

NORTHERN HEMISPHERIC EMPHASIS

Charts with nine or all of the planets below the horizon indicate a period of internalization rather than a push for outward achievement. It is the internal integration which is most important at this time. This is true even of 5th house placements, wherein the inner personality must be made external through some creative or artistic mode of self-expression. It is also true of the 6th house, where health and work changes result from inner processes moving toward outer manifestation. Emotional satisfaction and fulfillment are the primary goals and motivating forces, therefore a lot of attention is given to feelings and subjective thoughts. What others think has little influence if the personal perspective is strong. Some will be withdrawn or somewhat reclusive during the year, using this time for quiet reflection and the fostering of inner strength. You might appreciate evenings at home with family and friends rather than social or business evenings out on the town. Use this time to become more rooted and in touch with yourself and others. Allow intuitive processes to grow so you will be better able to sense your true future direction.

The difficulty associated with the northern emphasis is that you may get so involved with your feelings that they overwhelm you and prevent you from living a normal life. You can neglect your responsibilities and lose all motivation toward success. It may become more important to express your negative feelings about your boss than to correct detrimental situations. If you cannot achieve a sense of fulfillment, you will grow bitter and sever relationships with little or no negotiation or warning. Nursing a wound is an inadequate substitute for emotional gratification.

This time can be used to get in touch with your sense of fulfillment and past achievement. You cannot understand where you are going if you don't understand where you have been. You cannot set goals for the future if you have not assimilated your past successes, and you can't branch out if you have not created a good support system among those you love. This is a time for building the foundation necessary for a new cycle of external achievement. Although you may actually be very successful during this period, you will still be laying the groundwork for a new round of activity.

2nd QUADRANT EMPHASIS

If most of your planets are in the 2nd quadrant of the solar return chart, there is an emphasis on expressing yourself both personally and creatively. This is the quadrant where self (the northern part of the chart) meets others

(the western side of the chart). The emphasis is on achieving personality integration and individualization while still maintaining strong relationships with your family, lovers, and co-workers. You may need to learn to express who you are in spite of the risk of disapproval and disagreement. Working creatively with self-expression and your relationships can help you achieve a complementary exchange of love and assistance at home or work, and in one-on-one exchanges. Creative abilities will introduce changes in these areas, which could be beneficial for all involved.

WELL BALANCED MODES and ELEMENTS

When all of your elements and modes are balanced (meaning that there are no more than four planets and no less than two planets in any element or mode) this indicates that your thinking and actions are based on careful consideration of data from several sources of information. You are able to weigh physical, rational, emotional, and spiritual information when you are making decisions. You tend to be conservative rather than rash in making changes, even though you are open to change. At times you may be indecisive since you must take so much information into consideration; however, it is more likely that you will look at issues from all sides and not be overly influenced by any one personality factor.

GEMINI RISING

When the solar return Ascendant is in Gemini, you have a "jack of all trades" mind that can master any task if you just focus. Information and communication are your main modes of interaction. You love to talk and share ideas, but writing and studying can also be important. Keep your mind productively engaged. If not, anxiety, nervousness, and indecision can plague you. Your tendency will be to scatter your thoughts and leave projects incomplete. It's all talk, and no action. A lack of depth can be the bane of this Ascendant.

SUN in THE 3RD HOUSE

☉ in 3rd

The Sun in the 3rd house of the solar return emphasizes your intellectual abilities and mental stability or the lack thereof. Intellectually, this is a time to gather information. Your mind is very active and you will want to read everything, know everything, and think about everything. Ideas abound and you are open to looking at life from a new perspective. But organizing your mind may be difficult, which is why this is a good time to study, write down your thoughts, or purchase a computer.

One way or another, your mind plays a crucial role in the events of this solar return year. The mental processes are key to the activities you are involved in, or central to the major problems you encounter. Your mind can work for or against you, and make or break the year. Acquiring knowledge may be the main focus of your attention and it is certainly advantageous to learn as much as you can during this time by attending school or taking a course. But you can feel intellectually inferior or frustrated by your educational attempts if you allow nervousness, indecision, and impulsiveness to affect your ability to think clearly and logically.

Mental instability is a possibility with the Sun in the 3rd house of the solar return. The Sun here is an even stronger indication of depression than Saturn. Depression, anxiety, irrational thinking, confusion and neurosis are possible extremes. Your mind is working overtime, and if you do not direct your thinking toward meaningful or educational pursuits, mental difficulties can arise.

