

SOLAR RETURN REPORT

Birthday Chart Interpretation



The Year Ahead: 2010-2011 for Madonna

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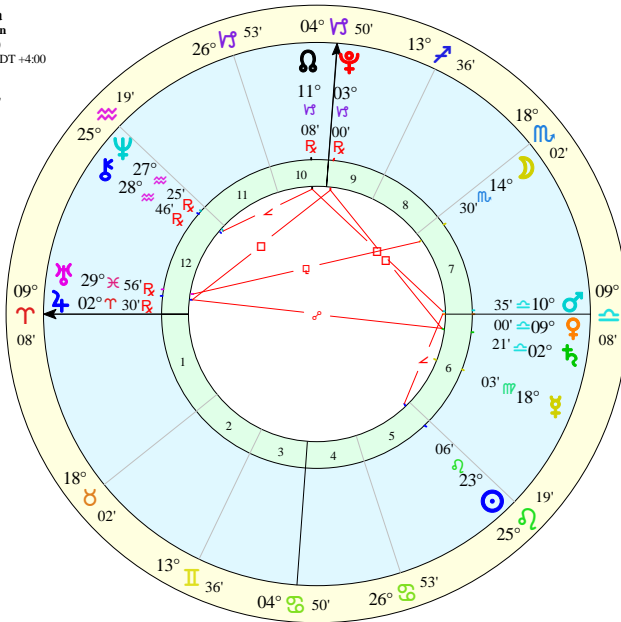
Astrology report from:



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Astrological Summary

**Madonna
Solar Return**
15 Aug 2010
9:39:44 pm EDT +4:00
New York
40°N42'51"
074°W00'23"
Tropical
Placidus



**Madonna
Natal Chart**
16 Aug 1958
7:05 am +5:00
Bay City
43°N35'40"
083°W53'20"
Tropical
Placidus

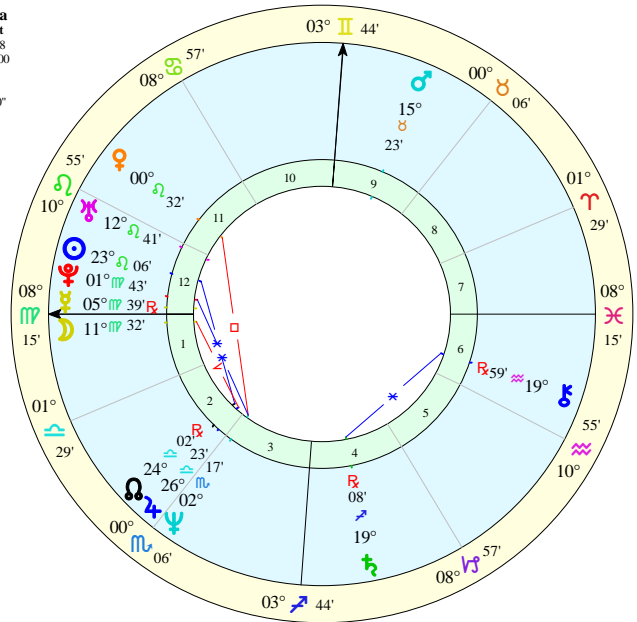


Chart Point Positions: Madonna

Solar Return: 15 Aug 2010 9:39:44 pm EDT +4:00 New York, New York

Planet	Sign	Position	House	Comment
The Moon	Scorpio	14° Sc30'	7th	
The Sun	Leo	23° Le06'	5th	
Mercury	Virgo	18° Vi03'	6th	
Venus	Libra	9° Li00'	6th	
Mars	Libra	10° Li35'	7th	
Jupiter	Aries	2° Ar30'	12th	
Saturn	Libra	2° Li21'	6th	
Uranus	Pisces	29° Pi56'	12th	
Neptune	Aquarius	27° Aq25'	12th	
Pluto	Capricorn	3° Cp00'	9th	
Chiron	Aquarius	28° Aq46'	12th	
The North Node	Capricorn	11° Cp08'	10th	
The Ascendant	Aries	9° Ar08'	1st	
The Midheaven	Capricorn	4° Cp50'	10th	

Chart Point Aspects

Planet	Aspect	Planet	Orb	App/Sep
The Moon	Sesquisquare	Uranus	0° 26'	Applying
The Sun	Semisquare	Venus	0° 53'	Separating
The Sun	Sesquisquare	The Ascendant	1° 02'	Applying
Venus	Conjunction	Mars	1° 35'	Applying
Venus	Opposition	The Ascendant	0° 08'	Applying
Mars	Square	The North Node	0° 32'	Applying
Mars	Opposition	The Ascendant	1° 26'	Separating
Jupiter	Opposition	Saturn	0° 08'	Applying
Jupiter	Square	Pluto	0° 29'	Separating
Saturn	Square	Pluto	0° 38'	Applying
Neptune	Conjunction	Chiron	1° 21'	Applying
Neptune	Semisquare	The North Node	1° 16'	Applying
Pluto	Conjunction	The Midheaven	1° 50'	Separating
The North Node	Square	The Ascendant	1° 59'	Applying

Introduction



"Because time itself is like a spiral, something special happens on your birthday each year: The same energy that God invested in you at birth is present once again."

-- Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson

Many people are familiar with their own astrological sign because Sun sign astrology is popular in today's culture. Taking this one step further extends the understanding of astrology from the Sun sign to other planets and aspects of astrology that interplay at the moment of birth. A chart is produced that astrologers can interpret. What you may not know is that astrologers can also calculate a chart for each of your birthdays, and these charts can predict the patterns that you might experience in the forthcoming year. This is because each year the Sun does a full revolution of the zodiac. Therefore each year the Sun returns to the exact position of your birth chart Sun. Wherever you are in the world we can calculate this birthday chart. This chart is called a Solar Return; hence the saying "many happy returns". This chart represents the opportunities and challenges of the forthcoming year. It should also be read in conjunction with your birth chart to fully understand the lessons and opportunities available to you in any given year.

