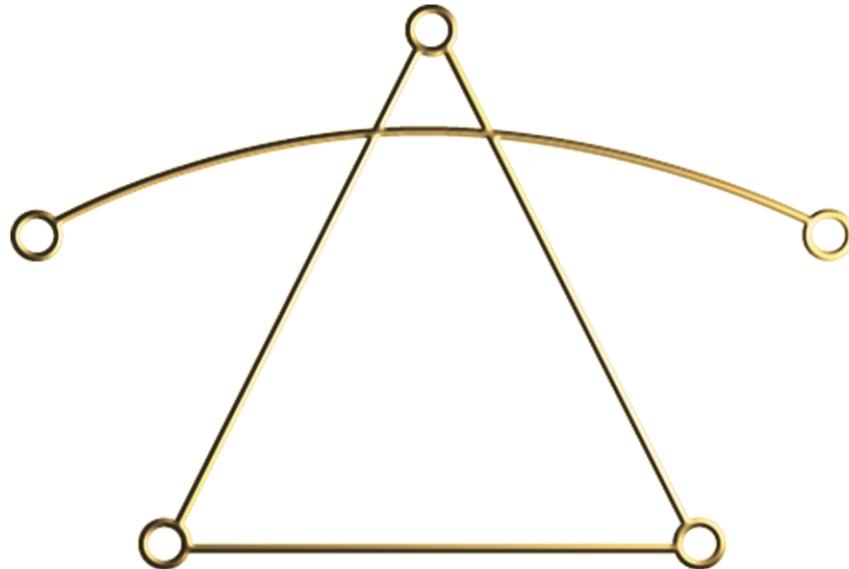


SOLAR RETURN REPORT

A Solar Writer Report for

Barack Obama

Written by Stephanie Johnson



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Barack Obama

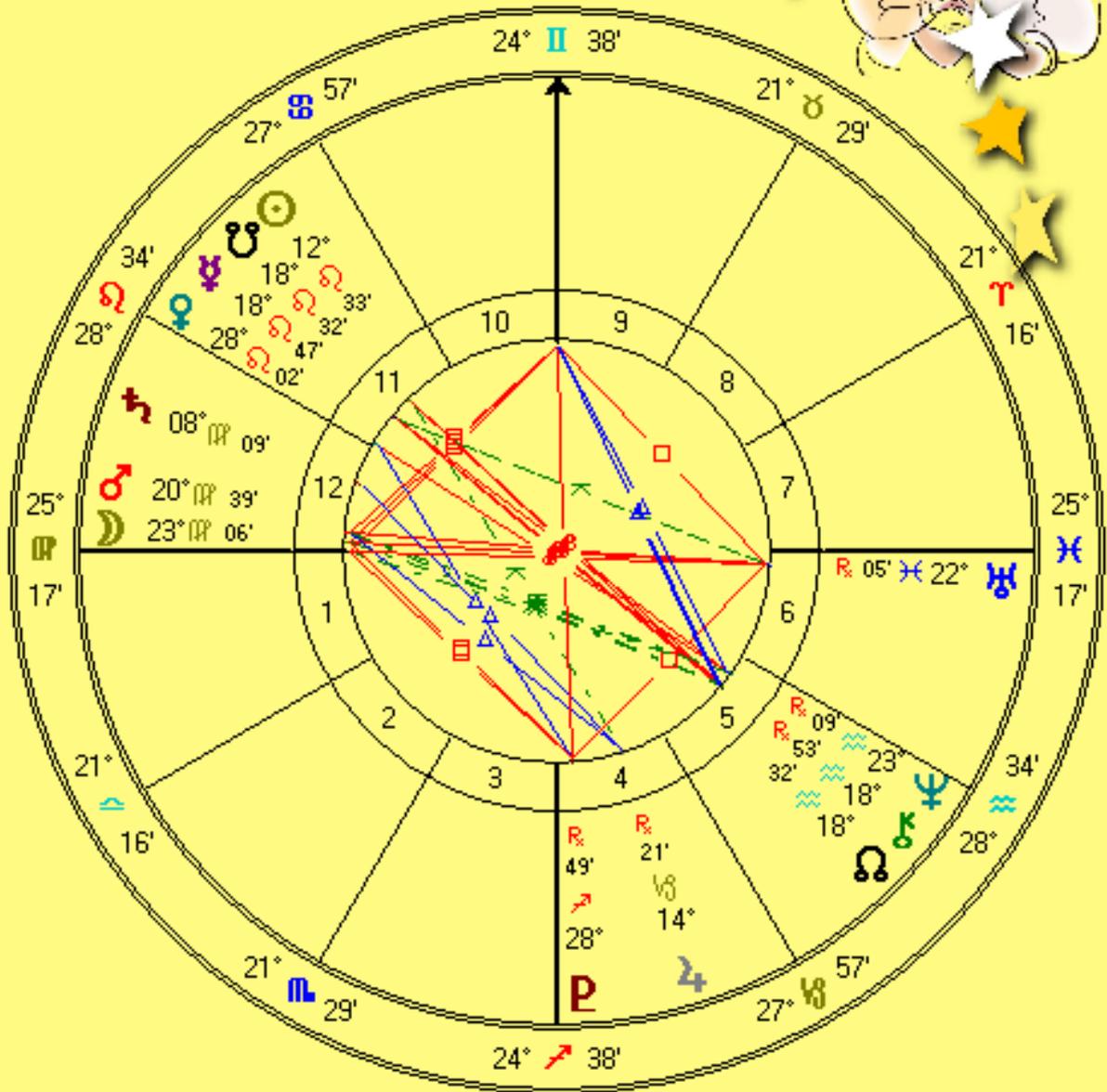
Solar Return

Aug 4 2008, Mon (±1 secs)

9:50:47 am EDT +4:00

Washington

38°N53'42" 077°W02'12"



Many Happy Returns! The Sun is in the 11th House of your Solar Return Chart. It is time to party, party, party! This is not just about socializing, but rather a chance to explore ideas and ultimately pursue your dreams with a little help from friends.



Astrological Summary

Chart Point Positions: Barack Obama

Solar Return: 4 Aug 2008 8:50:43 am EST +5:00 Washington DC, USA

Planet	Sign	Position	House	Comment
The Moon	Virgo	23°Vi05'	12th	
The Sun	Leo	12°Le32'	11th	
Mercury	Leo	18°Le46'	11th	
Venus	Leo	28°Le01'	11th	
Mars	Virgo	20°Vi39'	12th	
Jupiter	Capricorn	14°Cp21'	4th	
Saturn	Virgo	8°Vi09'	12th	
Uranus	Pisces	22°Pi05'	6th	
Neptune	Aquarius	23°Aq08'	5th	
Pluto	Sagittarius	28°Sg48'	4th	
Chiron	Aquarius	18°Aq53'	5th	
The North Node	Aquarius	18°Aq32'	5th	
