



SPARK

ASTROLOGY



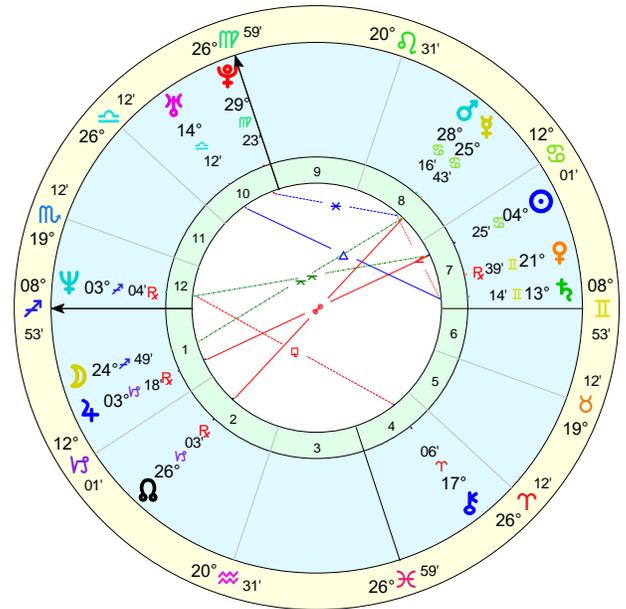
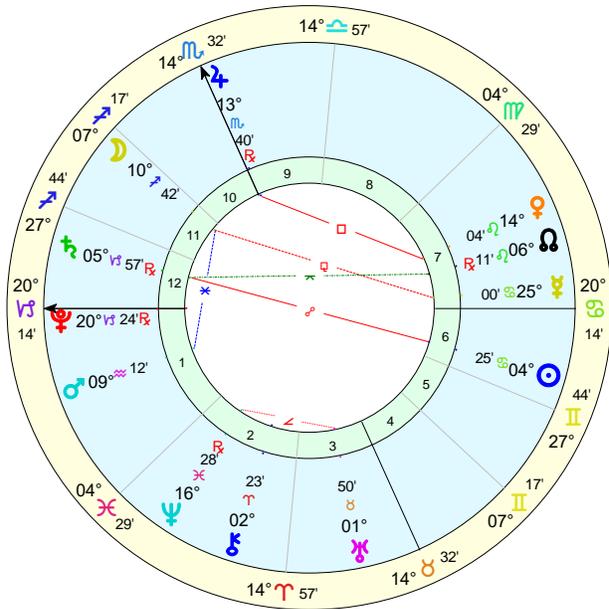
SOLAR RETURN

COMPLIMENTS OF

SPARK ASTROLOGY

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Astrological Summary

Chart Point Positions

Planet	Sign	Position	House	Comment
The Moon	Sagittarius	10°Sg42'	11th	
The Sun	Cancer	4°Cn25'	6th	
Mercury	Cancer	25°Cn00'	7th	
Venus	Leo	14°Le04'	7th	
Mars	Aquarius	9°Aq12'	1st	
Jupiter	Scorpio	13°Sc40'	9th	read into 10th House
Saturn	Capricorn	5°Cp57'	12th	
Uranus	Taurus	1°Ta50'	3rd	
Neptune	Pisces	16°Pi28'	2nd	
Pluto	Capricorn	20°Cp24'	1st	
Chiron	Aries	2°Ar23'	2nd	
The North Node	Leo	6°Le11'	7th	
The Ascendant	Capricorn	20°Cp14'	1st	
The Midheaven	Scorpio	14°Sc32'	10th	

Chart Point Aspects

Planet	Aspect	Planet	Orb	App/Sep
The Moon	Sesquisquare	Mercury	0°42'	Separating
The Moon	Sextile	Mars	1°30'	Separating
The Sun	Opposition	Saturn	1°32'	Applying
Venus	Square	Jupiter	0°24'	Separating
Venus	Square	The Midheaven	0°28'	Applying
Jupiter	Conjunction	The Midheaven	0°52'	Separating
Saturn	Quincunx	The North Node	0°14'	Applying
Uranus	Semisquare	Neptune	0°21'	Separating
Neptune	Trine	The Midheaven	1°56'	Applying
Pluto	Conjunction	The Ascendant	0°10'	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

Astrologers 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 astrologers 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 Capricorn

Your birthday chart Ascendant is in a feminine Earth sign indicating that this year during which you are more introspective and security conscious. Shelter is a focus. You are keen to have your house in order, before you consider any other options. On the one hand you are steadier, more reliable and considerate this year. On the other you are not keen to make changes. Traits such as safety, security and steadfastness are of more value to you than usual. You would prefer to stay with the places, people and projects that are familiar rather than explore new territory. You are content to build your resources, letting others take the risks. Even if this is not your usual modus operandi, this year you are required to go slow and perhaps even take a back seat.