You are probably more interested in thoughts than feelings this year (depending on the position and strength of the Moon and Pluto in the solar return chart). The Sun in the 3rd signals an emphasis on the thinking processes, so you will spend more time thinking about feelings than actually feeling them. Feelings will be analyzed and dissected rather than felt as you try to understand them from an intellectual perspective. This is not to say that you are cold this year, but you will have a greater tendency to screen your feelings and make logical decisions rather than emotional ones. You may find it difficult to integrate what you feel with what you think. If this is the case, unconscious material may compete with rational thoughts for control of your thinking processes.

The Sun in the 3rd can also show community involvement or activism. It becomes important who your neighbors are and what your neighborhood is like. You can expect to be more involved with those around you. This can be on an individualized level (one neighbor needs your help or one neighbor creates a problem) or this can be on a community level.

All means of communication are stressed, and you might want to work on your communication skills to increase your effectiveness with the spoken or written word. Some individuals will even take a course in communication-related topics such as effective listening, resume writing, advertising, etc. This is a time when you are more likely to use the telephone or the mail system regularly to communicate with people.

MOON in the 5TH HOUSE

☾ in 5th

The start of a new romantic relationship is the most common event associated with the Moon in this house. This new relationship can be viewed as a "first" in one way or another. If you are very young, it may be your very first relationship or first meaningful relationship. If you are a little older, it can indicate the year you begin having sex, especially if you are emotionally involved with one particular person. It might be the first time you live with someone or begin dating the person you are going to marry. If you are older and more established in these areas, it may be the first time in a long time that you are emotionally involved with a new person. Regardless of your marital situation, this can be a year when you feel an emotional connection to a new person, and usually this connection is very compelling.

Unlike the Sun in the 5th house, the Moon is not necessarily associated with sexual attraction. The Sun seems to be more suggestive of a sexual affair. In fact, with the Sun in the 5th, the relationship may simply be a sexual fling with limited emotional contact. But the Moon is more closely associated with emotional needs in a relationship, and therefore the contact may or may not be sexual, though many times sexual involvement occurs. It is the desire for emotional sharing and expression that seems to be the main focus and motivation for the relationship. Then, as the relationship deepens and intimacy increases, sexual involvement develops. The need for emotional expression is probably the key to understanding the interpretation of the Moon in this house and romance is a wonderful means for expression. Though the give and take of a relationship is just one way to handle feelings, it is a way many people seem to choose.

If you are involved in a relationship such as this, your feelings will be very intense. You are more apt to express yourself emotionally, and consequently it will be more difficult to hide what you are feeling. This may not be a good time to keep a clandestine relationship secret. You will be subject to emotional swings. At times you will be elated, while at other times you might feel depressed. Your feelings may depend on how well the relationship is going and whether or not you can see each other. An element of "need" is many times associated with these relationships and dependency is a problem. The individual you are involved with could need your help in one way or another. The situation need not be crucial, but you will have the opportunity to express nurturing and protective feelings. If you respond in a mothering or overprotective way, the relationship may involve dependency issues. On the other hand, you may be the one who becomes dependent.

Your feelings are not necessarily stronger and deeper this year, but you are more apt to express them in an obvious way. This may include openly stating what you need or want. Being direct is probably the best way to express your feelings, but it is also common to seek secondary or alternative ways. Finding satisfying means for emotional self-expression is one of the tasks associated with this placement and may contribute to the romantic nature of the year. You may choose an artistic or dramatic means for emotional expression. You could, however, choose creative endeavors such as painting, writing, or acting. Or you might want to participate in intense situations which exemplify the drama of human life, such as being an emergency room nurse, or soup kitchen volunteer.

Your strong need for emotional expression can lead you to intense personal situations. You may have a baby instead of a love affair. If you are aware of your emotional needs, you can consciously choose an outlet for this energy. There is no limit to the manifestations you can pick so long as the situation allows for emotional involvement and expression. If you are frustrated by your present circumstances and the people around you are unable to satisfy your emotional need for expression, look elsewhere. You need situations which allow for some external display of emotions. For a few, this may involve living life on the edge of an emotional crisis.