When using these Solar Return interpretations, please bear in mind that, inevitably, every chart will contain some contradictory influences. As a result certain interpretations of different items in the same chart may seem difficult to reconcile. However, this may still be an accurate reflection of your chart, as it is likely that you do experience conflicting desires, events and circumstances in your life. Usually an astrologer will synthesise these apparent contradictions in order to present a cohesive and meaningful interpretation of the dilemmas of the chart.

Please also be aware of the fact that each person possesses both positive and negative influences in the chart, and therefore in their lives. The challenge is to accept and overcome the negative influences, so that we can successfully focus on manifesting the positive traits or qualities. This report outlines both influences, and therefore helps us to rise to the challenges during any given year. Any advice given is meant to be an aid the individual in taking responsibility for his or her own life. Ultimately the decision rests with each individual.

THIS YEAR'S MAJOR THEME



“And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.”

■ Abraham Lincoln, US 16th President



The Ascendant

The Ascendant indicates your primary focus of the year. It shows your main direction and how you are likely to go about achieving your goals. The Ascendant indicates whether you are more likely to be self-motivated, or whether you are more likely to rely on other people during this year.

The Ascendant is in Aries

Your birthday chart Ascendant is in a masculine Fire sign indicating that this is a year in which you are a go-getter. If you are usually more reliant on other people, this year you are champing at the bit to march to the beat of your own drum. You would like to act as you see fit, free of restrictions imposed by other people's expectations. You are self-motivated, more of a leader than a follower. You are unlikely to wait for other people before you take action, even if this is your usual modus operandi. Patience is in short supply this year. You want action. Your creative fires are burning.

Aries is a sign of self-assertion and independence and therefore you have more of these qualities in your life this year. You are less reliant on what others think of you, and what they expect of you. With the fiery force of Aries you are able to believe in yourself, stand up for yourself, and break new ground. You may start new projects, forge a new relationship, or move into a new area. Other aspects of your annual chart will depict these areas. Whatever the scenario, you are a leader rather than a follower, ready to formulate new plans. In other words this year you have the opportunity to let go of previous self-beliefs and form a new image, new plans and new goals. This can be an exciting year as you start afresh.

The Sun

The Sun is very important when interpreting a Solar Return chart given that the chart is based on the Sun. It indicates the major theme of the year depicting the area in which you would really like to shine. Parts of your life that have been seemingly unimportant in previous years can become very important once the Sun shines its light in a particular house of a Solar Return chart.

The Sun is in the 5th House

If you have been hanging out for a lighter, brighter year then this is it. The major theme for this year is creativity and fun. It is time to play. From creation will spring forth. You can do anything that you choose to do. This is your time to express yourself. You can dance, sing, act, design, write, paint, experiment in mathematics or science, or anything that your heart desires. Last year you sought knowledge, this year your imagination can reign. As physicist Albert Einstein once said, *"I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."* Nevertheless you may choose to study or teach a course in something that inspires your creative genius. This is not a year to be cautious, but rather to take risks. This may be as simple as believing in yourself, backing your own abilities. Alternatively you may like to sky dive, parachute or fly to another country. This is your time. Read, research and take off in your mind or on a plane. Romance may also be in the air. If you are married then you are likely to seek more romance from your spouse. If you are single then a new romantic interest may enter your life. Only time will tell whether or not this is a serious relationship. The time is ripe for fun and frolic. Later you can assess your relationship options. Towards the end of the year you may like to start considering how you are spending your resources, but only after you have had some fun and explored your opportunities in many areas of your life.

On a slightly different note children may play a role this year. It is more likely that you are required to explore your inner child, however; it is also possible that you seek the company of children. Perhaps you are enjoying spending time with a newborn baby, or perhaps a grown-up child has left the nest and you are no longer required to take responsibility but rather to enjoy your child's company. Once again the emphasis is on enjoyment, finding creative solutions and laying the groundwork either for new avenues of self-expression or for new moneymaking ventures.

6th House Cusp is in Leo

The Sun also shines its rays on a different area of your annual chart when taking into account rulerships, a system used by astrologers to link planets and signs. In your case your annual Sun is ruling the sixth house of your chart indicating that you are also focussed on matters to do with work schedules, health and lifestyle. One of the additional themes of your year is leading a balanced lifestyle. You are focussed on job satisfaction, responsibilities for household chores, improving your health and fitness levels and how the work calendar bears up against the social calendar. Recent changes may have prompted you to reassess where your priorities lies, and perhaps make some adjustments in your everyday life.

The Sun is Semisquare Venus

This is your year to be on your toes when it comes to love and money. If you are married you may be feeling a little stale when it comes to romance. You would do well to see if you can spark a little extra pleasure in your partnership, but don't push too hard. Something or someone is just not ready despite your need. If you are single then it is possible that you meet a significant new partner during the year, however; there may be impediments to your relationship. Perhaps your lover has other responsibilities to fulfil before making a commitment. Whether you are single or married this is your year to reassess your relationship values. Where do your true passions lie? Do you want love and commitment, or are you just bored in other aspects of your life? If you are single, do you like the dating game or are you ready to settle down? If so this process is likely to demand some changes in your lifestyle. Are you

prepared to make these changes? The longer that you have been single, the harder you are likely to find it to change some of your habits. If you are already married, or in a committed partnership, then your lover is likely to demand changes. This may relate to the way in which you express yourself and your love, or it could involve money matters. A little financial planning can be a positive course of action during this period. It is a good year to budget and plan for long term goals. If you tighten the purse strings a little now, you are likely to reap the benefits later.