The Ascendant	Virgo	25°Vi16'	1st	
The Midheaven	Gemini	24°Ge37'	10th	

Chart Point Aspects

Planet	Aspect	Planet	Orb	App/Sep
The Moon	Opposition	Uranus	1°00'	Separating
The Moon	Quincunx	Neptune	0°03'	Applying
The Moon	Square	The Midheaven	1°32'	Applying
The Sun	Sesquisquare	Pluto	1°15'	Applying
Mercury	Opposition	Chiron	0°06'	Applying
Mercury	Opposition	The North Node	0°14'	Separating
Venus	Sesquisquare	Jupiter	1°19'	Applying
Venus	Trine	Pluto	0°46'	Applying
Mars	Opposition	Uranus	1°26'	Applying
Neptune	Trine	The Midheaven	1°29'	Separating
Chiron	Conjunction	The North Node	0°20'	Applying
The Ascendant	Square	The Midheaven	0°38'	Applying



*** Note from Brenda;**

*Reminder that this report goes from birthday to birthday, so your report will be from your **latest** birthday to your next birthday.*

Also, the date and time on the chart shows when the Sun returns to your actual birth position. The time may be slightly different to your time of birth. Don't worry this is how Solar Returns are done....hence 'Solar (Sun) Return'. It is the exact time and date when the Sun Returns to the degree of your Sun at birth.

