat erratic, and on-again, off-again situations are not uncommon. Changes and the need for greater freedom can lead to sudden separations and broken relationship ties. Freedom of action may be an issue and any restriction will be met with assertiveness if not anger. Speed may be of the essence and therefore time delays are unlikely. Matters tend to move forward quickly.

The real danger associated with Mars-Uranus contacts is the tendency toward accidents of one form or another. Here we are talking about automobile accidents, freak accidents, radical unexpected changes in direction that lead one to stumble either literally or figuratively. Generally, accidents result from suppressed anger or conscious rage. Nine times out of ten, they will not come out of the blue without an internal calling card. Life is a mystery and this is not always the case, but it is frequently so. Anger, suppressed or expressed indiscriminately, can be coincidentally linked to many an accident. The issue is not whether you allow the anger to seek expression: the issue is one of directing the energy into a creative and productive outcome. Sticking your head in the sand is not the answer and actually may be one of the worst things you could do. If you have a Mars-Uranus aspect in your chart, remain aware of your frustrations and the options available for dealing with them.

MARS ASPECTS SATURN

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

As you strive to succeed in any endeavor, you have to maintain an awareness of societal structures, norms, and institutions. Certain requirements will be expected of you as a member of society. For instance, if you wish to borrow money to purchase your first home, you must deal with a bank or mortgage company and meet their requirements for loan customers. This is a good time to push carefully for success, but it is also a good time to cut back on activities if a realistic reassessment of your feelings and life situation tells you to do so. For instance, if you are a young mother wishing to quit work because you have small children, budgeting finances might be a must. Careful planning can make things possible.

Saturn rules reality and practicality. It is not enough to be organized; your plans cannot be implemented if they are unrealistic or impractical. Frustrations are common with this combination and seem to arise from the inability to understand the options and problems. Restrictions and time delays are common in situations where planning is inadequate and

expectations unrealistic. Mars by its house placement indicates the action you wish to take (or the anger you feel when thwarted) and Saturn by its house placement indicates where the restrictions are most likely to occur.

Limitations may be built into the situation or personified by a difficult individual. For example, a young man with Saturn in the 4th house bought an older home in need of extensive renovation. Mars was in the 1st house in the solar return and his natural tendency was to go quickly ahead without carefully investigating and planning how to proceed. He soon discovered that problems required more consideration than merely going at it with a saw and hammer. He was able to save time, in the long run, by researching the problem and detailing his plans. Most people would realize that you cannot ad-lib major renovations. When Mars aspects Saturn in your solar return chart, you may have to work with time delays and restraints. In the most negative situations, you could feel like your life is on hold for much of the year. Actions are thwarted by others, if not by your own lack of organization or unrealistic expectations.

Freedom of action can also be limited if liberties have been taken in the past. If you have overspent your budget and have now incurred serious debt, your finances will be restricted during the coming year. You, yourself, may decide to limit your expenses or you may have no other choice but to cut down. If actions are not planned well now or in the past, restrictions, delays, and frustrations are a possibility. Those who are able to work within structures will be highly productive.

MARS ASPECTS 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. 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 whether or not there is a perceived conflict.

For example, one woman realized she could move ahead in business by having a personal relationship with her boss. Mars, the action planet, was in the 8th house of the solar return chart in good aspect to Jupiter in the 10th house of career where she hoped to benefit. She did not perceive the possibility of any long-term problems when initiating the relationship; she saw an opportunity for advancement. Another woman with the same 10th house Jupiter placement had too much of a good thing. Her Jupiter was in difficult aspect to Mars in the 12th house. She was overwhelmed with new business and found it difficult to find time to work on a long-term project requiring independent research. This woman felt pulled between her immediate success and future goals. She needed to set priorities. Each of these women faced business issues which might be beneficial or detrimental, and each made choices accordingly. The task of the Mars-Jupiter aspect is to resolve ethical, moral or philosophical dilemmas, but 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 and live within the time restraints you are given.

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 12TH HOUSE:

Jupiter in the 12th house indicates the possibility of an overwhelming influence. Many times it is the emotional nature which appears to overwhelm the individual, especially if he or she is already dealing with a difficult situation, but any area of life can be difficult to control. It sometimes occurs that one activity, person or theme overshadows all other self-expression and sets the tone for the year. The 12th house rules the unconscious, and perhaps Jupiter, the planet of growth, in this placement implies that the unconscious nature can grow out of proportion to the rest of the psyche. In some instances, this might be a beneficial development. Those who compose melodies might need to unlock a feeling to create the tune. Those who work with sick children need to function with a high level of compassion in an emotionally charged environment. But in other situations, psychological stress can cause a great imbalance in the psyche or life-style. Individuals in these situations might feel immobilized. Some are not able to function without the support of a therapist, and difficult emotional problems and anxieties can get worse during this year. Strong feelings drown out reason, especially if Mercury is conflicted in the solar return chart.