One final avenue for emotional expression can be intense involvement with children. You may be especially concerned with their emotional well-being or creative abilities. If you have children of your own, this can be a good time to reach out to them. Focus on understanding their needs. Your children may be more emotional this year, especially if your relationship with them is changing or changes are occurring in the home environment. They may require extra love and attention if this is the case. The difficulty with the Moon in the 5th is that a parent might view his or her children as an extension of his or her own personality. As a parent you can have certain needs that you assume only your children can fill, and this places unnecessary pressure on them.

MERCURY in the 3RD HOUSE

♿ in 3rd

Mercury in the 3rd house suggests a strong inquisitive mind with a thirst for knowledge. You could spend a lot of time reading, writing, studying, or communicating. You want an influx of new ideas. Information that you gather during this year may relate to a project or particular field of interest. But it is also possible that your interests are scattered and the information is

superficial. If you are attending school, learning may tend to be tedious and involve the memorization of numerous details. Interpreting Mercury's aspects and assessing the mental conditioning reflected in the chart can give you a better idea about what type of information is important and its purpose during the coming year.

All types of information can be important. Significance is not limited to educational material. This can be a time for major disclosures and realizations. Some individuals remember childhood sexual abuse while having Mercury in the 3rd house. Realizations and resurfacing memories can have major ramifications. It is possible that the information you receive at this time or have received in the past is false. You may be misinformed or even lied to. Mercury in the 3rd does not guarantee that the information you gather will be correct. There may be inconsistencies between what you are told and what you intuitively feel. It will be your task to assess what is truth and what is fiction.

Mercury in the 3rd house can suggest that the rational thinking processes are stronger than feelings. This is most likely to be so if the Moon is not particularly strong by house, sign, or aspect, and the chart is not watery. If the greater emphasis is on Mercury, decisions will be based on rational considerations rather than emotional needs. But if the Moon is very prominent in the chart, rational thoughts may be overwhelmed by emotional considerations. Emotions and rational thoughts may seem to contradict one another. You may be torn between what you know or hear and what you feel in your heart or sense intuitively. If you are very stressed, unconscious needs may surface. Negative feelings, obsessions, compulsions, phobias, and extreme anger may defy rational control.

Your mental attitude during the year is very important. You need to think clearly in order to function at an optimal level. Influences that either hinder or promote logical thinking. Among the more detrimental influences are abusive substances such as alcohol and drugs. Mental illnesses (especially depression and anxiety) are also negative influences which can affect one's ability to think clearly. These very negative manifestations correspond more closely to an individual's negative behavioral pattern than to any one specific astrological pattern in the solar return chart. Although stress may be suggested by the solar return chart, disease is not. Those who are intimately and enthusiastically involved in life experience few problems. For them, great excitement rather than stress fuels their thinking processes.

VENUS in the 1ST HOUSE

♀ in 1st

Venus in the 1st house is usually indicative of a gentle demeanor. You would not wish to hurt anyone's feelings over transgressions that have occurred in the past, nor for intrusions occurring in the present. It is common to be nonaggressive and even nonassertive with this placement, depending on Mars. Your gentle and nonassertive manner can leave you open to the demands of others. If this is the case, your attention is divided between your needs and the needs of those you are involved with.

As much as you wish to assist others, part of your focus should be centered on meeting your own needs, and protecting your own interests from outside influences. You need free time and energy in order to "do your own thing." For this reason, Venus in the 1st house is associated with self-protection and balance. You may need to learn to protect your own interests from the intrusions, opinions, and demands of others.

The most common form of self-protection associated with this placement is withdrawal from contact with others. You spend more time alone during the year for one reason or another. You probably like being alone and feel you are your own best company. You do not want to give up personal needs and interests just to be with others. Aloneness may be a simple matter of changing environment. Graduates leaving a college dormitory and living alone for the first time might have this placement, as well as individuals engaged or married, yet separated from their loved ones.

Aloneness may alternate with a strong emphasis on relationships, indicating a seesaw, all-or-nothing life-style during the year. But usually "aloneness" carries more meaning and greater importance than merely being by yourself. You may need time alone to take care of your own interests. For example, a new writer needed more time alone to write an intense novel. She enjoyed working with the fantasy she was creating. Her time alone was used to foster a creative and productive working environment. During the year she tended to avoid superficial and unnecessary social contacts.