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 Virgo

Your birthday chart Ascendant is in a feminine Earth sign indicating that this year during which you are more security conscious. Shelter is a focus either for you or for those who you choose to take under your wing. You are keen to have your own house in order, before you consider any other options. You are steadier, more reliable and considerate this year. You are keen to make any necessary changes in a careful and considered manner. Well-thought out plans appeal to you. Traits such as safety, security and steadfastness are highlighted. You maybe more cautious than usual, taking steps to move ahead in your life only if you are in familiar territory or you are reaping the benefits from projects in which you have already been laying the groundwork. You are content to build your resources, consult the experts and concentrate on achieving results. Even if this is not your usual modus operandi, this year you are required to go slow and pay attention to details.

Logic rather than emotion plays a part in your own decisions. This is because the intellectual sign of Virgo emphasizes your need to have a more logical approach during this year. It may also indicate a change in your physical body. You may change your diet, exercise regime or find the resolve to give up a bad habit. It is time for you to embrace a healthier lifestyle. You can now make up your mind to take better care of yourself, to integrate your lifestyle so that you have a good balance of mental and physical health. Virgo is also a sign that depicts preparation and organization. Even if you are a highly disorganized individual, this year sees you get your act together. Cleanliness, hygiene, tidiness and orderliness are within your reach. You may also find that your powers of concentration are heightened enabling you to learn new skills, make important decisions and generally plan for a brighter future.

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 11th House

Your hopes and dreams and wishes are the major themes of this year. In previous years you may have been willing to put your personal dreams on hold while you shouldered other responsibilities. You may also have been willing, or felt obliged to, put other people's needs and wishes first, but the time is now ripe for you pursue your own dreams. This could affect any area of your life, but it is more likely that you put professional ambitions on hold while you turn your attention to an enjoyable hobby, a passionate belief, or a new lifestyle. Lifestyle is the key component at the moment. You are looking for ways and means to improve the quality of your life. You may join a special interest group, spend more time with friends, or join a club. Alternatively you may seek a change of scenery. You are unlikely to travel abroad permanently, unless there are other indications in your birth chart, however you could easily move to a new neighbourhood if this more easily facilitates your dreams. Opportunities for change are likely to come about through other people. Your network of friends, colleagues and acquaintances offer support.

This is also a year during which you may renew acquaintances with old friends. A school reunion, a chance meeting with someone from the past or a long-lost relative may surface. Whatever else happens in your life during this period it is important that you reach out to other people and enjoy life. You need to make sure that your goals are clear because the following year is one of change based on your efforts this year.

12th 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 twelfth house of your chart indicating that this year is not a straightforward one. You are likely to spend some time reflecting on the different aspects of your life, and may be more reclusive as a result. A major change in your life may prompt your need to take some time out and contemplate, rather than socialise. Spiritual groups and retreats, absorbing introspective projects, and the need to work behind the scenes may be themes right now. If your schedule is demanding and busy then meditation, prayer and nature walks may be restorative.

The Sun is Sesquisquare Pluto

When the Sun and the planet Pluto are influencing each other in your birthday chart then you can be sure that they are also appearing in other forms of your yearly astrology events. This emphasizes the affect, and some would say the lesson, that the powerful Pluto has on your life right now. Quite simply the message is: "it is time to change your habits". This could mean that you need to change personal habits such as diet, consumption of alcohol or nicotine, or lack of exercise. It is likely that as you make the changes to your physical habits you are also required to face the underlying psychological triggers. For instance perhaps you are unaware that a life of drinking, smoking and socializing is really your way of avoiding responsibilities or an intimate relationship. This is your year to do a little soul-searching and get yourself on track to make the most of your full potential. You may need to face some deeply entrenched fears in order to live your own authentic life. The position of the Sun and

the planet Pluto may give you some clues as to which areas of your life you need to pay attention. Whichever area needs an overhaul, you are not required to march to someone else's tune, but to find your own path. To a certain extent time is running out. If you are not living a healthy and balanced lifestyle then an event or a person is likely to force matters. You may be forced to say farewell to someone you love dearly because you have not faced up to your own bad habits. Alternatively someone close to you may leave behind someone who has a negative influence on your life. The theme is liberation and the good news is that you have resources and opportunities now that you have not had previously. If you are heading in the right direction then doors open and you walk through with your head held high. However, if you stubbornly refuse to change your ways then you are likely to do it tough. The choice is yours. Control the things that you can, and let go of others. As a result you can make some life-enhancing changes in the way that you handle your overall lifestyle, your career or significant relationships. As you stop resisting change you find that you have a newfound abundance of energy and purpose.