The conservative sign of Capricorn is emphasizing your need to build foundations in your life this year. You are less likely to take risks opting instead for a thorough appraisal of your assets. This is largely your material assets, however; you may also do a little introspective stock take of your personal traits and those of your loved ones. This is a year during which you are required to work steadily towards achieving your ambitions. Control may become a catchphrase this year. Even if you usually are a free spirit, this year sees you exercise more control over your own life, particularly your finances. You are well advised

to avoid trying to control the behaviour of other people in favour of concentrating on your own goals. Fortunately you are able to be conscientious in your approach to most things, although work, rather than home, may feature more largely than usual. Perhaps you are building a reputation for yourself at work, or concentrating on a rather large workload, or perhaps starting a new business. You may be concentrating on work in order to pay off your debts at a faster pace. Whatever the scenario it is time to focus on the details, make sure that your plans are solid and move forward slowly and surely. If you try to skip corners then you may lose the respect of those around you, and perhaps even your job. Fortunately you are able to pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again if you strike any difficult circumstances. Your primary focus is gaining self-respect, concentrating on your own ambitions, shouldering responsibilities, and gaining a new sense of purpose.

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 6th House

It is time to focus on your lifestyle. This could range from a new health regime, to a new job or it could involve a complete change of scenery. This year you are prepared to change your habits. You are not necessarily going to change your life direction, but rather the details of how you live your life. The emphasis is on the minutiae rather than the big picture. Therefore this year is the ideal time to turn your attention to goods and services. How long since you had your car serviced? Do you need to change a washer in a leaking tap? Does your pet need vaccinations? These are the sorts of daily chores that need your attention right now. If you have been putting off renovations then you may need to do some updating of your house right now. However, the emphasis is more likely to be on health and occupation. You are likely to maintain your current career choice, but office politics may influence your choice of work place. Your role at work may change, become more demanding or you may change work places or employers, or become self-employed. If you are already self-employed then you may simply change your daily work practices by employing someone else to carry out tasks that you would normally undertake yourself. If you have been overworked then you can opt to downsize or delegate some responsibilities. If you are unemployed then you are likely to spend a lot of time and energy searching for a job, and are likely to find one. This year presents an opportunity for you to change your daily habits, and to improve your organization skills and lifestyle. Daily life is likely to be busier, rather than calmer, this year. Therefore it is time to rearrange your calendar. Holidays won't just happen. You have to schedule relaxation time. You may benefit from starting meditation or yoga practices. It is important that you schedule in time for fitness. This year presents an excellent opportunity for you to improve your diet, take up a fun and healthy activity and have a health check. In fact you are likely to be required to have a health check or get fit as the result of a work project. Perhaps your boss signs you up for a gym, or perhaps you are self-motivated to join a health club. Either way it is the ideal time to improve your fitness levels and address any niggling physical ailments. Listen to your body. You may also be drawn to small animals, perhaps adding a pet to your household, or focusing more on a current pet. It is time to dwell of minor adjustments rather than major changes. The more that you pay attention to the details now the more that you are able to enjoy your home and personal life in the following year.

The Sun is Opposite Saturn

The planet of hard work is shadowing you this year. This means that one of the main themes of the year

is hard work. Inventor Thomas Edison once said, *“The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense.”* This is your year to develop all three of these traits, although you may have to struggle through a few obstacles. Patience is required as this is a year in which you can systematically work to achieve your ambitions, if you stick to your work and use your common sense. You need to be sensible and pace yourself, as you are unlikely to have a lot of spare time in which to relax and play. Your recreation time is likely to be sparse, so use it wisely. A few days planned here and there may be more beneficial than a long vacation that detracts from your work. Other aspects of your astrology chart will tell you what area of your life is most likely to be demanding your concentrated efforts right now, however; no matter what area is highlighted you need to apply yourself with diligence in any area that provides structure new skill or knowledge, or gradually build up new avenues when the old ones cease to work. You may also be required to tighten the purse strings, work within a budget, or direct your funds to renovating your home or restructuring your business. It is time to pay attention to the structures that uphold your life whether these are the buildings, your finances, partnerships or investments. Right now you are working hard as an investment in your future happiness.