Another individual was plagued by the demands of several neighbors. She was home during the day and constantly called upon for help. She did not mind helping others, but her nonassertive personality allowed the demands to become excessive and eventually she had little time to herself. Her neighbors took advantage of her, asking her to do things they would normally do for themselves. She began to leave her phone off the hook and

pretend to be out when someone came to the door. She used aloneness as an escape.

The reasons you want to be alone should be indicated by the rest of the solar return chart. You may be running from a situation you find difficult to control or to a situation you wish to create. There are individuals who are able to defend their own interests successfully without escaping. These individuals are more likely to be alone because aloneness has innate value during the year. Nonassertive individuals are more likely to see withdrawal as a form of self-protection.

Benefits, money, and comforts are self-made during the year. Do not expect others to provide for you unless there are other indications in the solar return chart. This is generally not the time for obtaining from others, but rather a time to be good to yourself. You are able to advance through your own efforts, but to do this you must be more aware of your skills and more confident of your abilities. Your greatest opportunities are self-made, and your greatest achievements involve personal satisfaction.

MARS in the 5TH HOUSE

♂ in 5th

Mars in the 5th house indicates a more assertive style of self-expression. This may be most evident in creative projects, but it can also manifest in the personality. You are less likely to practice self-restraint and more likely to take risks. You are willing to go out on a limb with a new train of thought. You gain confidence by trying new things, although in the beginning your confidence tends to be fragile. This is a time when you can state what you want and go after what you need. You are direct and concise with a no-nonsense style that lets you be who you want to be. You refuse to surrender your right to freedom of self-expression, and if someone is attempting to suppress your ideas or restrict your movements (regardless of their motives), you will fight back. For example, an astrology student with this placement consistently refused to give up her studies when her fundamentalist parents objected. Despite their feelings, she could not be swayed. You are very aware of the personality's need for self-preservation and integrity. If someone is a threat, malicious or otherwise, you are ready to defend yourself. If you are involved in a continuing conflict, you will be willing to take the offensive if the situation warrants it. Some may think you are too pushy, and perhaps you are if you need to be reminded of the rights of others. Use this energy for creative endeavors and free self-expression. Do not focus on dominating or controlling others (especially children and lovers).

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

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

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

minor conflicts tend to be aggravating, but easier to handle than the well-planned, persistently orchestrated debate put on by some teenagers.

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

JUPITER in the 4TH HOUSE

♃ in 4th

Jupiter in the 4th house indicates the need for increased peace and security in your home. It is important to feel rooted and protected physically, emotionally, and spiritually by the home environment. Many individuals choose to begin a beautification program to make their living quarters more comfortable. Although projects may be expensive, there is usually a minimum of disruption. Improvements are not necessitated by a need to make repairs, or the need to make major changes in the structure of the house. Projects tend to be minor, and generally the domestic situation is not disrupted by the improvements. Renovations or additions are not as likely as changing the decor with paint, wallpaper, and new furniture. The object here is to enhance the surroundings both inside and outside of the home, not to redo the entire house from scratch. Outside improvements include landscaping the grounds or creating a small garden for meditation. Individuals having this placement wish to create an environment which not only suits the physical needs and comforts the soul, but pleases the eye.

Security is also important; depending on the individual's age, issues can relate to present or future needs. Domestic security is the immediate issue, and you may be striving to purchase a home or secure your position in the present one. Other influences might support or threaten your home life. For example, after one man's parents died, he inherited the family home and for the first time owned a piece of property. As he settled into his new home and began to redecorate the interior, his future bride informed him that she did not care for the house and wished to live elsewhere. This man felt the need to balance his commitment to his intended with his desire for a sense of rootedness. The home had become very important to him, since for the first time in his life he was working steadily toward completing a major project without abandoning his goal prematurely. He needed to work during the year to balance his needs and the needs of his girlfriend with the desire for

rootedness. Married individuals with this placement who are in the process of separating need to find and secure a home for the future. This may be a complicated task.

For older individuals, issues concerning retirement and pension plans are important. The emphasis is on IRAs, mutual funds and retirement packages, but usually security issues do not apply to money alone since there is also a concern for the home. You may pay off your mortgage, refinance your loan at a lower rate or purchase an insurance policy which will cover your payments should you become disabled or unemployed. This is the time to make changes in your home and in your financial planning which will insure the stability of your domestic situation both now and in the future.