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 12th House

It is time to slow down and spend some time reflecting on your life. If you don't willingly take stock of your life then an event, or illness, will force you into a more contemplative mode. Think of this time in your life as the stage during which you write a book, go on a spiritual retreat, take that long holiday that you have been promising yourself, or landscape your garden. If you make the changes now then you are likely to reap the rewards by the time your next birthday comes around.

The material world is unlikely to hold many rewards for you right now. You are being asked to dig deeper. If you let ambition rule you this year then you are likely to upset some people, who then plot against you behind the scenes. If you must take on more work then try to ensure that it has a philanthropic motivation, rather than push your own interests. This is your year to recharge your batteries.

The Moon is in Virgo

The Moon currently resides in the element of Earth in the sign of Virgo indicating that this is the year in which you take charge of your own life, in particular your own health and happiness. You need to get practical about personal matters. If you want to go out and play then this is an unlikely year. Right now you have too many responsibilities, which you need to tackle before you can even contemplate a lighter side to life. You need to take control, in the most positive sense of the word. This may involve some re-organisation, sacrifice of immediate emotional needs, and hard work. Instant gratification is not the order of the day. If you want to make the most of the opportunities that come your way during the year, then you need to stay focused and take charge of your life. It is a busy year during which you can achieve much if you manage your life well. You need to use your common sense, plan your schedule and keep your nose to the grindstone. In personal matters you are inclined to be

more detached. You are able to make decisions based on logic and analysis. You can formulate a plan for your personal life and carry it out in detail. This may also be true for your working environment if you are in a position of responsibility. You are less likely to tolerate uncooperative employees or co-workers. Your decisions are more likely to be based on sound analysis of a situation rather than emotion. As a result of the changes that you make this year, your daily life may not be as comfortable as usual, but you are not seeking comfort this year. You are practical, methodical and ready to exchange bad habits. You may have something to prove to yourself, or to your loved ones. Either way you have the mental resources to adopt new behaviour that promotes your health and happiness. You can apply yourself with more self-discipline than usual. For instance you may incorporate a specialised training schedule in order to prepare for a particular project. This has the benefit of keeping you fit, as well as helping you achieve your goals in areas that matter a great deal to you personally. In fact right now you need to pay attention to your bodily needs, rather than your spiritual ones. You need to eat more healthily and improve your diet. If you don't then you visit the doctor or health professionals more often than you would like. The good news is that others are likely to notice the manner in which you conduct your life. Your good deeds can earn you the respect that you seek. New habits and routines adopted now stand you in good stead for a healthy and happy future.

The Moon is Opposite 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.

The Moon is Quincunx Neptune

Your emotions are undergoing subtle changes this year. This is not a year for sudden awakenings, or realizations, but rather it is a time when you content to sit back and let things flow in your private life. You are likely to be quietly absorbed with something or someone. On a mundane level you may be engrossed in a passive activity, such as watching your favourite movies or television programs. You may immerse yourself in an artistic project or redecorating your home. Your relationships with loved ones may subtly change. Feelings of

tenderness are likely to emerge. You may care for someone young or old, someone dear to your heart. Alternatively, you may fall in love with someone, losing yourself in the romance and illusion of being at one with another person. As your personal needs little by little change, then so may your domestic arrangements. You may move home. If this is the case then it is likely to be a temporary move, closer to nature or to an isolated place. Once you have satisfied your need for peace and quiet, you may yearn again for a change of scenery. It is difficult for you to be satisfied by mundane or practical matters this year. You are seeking something magical. At times you may feel lonely, isolated and perhaps even a little depressed when your private life fails to live up to your expectations. If you become too morose then you would be well advised to seek the wise counsel of a friend, or professional consultant. However, you can also direct some of your aspirations into a creative or artistic project. You may also benefit from taking care of someone close to you, focusing on their needs rather than your own. Nevertheless this is your year for discovering your own softer side. Adjust your ambitions, and look for deeper meaning in your relationships and private life.