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 11th House

Friendships are likely to change during the course of this year. Your bonds with close friends and colleagues stir deep feelings. This could be for many reasons. Perhaps your life path has changed and your friendships have changed as a result. Perhaps you have new friends who are challenging you to think in different ways. It is also possible that you have discovered a deeper love for one of your close friends. There may be a period during which you are on your own as you sort through your changing feelings. The challenge is for you to focus on your own goals and let those around you come and go. Hold on lightly. The Swedish group ABBA has a song with lyrics that could provide some comfort and guidance right now, *"I have a dream, a song to sing, to help me cope with anything. If you see the wonder of a fairy tale you can take the future even if you fail"*. Now is your time to dream, and follow those dreams. This could be a specific project, a new business idea, or perhaps a hobby. Whatever your own personal dreams, this is your year to pursue them. Follow your intuition.

The Moon is in Sagittarius

The fiery sign of Sagittarius can work in two different ways when influencing the Moon in your chart. You may feel a strong urge to seek the meaning of life in an introverted manner through reading, contemplation, meditation and retreat. You yearn to reflect on your life and put it into context, so that you can then set goals for the future. As a result you may consult metaphysical practitioners such as tarot readers, palmists, astrologers, and numerologists. Your library may increase dramatically this year

as you seek answers in literature, texts, or self-help books. You are on a quest for the meaning of your own personal life. Questions arise such as, why have I behaved in these ways in the past? Do these patterns of behaviour still serve me well? What can I change and how? You may also seek your answers through academic study. If you have always wanted to study in the halls of learning then this is the year in which you are likely to follow your urge and sign up for a course. The mutable sign of Sagittarius may also influence you in a more extraverted manner as you seek freedom and stimulation in exploring outside of your usual perimeters. You may travel overseas, seek promotion at work, or socialize with people from foreign countries. You are keen to learn your place in the world through sharing experiences with people outside your usual social circle. Whether you seek your answers in an introverted or extraverted manner, this is the year when you want to feel free and impassioned. Sports, religion, politics, law and other such subjects incite your interest. You are keen to explore all options. If your responsibilities are too restrictive then you may feel restless. You would be well advised to take short trips into wide-open spaces, attend a foreign film festival at your local cinema, or go to a boisterous sports game in order to satisfy your need to escape. This is your opportunity to discover and incorporate new and exciting elements into your personal life in a way that helps you feel more optimistic and to realize that your life is an adventure to be enjoyed as an independent person, as well as with your loved ones.

The Moon is Sesquisquare Mercury

If you are feeling a little restless, worried or irritable then this is the year to ask yourself why? It is possibly because you are being stubborn and refusing to admit that your personal needs have changed, and you need to adjust your thinking. In other words it is time be honest with yourself, your friends and family about what you want in your private life, and what plans you are making to move forward. Like it or not it is time for you to change your personal habits. This could involve anything from giving up smoking, to controlling your temper, to perhaps moving house. This year you need to seek the wise counsel of friends, or perhaps a professional, and remove any barriers that are hindering your progress. Arguing won't help. Listening will. It may also be time for you to make amends with a loved one, or perhaps to listen while they seek your forgiveness. If you are feeling frustrated then this is likely to be because you are not listening to or expressing your true feelings. You need to follow your heart, while applying enough logic to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. If you have to change your mind, eat humble pie or stand up for your rights in a positive manner, then so be it. It may also be time to make some tough decisions regarding your home, or your closest relationships. You deserve all good things that are likely to come your way, once you have closed the door on one lifestyle and welcomed a new life enhancing one.

The Moon is Sextile Mars

This year you are ready to make changes in your domestic life. You are ready to start new feel-good projects. You have plenty of energy, and are prepared to pour it into a project that has personal meaning to you or someone close to you. You could be prepared to clean out cupboards, pull out weeds and prune shrubs to get your house in order. You may move house, or you may undertake major renovations or landscaping on your existing home. It is possible that you are feeling restless, irritable and unsure of what emotions are bubbling beneath the surface. Either way you recognize that the time has come for change, that you are ready for new adventures in your private life. If you have let your professional life overshadow your personal needs, then this is the year in which you redress any imbalances. You are able to assert yourself at work so that you can spend more time at home, with loved ones. If anyone upsets you or your family you step in. You are also more impulsive this year, apt to attend to your personal needs on a whim. "If I feel like doing this, then why not?" could be one of your mottos. As a result you may take as many holidays as you can this year, travelling on adventures with

friends and family. You may also enjoy adventure theme parks, sports events or physical activities. If you have always wanted to go to lose weight and go to the gym, then right now you can take the initiative. You need only be careful of taking unnecessary risks. It is time for you to step out of your usual comfort zone and take some risks in your private life, but not to put yourself in danger.