Jupiter in the 12th is like an "ace in the hole" and those having this placement may actually have it better than is readily apparent. Despite what is implied, things cannot be as bad as they say. For some the ace is a belief in God as a universal protector. Optimism and a divine sense of protection cloak all fears and give great encouragement. Jupiter points to the development of real faith, an empathic connection to the Oneness of life, and a confident trust in the Ultimate Good. Inner states associated with meditation, spirituality or religion may be particularly comforting. But keep in mind that both the use and abuse of spirituality can be seen with this placement. One is able to twist ethical situations and misuse spiritual concepts for the sake of personal gain. This is all

done quietly, behind closed doors, and the truth might never be known. The end can justify the means and in this case the ace in the hole becomes the last laugh.

At some point, those activities and processes kept behind the scenes can become a reality. Problems can intensify, but generally, once things start to move ahead, it is a rewarding time and you might wish to initiate beneficial events once you feel things start to move.

SATURN IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

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

The second step toward growth is reassessment of the situation. A review of the facts yields further information,

options, and understanding. Only by defining the inhibitors to the evolutionary cycle can we move toward resolution and continued growth. Self-criticism and constructive feedback from others may be appropriate at this time.

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

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

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

Facing your fears concerning success or failure is ultimately what Saturn is all about. At this point, you are very aware of the reality of your situation, and you have a list of options for the future, not all of which may work. You understand your own contribution to the situation and what you must do in order to move toward a resolution. You have seen your own shortcomings and become aware of your darker side. You

comprehend the laws of nature relative to your situation and know everything is earned in this case, nothing is given, and nothing is guaranteed by the Universe. You now realize that you must stick your nose out and take a calculated risk. In order to progress, you must face your fears, and move toward your nightmare rather than back away. It is only by passing through a period of vulnerability that one can break out of a protective, yet restrictive structure and progress into a more suitable environment. You give up the security of the familiar and step into the unknown.

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

SOLAR RETURN SATURN IN 6TH HOUSE:

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

If you are having chronic health problems, these problems may be aggravated or initiated by your involvement in certain circumstances. A nurse with chronic back problems

realized that lifting sick patients aggravated her condition, and as she got older, she could no longer afford to jeopardize her health for the sake of a paycheck. Other careers or even other assignments within the nursing profession could be just as profitable.

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

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

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

Again, Saturn placed in the 6th house of health signals the need to deal realistically with job-related problems. If you hate your job, find another. You can start from scratch in a new position, new company or new career. If you prefer to stay with your present job, institute changes that will make tasks easier to accomplish. If you are in a position of authority, delegate

responsibilities to others. A good manager knows how to develop the employee potential under his or her care. Use the talents of others wisely while reducing the amount of work you must handle personally.

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

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

URANUS IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

Adding to the anxiety is a perceived loss of control over external situations. Eventually, the restlessness and tension rise to a feverish pitch until one finally agrees to make changes, or can no longer prevent their occurrence. When conditions reach this intensity, individuals usually make

reactive changes, without careful consideration or adequate preparation. Sudden upheavals occur rather than welcomed transitions. If we would truly be in control of our own destiny, we should listen to the need for change and respond to the earliest hints of restlessness. We should give ourselves the freedom to work toward a conscious transition before a crisis arises.

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

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

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

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

We learn as much from separation as we do from attraction when we define what we don't like as well as what we do like. The changing environment, the comparisons and

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

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

SOLAR RETURN URANUS IN 12TH HOUSE:

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

Generally, the fear of disapproval is common with this placement, and for one reason or another, you feel you must be on your guard. In all likelihood, you are involved in a new situation which is very different from what is normally expected of you. If you are not free to express yourself naturally and openly, you will do so secretly. Everything will tend to stay quiet unless Uranus transits across the solar return Ascendant during the year. If this occurs, you or someone else may wish the truth to be known. Difficult situations you might want to

keep quiet usually involve sex-related activities such as initial sexual experiences, homosexual or bisexual preferences, affairs, birth control practices, or abortions. With this placement, matters of this nature are more likely to be handled secretively than openly.

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

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

NEPTUNE IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

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

energy is wasted through a lack of cohesiveness as one begins to focus on the insignificant, confusing details.