The Moon is Square The Midheaven

This year you are juggling work and family commitments. As a result you are likely to reassess your career goals in the light of your emotional needs. You seek more emotional satisfaction in your career, and are prepared to make changes to achieve this goal. You may not be in a position to alter your career course immediately, but you are likely to make decisions in the light of your own, and your family's, needs.

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 11th House

You are a social butterfly right now. Your diary is full and this is likely to be mainly as a result of your own plans, invitations and activities. You are the joyous instigator of most of the events on your calendar. On the surface it may seem as if you are flitting from friend to friend, and from social group to social group, but there is also a serious side to your mingling. You are in the process of reassessing your own social values, and your friendships are changing as your own hopes and dreams change. In some cases this can be as a result of a change in your relationship status. If you have recently become involved in an intimate relationship, or have recently separated, then your social circle has changed. It is possible that you form an intimate relationship with one of your friends; however it is more likely that you play the field this year, enjoying fun-filled activities and a lighter side of life. It is also possible that your change in social contacts results from a major life change such as a move of location, birth of a child, marriage or divorce. Whatever your circumstances you are likely to form friendships quickly, enjoy joining committees, clubs or groups and generally circulating with other people.

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 Sesquiquare 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 focused 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 Trine Pluto

You are about to make some profound discoveries and changes when it comes to love and money. This could involve a commitment to someone you love, such as marriage, purchasing a house together or deciding to start a family. You could also start a family business under the influence of this combination of planets. While you are making big decisions that change your marital and monetary status, over the course of the year you are also likely to become more and more focussed on everyday patterns, how the minutiae reflect the larger issues at hand. The psychological side of relationships is highlighted. If you are living a solitary lifestyle then you become increasingly aware of your own needs for independence versus dependence, and how these affect your desire, or not, to be in a close and intimate relationship. If you are in a relationship, then you are likely to become increasingly aware of the interactions, the nature of sharing within the relationship, and whether or not your own needs are being met. This can be an intense process, even if you are in a loving and supportive union. Little things can take on larger than life proportions right now, and you need to do a little soul-searching to find their origins, gain insights into how they affect your love life and make the appropriate changes. Your spouse may not realise just how much the little everyday things are affecting your attitude to love and money right now. Therefore you would be well advised to keep the lines of communication open. The more that you can understand express your deepest feelings and desires, the more satisfying your love union becomes. As a result the changes that take place can be profoundly happy ones.

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 12th House

This year you are the servant, not the master. Depending on aspects of your personality this may be easy or difficult to accept. Either way if you are encouraged to take a backseat this year, rather than take on prominent responsibilities. If you cannot avoid a leadership role, then you need to tread warily or you could become the target for other people's dissatisfaction with their own lives, or with someone else in a leadership position. For instance you may be the second person in the chain of command but you are in the unenviable position of being the run-about for the boss and the brunt of the team's complaints. You would be better off avoiding responsibilities that can damage your reputation in favour of pursuing more selfless work. For instance you may enjoy working in isolation on a creative, charitable or manual project. You may also gain satisfaction from a more contemplative lifestyle this year. If you are feeling aimless and lost, voluntary work could be beneficial, helping you gain a new sense of direction and feel like you are contributing, particularly if you are out of paid work right now.