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 7th House

The planet of love is residing in your personal house of relationships this year. It is as if the Gods have taken a large spotlight and shone it directly on your love life. You are seeking fulfilment through another person. Be careful not to set your standards too high, either for a current partner or a prospective one.

If you are single then right now you are likely to be yearning for someone special to share your life. You may be attracted to someone, or you may be dwelling on the type of person you would like to attract. This is a time during which you think above love, look for love, and likely meet at least one prospective marriage partner. You need to be realistic in your assessment of your relationship needs. Otherwise you may set the bar too high and miss the opportunity to meet and marry someone special, not perfect but uniquely suited to you. Try to enjoy the dating game.

If you are already in a committed relationship, then the spotlight is on your need to share pleasurable moments with your loved one. Ideally you and your partner are able to enjoy romantic interludes, harmonious outings and shared love. You need to take care that you do not expect too much. Your needs for love are highlighted this year. You may be a little insatiable when it comes to love and romance, particularly if past hurts and neglect come to the surface and you are unable to forgive and forget. Money matters may also be at the centre of your concerns. It may be the right time to get your joint finances and any business contracts in order. You would do well to notice your feelings regarding your partner, carefully assess them in the cold light of day and then you can decide what action to take. Be honest with yourself and your partner. If you need to lower your expectations then do so. If you are really dissatisfied with your marriage, and you feel that it is beyond repair then you may leave your relationship to seek fulfilment elsewhere.

Whether you are single or married, you need to be wary of fleeting sexual passion. This is a year for rekindling true love and passion for life, not letting unruly hormones rule your decisions. This is your year to rediscover a passion for life, perhaps in liaison with another person. However, it could also be time to fall in love with inspirational artistic, fashion or beauty project, or perhaps even with yourself.

Venus is in Leo

The planet of love is in a Fire sign this year indicating that you are more adventurous in love and money matters this year. Generally speaking you are more willing to take risks when it comes to love and money. You are likely to venture outside of your usual social circle. Even if you usually enjoy security, you are prepared to venture out of your comfort zone seeking companionship, and perhaps even social influence. If you are single and looking for a lover, then you are likely to be attracted to outgoing, artistic or adventurous types. If you are attached, then your partnership is likely to feature more prominently in

your life this year. You may be tempted to “show-off” your beloved a little more, or to pursue more social activities with your partner. You may even enjoy more creative pursuits, or a little social climbing and pomp and circumstance. This can be a fun time during which you enjoy the company of other people no matter what your social circumstances.

Venus is Square Jupiter

You are seeking greener pastures in your personal life, ventures that pay off emotionally or financially. This could mean that you are prepared to travel this year, to pursue a romance or more lucrative work. You are ready to take a risk in order to receive the rewards. This could produce some tense moments, as you wait to see if your speculation pays off. On the whole you are lucky in love and money this year. In other words your ventures are likely to pay off, as long as you have not been too grandiose. If you have taken a calculated risk, and remained focussed on the long term benefits while you make a few short term adjustments, then you are likely to succeed. If you over reach your limits then you are likely to suffer a fall from grace. Fortunately your loved ones are nearby to offer assistance while you pick yourself up and rearrange your life. Whether you realize it or not you are going to be better off than you thought possible. The angels are watching over you and the beneficial effects of the two positive planets of Venus and Jupiter are many fold. After a period of loneliness or embarrassment or some such self-inflicted consequence, you are stronger and more optimistic than ever. However, this is a worst case scenario. It is more likely that you enjoy the benefits of the good fortune that shines on your love life and your money matters. On an emotional level you stand to gain a greater understanding of yourself and others, forming positive bonds with loved ones. This is your year for the getting of wisdom. On a financial level, your investments are likely to pay off. You gain a more rewarding job, or a friend helps you out, or you receive increased dividends. It is time to enjoy your good fortune, and share it with your friends and loved ones.

Venus is Square The Midheaven

Right now you need to make some adjustments in your career expectations. The most likely cause of this is a happy event such as a marriage, re-location, or the birth of a child. This year you need to let go of one job, career path or life direction and adjust to a new one. There are likely to be many blessings that accompany this change of direction, if you are happy to accept the changes that are occurring. If you resist and try to control events then you are likely to be forced to make the changes, and not ones of your own choosing. For instance if you take leave from work for the birth of a baby, then you are well advised to return to work when requested. If you really don't want to return then rather than refuse you may be better off handing in your resignation so that you can concentrate on parenthood. This year you may have to make some adjustments in your spending habits, but you are likely to receive monetary rewards to help you along the way. You may also be well advised to accept the advice and support of a prominent woman, a friend, colleague, relative or employer. Once again resistance can bring about your own unnecessary demise. On the other hand cooperation at work brings the promise of appreciation and good fortune.