The Sun is Sesquisquare The Ascendant

Success is within your grasp this year, but you may have a few challenges along the road to accomplishment. Progress is one of the themes right now, as you reassess your ideas about yourself, your life and your aspirations. However, you are also aware of the factors that are needed to help you along the way. A little patience and persistence and you are likely to enjoy your time in the sun. Your success is not necessarily a public achievement. It could be a very private goal that you have been pursuing. Other factors in your annual chart can shed light on the major theme of this year.

THIS YEAR'S PERSONAL MATTERS



"The greatest comfort of my old age, and that which gives me the highest satisfaction, is the pleasing remembrance of the many benefits and friendly offices I have done to others."

-- Marcus Cato Roman Statesman

The Moon

The Moon is also an important indicator in a Solar Return chart. Generally speaking the Moon shows which areas of your life are likely to undergo change during the year. More specifically the Moon shows your personal needs. Your individual needs and urges are likely to trigger changes in your life during the course of the year.

The Moon is in the 7th House

The changeable Moon is influencing the area of marriage and business partnerships this year. Some astrologers might say that the position of the Moon in the 7th House is indicative of marriage, but this is not necessarily so. You may meet a potential marriage partner during this year, but the moody Moon can have several influences.

If you are already married then perhaps your spouse's situation has changed and you are now required to take a back seat, or perhaps take a more responsible role. Whether you are single or married, your own needs are somehow put on hold while you take care of someone significant, or wait for them to sort their life out. In other words as much as you would like to put your own needs first, it is not likely to occur during this year. Rather you are required to look after the emotional, and perhaps physical, well being of someone near and dear. Other aspects in your astrology chart could give clues as to which person this is likely to be. In some cases it could be a project, a business partnership, or a legal agreement that is taking its emotional toll. Whatever your particular scenario you are required, during the course of this birthday year, to take on a caretaker role. The more that you accept this role and go with the flow, the more you are likely to reap the rewards that come with knowing that you have done your best to nurture a loved one. It is likely to be in the realm of your private life that you are in demand, however; it is also possible that your work involves taking care of vulnerable members of society - the downcast, outcast, ill, aged or younger members.

On the other hand the Moon may stir up some strong feelings when it comes to marriage and relationships, challenging you to break out of old patterns and embrace a new way of relating. If you are single then you may indeed meet someone significant, a special person who makes you realize that your life needs to change. Perhaps you have been stuck in your ways, or maybe you have developed

some negative ways of relating in the past, or perhaps you have just felt safe in your single, independent life. This year you have the opportunity to change your habits, and to make a commitment that is fulfilling and rewarding. However, you need to do a little soul-searching. It would be easy to dismiss any emotional demands placed on you, as misplaced and unreasonable. Be honest. Is the other person really being so unreasonable, or is your intuition telling you that it is time for you to adopt a more positive way of relating? This does not require a logical approach, but rather an intuitive one. Intimacy can be rewarding if you open your heart and go with the flow.

The Moon is in Scorpio

The element of Water indicates that this is a rich emotional year for you. This is the ideal time to reach out to loved ones, share their trials and tribulations and reveal your own true feelings. It is a privilege to share the pains and joys of the lives of loved ones, even if at times you feel a little overwhelmed. This is a time to go with the flow in personal matters. Let your imagination flow. Your sensitivity and warmth are key factors right now.

When your Moon is in the sign of Scorpio this is an indication that your feelings are not only more sensitive, but they are also more intense. Something or someone is triggering powerful emotions. It is likely that someone close to your heart is challenging you at a deep emotional level. A woman is likely to be at the bottom of things, either directly or indirectly. It is time to be honest about your true feelings even if this means moving out of your comfort zone. During the course of the year you are likely to face some deep-seated fears with a view to letting go of the past and moving forward with more emotional integrity. It is time to expose the darker feelings that you have harboured, and any bad personal habits that may have taken root in your private life. If they exist then vices such as jealousy, possessiveness, lust, laziness, or greed can be exposed. Right now you need to assess your own feelings and your loved ones in the light of the truth. Do you need to change your ways, or do you need to walk away? There is no point keeping any secrets from your loved ones because they are exposed. Likewise your loved ones' secrets are likely to be exposed. You may need a little extra support this year and could seek the wise counsel of trusted professionals, colleagues and associates rather than trying to resolve everything on your own. If something or someone has hurt you, or abandoned you and you are in emotional pain then trust that the healing process is taking place. This is not a light-hearted year, but it can be a profound one. It is a year of significant emotional change, the birth of a new stage in your private life. Other aspects of your personal astrology depict which areas these fears are likely to be rooted, and which areas need to be changed. Once you have appraised your own feelings and made any necessary adjustments in your personal life, then you are likely to be a powerful ally for your loved ones. You can trust your intuition. Your perceptions are accurate. You may take on the role of counsellor and healer.