Mars is Opposite Uranus

This is an exciting year in which you have the chance to experience life in new and exhilarating ways. If you enjoy life in the fast lane you are likely to delight in the rush. This is your chance to dazzle those around you, to enjoy freedom and adventure. If your life journey was symbolised by a boat on a river then you have just reached the white water. Resistance is likely to be fruitless. You are better advised to go with the flow and steer carefully through treacherous waters. This is not a year in which to stir up trouble, or take unnecessary risks. If you are a stickler for routine then you are likely to be unsettled this year. You are in for a few

surprises and a sudden turn of events may disrupt your lifestyle. Think positively and make the most of the opportunities that come your way. You are more courageous than you thought and sometimes surprises are beneficial in ways that we could not have foreseen ourselves. Whether self-initiated or imposed on you by circumstances beyond your control, you can resist or enjoy the voyage. If you ever watched the old television show “Lost in Space” then think of the characters that were thrust unexpectedly into space. Some enjoyed the excitement of new discoveries, and others, namely Dr Smith, floundered and were miserable. The choice is yours and later you will have the opportunity to reflect on the merits of your latest adventures.

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 6th House

It is time to re-evaluate your level of job satisfaction. If you are happy in your working environment then you are likely to accept any changes that occur, as being for the best. Your workplace may change, colleagues may come and go, your salary may vary, and duties alter. If you believe that you are on the right path in your job then you are likely to welcome the variations in your workaday world. If you are dissatisfied then the time has come to make a move. You may be restless and unsure of what changes to make. If this is the case then you need to explore your options, and perhaps seek the advice of an expert. If you have been putting off decisions, then you may decide to leave your work in order to take on a role as a parent, or to re-train in another profession. If you are generally happy with your overall career then it is still important that your everyday job is pleasurable. Otherwise you need move to a more rewarding working environment. If you resist the winds of change then you are likely to be forced into making a decision anyway. Wouldn't it be a better situation if you were to take the initiative? It is time to embrace a little excitement in your daily life, particularly if you have been in a rut. A new diet, exercise program and quitting any bad habits can really help propel you into a happier lifestyle. This may also give you the confidence to take the initiative and apply for different jobs. You may also seek an alternative lifestyle this year, something a little bit out of the ordinary. If you have always desired a change, a move to a different location or adopting a more environmentally friendly lifestyle then this is your year. “A change is as good as a holiday” as the old cliché goes.

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 4th House

The powerful planet Pluto is highlighted in the areas of home and family. This year you are undergoing changes that affect your role in your family and possibly also in your home. This can be literally that you are moving house, renovating your house, welcoming the birth of a new family member, or saying goodbye to a departing family member. 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 where you belong, and to then make the appropriate changes. This could involve some serious decisions, perhaps even a move to a faraway place. It is possible that the changes that are occurring in your private life are not entirely welcome. You may be a little unsettled for a period of time. It is important that you seriously consider any proposed changes in your household this year, particularly if you have been in a rut, struggling to let go and fearing moving forward. The more that you resist the more that you are likely to be challenged during this year. It is time to dig deep and face the facts that you have known for quite some time - you need to transform your personal life. It is time to grant yourself and your loved ones freedom to transform, no matter what the consequences to your own household. If you continue to resist then matters of power are 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.”* It is time for you to gain a greater understanding of these matters. Are you trying to dominate someone in your family, or immediate household? Do you believe that you know best? If so, it is time to reassess your beliefs and respect that your loved ones need to learn their own life lessons. Your role is to support and uplift family members, to listen and advise, but to then step back and respect their freedom to go on their own journey. Trust is important. You need to trust in your own personal foundations, in the earth's abundant resources and in the fact that *“family”* can take many different forms.

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 11th House

This is a busy social year, perhaps not so much on a personal level, but more so because you are pursuing a particular hobby, project or cause. Networking plays a key role. You are able to put your own emotional needs to one side while you carefully consider your own interests and role in social groups, clubs, associations, and causes. You are reassessing your social commitments. If you have been laid back, spending a lot of time at home in front of the television, or at the local pub, then this year you are likely to get bored. Your lesson is to find a hobby that sparks your interest, or a cause to which you can commit. As a result you may join a club, start classes, or take up a new hobby. If you are already an active person, then your commitments may change. You enjoy being part of a group or team. Perhaps your work situation alters, requiring you to now become a member of a team, changing your role in the group or thrusting you into a group leadership role. As your interests, role at work and commitments change, so do your friendships. Your lesson is to remain adaptable, trusting that the cards are being reshuffled but the deck is still intact.