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 1st House

It is time to meet life head on. This is a year during which you grow in independence and strength. You have more vitality, and are eager to have fun and push forward with your own plans. Even if you are not usually spontaneous, this year you sparkle, and readily try new things. You soon know if you are heading in the right direction, because this year the signposts along the path are obvious. If you are happy and healthy, and making good headway in your action plan then you are likely to be on the right path, making forward thinking decisions and achieving your personal goals. You are offered new opportunities that require initiative and perhaps a little risk, however; you can be confident that you are able to take on the challenge. However, if you feel angry, undermined, and resentful, then it is clear that you are somehow stuck in a holding pattern of your own making. Perhaps you are eager for the challenge of a new life, but reluctant to let go of the security of the old one. Perhaps you are trying to live someone else's dream and not your own, or perhaps you are not recognizing the value of the path that you are already on. If you feel that someone is opposing you, trying to block your path, then it could be one of two things. Firstly you could be going about things the wrong way, failing to value what you have already achieved, pushing too hard for your own personal agenda. Alternatively, perhaps you are

expecting co-operation from unrealistic quarters. Selfish actions are likely to backfire. No one else is responsible for your actions, only you. If you need to make changes, then make them, particularly if they improve your health and happiness. If you feel like you are hitting your head against a brick wall, or if you secretly resent having to do everything on your own, then think again. Why are you feeling so feisty? What could you do differently? In what way have you perhaps become selfish or arrogant? Or do you honestly need to leave a negative situation? This is your chance to be the leading actor in your own life story, but you do need to consider all of the other supporting players. Otherwise you could be very lonely. Enjoy the risks, inspire others with your sense of adventure and enjoy the challenges.

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 of 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 3rd House

Just when you thought that you had the answers to everything, now you are challenged to break away from your comfortable belief system and keep an open mind. This is your year to open up your mind to new possibilities. You may do this through a sudden opportunity to attend a conference, training course or study at an academic institution. However, it is also likely that you meet someone who is outside of your usual social circle, a true meeting of the minds, but at the same time someone who challenges your opinions. Your focus may be more mental than emotional, and therefore this person is not necessarily a love interest. It is also possible that you are thrust into a new neighbourhood, or social circle this year, one that challenges you to see the world differently. This is your opportunity to freshen up your ideas and gain a new outlook on life. As a result you are likely to make decisions that change your lifestyle. You may even decide to move away from your neighbourhood to one that more truly reflects your own nature. If you resist the learning process then you are likely to feel restless, worried and anxious. You may turn down opportunities, delay making decisions and generally resist the process of change. However, this is your year to take a few risks in the way that you view your world. If you keep an open mind and explore new possibilities, then you are likely to be amazed at the results. Don't limit yourself to previously held beliefs. If you have always wanted to learn about astrology, become an electrician's apprentice, learn about computers, or join an environmental group then do so. If you have always dreamed of writing an original piece of work then create the time and space this year. You may choose to remain anonymous if your work seems too personal and revealing. Even if your creative activities are not long term prospects, they are certainly likely to be catalysts until you see the next signpost along your life path. So get started and watch out for those signposts because they can jump out at you when you least expect it and it can be fun taking up the challenges.

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 1st House

The powerful planet Pluto is highlighted in the areas of your health and happiness. This year you are undergoing changes in the way in which you view and express yourself. The planet Pluto has an uncanny ability to strip self-deceit and force us to face the truth. You are being challenged to see the truth about yourself. Are you living true to yourself? If so, then you are likely to move forward in leaps and bounds. If not, then changes will occur that challenge you to live with purpose and integrity. It is best not to resist the strong force of these changes. Resisting is likely to leave your health depleted, and cause unhappiness. You would be better advised to reflect on new possibilities. It is possible that the underlying fear that prompts you to try to retain control is simply a mirage. Once you face your fears you are likely to feel more peace.