The Moon is Sesquisquare Uranus

When someone gives you a wake-up call, do you like it? Are you grateful that someone is caring and brave enough to tell you the truth and shake you out of your complacency? Do you welcome friends and family who are independent thinkers and let you know what they think? Do you like sudden surprising events? Let's hope so because this is a year in which you are likely to receive a wake-up call in your personal life, one that catapults you out of your comfort zone. A person or an event sparks a change in your domestic life. Your emotions are aroused. You may fall in love with an exciting lover, someone unusual or not your usual type. You may also be tempted to change your living situations, either by moving all of the furniture around in your house, or with a change of residence. You are impulsive, likely to react to loved ones, move to a new location, or take personal risks. If you are the sort of person who welcomes change then this could be an intoxicating year, one that propels you forward in your personal growth. You may feel exhilarated, ready for the stimulation. However, if you prefer stability in your private life then you could find this year a bit tense. You may be fearful, worrying what is around the corner, or concerned about how you are going to cope. If you think of a roller

coaster ride at a fun fare and try to go with the flow then you are more likely to enjoy the ride. If you resist then you could become fretful and fearful. Once again, if you take a deep breath and try to enjoy the ride then you are more likely to make the most of this awakening. For those of you who are spiritually minded you could think of this as a year of a kundalini awakening. The experiences that you have in your personal life this year are likely to teach you valuable lessons. This is not the type of experience that comes from reading books, or sitting in front of the television. As Frank Herbert says, *“without change, something sleeps inside us, and seldom awakens. The sleeper must awaken.”* So trust your instincts, make the most of the opportunities that come your way, and you may be amazed with the results.

Venus

The planet Venus sheds light on the personal areas of love and finance in the forthcoming year. This planet of love tells you whether or not personal relationships are likely to be prominent during the year. If you are single then are you likely to attract a significant relationship? If you are married is this a year of romance and fun, or perhaps one in which you tackle a few changes.

Venus is in the 6th House

This year your social life and your work are intricately entwined. You may be particularly busy at work and therefore it is easier to wine and dine with colleagues out of hours, or perhaps you have changed jobs and enjoy getting to know your new work mates. You may also have decided to change your working habits to incorporate a healthier lifestyle. As a result your lunch arrangements changes as you dine at healthier outlets, take your own healthy food to work, join a lunchtime exercise group or cook up a storm in the staff lunchroom. Whatever your circumstance you can be assured that your everyday life becomes more pleasurable this year, and that opportunities to have fun and improve your lifestyle are likely to arise through your connections at work or through a significant lover. You seek pleasure and ease in your work environment; forming friendships with everyone, and perhaps taking on the role of social coordinator. The planet of love is affecting your working day and so you may also form an intimate relationship with one person in particular. An office romance can spice up your life, and is likely to affect your job decisions. Alternatively a commitment to a significant lover may change your work commitments.

Your health is likely to improve under the influence of this beneficial planet. If you have suffered from ill health, then you may start to notice a change. If you are generally healthy then you may improve your diet, or take up a new and more pleasurable form of exercise. Dancing, acting, trips to the cinema, sessions with massage therapists, and any type of game alleviates stress and benefits your health and well being this year.

Venus is in Libra

The planet of love is in an Air sign this year indicating that you seek stimulation in love and money matters. Generally speaking you are open to ideas and eager to communicate, rather than stagnate when it comes to love and money. You may be interested in speculation, although perhaps not ready to make a commitment to a particular person or course of action. If you are single and looking for a lover, then you are likely to be attracted to someone who stimulates your mind. You quickly dismiss anyone who bores you. If you are attached, then you are looking for open lines of communication. You want to create quality time during which both of you can talk. If your need for stimulation is not met this year, then you are likely to feel restless. Look at other aspects of your annual chart for more details on your love life and money matters.

Venus is Conjunct Mars

Right now you and your partner are simpatico. You can work as a team, supporting each other and achieving your goals. No matter what happens this year, you feel that you have someone on your side, and vice versa. This is true whether or not you are in a committed partnership, however; it is particularly true if you are married. Other aspects of your annual chart indicate whether or not this is an easy-going or challenging year, but either way you feel ready to take on the challenges. This is particularly true when it comes to money matters. You are able to work to provide for your needs, knowing that you are working side by side with your significant other. You are confident that if you take financial risks then your partner is ready, willing and able to support you. This has a flow-on affect, further boosting your own confidence and your belief in your partnership. As a result you may take a risk with your partner this year. On a personal note you may strike out on an adventure holiday with your loved one this year, or take on another physical challenge that delights you, or travel to a foreign land. Your sex life is likely to be enjoyable, as you rediscover your passion for your own goals, and share them with a beloved partner. If you are single then you are likely to strike out on your own, trusting in your own ability to support yourself. You may meet a potential partner, or perhaps form a friendship with someone who helps boost your confidence.

Venus is Opposite The Ascendant

The planet of love is featuring strongly in your annual chart indicating that you are focussed on love and marriage this year. Whether you are living a solitary life, or in a marriage, your focus is on spending time with someone important, helping him or her improve their life, enjoy more pleasure or just enjoying their company. Together you are achieving a more positive and loving relationship, or working towards improving your lifestyle. You may spend money on a specific venture, but fortunately you are likely to be in agreement about the benefits that arise from the joint project. It is also possible that you receive gifts, offers of a business venture or support from a significant woman this year.

THIS YEAR'S CHALLENGES



"If we could be twice young and twice old we could correct all our mistakes."
-- Euripides Ancient Greek Playwright

Mars

The planet Mars tells you about your assertion and drive for the year. It depicts what motivates you in the current year, and what desires drive you most powerfully. Are you ambitious for professional power, or do you desire a meaningful relationship? Are you likely to be highly motivated, or perhaps ready to sit back and cruise for a while? These are the types of questions answered by the qualities of the planet Mars in your birthday chart.