Occasionally Jupiter in the 4th house indicates an increase in the number of people living in your home during the year. You expand your home by taking in another person, either a boarder, roommate, foreign exchange student or relative. Generally, the addition does not indicate an increase in responsibility. The other person is generally able to meet his or her own needs and contribute to household chores and expenses. It is likely you will enjoy his or her presence, although it can cost you extra money to have this person around.

Domestic responsibilities tend to lessen as individuals gain independence from other family members. Children may enter school or go away to college. If you were saddled with a lot of responsibility during the previous year because either of your parents or some other family member was ill, it is likely that his or her health or situation will improve at this time and your duties will decrease. Parents who are very elderly could be placed in a nursing home, or outside assistance may be brought in to help. In cases where the death of a disabled person is imminent and could be considered a blessing, may be the reason why responsibilities lessen at this time. For one reason or another, the difficulty or demand for extra attention is no longer evident.

Feelings run high and emotional swings are likely. Excessive responses are the norm and both highs and lows are evident. You could seek to suppress emotional responses, fearing the strength of your feelings and the loss of control. Many times there is a situation during the year which heightens the emotional nature of events and forces you to deal with the adequacy or inadequacy of your responses and those of others. If you are not in a fulfilling life-style, emotions will tend to be negative as well as

overwhelming. But if you are actively working toward a fulfilling life-style, emotions can be very pleasurable and the support you receive from others is reassuring.

SATURN in the 4TH HOUSE

♄ in 4th

Saturn in the 4th can be a sign of increasing commitment and responsibility within the home environment. Usually this newfound sense of responsibility involves the physical home itself, though the manifestation is not limited to the physical structure alone since emotional responsibility is also an issue. The condition of your home, apartment or dwelling is such that you need to make repairs or improvements. If you have let your house go in the past, this is the year you will feel forced to take corrective action. Chronic and long-time problem areas will suddenly become especially annoying. Repairs can be major, though not always. If you are buying a home during the year, you may be drawn to older or rundown homes requiring much hard work and restoration. Physical discomfort in the home is common, especially before or during the repair and renovation process. If you have not neglected your house, time can be spent on routine maintenance or improvements geared toward making your house more comfortable.

External changes in your living environment tend to parallel inner emotional changes. This can be a year when you feel emotionally responsible for the well-being of certain family members, regardless of how well you get along with these people. The desire to accept responsibility for the physical state of your home is usually extended to a desire to assume responsibility for the emotional and physical state of others. If you feel you can help, you are likely to do so.

You may accept a family member into your home, or you may return to your parents' home to live or visit and lend assistance. Those who are mentally incapable of making important decisions look to you and other family members for guidance, support and possibly shelter. It is common for the health of one family member (usually a parent) to deteriorate during the year. If this is the case, you can nurse this individual yourself or provide for his or her daily needs. Elderly parents may be placed in a minimal-care retirement community or nursing home. If you have a grown child in the midst of a divorce, separation or family crisis, he or she may return home with small children in tow. Your strong sense of familial responsibility compels you to take up the slack and help out where needed. You willingly give up some measure of physical and emotional comfort in the home to help those you love.

If you are a much younger individual, you may choose this time to become a parent yourself. In its most positive manifestation, Saturn in the 4th is a tendency to respond in a helpful manner to family crises, problems, and issues. Unfortunately the reverse is not always true. This may not be the best time to look for assistance and help for yourself. Even if you are in a difficult position, family members may be unable or unwilling to support you at this time. The tendency is for you to lend support rather than receive. Saturn in the 4th is not normally associated with the fulfillment of dependency needs. On the contrary, it is more closely akin to their denial. Pushing your own needs may be inappropriate under the present circumstances.

Some individuals lack the strong family ties necessary for such dedication to the needs of others. For them, no personal gratification, only frustration, can come from involvement in family issues and problems. During the year, events trigger memories of the past and old feelings of hurt and disappointment resurface. If this is your situation, you may wish to protect yourself by limiting family contacts or withdrawing completely. Saturn in the 4th can show a separation from family involvement, and if you have already exhausted all your options, including therapy, this might be in your best interest. Saturn indicates that you test your relationships and eliminate or restrict those ties which are unfulfilling while strengthening those which are meaningful.