Matters of power are also likely to be prominent right now. What does this mean? One dictionary describes "power" as, "the ability or official capacity to exercise control; authority - a person, group, or nation having great influence or control over others - forcefulness; effectiveness." Events or people are likely to challenge you to reassess your life in terms of your effectiveness. In what areas of your life do you exercise control? Do you exercise this control wisely? Do you respect other people's contributions or do you try to run roughshod over them knowing that they have to support you? It is time to find the answers to these questions and ensure that you are expressing yourself with integrity and working co-operatively. As a result you are likely to enjoy a new surge of energy as well as increase your effectiveness in achieving your own ambitions. You may also discover leadership potential that you never knew existed.

Pluto is Conjunct The Ascendant

This is a significant influence on the course of your life this year. The powerful planet Pluto is highlighted in the areas of your health and happiness indicating major life changes. This year you are undergoing changes in the way in which you view and express yourself. The planet Pluto has an uncanny ability to strip self-deceit and force us to face the truth. You are being challenged to see the truth about yourself. Are you living true to yourself? If so, then you are likely to move forward in leaps and bounds. If not, then changes will occur that challenge you to live with purpose and integrity. You may feel unsettled, to say the least, by the forces at play in your life this year. The challenge is to ride the crest of the wave, remaining true to yourself while also having compassion for those around you.

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 7th House

Love and all that is connected to love is highlighted right now. If you are single then you may meet someone new and intellectually stimulating, perhaps even two new people. While your mental connection is powerful, you need to ensure that you also feel an emotional bond. Otherwise you may feel torn between wanting to share your life with this person, and wondering if it will last because deep down you realize that an important issue is not going to satisfy you in the long term. On the other hand you may be delighted with your new partner, more than willing to compromise and keen to make a commitment. Keep the communication lines open, because this is your year for decisions when it comes to life partners and marriage. In fact an imminent wedding ceremony may be the focus of many discussions and plans, as choices need to be made about flowers, serviettes, wedding cars, guest lists and all that is entailed in such a happy event. If you are already married then discussions are likely to be intense surrounding some other happy event. Perhaps you are discussing whether or not to have children, or planning your life together as your children leave home. You and your partner may spend many hours sitting around the kitchen table discussing renovation plans, or how to juggle holidays with family commitments. Perhaps a big overseas trip is on the wish list and now you have to plan the details. Whatever the happy event, your lesson is to keep conversing and remain flexible. If there are gremlins in the works and events don't go exactly to plan then don't get irritable and argue. Try to see the funny side. If you and your partner don't see eye to eye on something important then take time out, and then negotiate a compromise. The most important thing this year is that you are learning about yourself, your relationship and your partner. As US psychologist Dr Phil McGraw says, *"do you want to be right, or do you want to be happy?"*

Mercury is in Cancer

The sharp intellect of the planet Mercury is mingling with an emotional Water sign, which is not an easy mix. Right now you are finding it difficult to make clear and sensible decisions. Perhaps you receive some news which upsets you, or possibly life is changing in a way that doesn't feel good. You need to say good-bye to one section of your life and embrace a new chapter. You know deep down what you need to do, but are nevertheless are indecisive. Right now your thoughts are at odds with your feelings, and you are confused. You may think one thing, and feel something completely different, or your feelings are influencing your thinking processes. You may try to push your feelings away, closing your mind and your mouth. This is not likely to help your process of learning more about yourself and your loved ones. You need to let your feelings come to the surface so that you can gain a greater understanding. You could try directing your sentiments into a mentally stimulating project, one that is both a conduit and helps you make sense of your feelings. Perhaps you could write poetry, a private journal, or a personal story. You may enjoy trying your hand at acting, which enables you to express strong feelings on stage. Painting, drawing, and sculpting may also be therapeutic. Whatever method you choose, it is important that you learn to express your feelings more this year. If you try to push your feelings away then you could become disoriented, and make poor decisions based on misguided beliefs. For instance you may think that you are acting in a strong and independent fashion, whereas you are simply cutting yourself off from loved ones. The more that you try to rationalize, rather than explore, your emotions, the more that you are likely to feel despondent. Your opinions are then coloured by your disillusion, rather than by your passion. You may be irritable, full of complaints and hard to get along with. If you are unsure of your feelings, and how to express them then you may benefit talking to a personal counsellor, psychologist, or a close friend. On a more positive note, the more that you acknowledge, accept and express your emotions the more that you are likely to enjoy opportunities to become intimately involved with your loved ones and creative projects. You can enjoy happy occasions and create joyful memories, trusting in your intuition and the rapport that you feel with family and friends. You may enjoy photographing feel-good moments, writing a family history, or perhaps even listening to other people's experiences. This is a year in which experience plays a bigger role than book learning. So enjoy the new experiences that come your way.