Mars is in the 7th House

The sparks are flying in your partnerships this year. The positive note sounded right now is one of excitement, sexual tension, and energetic co-operation in business and personal affiliations. If you are single then you may meet someone who really lights your fires, and changes your personal life. If you are married then you are keen to involve your spouse in your activities and projects. You seek their enthusiasm and involvement, at the same time expecting your beloved to accept your guidance. It is also possible that an event in your own or your spouse's life triggers a change of circumstances this year. Sexual attraction is likely to be a strong force in your major relationship this year. You are keen to share positive sensual experiences, and may become disgruntled if the feelings are not shared. You may feel frustrated, tempted to have an extra-marital affair. All being well, this year sees your marriage or business partnerships flourishing with renewed vigour and excitement. The problem is that you may be expecting too much. The planet Mars is a feisty one, that often incites arrogance in those who have this tendency. Therefore you need to be wary of being too pushy. You may have plenty of energy and drive, but perhaps you are compelling your partner to follow your lead, when he or she has other plans. If you are not careful joint projects can become a battle of wills, yours against your partner's. This likely to aggravate you, and fail to produce the results that you want. Of course, if someone else is standing in your way you can end the alliance. This is your choice, but you need to be sure that you are doing this for the right reasons. If you are simply being childish, taking your ball and playing elsewhere because you haven't been able to force your own way, then you are likely to miss out on all the benefits of a loving marriage, or a successful business partnership. On the other hand if you have done all that

you can to co-operate and feel that the battle has reached a standoff, or worse still is showing signs of violence, then you may decide that the time has come to move on. In this case you and your partner could part ways this year. Imagine that you are in charge of a team of headstrong, harnessed horses, pent up and keen to take off. What is the best way of handling this spirited team? The answer is to keep calm and disciplined guidance through the reins, as well as giving the team enough freedom to race ahead. This is how you can harness your own feelings when it comes to your involvement with your spouse or business associates.

Mars is Opposite The Ascendant

A change is likely to occur within your primary relationship. This is most likely your current partner, however; it could also be an important male friend, relation or business partner. The time has come to talk through problems with the aim of resolving past conflict and paving the way for improved relations. Your challenge is to remain calm and assertive and to avoid becoming drawn into any angry interactions. If you have been in a subservient role in your primary partnership then you may now assert yourself, which may lead to conflict. As a result you may be faced with a decision regarding what action to take. This can mark a fork in the road in your primary personal or business partnership. Other aspects of your birthday chart throw some light on this process.

Uranus

The planet Uranus is one of disclosure. It reveals the areas that you need to change during the course of your birthday year. If you are the type of person who anticipates and embraces new experiences then you are likely to delight in the challenges, and instigate a few of your own in the area highlighted by this unpredictable planet. If you tend to prevaricate, preferring the comfort on known situations, then you are likely to be in for a few surprises. This erratic planet does not recognise safety and security. Its task is to help you to grow beyond your limitations. You can either accept or resist the challenge and see what happens as a result.

Uranus is in the 12th House

This is a year of personal discovery. Others may not realise the deeply personal transition that is occurring within you right now. It is almost as if you have a secret life. Everything may appear to be carrying on as usual, but you are exploring your inner world in strange and unexpected ways. You may consult psychics, healers, astrologers and other such metaphysical practitioners in order to help you understand some of the deeper matters that are on your mind right now. It is also possible that you experience strange and inexplicable encounters with mystics. Symbolism plays an important role in your life this year. As you delve into your psyche, you may surprise others, and yourself, by instigating some sudden changes during the course of the year. These could appear to be bolts from the blue, but you know that you have been dwelling on these changes for some time. You would be wise to bear in mind that others have not been privy to your inner machinations and therefore are likely to be taken completely by surprise. Therefore you may need to employ some patience and compassion, step up your communication skills and give them time to catch their breath and adjust to your new proposals. If you have been asking for a miracle in some area of your life then this is the year when an unexpected solution can occur, a breakthrough that does indeed appear to be a miracle. Of course, whenever anyone appears to be an overnight success there are usually years of hard work that have been previously unrecognised. This may also be the case for you, however; this is your year to conduct your affairs privately whenever possible without seeking the limelight. The aim is to seek personal enlightenment, not recognition from society. This is an excellent year for conducting a little soul searching, digging deep for solutions to outstanding problems, and enjoy the challenges that arise as a result of your new realisations.

Pluto

Peace can be deceptive. True peace comes when life is balanced, when you are living true to yourself and are sincerely happy with your life choices. You respect other people and assert your own needs and wishes, and live your life with integrity. Sometimes it appears that your life is peaceful, but you are really just sweeping things under the proverbial carpet, keeping the peace by swallowing your own needs or biding your time until events or people force you to make the necessary changes. You can be assured that the powerful planet Pluto will shine a bright light in one or more areas of your birthday chart and you will see your own process very clearly. If you are living your life true to yourself then you are likely to reap benefits from this planet of transformation. However, if you have been dodging the truth then events or people are likely to change.

Pluto is in the 9th House

Did you think that you had learnt all that you could in life? Were you happy with your level of knowledge and the beliefs that you had garnered from your life's journey? Or were you feeling a little staid and bored? Well the powerful planet Pluto is now urging you to do a little soul-searching and discover renewed passion and purpose. This year you are likely to spend some time either discovering, or working consciously, towards your "calling". This is a year of renewal. You may be a tad obsessive in pursuing your aspirations, but hopefully you can balance the need to shoulder your responsibilities with your yearning for more meaning and purpose. Pluto has an uncanny ability to strip self-deceit and force us to face the truth. If you enjoy a challenge then you are likely to enjoy this year. It will be anything but boring. It is time for you to rethink your beliefs, discard anything that is holding you back and embrace new certainties. These truths could be literal or metaphysical. On a literal level you may decide to return to study a subject of interest, something that inspires you and lifts you out of your everyday concerns into higher realms. This could be anything that expands your knowledge of the world at large. On the other hand you may now be challenged to take an even bigger leap of faith into spiritual realms. If you have firm religious beliefs, you may undergo a period of doubt. Possibly you are challenged to change your religious beliefs, to dig deeper. Doubts arise and you are challenged to search for your true faith. You may read rapaciously, travel to unexplored territories, and experiment with hitherto unexplored ideas. The underlying motivating force is that in some way, shape or form you are aware that something is missing from your way of life and you are eager to get on the right path, to explore your true purpose.