The process of reassessing relationships for their emotional reward is not limited to family involvements. All close relationships are subject to scrutiny. Usually family relationships are the ones tested the most, but any intimate relationship can be suspect. You may find it more difficult to trust others during the year, so you look for conspicuous proof of your loved one's affection and caring. If the relationship passes the intimacy test, commitment should follow, but if you are not satisfied or reassurances are not forthcoming, you can set emotional limits on those involvements which are unrewarding and not supporting. Saturn rules reality and this is a time for realistic appraisal of emotional situations. It no longer makes any difference what you are told or what you are led to believe. You know when you are unhappy and it makes sense to seek practical solutions to relationship problems. If you cannot work with your partner to make corrections, you will tend to live alone emotionally, if not physically.

It is common to have Saturn in the 4th when the native is trying to recover from, or deal with, an emotionally painful relationship and therefore feels the

need to set emotional limits. Individuals can elect to withdraw from situations entirely or structure involvements in such a way as to protect themselves. Those who withdraw completely assume total responsibility for their own emotional well-being and refuse to be responsible for anyone else. They do not encourage nurturing attention from others and may shun all offers. Walls are built to allow a year's worth of time for healing and recovery, but in the meantime they feel lonely, withdrawn and neglected.

In the most negative manifestation, those who build walls exhibit contradictory emotions. They expect or even demand to be taken care of. They see total dependency on others as proof of another's love, but at the same time refuse to commit themselves emotionally to a relationship or accept any responsibility for the other person involved. The goal is a one-sided exchange, an improbable situation in which all their needs are fulfilled without any fear, risk, or effort. Those who are wise realize that this is a time to assess the mistakes of the past and set guidelines for future emotional involvements. Trust and mutual responsibility are needed for emotional security.

URANUS in the 6TH HOUSE

♅ in 6th

Uranus in the 6th house can show a job change during the year or a change in working conditions. Changes could be either self-initiated or beyond your control. Temporary working positions or breaks in employment are possible. For example, one woman worked for a nonprofit organization. Her salary was paid for by a government grant and when the grant money ran out, she was let go, only to return when new funds came in. If you are presently working for someone other than yourself and dissatisfied with your job, now is the time to investigate new placements. You can change companies entirely, but it is possible simply to transfer to another office under your present employer. Some individuals will ask to work on independent projects of their own choosing, or go one step further and create their own businesses, becoming self-employed.

If you maintain your old job, changes in your daily routine are likely and can involve relocation of the office, temporary change of duty station (travel), new office procedures, or the installation of new computer equipment. During the period of transition, simple procedures become very complicated and normal operations will be disrupted. In very negative situations, especially those involving conflict and even sabotage, work can come to a standstill.

Scheduling changes are also possible during the year. Your office adopts a flexible or rotating schedule, and you might be able to set your own hours. If there is no change in your job at all, work can become very nerve-wracking, tedious and stressful, particularly if you are restless and need a change of pace. You will be easily bored with repetitious tasks and needless restrictions. If all goes well, any change in your job will involve a variety of tasks and greater freedom. You need a position that gives you a new challenge, coupled with a changing schedule and the freedom to work to your potential.

Trying to stay at the same job doing the same thing in the same way will create stress. Changes are not only likely, but necessary for progress to occur. Until adjustments are accomplished and your office streamlined and better organized, your normal workday can be constantly disrupted by little crises. This is also true if you own your own business. You should be contemplating adjustments which will eventually lead to a more efficiently run business. The disruptions may occur during the period of transition to the new procedures or may actually prompt the procedure changes.

All this stress and tension at work can affect your health if you do not protect yourself. Your physical and emotional well-being is directly tied into your job situation and should be watched carefully, especially during a time of stress. Learn relaxation techniques and use them to rid your body of tension at the end of the day. Do not bring work or problems home with you. You need your free time for recuperation. Cut back on caffeine drinks and take stress-preventative vitamins when necessary. Most importantly, correct those job situations which are the most stressful.

Health habits tend to be erratic during the year, and consequently, you may experience sporadic health problems. A lot depends on age. Generally the younger and healthier you are, the less likely you are to be sick. Tensions at work are the most likely cause of stress-related illnesses. Work demands can disrupt health routines, especially if you must travel for your job or work crazy hours. Wide variations in your eating habits (including rapid weight losses or gains) can occur. Stressful work habits or rotating sleeping patterns are not in your best interest. Practice moderation in all things. This is a good time to change your health regimen consciously in order to foster a healthier body.