Mercury is in Leo

The planet of communications is in a fire sign in your annual chart indicating that you are open to new ideas and activities. You are quick to voice your opinions this year, and as long as you judge the mood of your listeners or audience then you are likely to inspire a positive response. For this reason you may start a new intellectual activity, such as public speaking, writing, marketing and public relations, or performing. You enjoy expressing yourself freely, and conversing with others. You need to be careful not to be too outspoken. Your popularity will quickly wane if you are seen as a know-all. You also need to learn not to take on too many projects or you could become overloaded and tense. You have the best of intentions but you are not an intellectual super hero, and are only doomed to disappoint yourself and associates if you attempt superhuman intellectual feats. A little creative thinking goes a long way. So try to prioritise according to what matters most. You can switch off your active mind by watching television, reading a novel, magazine, or non-fiction book as well as becoming a

fan of the arts. You may also enjoy learning a new skill, or developing your talents.

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 4th House

This is a year of good news in the family, as well as an opportunity to expand your living arrangements. You have the chance to move to a larger house, or a house in a spacious area, or to add on rooms. You need room to breathe in your home, and right now you have the chance to create some space. It is also possible that your family is expanding. You may be expecting the birth of a child, or older children are moving back home, or you are moving in with a lover who has children of his or her own. On the other hand you may be planning a home office, or a retreat in which you can meditate and broaden your perspective. Whatever your personal circumstances you can be assured that this is a busy time at home. As such you may choose to clean out cupboards, discard unused items and make room for the new. It is time to expand your horizons. Your need to physically expand your living quarters probably comes from a realisation that it is time to be released from the past to make way for new growth. You are ready to let go of past hurts or obstacles in your home and family environment and expand your private life in ways that uphold you. Try not to move too quickly. You need to ensure that the foundations are solid, and to enjoy the process of change as much as the end result. This ensures that you are happy with each step of the process, and can enjoy your new living arrangements.

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 childhood 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 5th House

This is a very creative year, one in which you are likely to be attracted to artists, lovers, and children. Subconsciously you are seeking inspiration, fun and a greater connection to the creative forces of the world. You are also likely to gradually gain awareness of the obstacles that block you from experiencing joy. As such you may make find creative ways to remove these obstacles. Of course if you are responsible for young children, it may be that your sacrifices are worthwhile. This is not the time to neglect your responsibilities for young children, but rather to enter their innocent and imaginative world and delight in their company. Children have much to teach you this year. This is your year to believe in a little magic, just as children do. This is likely to be through romantic love, an artistic creation, or an inspirational pursuit. In her book "The Age of Miracles", Marianne Williamson says, *"Romantic love is a force of nature. Like an ancient goddess it likes to receive gifts. It must be honoured, respected, protected and cherished. Otherwise it simply leaves."* This is your year to honour, respect, protect and cherish romantic love, and to be the recipient of such moments. It is also the ideal time to pursue any latent artistic talents. Even if you cannot devote yourself full-time to art, drawing, music, theatre, dance, poetry, writing, or similar interests, you can lay the groundwork for the future. In some ways you are on a quest, in a similar fashion to the fairy tale princes and princesses who are on a quest to find true love. You can indulge in some fantasies about what or who is your passion. This year you can let your imagination flow and deal with the practicalities later, as long as you are not gambling your life savings, or risking your health and wellbeing. Gradually the mysteries of love and artistry reveal their truth to you during the course of this year, and you are likely to be wiser and richer for the experience.

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 Opposite Mercury

Destiny plays its role in news received this year. It could be good news, or challenging information. Either way you are faced with some tough decisions, which affect the course of your life. In some ways you can be comforted that there is no wrong decision. Your choices are linked with fate and may be ultimately taken out of your hands anyway. Someone else may have already set in motion decisions that affect the course of your life, and you can only choose to go along with them or suffer the consequences. In other words you may feel like you have little choice in the matter, and this way well be the case. You are destined to receive the news and then it is not so much what you decide as a result, but how you reach your decision. Your communications now need to be calm, clear and considered. Later you may see the sense of this time more clearly than you can right now.

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.

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