It is possible that a stressful event has triggered your need to explore the bigger picture. For instance losing a job may force you to reassess your life and take a different approach or follow a different path. This is the ideal year to let serendipity have an influence. Go with the flow and enjoy the opportunities that arise, even if at first they seem adverse. Follow the example of the attitude of Australian businessman Alan Bond, who went bankrupt and served time in prison for deceiving receivers of his corporation. He said,

"I found that in prison that I had more time to read the Bible, I had more time to contemplate life, and more time to look upon my fellow man. And I worked very hard during the period in there to help other people in the same situation."

Pluto is Conjunct The Midheaven

This is a year of transformation. You could literally change directions by changing professions, becoming the president of an association, retiring from your work or a public office role, marrying or divorcing. These, or any other potentially life changing decisions, may at first seem challenging, but ultimately are bridges to a more authentic life. It is also possible that you continue of your current life path, however; this is likely to occur only after you have reassessed your ambitions. Perhaps you have reached a milestone birthday and hence are reassessing your life in the light of what you have already achieved and what you had hoped to achieve. It is time for an honest appraisal of your ambitions and

achievements. You are likely to suffer if you compare yourself to other people in a negative light. It is better if you can view your so-called failures in a kind light, remembering the lessons learnt and the wisdom gained. For instance perhaps you are single and you have always longed to marry the right person and have children. If it is not too late then you need to take an honest appraisal of why you have not created this life for yourself. Are you secretly afraid of the responsibility of taking care of vulnerable young children? Are you afraid of intimacy, or perhaps a lack of personal freedom, that may result from marriage? Or are you honestly the type of person who would prefer to “marry” your profession? Only you can honestly answer these questions. The planet Pluto is demanding that you do a little soul-searching this year and reassess your life in the light of truth. If you are older then your options may be limited in that you can no longer realistically have a child of your own. Nevertheless you could marry someone with small children and become a stepparent. You may also be ready to retire from public life, and hence are coming to terms with your past choices and future options. Whatever your situation it is time to undergo an honest appraisal of your life direction and make the necessary changes to ensure that you are on course, whether this involves adjusting your role or your attitudes.

THIS YEAR'S LESSONS



"Our birthdays are feathers in the broad wing of time."
-- Jean Paul Richter German Writer

Mercury

The planet Mercury helps you plan your year ahead. The Messenger of the Gods in a Solar Return chart indicates whether or not you are encouraged to forge ahead with your plans, or perhaps better advised to wait another year before moving ahead. This is particularly true for any area of your life connected with communications, study, business and transport.

Mercury is in the 6th House

As they say "a change is as good as a holiday". It is time to have a change of scenery, or to alter your lifestyle. Daily habits come under the microscope. If you have been living a healthy and happy lifestyle then you only need make minor adjustments. However, if you have formed some bad habits then you need to take stock, prioritise and adopt new healthy habits. This could include changing your diet, starting a new exercise regime or perhaps cutting back on your work hours to make way for more rest and relaxation. Your calendar is likely to fill up quickly with commitments. Nevertheless you need to keep a check on your energy levels. This may be your year to start practicing the word "no". If you have experience any niggling health problems then this is the year in which to seek professional advice. It is unlikely that you will experience any major physical problems. Rather you need to look at the areas where your mental attitude is stressing your body. If you worry too much then start the daily practice of yoga, meditation, tai chi or walking in nature. You may also enjoy looking after, or working with small animals. If your long working hours are stressful then cut back, delegate or stand firm on what you can and can't do. You may need to change jobs. This is not a complete career change, but rather a chance to work in a healthier environment. If you are overworked in your family life then start delegating jobs, or perhaps find the funds for some domestic help. Think of your body and health in the same way that you would your car. Your car needs petrol, oil, water, regular cleaning inside and out, servicing and replacing of small parts. Funnily enough the human body can be the same. Your lesson this year is to pay attention to your anatomy, clean and service what you can and feel reinvigorated as a result.

Mercury is in Virgo

This is a year of commitment. You are likely to commit to a plan of action, or make a promise to another person. You have the mental discipline to carry through on your promises. Others are likely to notice your responsible attitude and your reputation benefits. You deservedly gain their respect by doing your duty. Your responsibilities may increase during the course of the year as you are entrusted with more tasks connected with speaking, negotiating or writing. You know when to speak and when to

remain silent. You choose your words more carefully than usual. The sensible earth sign in which the planet of Mercury resides also indicates a degree of stubborn thinking. You need to make sure that you are not too set in your thoughts, and that you remain open to new ideas. You excel in any situation that requires common sense and logic, but reason does not always apply. Your strength this year is in being able to apply mental discipline to activities such as accounting, computer encoding, intricate craftwork, and other such areas. Your thoughts, and consequently choice of activities, are likely to be more practical than altruistic right now. Your lesson may be to see the value in the arts, and to note that human beings are not often logical. You need to make sure that you are able to offer calm reassurance in tricky situations, rather than a superior rational approach to communications. Nevertheless your application skills are excellent, and you have the ability to methodically master any tasks that are set, and to communicate patiently and wisely to friends, family and associates.