NEPTUNE in the 6TH HOUSE

♆ in 6th

Neptune in the 6th can mean working at a job when your heart's not in it, or

when you really have no sense of direction or purpose. Most commonly, you are in a period of transition between jobs. You are in the process of finishing up an old job, business or career, and moving toward a new professional endeavor. Usually there is an overlapping period when you are not physically through with your former job even though you are mentally finished. Mentally, you are now involved with your new position even though the physical transition has not yet begun or been completed. So you are just marking time, picking up a pay check, or existing in limbo until everything is set for the transition to be accomplished. It is unlikely that this will occur until the end of the solar return year, or until Neptune transits out of the 6th house, unless your new position is as probationary or "iffy" as the transitional period itself. Becoming self-employed generally falls in this category. A need for job fulfillment pushes you to find a more suitable position. The job you are leaving might fall short of your abilities. You may not feel as helpful or as effective as you could be if given more opportunity. Misunderstandings between you and your employer are possible. A few individuals might be unemployed or drifting from one job to the next during this time.

Assuming you are happy with your present employment situation, this can be a time of job confusion or uncertainty. New office procedures might turn your workday upside down if inadequate training leaves you unsure of what to do. Job security in your present position can seem precarious. Rumors of layoffs, mergers, relocations, or shift changes are possible. Poorly defined threats to your job are likely, but generally there is no loss of position or employment time. Coming reorganization plans leave future responsibilities undefined and you might be unsure where you will be in one year's time. Or you could be involved in a project which has an indeterminate outcome. You and the others could risk your time and effort on a long shot project you are not sure will pan out. If you are the owner of a business, you may be considering a merger, buyout, partnership or stock option. You will find it difficult to make concrete business plans for the future until certain issues are settled. Misunderstandings with others can occur during the year regardless of your level of employment. It is to your advantage to communicate directly with business associates. Do not rely on intermediaries to convey your messages.

Illnesses and diseases, if they occur, tend to be more difficult to diagnose while Neptune is in the 6th house. Generally you are the person seeking diagnosis, but if you are responsible for a child or an elderly adult during this year, it is possible that the vague and undiagnosed health problem is his

or hers rather than yours. The health provider may be baffled by the symptoms and recommend several different courses of treatment. He or she may not be sure exactly what will work. The tendency is to try one method first, and then move on to another form of treatment if needed. A second opinion might be advantageous. You can be successfully treated without ever really knowing what you had. The origin of an illness needing diagnosis and treatment may not be clearly understood for most of the year, or until Neptune transits out of the 6th house. Symptoms are generally vague, conflicting or intermittent. Complaints of tiredness are common. A case of the flu might hang on longer than expected, or leave you feeling less than "right." Allergies to smoke, aerosols, pollutants, medications, and foods are more likely to affect your life-style or diet during the year.

The increased sensitivity associated with Neptune is apparent in the physical body's acceptance or rejection of certain daily work, living or eating habits. Emotional upheavals and stress are more apt to affect your physical form and aggravate existing illnesses, causing symptoms to reappear or multiply. If stress is coming from your job, realize that health is more important than work. Spiritual beliefs and attitudes need to become a part of your daily routine while certain detrimental habits fall away. If you cannot maintain a spiritual perspective during your daily routine, it may be time to change the routine. Cultivate serenity.

PLUTO in the 5TH HOUSE

♇ in 5th

Pluto in the 5th house commonly indicates a power struggle over self-identity and self-expression. Unconscious messages around you can be working to mold your persona into a reflection of somebody else's personal needs. As the year begins you suddenly realize that you are not solely the product of your own creation; someone else is exerting pressure on you to perform in a particular manner. The push for performance may or may not be in your best interest, but the ultimate goal for you to accomplish during the year is creative self-mastery. You must learn how to balance the external demands with the internal push for self-expression. Freedom to be your own person is crucial to growth. Two external forces are at work here and the messages to the unconscious are twofold. First there is the external definition of what one is meant to be. Messages commonly play on existing unconscious forces, such as fears, and therefore are accepted easily. After this message is inculcated, it is followed closely by a push for conformity. Because of this dual mechanism one can be partially controlled by others, since self-expression will be limited by one's own automatic reactions to

unconscious messages, and by susceptibility to psychological forces exerted by another person.