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 10th House

This is your year for being in the right place at the right time when it comes to career and marriage. Follow your intuition and you are likely to find lady luck keeps turning up opportunities for you to achieve your career goals, and advance your marital status. If you are single then you could meet a person who turns your life upside down, in the nicest possible way. This is a "heart beating", "must marry this person" type of feeling on a first meeting. If you are married then you are likely to experience a renewed sense of hope, faith and love in your marriage. Together you can conquer the world. You may travel together, or share a life-changing experience. If you are living a solitary life, then you are also likely to travel this year through some connection with your work, or perhaps to witness a loved one's wedding ceremony. Whether you are single or married, your career is likely to advance in leaps and bounds, as long as you have laid the groundwork. This is a "reap what you sow" year. If you have made foolish decisions in the past then you may have to make up ground this year. You are publicly recognised for previous achievements. The same is also true, on rare occasions, if you have been too grandiose.

Your reputation is prominent, whether it is good or not so good. You can do it, and you are also aware of the valuable lessons that you have learnt. Travel, study, promotions, teaching, and golden opportunities are all possibilities in your career arena. It is up to you to make the most of the luck that comes your way rather than squander opportunities that may not come around again so quickly.

Jupiter is Conjunct The Midheaven

The planet of growth is placed prominently in your birthday chart indicating that progress is currently a major theme. This is your year for being in the right place at the right time when it comes to career and marriage. Follow your intuition and you are likely to find lady luck keeps turning up opportunities for you to achieve your career goals, and advance your marital status. If you are single then you could meet a person who turns your life upside down, in the nicest possible way. This is a “heart beating”, “must marry this person” type of feeling on a first meeting. If you are married then you are likely to experience a renewed sense of hope, faith and love in your marriage. Together you can conquer the world. You may travel together, or share a life-changing experience. If you are living a solitary life, then you are also likely to travel this year through some connection with your work, or perhaps to witness a loved one’s wedding ceremony. Whether you are single or married, your career is likely to advance in leaps and bounds, as long as you have laid the groundwork.

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 nature of the planet Saturn can reveal when reading a Solar Return chart.

Saturn is in the 12th House

This is a year of selflessness. Your needs come second to an event or a person, who is experiencing hardships. The manner in which you cope with this depends on your own personal value system. If you have a strong personal, or spiritual, value system, then you are likely to handle the demands of this year with aplomb, even if you don't always find them easy. Nevertheless this is a testing time, as you are required to put your own needs second to someone else's. This could involve looking after a relative or loved one, or it could involve a career working with downtrodden members of society. In some cases it can be a loss of employment, or a loved one. Your current situation is likely to trigger memories, and perhaps deeply felt emotions, from your past. If you had a poverty-stricken or traumatic childhood, then you are likely to find this time more difficult than most as you battle with grief, guilt, and perhaps trepidation. Your lesson is to avoid adopting a victim-mentality. No one is to blame. If you can come to terms with your past then you can deal successfully with the current sorrow and angst. This year success does not equate with career ambition, or material acquisition. Rather it is a moral victory. In some ways you are battling with the demons of your past, dealing with self sacrifice in the present and the key is to learn to develop emotional fortitude. For instance, you may be the main caretaker of a loved one who has fallen on hard times. This triggers memories of neglect in your child hood where you were forced to prematurely shoulder responsibility. As you come to terms with the differences between the past and the present, you realize that as a child you were powerless, but now you have many resources on hand. You can ask for help from friend and family, organize community-based services to assist and offer love and support to your loved one. Gradually you realize that, as difficult as this situation may be, it is not the same as the past. You may even see this year as one in which you faced significant fears, learned a profound lesson, grew in strength and faith, and gained from an experience that cannot be measured in material terms.

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 2nd House

This year you are challenged to evaluate or re-evaluate the manner in which you earn your income, with a view to ensuring that you are receiving money for work done with love and integrity. If you are just starting out then you may be faced with decisions about what line of work you would like to pursue, whether to train, study or apply for different avenues of work. You may be a little confused about which path to choose. If you have already been in the workforce then you may be ready to review how you earn and budget. If money feels like it is in short supply right now, then it is likely to be because you are not happy with your work, or that there are bigger issues at stake. Perhaps you are undervaluing your worth, or you are working for money and not love, or you are miserable at work and therefore spending too much. It is time for you to learn to respect money, change your ways of handling your personal finances, and to learn about abundance. Money matters may be uncertain right now, but worrying is not going to help. If money seems to be slipping through your fingers, then ponder the reasons why. You may not be in a position to make immediate changes to the way in which you earn money, and in fact it is probably best if you investigate different options, rather than making any sudden personal financial decisions. All is not clear yet. Your true financial potential is still emerging. At the moment you need to look beyond the mundane exchange of dollars, pounds, euros, yen etc. It is time to meditate on the bigger picture. Not everyone has money or worldly power and you may be lacking both at the moment,