Jupiter

The planet Jupiter tells you about the opportunities and benefits that arise during the course of the year. Good news, new prospects and a sense of well being are associated with this beneficial planet.

Jupiter is in the 12th House

The more that you support other people this year, the better of that you will be. You may be embroiled in some tricky situations but you have the uncanny ability to rise above the dross and make gold from any situation, as long as you honour others as well as yourself. Situations that arise this year are likely to have ramifications for years to come and so you want them to be positive. It is time to look after the needs of other people, taking a positive and optimistic outlook on any demands or changes that occur this year. You're more likely to work behind the scenes rather than taking on a public role, and you would be wise to refuse to accept public accolades right now. It is not that you don't deserve them, but rather that it is your turn to benefit privately from most matters. If you step into the public arena then you may seem grandiose, and undeserving. This just happens to be a year when anything other than humility can backfire. You are to learn everything that you can from behind the scenes from those more experienced. This way you stand to benefit. Your good works won't go unnoticed, but it is best if you are not seen to be boastful or taking credit when it is due elsewhere. Your support of those around you is more likely to reap you benefits than anything else. It's possible that you spend time in an institution such as a hospital, clinic or museum, perhaps working in such an institution, or even opting to learn some skills through volunteer work. If you do have an active public life, then you benefit greatly from extended periods of time spent in seclusion. You've a great respect for ancient wisdom, the spiritual teachings of past civilisations. You may benefit from a tarot or astrology reading this year, helping you to understand the underlying forces that are at work in your life right now. Although you may suffer setbacks this year, these are followed by successful periods as the Angels are watching over you.

Jupiter is Opposite Saturn

This year you are likely to make some changes so that you can succeed in achieving your life goals, but first you may have to learn to balance different aspects of your personality or life. You may need to re-structure some of your activities, or make some tough decisions. Generally speaking your judgement may be a little out of kilter this year. You are a poor judge of when to take action and when to wait patiently. As a result you need to be wary of making decisions that burn bridges, and, if possible, to steer clear of lawsuits. On a positive note when you start to blend the two opposing forces you're capable of great things. You can enjoy success in self-employment or be a valued member of a team, particularly in the business world. You are also gaining invaluable experience as you learn how to structure aspects of your life differently.

Saturn

Timing is an important aspect of life. People often comment on being in the right place at the right time. The planet Saturn can support us when it comes to timing. Is the time right to take up a new venture, or would we be better advised to shoulder our current responsibilities for a little longer? These are the types of questions that the planet Saturn can reveal when reading a Solar Return chart.

Saturn is in the 6th House

This is your year to develop a strong work ethic, if you don't already have one. If you are a hard worker, then this is your year to reap the benefits of your hard work. Work, service and health are highlighted. It is important that you don't overdo things; otherwise your body is likely to show signs of strain. You need to pay attention to your daily workload, how you structure your days and how you apply yourself to your job. This is a year to focus on the details, rather than the big picture. For instance if you lift heavy objects, how do you take the strain? Are you following the proper procedures for lifting and carrying correctly? Or are you straining your body by carrying out your job incorrectly? If you are paying attention to the procedures, in any work-related area, then you are likely to enjoy a year during which your efforts are rewarded. However if you are flouting the system in little ways then the everyday repetitive strain is likely to take its toll. Your lesson is to recognize that it is time to pay attention to specifics, the minutiae and seemingly irrelevant details. When necessary you need to take corrective measures, and follow the regulations. Learn the value of doing everyday tasks well. If you do not then you are likely to suffer the consequences, which could include losing your job, being forced to take time off work through physical strain or illness, or feeling tired and disappointed. On the other hand if you take notice of your work, what is required and apply yourself to the essentials then you can find satisfaction in a job well done. It is not just your working environment that requires your attention this year. It is also household tasks. You need to take responsibility for cleaning, tidying, fixing, building, and general upkeep at home. If these skills do not come naturally, then you may have to ask for help. Perhaps you know a friend or family member who is an expert in handyman skills, and can teach you the ropes? On the other hand you may have to budget and pay someone, but this year you are required to focus attention on what needs fixing in your house. If you have pets then you need to ensure that their health and well being are shipshape. At times you may feel as though you are servicing the needs of others, more than your own, but this is actually your year to search for a sense of purpose and joy in your daily life.

Saturn is Square Pluto

Your powers of observation and application are impressive this year, but you may have difficulty persuading others to your point of view. You are able to see what needs to be done and carry it out, step by step, but gaining the co-operation of those around you may be fraught with some challenges. Security is one of your prime motivators, and you are likely to feel threatened if others are not reliable, or not supporting you in an appropriate manner. Therefore this is a year in which you are keen to make plans and take action, but you are also likely to challenge the status quo. If you have been feeling stuck in a rut then this is your year for breaking free. You may have worked towards and achieved a life that suited you in many ways in the past, but now the time has come to dismantle aspects and take a different direction. Right now you can see matters clearly and are prepared to make the decisions, and follow up with appropriate endeavour to move forward. This is true even if some of the decisions have challenging consequences. Right now you are prepared to experience short term discomfort for long term gain, although you may feel a little unstable at times. You seek assistance from other people, but if they are needlessly holding you back then you are likely to rebel. Others aspects of your birthday chart reveal the specific areas in which you are likely to accomplish your objectives. However, you are particularly likely to shine in any leadership roles, or any position held in an organizations or business venture. Your executive abilities are sharp, and you know when to seek expert advice, and when to follow your own powers of perception. It is all in the timing. Now is the right time to grow and learn, and change, build and accomplish. The warning is to make sure that you make the most of your opportunities rather than have regrets later on.