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

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

SOLAR RETURN NEPTUNE IN 11TH HOUSE:

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

Unfortunately, some friends are not as sensitive or developed as you. Compassion and empathy are sometimes one-sided. You could be sensitive to your friend's needs while your own needs go unmet. Your friend might want something

specific from you without much intent of return. In extreme cases, you are asked to play savior to a victim role. Your counterpart needs your assistance, but at the same time his or her actions appear purposeless, self-destructive or contradictory. These savior-victim relationships are particularly disappointing. Remember that each person needs to contribute to his or her own salvation. Disillusionment is most likely to occur if you idealize your friend's potential without understanding present limitations. Confusing behavior and interactions might also exist, and if so, misunderstandings are likely. If there is no intuitive bond between you two, then what is left unsaid is uncertain. Try to clear up misunderstandings as soon as they occur, but realize that you and your friend might now lack a common basis for understanding, each of you needing to head in an entirely different direction.

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

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

PLUTO IN THE SOLAR RETURN CHART

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

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

THREE DIFFERENT POINTS OF FOCUS

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

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

The same thwarting of personal growth is evident when you shift your attention from self to the need to control others. By and large, this is not a good focal orientation. The symbolism of the planets exists in your consciousness so that you can grow and prosper from insight. Since growth begins at home, the main thrust of the focus should always be toward self, and it is generally unnecessary and also counterproductive to shift the emphasis to an external struggle. The most efficient use of power exists on the internal plane because it takes much less energy to control your own reactions than to seek power over someone else. Once power is removed from the inner self and used to control others, the effectiveness is reduced. Stalemate power struggles are particularly detrimental because they deplete resources. It is conceivable that there are life situations where it is essential to control another person. For example, children, disabled or elderly loved ones may not be able to make informed decisions. In these situations you might be asked or forced to wield power over another. You are meant to grow from all your experiences. Even in these instances, self-awareness and insight are crucial to the decisions you make. Start with yourself first, then work your way outward. Blaming others for your problems distorts the perception of self and the realization of your own personal involvement. Always be aware of the interactive process and the role you play in it. This internal perspective is of primary importance, much more so than the process of controlling someone else.

Trying to control life situations can lead to power struggles, but at some point in your life it may be essential to make a stand for the good of your own growth or that of world consciousness. Ultimately, it is much better for you to control yourself, but this is not always possible. Someone can be seeking to control you, your family or your livelihood. Certain injustices must be corrected for everyone to progress, and sometimes the only viable option is to work for change. Always be aware of the struggle you take on. It is usually easier to correct a situation than to convince your opponent he or she is wrong. It is easier to get forgiveness than permission. Go for

the simplest task that gets the job done. For example, your office routine might be very inefficient and next to impossible to accomplish in a day's time. Perhaps you see where improvements can be made, but your immediate boss disagrees with you or thwarts your efforts. As long as you continue to try and convince your immediate boss of the need for change, you will get nowhere. If you can easily go over his or her head to a higher boss, this could be an effective way to handle the stalemate. Seek the quickest solution to a problem if one is available. Do not get locked into long, drawn-out struggles if they are not necessary.

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

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

THREE DIFFERENT PLUTONIAN PROCESSES

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

The power to keep things the way they are can sometimes be an awakening to personal power. Implied here is a resistance to a force seeking change, and sometimes the intent of change is negative. The pressure can come from an external or internal

source, and the changes desired may be either external or internal also. For example, if you are a recovering alcoholic facing a difficult life situation, you might feel the pressure to start drinking again. The pressure could come from your own wish to avoid major decisions, or from a person you are associating with.

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

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

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

transition, but naturally it is what you do with the information that is important. If intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth are triggered by the new awareness, the process continues to be positive; however, if instead you use your newfound insight to control others or block growth, you have used your knowledge in a negative way.

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

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

SOLAR RETURN PLUTO IN 9TH HOUSE:

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

During the year, you can take a home-correspondence course, study on your own, or attend a formal school. Problems at school are possible and they can range from minor

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

If you are a teacher or lecturer, some of the above might apply. If you disagree with school administration policies, or if you are in the process of rewriting those policies yourself, your career might be affected. This is a time when you can be very forceful concerning your beliefs, and your attitudes probably carry over into the professional arena.

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

One factor consistent with this placement is that the effect on the belief system tends to be stronger and more noticeable if you are emotionally involved with the very person or people who cause this philosophical revision. The impact of an emotional or psychological connection makes the conversion, attack or insight much more effective. The new information you

are learning can drastically change your beliefs and make you feel disoriented until you have adjusted your philosophy accordingly. Do not lose sight of self. Remember to maintain a personal perspective. Beliefs about yourself are just as likely to be affected as beliefs about others. Opinions you retain may have to be defended against the attacks of others. Challenges are meant to force you to review and solidify your position.

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

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