as a consequence of your own decisions or for reasons beyond your control. Either way you have the capacity to love, and work is love made manifest. If you are unhappy in your daily work then you can start to seek alternatives. Play with some ideas about how you would like to earn your money, research your options or seek advice. In fact if you do nothing, but continue with an attitude of another day, another dollar, then you may find that events trigger a change in your circumstances. Now is the time to consider alternative means of income. Perhaps you would like to your income to be made by spiritual or artistic work, or perhaps the time has come for you to make a gradual transition into self-employment. Whatever your circumstances, your transition is likely to be a gradual one over the course of the year. If you are unemployed, then you can still dream about the possibilities, apply for jobs, and in the meantime seek volunteer work that would satisfy and uplift you, and provide skills that are vital later on. The time has come to stop looking at the monetary incentive and look for emotional, intellectual and spiritual motivation. Affirmations and creative visualisation exercises may be of benefit this year.

Neptune is Trine The Midheaven

If ambition, financial security and hard work have been the primary motivating forces in your profession then this is about to change. This is the year in which you start to look beyond the mundane and ask yourself if there is more to life than your current work. You seek more meaning in life, and particularly in your public life. It is time to question whether or not your current job really reflects your true passion. If it does then you are unlikely to make any dramatic changes to your career, or life direction. Your work may change in subtle ways, as you spend less hours at the office, or incorporate more creative or philanthropic approaches in certain areas. It is the ideal year in which to introduce a vision or mission statement into your work place, and perhaps become more benevolent or creative in your own role. You may take a temporary or permanent break making the most of long service leave, retirement, or some such scheme that enables you to slow down, recharge your batteries and return to your current work place with a new lease on life. It is always possible that you are unsure about your career right now. You may be vaguely aware of some dissatisfaction but are unable to ascertain the cause of your unrest. This also hold true for any volunteer line of work, or public office role. If you are weary without knowing why, then it is likely that you are resisting the changes that need to occur this year. Try to take note of the symbols and meaning that are like signposts on your life's journey.

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 in the 7th House

As you travel through the next year your path is likely to be entwined with a mate. If you are single then you may meet someone who is part of your destiny. The Fates are working – spinning, threading and cutting - to make sure that your path crosses with this person. This is so that the two of you can fulfil your destiny and serve a higher purpose. This higher purpose could be changing each other's lives, or it could be a joint venture that changes the lives of others. During this period, and perhaps beyond, you have a mate to help you along the way. If you are already married, or involved in a personal relationship with a significant partner then this year's story is much the same. Your choices are likely to be influenced significantly, perhaps more strongly than usual by this person. In other words someone important is going to change the course of your life. This can be a very exciting and joyful union, one that gives you a renewed sense of love and purpose.

The North Node is Quincunx Saturn

This is a year in which both loneliness and happiness call at your door. You are destined to cope with some of the year's events on your own, but there is a happy ending as you face your challenges with courage and determination. One door is destined to close right now and you can be sure that another will slowly open. If you are unsure of the road ahead, take heart knowing that you are fated to overcome your fears and move forward. Some might say that this is a year in which you are dealing with karma, as the planet Saturn is considered the Lord of Karma. This may involve responsibilities for caring for make decisions responsibly and with integrity then you can grow and learn and make steady progress in completing one chapter of your life before beginning another.

About SparkAstrology.com

SparkAstrology.com was founded by Marilena Marino, an astrology writer, speaker, and consultant based in London, UK.

Marilena is a life-long student of astrology who has been reading charts since the 1990s. She gained formal training at Deborah Houlding's School of Traditional Astrology and Frank Clifford's London School of Astrology, as well as other schools.

Marilena is affiliated to key professional bodies in the UK - the Association of Professional Astrologers International (APAI), the Astrological Lodge of London, and the Astrological Association of Great Britain (AA). Examples of her work for the latter can be found on the AA's YouTube channel, where you can watch her interviews with leading astrologers.

Marilena has also been a regular columnist for IAM Infinity Astrology Magazine. Her articles have also been published in the Astrological Journal. She is available for business and personal consultations as well as talks, workshops, events, and publications.

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