THIS YEAR'S JOURNEY



"Sow a thought, and you reap an act;/ Sow an act, and you reap a habit;/ Sow a habit, and you reap a character;/ Sow a character, and you reap a destiny."

-- Charles Reader Modern Author

Neptune

The planet Neptune represents all that is ethereal in our world, and challenges us to develop qualities such as faith, hope and love even in the face of adversity. Under the influence of Neptune we can soar to great inspirational heights, however; if we are not careful then we can also sink into despair and disillusionment. The test is to look beyond the superficial and find meaning in our lives. The planet Neptune in our annual chart can indicate where to look.

Neptune is in the 12th House

It is time to surrender your spirit so that it might be renewed. This could mean finding time on a daily basis to meditate, listen to inspirational music or enjoy an uplifting film, or it could mean going on a spiritual retreat, fishing trip or writing your memoirs in a mountain cabin. It is important that you allow yourself moments of total immersion in a creative or meditative pursuit. Sit in a darkened room and whistle a tune, or sit under a tree and say a prayer, pick up your guitar and play. These are just some of the avenues open to you. You may simply want to get in your car and spend a night in a remote and beautiful location. The key to this year is to find some way in which to escape your daily responsibilities and tune out. There are several reasons why you need this time alone. The main one is that other people are not to be trusted this year. This is not to say that they are evil, or deceitful, but rather that they don't necessarily have your best interests at heart. Everyone has an agenda, and this year you are becoming more sensitive to what is being left unsaid, rather than what words are being spoken. You are noticing body language and other subtle signals. These revelations are likely to be disconcerting. You may feel disillusioned, wondering if you are on the right path and if you are really seeing things clearly. You need to learn to trust your own intuition and insights, but you also need a rest. You can share your insights with those closest to you, but be prepared for denial. Right now you are extra sensitive, and other people are not necessarily so aware of the undercurrents. Another reason why you need to escape the hum drum side of life is that this year you are likely to face a few ghosts from the past. Memories and dreams seem to pervade your daytime thoughts distracting you from tasks at hand. It is time to lay some of these ghosts to rest. You are being called to forgive, not forget, past hurts and mishaps so that you can move forward. As you undergo this process you are likely to note that your capacity for compassion, love and understanding deepen. If you are an artist then your work

is likely to subtly change in inspirational ways. This is a very soulful year if you give yourself permission to listen to your urge to merge with the more uplifting elements of this world.

The North Node

The Nodes highlight the areas of your year that are destined to occur no matter what you do. When you look back on your life you can see moments when the coincidences just seemed too uncanny - a chance meeting, a phone call out of the blue or an instant of being in the right place at the right time. The Nodes can give hints of which areas of your life are attracting the Fates attention right now.

The North Node is Square Mars

You are destined to change direction this year. You are being called on to reassess your goals in the light of your true purpose. If you are on the right path generally then you are likely to make a few slight adjustments, but if you are way off track then you may find yourself making some dramatic differences. You may encounter some obstacles along the path, however; you need to stand firm knowing that you are heading in the right direction. You can take responsibility for your own actions, while moving away from anyone or anything that threatens to block you. You are on your own journey and are not required to live anyone's life but your own. Therefore you may face some tough decisions, but you have destiny on your side.

The North Node is Semisquare Neptune

Life is a bit of a magical, mystery tour for you this year, taking you out of your usual routine and into unknown realms. This can be exciting if you have been bored, stuck in a rut. Alternatively, you may be a little disoriented. It is possible that you have fallen in love with a person or a project, but you are unsure of where it is heading. If this is the case, then you need to make sure that you don't lose your own sense of direction. You need to focus as much as possible on your intuition, your faith in the highest good and your knowledge of the spiritual laws. In short listen to your heart. In fact you may be presented with an opportunity to join a spiritual or artistic group that subtly changes the course of your life. This can be a healing, and soothing time, if you go with the flow rather than try to control the situation. Destiny will deal its hands no matter how much you try to interfere, so sit back and enjoy the ride.

The North Node is Square The Ascendant

It is time for some tough decisions. It is likely that you are trying to force destiny's hand, by being determined to follow a particular path, having set your mind on a certain outcome in your job or home life. The time has come to face up to some truths from the path. You are now reaping what you have sown in the past. If you have been sowing seeds on fertile ground then you are likely to reap the rewards this year, with a few adjustments. If however, you have been wasting your resources in the past then you may have to consolidate and pay your debts. The good news is that once you let go of your previous expectations, take stock of your situation and make decisions, then you are back on track. You have freed the way for destiny to give you a helping hand.

Conclusion



About the Author: Stephanie Johnson is a founder of Esoteric Technologies, the company that creates the Solar Fire suite of astrology products. She has helped create, design, develop and author Solar Fire and the other products. In particular she is the author of many of the Solar Writer range of astrology report writers. She is also the Marketing Director for Esoteric Technologies. Stephanie runs her own Seeing With Stars astrology consultation business as well as editing the Australian Data Collection. She holds a Federation of Australian Astrologers' Practitioner's Certificate and Diploma and is a member of the Federation of Australian Astrologers. She is a student of Medieval Astrology and the Ancient Wisdom teachings. She has lectured at national conferences, and her astrology articles have appeared in Australian publications including the FAA Journal and the Astrological Monthly Review. Before commencing her professional astrology career Stephanie was a journalist for 15 years in Australia, England and the USA.

About the Artist: Janet Bridgland is an artist and illustrator who paints in water colour. She works in a secondhand book shop called Back Pages Books, where she paints by a window overlooking a courtyard where the light is good. Her work may be seen there. She also exhibits at Greenhill Galleries in North Adelaide, Australia. You can contact Janet at backpages@bigpond.

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