For example, one man constantly received messages from his boss about how he needed to respond in order to be successful. The boss implied that not being a "company man" and a "team player" meant never working in the business again. The boss's messages played on the man's own fears concerning inadequacy, and he readily began to play the role of the dedicated employee. But then the job demands became excessive. The hallmark of the negative manifestation for this placement is the eventual emergence of excessive demands on the part of the person seeking control. For our young man, somewhere between the unconscious messages and the push for conformity, he began to lose his own self-identity. Numerous hours of overtime robbed him of any personal life.

It makes no difference who sends the messages to the unconscious. It may be a lover, a child, or another; realistically, it can be anyone you respond to at an unconscious level. Sometimes the lines of stress shown by the aspects to Pluto can denote the individual triggering the issues related to power over self-expression. Often it is an intense relationship which brings out facets of your personality normally hidden and subject to control. Negative relationships can be manipulative, but very positive relationships can encourage growth in this area. Responses can be healthy and not all situations are bad. For example, a mother responding to the demands of her newborn child is conforming to his or her needs. An intense and somewhat controlling relationship develops between the two, which in this context, is considered normal. Becoming aware of the controlling process and working toward balancing external demands with the internal need for self-identity can lead to self-mastery. By understanding the psychological pressures, you can choose to conform to those which are positive experiences while refusing to conform to those which seriously jeopardize self-identity. In very difficult situations, the inability to balance the conflict between expectations and self-identity can result in more secretive behavior. You may prefer to do things on the sly rather than weather the confrontation necessary for true self-expression.

Generally, intense relationships are needed to spark the push for self-definition and personal control over self-expression. You will meet many people over the coming year who can either threaten or augment your ability to accomplish this task. Love relationships, especially new attractions of a Plutonian nature, have the intensity necessary for this process. The

overpowering compulsions associated with these relationships usually force the individual to redefine the boundaries of self-identity by looking at the unconscious responses which prevent the self from being fully empowered.

Although sexual attractions and love affairs are not always seen with this placement, when they do occur the draw is tremendous and the allure of sexuality seems especially compelling. The person you are attracted to and your relationship with him or her will bring out the best and the worst you have to offer. Insights into your own motivations can be overwhelming and you will be acutely aware of when you are and when you are not in control. Sometimes you will not be totally rational. The relationship itself creates intense feelings which can defy logic and overpower common sense while giving great insight. Unconscious messages, fears and expectations might surface during simple everyday interactions, making it clear that you are not able to entirely control your own life, your involvement with this person, or your commitment to him or her. If you are free to pursue a love affair, you will learn a lot about yourself and your ability to give and receive sexual pleasure. If you are not free, the relationship will still be both compelling and conflicted while accentuating the need to address unconscious complexes.

Pluto in the 5th house can indicate a birth during the year. The intensity of the relationship between a newborn and its parent is consistent with the need to maintain some sense of self-identity while meeting the demands of the child. As a new parent with this placement, you may not be used to understanding all the effects children can have on those who raise them. Babies are little individuals with personalities of their own which may or may not fit your expectations and needs. Right from the moment they are born, they have the ability to elicit psychological responses from others and all parents must conform somewhat to the needs of their children. Infants demand the greatest amount of attention, but even as your children mature they will retain an ability to affect you and your psychological state. When they grow old enough to talk, they might question any conscious-unconscious inconsistencies you manifest. As teenagers, they can buck your authority. As adults, they may choose life-styles which you find psychologically stressful. Whatever their age, there may be little you can actually do to control their behavior until you analyze the psychological responses coming from your own unconscious. If your children are young, you must gain some measure of control, but realize that complete control at any age is unattainable. You must bend and accommodate to a certain degree, while maintaining a sense of self-identity. Know which hang-ups are your own. Learn to make your own responses more appropriate to the

issues at hand. You can easily overreact if the situations make you feel overpowered.

New patterns of creativity can evolve, especially if you are in a field where psychological and emotional issues can be incorporated into your endeavors. Issues associated with conflict, power and intense love might manifest in creative work. Artistic creations tend to exhibit more depth of expression, and major stylistic changes are possible. Mundane rather than artistic projects can also be highly creative. Usually tasks and projects foster personal power and increased expression of the inner self.